



UW: The only
American
University with a
Baltic Studies
Program.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE USA

NATO's Baltic Deterrent Force to Be in Place by May 2017

(Sept 18, 2016)

The new allied deterrent force for the Baltic region will be in place by May 2017, with some units arriving earlier, the head of the Western alliance's military committee said Sunday.

Military leaders from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, gathering in Split, Croatia, this weekend, discussed the deployment of the force of up to 4,000 personnel, its rules of engagement, and its command and control.

Czech Army Gen. Petr Pavel, who leads the NATO military committee, said the battle groups will be arriving at different times in the first half of 2017.

In its July summit in Warsaw, NATO approved a new multinational force to be stationed in Poland and the Baltic states, aimed at deterring Russian aggression in the region. Eastern European allies have been worried about the possibility of a rising threat from Russia since Moscow annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

While Gen. Pavel wouldn't outline the rules, he said they would be altered from those the current international forces in the region are operating under, designed to allow the new NATO forces to move from a peacetime footing to a crisis situation rapidly.

"With these four battle groups, we are not talking about exclusively about a training presence," he said. "This force is to serve as a deterrent and if necessary as a fighting force. The rules will be different."

Some of the troops participating in the deterrent force--both from the NATO contributing countries and the host nations--have been training at the U.S. Army facility in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Forces have been dusting off Cold War-era knowledge about defenses, as well as studying the electronic warfare techniques used by Russian-backed forces in Ukraine.



Joint Declaration on Increased Security and Defense Cooperation between the United States, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, August 23, 2016

On the occasion of Vice President Biden's visit to Latvia, we, the United States of America, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, reaffirm our strategic alliance. Faced with an unpredictable security environment, we commit to deepening our cooperation and our efforts to ensure security and stability in the region, as part of NATO's approach to collective defense.

Learn about NATO Allies: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania at the UW

Fall Quarter 2016

SCAND 152: Latvian Cultural History
MW 2:30-3:20, Savery Hall 132
SLN 20639

JSISA 455 / SCAND 455 Baltic since 1991
TTh 1:30-3:20, Communications 228
SLN 16722 or SLN 20650
(graduate credit also available)