

NON-PAPER

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PAPER ON NATO ACTIONS RELATED TO THE IRAQ
CRISIS

In the event of an intervention in Iraq by some of the Allies, NATO may be faced with the need to take a number of measures and actions if it wishes to demonstrate its politically and militarily support to this effort. Moreover, quite possibly Turkey, as the only NATO member adjacent to the crisis area, could request political and military support thus compelling the Alliance to re-affirm its commitment, as may be the case. Some of the measures envisaged by the Alliance may include the following:

POLITICAL

- NAC's political decisions expressing solidarity and support to the Allies involved in the crisis. These political decisions may include:
 - Permission for the use of NATO assets and capabilities in support of Allies involved in the conflict.
 - Approval of additional military deployments of NATO forces as required.

MILITARY

- Military deployments of NATO forces may include:
 - Expansion of the Area of Operations of Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR to include vital areas such as the SUEZ Canal and/or the Red Sea.
 - Increased in the number of Allied naval units participating in NATO SNFs.
 - Concurrent deployment of both SNFs in the crisis areas.
 - Deployment of NATO's Mine Counter Measures Standing Naval Forces in sectors adjacent to the crisis areas.
 - Deployment of NAEW&C Force in order to support the Air Defence and Air Policing in and around the crisis area.
 - Exchange of intelligence and information.

- Activation of NATO HQ crisis management cell.
- Declaration of a number of measures of the NATO Precautionary System (NPS). These measures may involve intelligence, crisis management and civil defense activities and enhanced security and alert-state of NATO forces and installations. Worth to note that, as long as NATO expresses support and solidarity to the Allies operating in the Gulf, this stance will be perceived by the forces supporting Iraq as a hostile act and the possibility of terrorism attempts against NATO territory, installations or troops should be considered. Therefore NATO should increase its vigilance and alert.
- On request, logistic support for the forces of the Allies involved in the crisis.
- In the eventuality the NATO support is granted to Turkey, the following actions could be envisaged:
 - Deployment of Air Defence and Air Force assets (in the air defence role) for the protection of vital installations adjacent to the crisis area. Within this context, deployment of NAEW&C Force in order to support the Air Defence and Air Policing above is a prospect.
 - Deployment of specialized NBC units.
 - Logistic support.