

# NATO Enhanced Forward Presence

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The arrival of the multinational Allied battlegroup in Latvia in June 2017 concluded the deployment of forces under NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States and Poland, thereby implementing the decisions made at the Wales and Warsaw Summits. Canada is the framework nation for the battalion-size NATO battlegroup deployed to Latvia, with Albania, Czech Republic, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain as contributing nations. These Allies are sending, on a voluntary and rotational basis, their troops and combat-ready equipment to Latvia to deter any possible aggression, should the need arise.

NATO's multinational EFP battlegroup in Latvia aims at boosting defence and deterrence capabilities in the eastern part of the Alliance territory. The presence of the battlegroup is sending an unmistakable signal about the unwavering resolve of NATO members to consider an attack on one Ally as an attack on the whole Alliance of 30 members. NATO Enhanced Forward Presence is defensive in nature, proportionate to the challenge and fully in line with NATO's international commitments.

The Allied troops, in their day-to-day activities, take part in joint international and local exercises together with the Latvian armed forces, learning from each other and honing their skills to enhance interoperability. Based on that experience, in crisis situations, NATO member countries would be able to respond more rapidly and effectively to current security challenges.

As a host nation, Latvia provides all the necessary host nation support to meet the needs of NATO and the Allies involved. The Canadian-led battlegroup in Latvia at Camp Ādaži consists of approximately 1512 soldiers, as well as military equipment, including tanks and armoured fighting vehicles.

Alongside the Canadian-led NATO battlegroup in Latvia, the United Kingdom is the framework nation for battalion-size battlegroup in Estonia, Germany – in Lithuania, and the USA – in Poland.

NATO's enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States and Poland serves to strengthen Allied collective defence, in adapting to the changed security situation in Europe following the illegal and illegitimate occupation and annexation of Crimea by Russia, the conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine and the increased military activity close to NATO's eastern border.

[NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence](#)



## NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence

NATO has enhanced its presence in the eastern part of the Alliance, with four multinational battlegroups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. These battlegroups, led by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and the United States respectively, are multinational, and combat-ready, demonstrating the strength of the transatlantic bond. Their presence makes clear that an attack on one Ally will be considered an attack on the whole Alliance. NATO's battlegroups form part of the biggest reinforcement of NATO's collective defence in a generation.

*The table below illustrates national contributions to the four battlegroups. The personnel and force numbers are based on information provided by contributing nations and may include forces deployed in a support role. Numbers should be taken as indicative as they change regularly, in accordance with the deployment procedures of the contributing nations.*



Battlegroup led by the United Kingdom, operating with Estonian forces in Tapa, Estonia		
Contributor	Troops	Forces
United Kingdom	808	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Armoured infantry battalion with main battle tanks and armoured fighting vehicles</li> <li>Self-propelled artillery, air defence assets and engineers</li> <li>Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance group</li> <li>Logistic support elements</li> </ul>
France	337	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Tank squadron with main battle tanks and armoured fighting vehicles</li> <li>Supported by an engineer platoon and national support elements</li> </ul>
Iceland	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Strategic communications specialist (civilian)</li> </ul>
<b>Approximate total troop number: 1146</b>		



Battlegroup led by Canada, operating with Latvian forces in Ādaži, Latvia		
Contributor	Troops	Forces
Canada	up to 572	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Mechanised infantry company with armoured fighting vehicles</li> <li>1 x Combat support company</li> <li>1 x Combat service support company</li> <li>Support elements</li> <li>Contribution to battlegroup headquarters and Latvian National Armed Forces Mechanised Infantry Brigade</li> </ul>
Albania	up to 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobility explosive ordnance disposal engineers</li> </ul>
Czech Republic	up to 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Ponton bridge platoon</li> </ul>
Iceland	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Strategic communications specialist (civilian)</li> </ul>
Italy	up to 250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Infantry company (mountain troops)</li> <li>1 x Reconnaissance platoon</li> <li>1 x Very Short Range Air Defence platoon</li> <li>1 x Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence team</li> <li>Contribution to battlegroup headquarters</li> <li>Support elements</li> </ul>
Montenegro	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Engineers squad</li> <li>Contribution to battlegroup headquarters</li> </ul>
Poland	up to 177	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Tank company</li> <li>Contribution to battlegroup headquarters</li> <li>Support elements</li> </ul>
Slovakia	up to 152	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 x Artillery battery</li> <li>1 x Reconnaissance squadron</li> <li>Support elements</li> </ul>

Slovenia	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Fire support platoon</li> <li>• 1 x Tactical Air Control Party team</li> <li>• Support elements</li> <li>• Contribution to battlegroup headquarters</li> </ul>
Spain	346	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Mechanised infantry company with tanks and armoured fighting vehicles</li> <li>• 1 x Combat engineers company</li> <li>• Logistic support elements</li> <li>• Contribution to battlegroup headquarters and Latvian National Armed Forces Mechanised Infantry Brigade</li> </ul>
<b>Approximate total troop number: 1650</b>		



<b>Battlegroup led by Germany, operating with Lithuanian forces in Rukla, Lithuania</b>		
Contributor	Troops	Forces
Germany	543	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Armoured company, including 2 mechanized infantry platoons, 1 tank platoon and 1 engineer platoon</li> <li>• Combat service and combat service support element</li> </ul>
Belgium	1	• Public Affairs Official
Czech Republic	up to 135	• 1 x Ground Based Air Defence unit
Luxembourg	4	• 1 x Transportation team
Netherlands	270	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Mechanised infantry company</li> <li>• Logistics support element</li> </ul>
Norway	up to 150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 x Armoured infantry company with main battle tanks and infantry fighting vehicles</li> <li>• Combat service and combat service support element</li> </ul>
<b>Approximate total troop number: 1103</b>		



<b>Battlegroup led by the United States, operating with Polish forces in Orzysz (Bemowo Piskie), Poland</b>		
Contributor	Troops	Forces
United States	797	• 1 x Mechanized Infantry Battalion with Combat Support and Combat Service Support enablers.
Croatia	4	• 1 x Contribution to battlegroup headquarters
Romania	up to 120	• 1 x Self-propelled defence battery and support elements
United Kingdom	137	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light reconnaissance squadron</li> <li>• Logistics support element</li> </ul>
<b>Approximate total troop number: 1058</b>		

Approximate total troop number for all four battlegroups: 4957

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