

First NATO Article Published by *Military Review*



North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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WHEN Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), became operational in Paris on 2 April 1951, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) became more important than any similar arrangement in history. Here, for the first time, international forces were unified under a single military commander for defense against aggression. Two years of intense effort to organize against communistic imperialism finally had produced tangible results.

Western Union

Mutual conferences to consider plans for a defense against aggressor nations began in February 1948, when the Communists overthrew the Czechoslovak Government. At this time, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg committed themselves to the Brussels Treaty. Under this arrangement, called Western Union, all the signatories agreed to give "all military and other aid and assistance in their power" should one of them be attacked in Europe. A month later, President Truman requested the people of the United States to support the Brussels Treaty. He also expressed the hope that the determination of free people to defend themselves would be "matched

by an equal determination on our part to help them do so."

North Atlantic Treaty

In June 1948, Senator Vandenberg led a bipartisan effort which culminated in talks between the United States and the Western Union countries relative to the mutual and collective defense of the North Atlantic area. Out of these discussions came the North Atlantic Treaty, which is commonly known as the Atlantic Pact.

The North Atlantic Treaty is a collective, self-defensive arrangement entered into by the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Portugal, and Iceland. The treaty went into effect on 24 August 1949, when all 12 of the participating nations had deposited their ratification documents in Washington.

In the preamble to the North Atlantic Treaty, the signatories reaffirmed their faith in the purposes and principles of the United Nations. They also pledged themselves to combine their efforts for collective defense and the preservation of peace and security. A summary of the 14 articles of the treaty follows:

Organized within the framework of the UN to maintain peace and security, NATO is a functioning defensive unit. Its formation is a monumental step forward as free men strive to remain free—with honor

Read the first NATO article published in *Military Review* at <https://cgsc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p124201coll1/id/874/rec/1>. (Images from the Ike Skelton Combined Arms Research Library Digital Library, compilation by Michael Lopez, *Military Review*)

The first article published in *Military Review* exclusively discussing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was published in the September 1951 by Col. Maddrey A. Solomon, an instructor at the Army War College. NATO had become operational on 2 April 1951, and the article is framed as a kind of tutorial that provides readers an overview of the organization's charter, structure, and administrative operations, including a synopsis of the charter articles that would guide the organization's policies. One key point the author emphasizes is that NATO is an organization that is exclusively defensive in nature and does not seek to build capabilities that could be construed as intending aggression against other nations. ■