

NATO marks 75 years



NATO membership

- Founders (1949)
- Cold War expansion (1952-82)
- Post-Cold War (1990-present)
- Applying to join

Dutch former prime minister Mark Rutte (left) set to take over as NATO secretary-general in October

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Canada

Iceland

U.S.

North Sea
Netherlands
Denmark

Ireland

UK

Germany*

Belgium
Lux.

Portugal

Spain

Mediterranean Sea

Italy

Montenegro

North Macedonia

Kosovo

Albania

Greece

Bulgaria

Romania

Hungary

Austria

Switz.

Slovenia

Croatia

Bosnia

Serbia

Poland

Czech Rep.

Finland

Sweden

Norway

Latvia

Estonia

Lithuania

Kaliningrad (Russia)

Belarus

Ukraine

Slovakia

Moldova

Georgia

Crimea

Black Sea

Turkey

RUSSIA

400km
250 miles

**German reunification in 1990 resulted in East Germany becoming part of NATO*

■ **Apr 4, 1949:** U.S., Canada and 10 West European states sign **North Atlantic Treaty**

■ **1955:** West Germany joins NATO – Soviet Union and seven East European states form **Warsaw Pact**

■ **1966:** France pulls out of NATO's integrated military structure in protest at dominance of U.S. commanders

■ **1967:** NATO moves HQ from France to Belgium

■ **1987:** U.S. and USSR sign **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty**

■ **1989:** Fall of Berlin Wall

■ **1991:** Warsaw Pact dissolved

■ **1995:** NATO launches first military operation – air strikes against Bosnian Serbs shelling Sarajevo

■ **1999:** Alliance conducts air strikes against Yugoslavia over Kosovo – first use of force without UN approval

■ **2001:** NATO invokes **Article 5** for first time, declaring 9/11 attacks on U.S. to be attack against whole alliance

■ **2003:** NATO takes control of **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)** in Afghanistan – first major operation outside Europe

■ **2008:** Russia occupies around fifth of Georgia's territory after five-day war

■ **2009:** France announces return to NATO's military command

■ **2011:** NATO takes on responsibility for enforcing no-fly zone over Libya

■ **2014:** Russia annexes Crimea. Pro-Russian forces seize parts of Donbas region of Ukraine

■ **2017:** NATO deploys multinational battlegroups to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

■ **2018:** U.S. President **Donald Trump** demands that NATO leaders double defence spending

■ **2019:** U.S. and Russia suspend compliance with INF treaty

■ **2021:** U.S. and NATO allies exit Afghanistan

■ **Feb 24, 2022:** **Russia launches full-scale invasion of Ukraine.** NATO allies start providing Kyiv with massive military assistance

■ **Jun:** NATO boosts high-readiness forces to more than 300,000 troops as part of biggest defence upgrade since Cold War

■ **Apr 2023:** Finland becomes member, doubling length of NATO's border with Russia

■ **Mar 2024:** Sweden joins Alliance after membership is held up by Turkey and Hungary

■ **Jul 9-11:** **Summit in Washington DC marking 75th anniversary. Allies to forge stronger ties with Ukraine and commit to long term support**