

The NATO alliance and Russia

NATO plans to create a new rapid-response force – designed to go into action within 48 hours – to defend the alliance's eastern frontline states

- NATO – 28 member countries, including United States, Canada and Iceland
- Former Warsaw Pact allies of Soviet Union, joined NATO in 1999-2004
- Former Soviet Republics, joined NATO in 2004
- Former Soviet Republics before 1991 breakup

	NATO	RUSSIA
Population	917 million	142.5 million
Active duty troops	3,585,000	845,000
Reserves	2,400,000	2,000,000
Tanks	7,500	2,550
Combat aircraft	5,900	1,456
Nuclear warheads*	2,580	1,800

*Deployed warheads – U.S.: 2,130, France: 290, UK: 160

2009: Members of **Collective Security Treaty Organization** – Central Asian Republics of **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan**, plus **Belarus** and **Armenia** – sign mutual defence agreement with Russia to create joint rapid-reaction force

