**NRF FAQs**

**What is the NATO Response Force (NRF)?**

The NATO Response Force (NRF) is a highly ready

and technologically advanced multinational force

made up of land, air, maritime and special forces

components that the Alliance can deploy quickly

to wherever it is needed.

It is comprised of three parts: a command and control

element from the NATO Command Structure;

the Immediate Response Force, a joint force

of about 13,000 high-readiness troops provided by Allies;

and a Response Forces Pool, which can supplement

the Immediate Response Force when necessary.

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| **When was the NRF created?**  The NRF was born at the NATO summit held in Prague  on 22 November 2002. There, the Alliance 's heads  of state made a declaration endorsing the concept of the NRF  The NRF concept was further revised in 2009.    **What is purpose of the NRF?**  The NRF has the overarching purpose of being able  to provide a rapid military response to an emerging crisis,  whether for collective defence purposes or for other  crisis response operations. The force gives NATO the  means to respond swiftly to various types of crises  anywhere in the world. It is also a driving engine  of NATO’s military transformation. |  |

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|  | **What are the main NRF missions?**  The NATO Response Force provides a visible assurance  of NATO’s cohesion and commitment to deterrence  and collective defence. Each rotation of the force  has to prepare itself for a wide range of tasks – f  or example, contributing to the preservation of teritorial integrity,  making a demonstration of force, peace support operations,  disaster relief, protection of critical infrastructure,  security operations and, as part of a larger force,  conducting initial entry operations. |

Elements of the NRF helped protect the 2004 Summer

Olympics in Athens, Greece, and were deployed

to support the Afghan presidential elections

in September 2004.

The NRF has also been used in disaster relief.

In September and October 2005, aircraft from

the NATO Response Force delivered relief supplies

donated by NATO member and Partner countries

to the US, to assist in dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

From October 2005 to February 2006, elements

of the NATO Response Force were used in the disaster

relief effort in Pakistan, following the devastating

8 October earthquake. Aircraft from the NRF were

used in an air bridge that delivered almost 3500 tons

of urgently needed supplies to Pakistan, while engineers

and medical personnel from the NATO Response Force

were deployed to Pakistan to assist in the relief effort.

**How does the NRF function?**

The NATO Response Force is based on a rotational system

; nations commit land, air, naval or special forces units

to the Immediate Response Force for a six-month period.

Starting in 2012, the rotation periods will be extended

from six to 12 months. The NRF is also open to Partner countries,

once approved by the North Atlantic Council.

The flexibility offered by the Response Forces Pool,

which permits nations to make contributions

on their own terms, for durations of their

choosing, is particularly relevant in this regard.

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| **Where can the NRF conduct operations?**  The NRF can be used wherever the North Atlantic Council  feels its capabilities are required, either within or well  beyond NATO's territory.    **What are the training requirements?** As the standards have to be very high, participation  in the NRF is preceded by a six-month NATO exercise  programme in order to integrate and standardise  the various national contingents. Generally, nations  carry out a pre-training period in preparation  for the NATO exercises of between 6-18 months. |  |

 Once the overall preparation period of as much as 24 months

has been accomplished, from 2012 the force

will be held on stand-by to deploy on operations

for 12 months as opposed to the current 6 months.

**Is the NRF already fully operational?**

Full Operating Capability (FOC) was

declared at the Riga Summit in November 2006.

**What different forces is the NRF composed of?**

 In order to be a flexible, credible military crisis

management instrument for the Alliance,

offering maximum opportunities for participation,

the NRF will be made up of three elements:

operational command and control (C2),

based on a joint force commander (JFC)

and his main (static) and deployable headquarters:

an Immediate Response Force (IRF),

comprising pre-designated tactical C2 elements,

plus a selection of forces and a Response Forces Pool (

RFP) holding additional force nominations.

the first response for both Article 5 and Non-Article

5 Crisis Response Operations (CROs)

will be drawn from the lRF.

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|  | **How are forces assigned to the NRF?**  Forces are assigned in accordance with  member nations' offers and NRF needs at  the Force Generation conferences conducted  by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)  at least one year in advance of starting their training.  **Who commands the NRF?**  Under the SACEUR's permanent strategic command,  the two joint force commanders based in Brunssum  and Naples take one-year turns to command the NRF. |

**What forces are assigned to the Immediate Response Forces?**

The Immediate Response Force has:

* a brigade-sized land component based on three Battle Groups and their supporting elements;
* a maritime component based on NATO’s Standing Naval Maritime Groups and Standing Naval Mine Counter Measures Groups;
* a combat air and air support component;
* special forces; and
* a CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) defence task force.

Before use, the force will be tailored (adjusted in size and capability) to match the demands of any specific operation to which it is committed.

SOURCE: <http://www.jfcnaples.nato.int/page1696378.aspx>