



(U) NSA at NATO HQ: Supporting U.S. Policy in a Unique Forum

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(U//FOUO) On 10 November 2004, President Bush welcomed NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer to the White House, the first foreign leader to visit the President at the start of his second term. It was no coincidence that NATO got that level of attention at the start of the President's agenda for the second term. The meeting with the head of NATO signaled the importance that the Administration places on the Alliance as a unique transatlantic forum for addressing today's global challenges.



*(U) NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer meets with President Bush in Brussels.
(Reuters)*

(U//FOUO) As a further demonstration of his commitment to strong transatlantic relations and multilateralism, President Bush met with his NATO counterparts at NATO HQ in Brussels on 22 February. Four NSA personnel stationed there witnessed this event as it unfolded.

(C) NSA has a program of robust support to NATO that reaches throughout the Alliance's extended theaters of operations. In Brussels, NSA/CSS Europe (NCEUR) maintains four liaison officers who collectively represent SID, IAD, and FAD interests. These NCEUR personnel have varied responsibilities and reside in different organizations at NATO HQ, but they all share the same common purpose of supporting U.S. policy and interests at the highest level of NATO. So what exactly do they do? For those unfamiliar with the NATO HQ structure, a brief introduction is in order. NATO's essential purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members by both **political** and **military** means. The supreme NATO political body is the North Atlantic Council, or NAC, which comprises the ambassadors from all member countries.

(C) On the military side, the Military Committee (MC) provides advice to and takes guidance from the NAC. The MC is supported by the International Military Staff (IMS), which is subdivided into familiar military support areas such as intelligence, operations, and logistics. The United States permanent delegation at NATO headquarters in Brussels has two separate representations:

- The **U.S. Mission**, led by the U.S. Ambassador to NATO, is the official diplomatic representation to the Alliance.
- The **U.S. Military Delegation** is headed by a 3-star general who represents the United States on the MC.

(C) Now, back to our NCEUR personnel! Of the four positions, only one is truly "embedded" in NATO. This is the Special Intelligence Liaison Officer, who works in the Intelligence Division of the IMS. The SILO ensures that, to the greatest extent possible, NSA reporting is made available to NATO customers. The SILO is an advocate for REL NATO reporting and is at the front lines of the U.S. commitment to provide intelligence support to NATO. Although the SILO's primary focus is at the strategic level for senior NATO decision-makers, the SILO also facilitates the flow of operational and tactical reporting to the subordinate commands, reaching to places such as NATO commands in Afghanistan and in Kosovo. On behalf of the NATO customer set, the SILO provides substantial input into the development of relevant Agency reporting and dissemination guidance.

(S//SI) In contrast to the SILO, the other three NCEUR personnel reside within the U.S. permanent delegation. The Special Intelligence representative is attached to the U.S. Mission. The representative's role is to optimize intelligence support to U.S. customers in the Mission and

Military Delegation. As such, they seek out intelligence reports that provide U.S. negotiators with key insights on issues under discussion at NATO. Additionally, they maintain regular contact with SIGINT production offices by providing feedback, background documentation, and other information on request.

(U//FOUO) Finally, two NCEUR personnel representing IAD are assigned one each to the U.S. Mission and the Military Delegation. On behalf of the United States, these information assurance experts work to ensure secure, reliable communications interoperability is maintained within the NATO Alliance. They provide critical advice on cryptographic policy, guidance, testing, and products. They are key to NATO's continuing ability to maintain secure communications with a growing number of Alliance members and Coalition partners with differing COMSEC needs, standards, and capabilities.

(C) In addition to working closely with support offices in the SID and IAD, all four NCEUR liaison officers keep their respective oversight personnel in the FAD informed of developments in specific areas of interest. This ensures that FAD stays in the loop on topics that not only concern NATO but may also have implications for bilateral relations.

(U//FOUO) President Bush himself stated that the United States "is committed to a strong and vibrant NATO." Representing NSA at NATO HQ gives us the opportunity to play an active role in this and see history happen.

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