Abstract

This Annual Report will highlight the engagements of the Atlantic Treaty Association Headquarters based in Brussels and the outcomes from 2016 activities.
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NATO: The Enduring Alliance 2016
Atlantic Voices
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INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE

Members

PARTNERS
Dear readers,

It is a pleasure to present the 2016 ATA Annual Report aimed to provide a comprehensive view on ATA programs and activities carried out by the Atlantic Treaty Association this year.

Since June 1954, the Atlantic Treaty Association has served as the coordinating organization of various national non-governmental organizations and associations across NATO member states and partners. The ATA added value is represented by its role in bridging the divide between NATO and civil society throughout the Transatlantic region by offering information and education on the Alliance’s activities to those who seek it. Furthermore, in 1996 the Youth ATA (YATA) was formed to create a space for the successor generation of policy-makers, diplomats, and academics to begin to shape the Transatlantic Relationship.

The role of ATA is increasingly important in times of globalization of insecurity and interconnected threats, where “No state, however powerful, can guarantee its security and its welfare by national action alone”, as reported by the Three Wise Men in 1956. It is particularly true in the present day that “Security is today far more than a military matter. The strengthening of political consultation and economic cooperation, the development of resources, progress in education and public understanding, all these can be as important, or even more important, for the protection of the security of a nation, or an alliance, as the building of a battleship or the equipping of an army”.

With more than 500 programs per year, ATA seeks to engage individuals and groups from around the world to build strong communal bonds. Those countries which have joined NATO’s Partnership for Peace or Mediterranean Dialogue are often the sites of research projects directed by ATA as well as a dedicated development of civil society. Through these efforts ATA plays a pivotal role in fostering relationships between members and partner countries and an important “contribution in promoting a better understanding of the Alliance among our nations”, as outlined in the Warsaw Summit Declaration.

Going forward, ATA is continuing its mission to expand the reach of the transatlantic ideals and bring new people into the Atlantic family. While there is always more work to be done, our simultaneous top-down, bottom-up approach allows the inclusion of a much larger number of individuals than would otherwise be possible. By working with officials and industry to produce greater defense capabilities and closing the gaps in our security to better address key threats such as terrorism, ATA continues to make the difference in providing tangible solutions to decision makers.

Prof. Fabrizio W. Lucioli
President
Dear all,

2016 has been a formative year for the Atlantic Treaty Association. Having concentrated our focus on advancing our institutional partnerships, ATA has launched a series of new programming in cooperation with its members that further advances our mission and strategy throughout the Euro-Atlantic region.

Having expanded new partnerships with Senior NATO & EU Officials, Members of the European Parliament (MEP’s) and key decision-makers in military, industry and journalism, ATA has consolidated its political and operational focus to lead the policy making discussions on the five core themes that make our expertise and engagements unique, namely:

- Counter-Terrorism
- Hybrid Warfare
- Women in Security
- Energy Security
- Defense Spending

ATA programs have brought us to the front lines in countering information warfare in various regions of Ukraine, implementing infrastructure protection policy in the Scandinavian area, advancing procurement policy with industry, implementing workshops and training courses on countering terrorism and radicalization with senior military and policy officers across the Alliance and Mediterranean and developing innovative platforms to further advance NATO-EU cooperation.

By enhancing the scope of our collective mission, ATA’s engagement with diplomats, military, academics, industry and journalists expands the collective impact of our work with civil society and key opinion formers across NATO Member and Partner countries. As 2016 represented a pivotal year for the Alliance and our collective security, ATA continues to expand its role and mission in supporting our Allies and Partners and strengthening the promotion of our transatlantic values.

Jason Wiseman
Secretary General
Dear all,

In 2016, the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) continued to pursue the fulfilment of its mission as a leading international platform for young professionals in the security and defence sector. Currently established in 36 countries throughout the Euro-Atlantic area, YATA is comprised of more than 10,000 young leaders. Throughout the year, we succeeded in increasing our network, which includes individuals who are providing consultation on security issues to all kinds of audiences, creating voter trends relevant to youth through their active participation in international conferences.

In 2016, we worked alongside ATA to ensure that young professionals have a voice in the policy-making sphere and direct access to national and international officials.

Our activities looked to inform the general public on international security affairs, by providing information and engaging in debate and discussion with citizens in national, regional and local levels. This included, among others, Future Leaders’ Summits, Social Media Workshops, Young Professional summits alongside NATO’s Ministerial Meetings and many of our Flagship initiatives, such as seminars, conferences and roundtables in several countries to address the most prominent security threats the Alliance faces in the Euro-Atlantic region and beyond.

In conclusion, 2016 proved to be a very important year for the Executive Board and the network in general, as it helped us realize even more how we should ensure that all our activities and plans are challenging, exciting, innovative and, above all, a clear added value to the next generation of key decision makers across the Alliance.

Francisco Costa
YATA President

Atlantic Treaty Association
Association du Traité Atlantique
WE PROMOTE TRANSatlantic VALUES SINCE 1954
The Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) is an organization of 37 national chapters that, since 1954, has been conducting research, analyses, training, education, and information activities on foreign policy, security and defense issues relevant to the Atlantic Alliance.

Relying on its extended and highly qualified network, ATA produces top-notch knowledge on strategic themes and promotes a variety of programs and events. ATA initiatives draw together government and institutional authorities, political leaders, decision-makers, diplomats, civilian and military officers, academics, economic actors, media representatives, as well as young professionals and researchers, in an effort to further a cooperative approach to security and international relations.

ATA has established cooperation programs with likeminded organizations in countries of the NATO Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative. ATA also engages likeminded partners in countries and regional entities which are not part of NATO formal partnership frameworks. ATA outreach extends to Central-Eastern Europe and the Balkans, the Mediterranean and the broader Middle East region, the Caucasus and Asia.

ATA attributes special relevance to the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA), with a view to preparing the new generation of Atlanticist leaders to face the challenges and threats of the present and future security scenario. YATA organizes seminars, training courses and study visits, as an effective way to strengthen the skills, expertise and sense of identity of the new generation of Atlanticist leaders.

The ATA Secretariat is based in Brussels and coordinates the network of its 37 national Atlantic chapters and YATA activities.
The Atlantic Treaty Association firmly believes in the values and strength of the Transatlantic bond, a fundamental pillar for the stability of the international system. By drawing together political leaders, diplomats, military officers, academics, economic actors as well as young professionals and students, ATA has the capacity to connect all relevant stakeholders in developing strategic and foreword looking policy in key areas such as counter-terrorism, hybrid warfare, energy security, defense spending and an enhanced role for women in security.

**Counter-Terrorism**

The continued attacks linked to or inspired by ISIS in NATO Member and Partner countries drove ATA’s programming in the field of Counter-Terrorism to our top priority for 2016. The “homegrown” militants and “foreign fighters” tied to ISIS and its affiliated groups across the Middle East and Africa differ from the traditional al-Qaeda style terrorists, posing an array of new challenges to governments, law enforcement agencies, information services and citizens. To this end, ATA brought to fruition an Advanced Research Workshop on “Human Factors in the Defense Against Terrorism: the Case of Jordan” in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This program delivered a series of innovative tactics and strategies to key policy makers that can be adopted by different agencies in the defense against terrorism. Participants provided a series of concrete recommendations in the fields of counter-terrorism and emergency response that have been provided in our recent publication.

ATA further enhanced its partnerships with key institutions working to address the threat of terrorism across the Euro-Atlantic, including the United Nations (UN), European External Action Service (EEAS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) along with various intelligence agencies, military branches, ministries and think tanks.

Moreover, ATA expanded its engagement with stakeholders in the Mediterranean and Gulf countries to enhance its network to key opinion formers in regions that are more adversely affected by the threat of terrorism, culminating in an exchange of program support. ATA engagement has so far included the MEDays Forum in Morocco, the NATO Advanced Training Course on “Countering the South East European Terrorist Threat” in FYROM and the Opening of MA Course on Security & Cultural Understanding at the BI Norwegian Business School in Oslo, in cooperation with The Norwegian Armed Forces.

**Hybrid Warfare**

Following the security threats that unite NATO’s policies towards the Eastern flanks, ATA has increased its engagement in the flashpoint areas affecting NATO’s Partners in the East. The role of ATA in facilitating a series of programs at various levels were initiated by ATA in its “Countering Information War in Ukraine” Series which took place in Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk, and Kiev with the aim to assess the level of influence anti-NATO and anti-Western propaganda has in Ukraine and to design an effective strategy that will counter-balance the pro-separatist media propaganda throughout the country.

Besides the Eastern and Southern flanks of the Alliance, ATA has continued to focus on the full integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures of the Western Balkans with several programs in the region. With the Round Table “Perspective of the Armed Forces of Montenegro within NATO Structure”, relevant military and political actors, as well as experts from the country and abroad discussed the further steps of Montenegro and its Armed Forces, that are important for NATO integration. ATA was also present at the To Be Secure Forum in Montenegro to discuss the global security situation, focusing on a response to hybrid warfare.
In its continued engagement in strengthening relations between NATO and EU member countries, ATA organized the Conference “NATO – EU Cooperation After the Warsaw Summit: Countering Hybrid Warfare” that took place at the European Parliament. This conference brought together experts, policy makers, officials from NATO and European Union as well as industry representatives to discuss how to enhance the need for greater partnership and cooperation between these organizations.

Resilience and Critical Infrastructure Protection

In times of the globalization of insecurity, no country or international organization would be able to effectively tackle alone the current complex and interconnected threats and security challenges. This requires greater attention to shared resilience among western countries, in terms of building the capacity of their societies to anticipate, preempt and resolve disruptive challenges to their critical functions. The most recent program, “Forward Resilience: Protecting Society in an Interconnected World” focused on the NATO & EU approach on embracing the concept of resilience through the means of sharing intelligence and enhancing communication in order to protect civilian and military infrastructure. ATA engagement on Resilience has so far included the event organized in partnership with the European Policy Centre on “Forward Resilience: Protecting Society in an Interconnected World” and the Conference hosted in the European Parliament on “Resilience Strengthening Security & Stability in The Mediterranean: the Role of Morocco” on the occasion of the distinguished visit of the Minister of Interior of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Hassad.

Nonetheless, no nation is alone in an age of potentially catastrophic terrorism, networked threats and disruptive hybrid attacks. In this respect, ATA has continued to focus on investigating the emerging security risks facing NATO Member and Partner countries. In particular, ATA focused on the Scandinavian Area with the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on “Critical Infrastructure Protection Against Hybrid Warfare Security Related Challenges”. This ARW focused primarily on the protection of critical infrastructure within the context of hybrid warfare by addressing non-traditional threats like cyber-attacks, terrorism and attacks on energy supply that defy national borders.
Women and Security

Following the NATO commitment to support the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2422) and the most recent acknowledgement of the importance of gender perspectives in NATO’s core tasks at the 2014 Wales Summit Meeting by the NAC, ATA and its partners are taking action to promote the role of women in security. ATA recognizes the importance of women’s participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping and humanitarian responses. This entails a stronger and effective action for women which are essential for a more modern, ready and responsive NATO. In this respect, ATA has supported and assisted the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria who organized an Advanced Workshop titled: “Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why It Matters”–Resolution 1325” on December 2016 in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Defense Spending

In the lead-up to the Warsaw Summit NATO members and partners are faced with an increased threat environment, creating an enhanced need for better cooperation of financial and operational resources within the Alliance. Resulting from the NATO Summits in Wales and Warsaw, progress has been made to “stop the bleeding” by increasing the defence investments with a particular emphasis on defence technologies relevant to cyber security, satellite communications, response forces and command and control. In this context, ATA organized a Series of Defence Investment Round Tables to create consensus among industry, policy makers and senior military officials for defence spending guidelines and priorities before and after NATO convenes for its Summits.
ASSESSMENT & OUTLOOK

2016 Assessment

Following the transformation of the global security scenario, ATA has proven to represent an extraordinary forum able to translate security needs into concrete achievements by effective actions in the field of information, education, training, civilian preparedness and international cooperation, involving decision makers, officials, experts and qualified representatives of civil societies from NATO member and partner countries and beyond. In 2016, ATA gained an important accomplishment in increasing its outreach and cooperation with counties in the Mediterranean and Middle East on joint programs aimed to contribute to the security of Allies and Partners.

Aiming towards the enhanced threat environment coming from the East, ATA has more than doubled its engagements with its Eastern Partners, bringing key policy makers, military officials and security experts to volatile areas within Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova designed to enhance the strategic partnerships of the Alliance and at-risk civil society. Following the increasing importance of the Mediterranean region and the Middle East, ATA expanded in 2016 its network beyond the Southern Flank of the Alliance, carrying out Workshops and joint programming in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, engagement with key Moroccan officials as well as policy makers in Israel.

In our continued efforts to further strengthen the core Alliance between North America and Europe, ATA led a delegation of senior leaders within the Association to Washington, DC to strengthen cooperation between ATA members and key security providing institutions and think tanks in the United States. Moreover, ATA’s General Assembly took place in Toronto, Canada to highlight the role of North America’s strategic partnership within the Alliance and to further advance transatlantic relations to civil society from across the Euro-Atlantic.

In 2016, ATA engaged more than 600 distinguished speakers and participants coming from government and institutions, military, academia in more than 20 activities in NATO Members and Partners Countries. The political leaders, decision-makers, diplomats, civil and military officers, industry representatives as well as young professionals and researchers, has provided expertise on strategic themes, by providing top-notch knowledge and specific policy recommendations to achieve practical solutions on how to the Alliance can face the emerging challenges of our time.

2017 and Beyond

As outlined by the Warsaw Summit, the response of the new interconnected range of security challenges is enhancing a cooperative security relationship within the Alliance and with Partners on a global scale. The contribution made by ATA in promoting a better understanding of the Alliance among NATO nations represents the added value of our Association, as highlighted in Article 138 of the Warsaw Summit Declaration.

ATA’s role is increasingly active in its mission to support the strengthening of peace and security by promoting educational, political, economic and military cooperation with initiatives throughout the Euro-Atlantic and beyond. To serve this mission, ATA will expand its partnerships in Europe, North America, Mediterranean, Middle East, Caucasus, Balkans and Eastern Europe to ensure that the strength of transatlantic values and the added value of security cooperation can be communicated to civil society around the globe.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Council meets twice a year and brings together the Bureau and the high-level representatives of each Member Organization, Associate Member Organization and Observer Member Organization.

In coordination with the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, ATA hosted its Council Meeting in Budva, Montenegro, to discuss future policies and strategic outlook for the ATA implementation plan looking to the ATA General Assembly in Toronto in October 2016.

The Council is responsible for approving ATA’s annual strategy, ATA’s international engagements and sets objectives for the Assembly.
The NATO Association of Canada hosted the Atlantic Treaty Association’s 62nd General Assembly. The event took place on October 11th - 12th 2016, at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Canada. The Atlantic Treaty Association creates a network to facilitate Euro-Atlantic relations and brings together high representatives of partner countries in the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East. The General Assembly engages discussion on various issues regarding terrorism, security, migration, cyber war and climate change. Join us again this year for another thought-provoking Assembly.

The 62nd ATA General Assembly falls in an historical moment for the Alliance. The successful NATO Warsaw Summit has demonstrated that the Alliance has to play a crucial role in this complex contemporary word and that global security challenges require a stronger and more effective NATO. In this time, the Atlantic Treaty Association has a strong role to play. This ATA General Assembly gathered Senior representatives from the ATA with the aim to indicate the path to protect our transatlantic values of democracy, freedom and protection of human rights. To this end, ATA stimulated a better understanding of NATO through a stronger scientific cooperation and dialogue and by raising awareness within the young generations.

The 62nd ATA General Assembly provided an important opportunity for members of the transatlantic community to gather and collaborate over the pressing issues challenging international security. The insights and perspectives shared over the course of these two days made for truly constructive dialogue which will undoubtedly shape how members of the transatlantic community think about and respond to issues of security and defence in the future. One only needed to take a walk around the conference room to observe this constructive dialogue in action, as General Assembly participants met with both old colleagues and new to share ideas, collaborate on upcoming initiatives, offer insight and advice to students and young professionals, and learn from one another’s diverse experiences. The knowledge and ideas shared during this year’s ATA General Assembly are a testament to the formidable work of the dedicated diplomats, military personnel, academics, politicians, young professionals and students who contributed to the conversation, and illustrated the important role of the General Assembly as a platform for reflection and progress for the ATA.
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
“Taking conflict off the battlefield; restoring confidence in public leaders; and encouraging active citizenship in the redesign of a sustainable social contract and an inclusive model of development must be key components to the broader effort to counter radicalization.”


As an Enhanced Opportunities Partner of NATO, currently engaged in a Capacity Building Initiative with the Alliance, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan hosted an Advanced Research Workshop “Human Factors in the Defense Against Terrorism: The Case of Jordan” in cooperation with the NATO Science for Peace and Security Division, in partnership with the Atlantic Treaty Association. This Workshop was designed to deepen NATO-Jordanian cooperation within the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) framework by sharing best practices in counter-terrorism and deradicalization strategies among government authorities and distinguished experts from the diplomatic, military, academic, and private sectors. Participants established a series of protocols and emergency response techniques for practitioners and policy makers in the fields of counter-terrorism and emergency responders.

Experts presented their analysis and best practices from relevant case studies of terrorist attacks in Europe and the Middle East, aimed at identifying a strategy to implement effective counter action and fight the process of radicalization. The overall findings of this Workshop and a list of clear policy recommendations will collected in a dedicated publication that is now available online.
May 19th marked the beginning of the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on “Critical Infrastructure Protection Against Hybrid Warfare Security Related Challenges” organized by the Atlantic Treaty Association and Swedish Atlantic Council. Over 45 participants and speakers from 20 different countries came together to discuss how to protect our critical infrastructure within the new emerging security threat environment.

The main objective of this Advanced Research Workshop was to examine the security risks to critical infrastructure in the new framework of Hybrid Warfare. It constituted a forum to understand the new challenges from hybrid warfare by addressing non-traditional threats, such as cyber-attacks, terrorism and attacks on energy supply that defy national borders. This ARW also served to identify opportunities for public-private partnerships to meet these risks and enhance the role of NATO.

The ARW provided a key strategic forum for information sharing and contributed to identifying common solutions against major hazards and challenges, namely cyber-attacks, terrorist attack on energy supply-made disasters, information warfare and maritime security risks.

The outcome of the workshop included a concrete list of recommendations in a dedicated publication. The SPS publication contains the resulting, recommendations and best-practices of the excellent setting for experts and stakeholders from government, academia and the private sector.
ATA Round Table Series

NIAG Round Table – Following the Warsaw Summit Declaration: What this Means for 2017
Date: 29th September, 2016
Venue: ATA Headquarter, Brussels, Belgium

The purpose of the second roundtable, “Following the Warsaw Summit Declaration: What this Means for 2017,” was to further lead the discussion of NATO’s increasing investments in defense. This Round Table engaged prominent decision makers, officials and experts from NATO member and partner countries to address the current security challenges and advance NATO’s smart defence policy. The roundtable achieved its goal to address the procurement policies, industrial capacities and operational needs required and established a base for future negotiations.

NIAG Roundtable – Defense Investments: Guidelines for the Future
Date: 30th June, 2016
Venue: ATA Headquarter, Brussels, Belgium

The purpose of the first roundtable, “Defense Investments: Guidelines for the Future,” was to outline the need for increased defense investments as discussed in the Warsaw Summit. ATA gathered government officials and experts from the academic, diplomatic, public and private sectors to share best practices and address defense spending for the future of NATO Allies and Partners. The NIAG Roundtable succeeded in facilitating discussion of increasing defense spending and stimulating greater innovation with the NATO Industrial Advisory Group.

Countering Information War in Ukraine
Date: 29th January 2016
Venue: Ukraine Crisis Media Centre, Kiev, Ukraine

On January 29th, ATA, in cooperation with Громадська ліга Україна - NATO, Ukraine Crisis Media Centre and NATO PDD, hosted a conference in Kiev titled "Countering Information War in Ukraine". The purpose of this series of roundtables was to assess the level of influence pro-Kremlin propaganda has in Ukraine and design an effective strategy to counter-balance pro-Kremlin and pro-separatist media propaganda. The results of these roundtables were presented during a final roundtable, hosted by the Foreign Ministry in Kyiv.
The current international security environment features new threats and challenges for both NATO and EU member countries, enhancing the need for greater partnership and cooperation between these organizations. With particular reference to the NATO Warsaw Summit and the recent NATO-EU Joint Declaration along with their standing agreements on cyber security, the conference hosted decision makers from both NATO and the European Parliament to develop a cooperative security strategy that will effectively counter the ongoing threat of Hybrid Warfare.

The conference was opened with proceedings by ATA President who highlighted the need for a deeper cooperation between NATO and EU beyond the defense dimension, on the political, economic and cultural domain, which are particularly necessary to develop a comprehensive strategy and approach in order to cope with the multifaceted dimensions of the new security threats as the hybrid ones.

This conference brought together experts, policy makers, officials, and industry representatives to analyze the impact and recent progress from the NATO-EU Joint Declaration and how the Warsaw Summit has enhanced NATO-EU cooperation. With a particular emphasis on resilience and the key areas where NATO-EU cooperation yields the highest added value, panelists and participants outlined a list of best practices for both institutions and the private sector that outlined a clear strategy of implementation for the NATO-EU Joint Declaration in areas where cooperation can be complementary. The impact was a clear engagement of participants, who in discussion with policy makers had a fruitful discussion on how to advance NATO-EU relations.

“We are united in our values and our belief in the international rules-based system. Yet that system is being challenged. Now is the time to ensure that we are doing our best to guarantee the peace, security and prosperity that we all have the privilege to enjoy. We can do this best together.”

Ambassador Tacan ILDEM, Assistant Secretary General for NATO Public Diplomacy Division, November 16, 2016.
Date: 7th September 2016
Venue: European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

On the occasion of the distinguished visit of the Minister of Interior of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Hassad, ATA facilitated a panel discussion in partnership with the European Parliament among various MEP’s, NATO officials and distinguished guests to highlight the areas of mutual cooperation between Morocco and different EU & NATO members.

ATA Secretary General moderated the discussion while ATA President provided remarks as a panellist. The presentations provided focused on the role of Moroccan authorities in facing the increasing threat environment within the Euro-Atlantic and MENA regions, namely, the ongoing challenge of radical jihadi terrorism and the spread of ISIS combined with a continued migration crisis.

Forward Resilience: Protecting Society in an Interconnected World
Date: 13th December, 2016
Venue: European Policy Center, Brussels

The European Policy Centre, The Johns Hopkins University SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations and The Atlantic Treaty Association presented the launch of a new study Forward Resilience: Protecting Society in an Interconnected World. This Conference helped lead the discussion of increasing resilience in NATO and the EU. The conference brought together government officials and experts from the field to discuss how governments can be better prepared for the threat of cyber or hybrid warfare, through maintaining strong civil planning committees and stronger communications systems. The general outcome of the conference is shared knowledge and expertise of how governments can increase resilience.
**ATA Trainings**

**Officers Training Courses – JFC Naples,**
Date: November – December, 2016  
Venue: NATO JFC-Naples, Italy

Two Seminars and a Study Course on NATO’s Evolution and Counterterrorism have been organized by the Italian Atlantic Committee at the NATO JFC-Naples.

**FYROM Officers Training Course**
Date: 19th April, 2016  
Venue: Brussels, Belgium

ATA Secretary General provided a briefing to an audience of senior officials & military officers from FYROM to discuss the outcomes of the NATO Summit, that took place in July. Looking towards the Warsaw Summit, the presentation focuses on the impact on Balkans and especially for FYROM.

**ATA – NATO Alignment Meeting**
Date: 1st March, 31st May 2016  
Venue: NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium

The ATA program titled ‘Brief the Briefers’ aims to give influential ATA Members up-to-date and detailed information on NATO’s most pressing issues for 2016-2017 so the knowledge can be inserted into the various programs taking place throughout the ATA network over the next 12 months. “Brief the Briefers” is targeted at ATA members who play an active role in the dialogue on transatlantic defense and security, who have demonstrated their continued added value to the ATA network and whose activities exhibit a great level of impact in their respective countries. The event represented an occasion for ATA members to engage with NATO heads of divisions and key experts to get a clear understanding of recent developments related to Trident Juncture, Open Door Policy, Collective Defense and the Warsaw Summit agenda.
NATO Advanced Training Course - South East European Counter-Terrorism Strategies and Tactics
Date: 17th February, 2016
Venue: Ohrid, FYROM

ATA Secretary General lectured at the NATO Advanced Training Course on “Countering the South East European Terrorist Threat” which took place in Ohrid, FYROM. The event was organized by the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia, Norwich University and General Mihailo Apostolski Military Academy, and funded by NATO SPS Division. The presentation was focused on “South East Europe Counter Terrorism Strategies and Tactics” where he devised a tailored strategy and tactics for Counter Terrorism directed at the authorities in South Eastern Europe.

Officers Training Course - Royal Military Academy
Date: 29th February, 2016
Venue: ATA Headquarter, Brussels, Belgium

ATA welcomed an International Military Delegation from Royal Military Academy on February 29th. Looking towards Warsaw, ATA Vice-President Arnold Kammel discussed the cooperation and competition at play between NATO and the European Union, while ATA Senior Program Manager Alessandro Niglia presented his research on Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection and Dmytro Raiskyi, the Ukraine Program Manager, shared the results of his work on countering information war in Ukraine.
MEDays Forum  
Date: 11th December, 2016  
Venue: Tangier, Morocco  

MEDays, an international forum hosted in Tangier, Morocco serves as a strategic platform for strengthening relations between the Northern and Southern countries, more precisely with the Maghreb, Mediterranean, African and Arab regions.  

ATA Secretary General delivered a speech on European and Middle East cooperation on counter-terrorism in the Panel titled “The World under Terror: Building a New Intelligence and Defence Policy Model.”

Date: 9th December, 2016  
Venue: Hellenic Armed Forces Officer’s Club, Athens, Greece  

ATA President delivered the opening address of the 25th Annual International Symposium in Athens. The Conference focused on the role of NATO and the European Union in addressing contemporary security challenges in Europe, the Mediterranean, and Greece specifically. This event coincided with the 25th Anniversary of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation (G.A.A.E.C.).

Winter Security Workshop  
Date: 4th-6th December, 2016  
Venue: Montenegro  

The Winter Security Workshop on “NATO-Russian Relations- Balkan Implications” was organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro in partnership with Atlantic Treaty Association and with the Support of U.S. Mission to NATO and the U.S Mission in Podgorica. Officials, policy makers government Representatives discussed NATO-Russia relations impact on Balkans following the Warsaw Summit. ATA Secretary General moderated the Concluding Plenary Session, coordinating the interactive debate.

NATO SMIO FORUM  
Date: October, 2016  
Venue: NATO Headquarters, Brussels  

ATA Liaison Officer participated in the SMIOFORUM at NATO together with other high-level state and organizational leaders. NATO’s SMIOFORUM acts as a platform for better content creation and technology development, as a direct channel between leaders and the public, and as a growing tool for countering disinformation by state and non-state actors.
Study Release: Impact of the Euro-Atlantic Integrative Processes on Inter-Ethnic Relations  
Date: 11th November, 2016  
Venue: Skopje, FYROM

Following a 6 month research project assessing the overall inter-ethnic relations in the country and their impact on Euro-Atlantic integration, ATA Secretary General provided special remarks to the final conference that presented the results of the research. His remarks stressed the importance and added value of multi-ethnic society in security cooperation and the political advantage this provides during integration processes.

Norwegian Military Delegation Visit  
Date: 7th November, 2016  
Venue: ATA HQ, Brussels

ATA hosted the Norwegian Military Delegation to discuss the outcome of NATO’s Warsaw Summit in July. The Conference focused on the NATO and EU cooperation to create a "comprehensive approach" to bilaterally dissolve international crises and prevent conflict. In close relation to the enhanced threat environment, Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden and Denmark, are deemed highly exposed to jihadi terrorism, both being considered one of the highest exporters of foreign fighters in Europe. Taking note of its neighbors and the examples of Belgium and France, Norway faces the challenge to increase counter terrorism efforts and training while simultaneously expanding its military infrastructure.

Opening of MA Course: Security & Cultural Understanding MA  
Date: 26th October, 2016  
Venue: Oslo, Norway

ATA Secretary General opened a new MA Course at the BI Norwegian Business School in Oslo on Monday September 26th. In cooperation with The Norwegian Armed Forces (Forsvaret), BI Norwegian Business School developed the Executive Master of Management with a specialisation in security and cultural understanding. ATA Secretary General delivered an opening address at the Norwegian Business School in Oslo.

The Presentation was titled “Norway in a Changing Security Environment” and focused on the biggest security concerns facing Norway and its NATO Allies and Partners. He stressed the three biggest challenges: an aggressive Russia, collapsing Middle East, and insufficient financial and operational resources in Europe and North America to address these challenges.
Sustainable EU Learning and Training System Project

Date: 14th October, 2016
Venue: Skopje, FYROM

The “Impact of global security challenges on Europe and Western Balkans and ways to cope” Conference outlines the global security challenges on Europe and Western Balkans and how the European Union should address the following problems. ATA provided two speakers for the conference and ATA’s President gave the opening speech outlining the mechanisms by which problems should be addressed, improving regional cooperation, and integration strategies.

20th Anniversary of LATA

Date: 9 June, 2016
Venue: Lithuania

ATA President opened the Conference dedicated to the Atlantos sutarties Lietuvos bendrija - LATA’s 20th anniversary. The event focused on the impact of the militarization of Kaliningrad, and what current security developments in the Baltic Sea mean for the future of the Alliance.

KFOR: Challenges in South Eastern Europe

Date: 13th June, 2016
Venue: Bruxelles

President of the Albanian Atlantic Council, Mr. Arian Starova, and ATA liaison Officer engaged the audience in Pristina to discuss challenges to NATO’s South Eastern Allies, SEE states’ Euro-Atlantic integration and the NATO lead KFOR mission.

Warsaw Summit Experts’ Forum

Date: 8-9 July, 2016
Venue: Warsaw, Poland

ATA President, Vice Presidents, Secretary General and Senior Program Officer participated at the public diplomacy event that took place on the margins of the NATO Summit in Warsaw. WSEF2016 aimed to be a unique platform to talk about all the key issues on the Summit’s agenda. Providing political, financial and operational support, high level experts and key officials from NATO and its Member States, discussed about the key issues on the Summit’s agenda, to look beyond 2016 and to debate the future of the Alliance as the pillar of transatlantic security.
The Global Peace Index 2016
Date: 13th June, 2016
Venue: Royal Military Academy, Brussels, Belgium

The Institute for Economics and Peace presented the Global Peace Index, the world’s leading measure of peacefulness. This Conference was organized by the Chair of World Politics of the Royal Military Academy in cooperation with the Royal Higher Institute for Defence, the Euro-Atlantic Association of Belgium, the Global Governance Institute and the Atlantic Treaty Association. ATA Secretary General, in his concluding remarks, stressed the investments in positive peace by engagements with civil society in order to reverse the decline in global peace.

European Neighborhood Policy
Date: 15th June, 2016
Venue: European Parliament, Belgium

The goal of the European Parliament Panel “Return on Investment? Necessary Reforms of EU Funding Mechanisms as Instruments” was to promote an exchange of views on issues of consistency, accountability, and effectiveness of EU investments, made through different mechanisms, in support to European foreign policy. ATA’s Senior Program Officer gave the opening speech for the Roundtable discussion and explained the role of ATA and call for cooperation with ENP in future projects. The outcome of the conference was consensus and recognition of the European Neighborhood Policy’s need to strengthen and secure democracy and security in Europe.

Transatlantic Study Trip
Date: 24-28th April, 2016
Venue: Washington DC, U.S.

ATA organized the traditional Transatlantic Study Trip programme held in April in Washington. Delegates selected by ATA from the wider ATA network were engaged to strengthen ties with stakeholders and government officials in the United States. ATA shared best practices and expertise with local institutions on today’s global security challenges; ISIS and Syria, Russia, and addressing future U.S Strategy. This annual program helps build a stronger connection between delegates in the U.S and ATA members.

SECURITY JAM – Friends of Europe
Date: 25th – 28th April, 2016
Venue: Online

ATA Liaison Officer participated in the only global online brainstorm on international security challenges, with VIP Jammers such as Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence and NGO leaders, and thousands of experts from around the world. The six topics including organized crime, violent extremism, conflict prevention, human rights and more which were discussed in parallel to develop innovative solutions to global security challenges.
The Round Table ‘Perspective of the Armed Forces of Montenegro within NATO Structure’ was organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro in cooperation with NATO and the Council for NATO Membership’s Communication Team. With a view to gathering relevant military and political actors, as well as experts from the country and abroad to discuss further steps for Montenegro and its Armed Forces that are important for NATO integration. A keynote speech was delivered by ATA President. He commended a great work of the Atlantic Council in the process of Euro-Atlantic integrations. He said Montenegro will play a key role within NATO, which not only is a military, but a very powerful political organization.
Riga Conference
Date: 28-29 October, 2016
Venue: Riga, Latvia

The Riga Conference, a flagship engagement in the Baltic states, has become a unique venue for constructive dialogue on international security issues between leading global decision makers. The event was organized jointly by the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia. ATA Vice President Prof. Julian Lindley-French chaired the panel “Resilience: Renaissance of Total Defense” focusing on the ability of the Alliance to address deepening crises on multiple borders.

Baltic-Russia Youth Forum
Date: 12th October, 2016
Venue: Tallinn, Estonia

The Baltic-Russia Youth Forum’s goals are to educate young people about the importance of NATO and EU cooperation in addressing rising Russian aggression toward the Baltic States. ATA Senior Program Officer Alessandro Niglia gave a speech outlining how NATO’s Warsaw Summit poses a change in defense and security policy toward reducing duplication and increasing transparency in NATO-EU missions and operations. ATA succeeded in delivering the new prospect of a stronger partnership between NATO and the EU.

Youth Mediterranean Dialogue
Date: 12nd - 18th September, 2016
Venue: Madrid, Spain

ATA supported the 2nd edition of YMD, with recruitment of speakers and participants. The program seeks to give information and education about NATO, its history, its values, its principles, its tasks and its decision-making process. The intensive and comprehensive academic program aims to raise awareness on the major political and security issues that our community faces today, demonstrating the need to work together as one in the international world, and to be a vehicle for a younger generation to get involved in finding solutions for building peace and stability.
NATO Days, Czech Republic
Date: 17th-18th September, 2016
Venue: Ostrava, Czech Republic

As the biggest public diplomacy engagement within the Alliance, the 16th edition of the NATO Days in Ostrava, organized by the Czech Euro-Atlantic Council, was attended by ATA Secretary General who engaged the audience as a panelist on panel II “Resilience As a Key Emerging Concept in NATO: Experience and Outlook”. The presentation “Increasing Resilience” focused on NATO’s new engagement in strengthening and implementing Resilience, following the Warsaw Summit’s recommendation to countering hybrid threats. The forum included members of the Czech Government, NATO representatives, top representatives of armed forces, security and emergency management services of the Czech Republic and Allied countries, members of regional and municipal authorities, Ambassadors, defence and air attachés and other guests from home and abroad.

Youth and Defence
Date: 21st-24th August, 2016
Venue: Kaunas, Lithuania

Youth and defence military camp is an annual event organized by the Lithuanian Atlantic Treaty Association (LATA) since 2008. The event is organized together with Division General Stasys Raštikis of the Lithuanian Military School. ATA recruited participations for the eighth edition of the Youth & Defence Seminar in Lithuania, and provided support in their social media campaign.

To Be Secure Forum (2BS)
Date: 5th-7th May, 2016
Venue: Montenegro

ATA participated at the 2016 edition of the 2BS FORUM, the annual high-level politico-security forum which is a leading International Forum in SEE organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro.

ATA President spoke in panel II “EU and Southeast Europe: Failure to protect borders” outlining that closing of borders is not the solution to stop migration but will only modify the flows. He emphasizes that Western countries need to work with our immediate neighbors and give protection to migrants. He concluded by saying that borders must be controlled and it is a duty of the EU to keep the borders monitored.

ATA Secretary General moderated panel V “Confronting ISIL – one of the Biggest Challenges”, focusing on the role of Balkan countries in restricting the flow of people and materials to ISIL both into and out of the continent.
**Globsec Forum**  
Date: 15-17 April, 2016  
Venue: Bratislava, Slovakia

GLOBSEC’s yearly foreign and security conference, GLOBSEC Forum which takes place in Bratislava, was attended by an ATA delegation which served to strengthen the correspondence and cooperation of security issues facing Central Europe with other members of the Alliance. The 2016 edition paid special attention to the discussions about Challenges within the Realm of European Politics, The Refugee Crisis, Migration and European Security, the Future of NATO after the Warsaw Summit, Terrorism in Europe and The Future of the West.

**Leangkollen Conference**  
Date: 1-2 February, 2016  
Venue: Norway

The Leangkollen Conference is the Norwegian Atlantic Committee’s flagship two-day conference where a setting of experts and stakeholders from government, academia and the private sector provide insight into current defence, foreign, and security policy issues. ATA Vice-President opened the Conference on “NATO’s Southern Flank: Great Powers, Jihadists and Refugees”.

NATO SPS – Human Factors in the Defense Against Terrorism: The Case of Jordan

Following the recent NATO ARW on “Human Factors in Defense Against Terrorism”, the publication provides the outcome of the fruitful discussion among the scientific community. The ATA - NATO Publication will contain the best presentations collected during the Workshop, focusing on the role of Jordanian government and authorities in countering terrorism and radicalization and how to enhance the cooperation among NATO member and partner countries.

NATO Adaptation Initiative

In close cooperation and with strong contribution from ATA Vice-President, Prof. Julian Lindley-French, GLOBSEC launched the NATO Adaptation Initiative Report. The initiatives envisaged a series of policy papers which will address the nature of NATO’s adaptation and the challenges it must overcome if it is to remain a viable and credible Alliance for peace and stability in the transatlantic area.

NATO SPS - Critical Infrastructure Protection Against Hybrid Warfare Security Related Challenges


The workshop resulted in being an excellent setting for experts and stakeholders from government, academia and the private sector from the whole transatlantic region. The workshop provided a unique forum to address the protection of Critical Infrastructure and the hybrid warfare related-challenges for the Alliance.
Strengthening Peace and Security
NATO Summit 2016

NATO SUMMIT: Strengthening Peace and Security is ATA’s Official Publication for the NATO Summit, held in Warsaw on 8-9 July 2016. The 2016 Summit Edition addresses the key threats and challenges facing NATO members and beyond. It highlights NATO’s essential purpose in safeguarding the freedom of its member countries, providing a unique link between Europe and North America in the field of defense and security, and in the conduct of multinational crisis-management operations.

The publication incorporates views from the highest NATO and military authorities, Heads of State and Government along with industry prominent figures and was launched at the Summit and distributed to key stakeholders, government and procurement personnel, senior military officials, defence attaches, business leaders, and defence manufacturers and suppliers.

NATO: The Enduring Alliance 2016

NATO: The Enduring Alliance 2016 is the new Publication by ATA Vice-President Prof. Julian Lindley-French. The report considers the questions the political leaders of the Alliance should answer given the threats posed to NATO and in light of Brexit.

It also outlines the bottom-line for the Warsaw Summit. That effective NATO deterrence will only be established if NATO’s forward presence is in strength, reinforced by a properly enhanced NATO Response Force, which in turn is allied to a credible ability of Alliance forces to overcome Russia’s growing and impressive anti-access, area denial capability.

Atlantic Voices

Launched in October 2011, Atlantic Voices is the ATA’s monthly journal that aims to provide a voice to the younger generation of academics, researchers and professionals as it recruits distinguished researchers to analyze and interpret key issues facing NATO and the world today. Over 12,000 copies are printed yearly and distributed throughout 37 countries, to government officials, as well as a variety of experts, academics and the public.

Security Europe

ATA Secretary General was published in Security Europe Magazine, focusing on “Understanding Suicide Attacks & What This Means for Counter-Terrorism”. He highlighted the strategy and tactics that European counter-terrorism officials must reorient to address the rise in suicide terrorism taking place across the globe.
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