



**ATLANTIC VOICES**  
**2017 TOPICS**  
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Atlantic Voices is the ATA's monthly publication. Every month, a specific topic relating to transatlantic security and defense is put in focus. Two to three articles analyze the topic from different angles, thus offering an overview of the theme in question.

Atlantic Voices is always seeking new material. If you are a young researcher, subject expert or professional and feel you have a valuable contribution to make to the debate, please get in touch with us at [program.assistant@atahq.org](mailto:program.assistant@atahq.org)

Scroll down to see which topics will be covered in 2017.

Month	Topic	Description
January	<b>Partnerships: NATO-EU Cooperation in 2017</b>	At the NATO Summit in Warsaw in July 2016, NATO and the EU outlined areas for strengthened cooperation in light of common challenges to the East and South, including countering hybrid threats, enhancing resilience, defence capacity building, cyber defence, maritime security, and joint exercises. What will NATO-EU cooperation look like in 2017?
February	<b>Collective Defence: Solidarity Within the Alliance</b>	Article 5 is the backbone of NATO. In a time of (potential) threats coming from different directions, how to ensure solidarity within NATO? Adding to the urgency of finding common approaches is a phenomenon that is spreading throughout the member states, namely the rise of populism and nationalism. So far, anti-establishment rhetoric within Europe has mostly been directed at the EU, but as it challenges the premises of the post-1945 values-based international liberal order, it can also pose a threat to NATO.
March	<b>Defence and Deterrence: The Proliferation of A2/AD Capabilities</b>	Russia has altered the security balance in the Black Sea, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East by establishing large anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) exclusion zones. The Baltic States, much of Ukraine and the Black Sea, northern Poland, Syria and parts of Turkey fall under Russian A2/AD bubbles created by S-300 and S-400 air defense systems. China, too, is enhancing its A2/AD capabilities and combines this with a more aggressive posture in the region. How to deal with (potential) adversaries that become increasingly more capable of A2/AD towards NATO forces?

<p>April</p>	<p><b>NATO's (Hybrid) Crisis Management Capabilities</b></p>	<p>Crisis management is one of NATO's core tasks. A crisis can be political, military or humanitarian and can also arise from a natural disaster or as a consequence of technological disruptions (including cyber attacks). This diversity in potential causes of crises calls for a high level of readiness and resilience and requires an 'integrated' – whole of government and whole of society – approach. What are NATO's (hybrid) crisis management capabilities? Under what circumstances would NATO act in this field?</p>
<p>May</p>	<p><b>President Trump's First 100 Days</b></p>	<p>During his campaign, Donald Trump openly questioned the usefulness of the Alliance, in addition to speaking friendly about Vladimir Putin. This alarmed some of his NATO partners, especially those in (Eastern) Europe. What kind of foreign and defence policy can they expect from the new U.S. President? 100 Days after his inauguration, what can be said about Trump's policies in this field? And how do they affect the Transatlantic relationship?</p>
<p>June</p>	<p><b>NATO's Brussels Summit 2017</b></p>	<p>Depending on when the Brussels Summit will take place this issue will either include policy recommendations on the main topics on the agenda or evaluate the decisions made during the Summit. In either case, there will also be attention for the progress made since the Wales and Warsaw Summits.</p>

July	<p><b>NATO and China: Partners or Frenemies?</b></p>	<p>The relationship between NATO and China is complicated, due to the Cold War past and different outlooks on the international world order. China's economic and military rise leads to a more assertive, if not aggressive, stance on the international level, especially in the region. This could be a recipe for conflict with NATO. Yet, there is reason for optimism, as there is certainly room for cooperation in a number of fields. Can NATO and China strengthen their relationship?</p>
August	<p><b>Maritime Security: Does NATO Need a New Alliance Maritime Strategy?</b></p>	<p>Russia, China and Japan, amongst others, are heavily investing in their navies. What is the current status of NATO's maritime capabilities? Is there a need for a revision of the 2011 Alliance Maritime Strategy? Does it still sufficiently reflect the new security environment at sea, after NATO's efforts in the past decade or so have been more focused on ground-centric expeditionary and crisis management operations?</p>
September	<p><b>Cyber Warfare: Challenges and Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Cyber warfare has changed the battlefield dramatically. By now, we are all aware that the cyberspace comes with a whole new range of challenges for security and defence, even if we do not fully understand the implications yet. On the other hand, there is also a positive dimension to cyber warfare. A variety of digital (big data) tools – apps- are being used by NATO armed forces.</p>

October	<p><b>Partnerships: NATO-UN Cooperation on Peace and Security</b></p>	<p>NATO and the UN are both working on international peace and security. In 2015, the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, many of which are directly or indirectly linked to the security domain. How does NATO contribute to reaching the UN Development Goals? In what area's do NATO and the UN cooperate and reinforce each other?</p>
November	<p><b>NATO Through the Eyes of the Secretary General</b></p>	<p>The Secretary General of NATO is the chairman of the North Atlantic Council, the supreme decision-making organization of the Alliance, and serves as the leader of the organization's staff and as its chief spokesman. Yet, the decision-making powers are in the hands of the national heads of state. What influence does a Secretary General have on NATO's policies? How has the position developed throughout history? What legacies (challenges and achievements) have the past Secretary Generals left behind?</p>
December	<p><b>Future Forces: NATO in Twenty Years from Now</b></p>	<p>December is traditionally a time to reflect on the past year and make predictions for the next. In this issue we go a bit further, looking at the mid- to long-term future of warfare. What will be the major security challenges in 2035 and how should NATO member states prepare for these?</p>