

NATO to expand rapid response force

NATO is more than doubling the size of its rapid response force in Europe to help deter potential Russian aggression from the east



■ **NATO Response Force (NRF):** Established in 2003. Reached full operational capability in 2006

■ **Troops:** 30,000-40,000

■ **Capability:** Land, sea, air and special forces can deploy worldwide within 5-30 days to meet range of security issues from crisis management to collective defence

■ **Contributors:** Allied nations commit forces on rotational basis for period of 12 months

■ **Overall command:** SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander Europe), based in Belgium

■ **Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF)** "Spearhead" component within NRF, created in 2014

■ **Troops:** 5,000

■ **Capability:** Ready to deploy within 48 hours

■ **Contributors:** Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain to assume lead role on rotational basis. U.S. providing special forces, military equipment and intelligence

■ **Command outposts:** Established in six eastern European countries by 2016 to facilitate rapid deployment of NATO high-readiness forces

■ NATO members*

★ NRF operational command headquarters

★ NATO command outposts by 2016

ATLANTIC OCEAN

500km
300 miles

*Includes Canada, Iceland and U.S.

