

# SHAPE's symbol



Two gold swords, unsheathed, are superimposed on a gold scroll, bearing the official maxim: 'Vigilia Pretium Libertatis' (Vigilance is the Price of Liberty). Two sprays of olive leaves in gold at the bottom of the scroll indicate the dedication of the NATO nations to peace; the swords show the armed strength necessary to preserve peace.

The position of the swords produces the letter 'A', representing the Alliance. Within the scroll, and behind the swords, are twelve silver fronds, stemming from the olive sprays, and denoting the original signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty. They produce, by their position, rays of hope. The whole design is superimposed on a shield of dark green, representing the peaceful woods and fields of Europe.



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## ALLIED COMMAND OPERATIONS



*Vigilance is the  
price of liberty*

Allied Command Operations:  
*Delivering military excellence  
to security challenges*

## SHAPE's History

On April 4, 1949 twelve nations from Western Europe and North America signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. A key feature of this treaty is Article 5, in which the signatory members agreed that "an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all."

On April 2, 1951 General Eisenhower, the first Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), signed the activation order for Allied Command Europe (ACE) and its headquarters at SHAPE. On the same day ACE's subordinate headquarters in Northern and Central Europe were activated, with the Southern Region following in June. In July 1951 SHAPE's new headquarters complex in Rocquencourt, France opened for business.

### SHAPE Finds a New Home

In February 1966 President de Gaulle stated that the changed world situation "stripped of justification" NATO's military integration and that France was therefore re-establishing her sovereignty over French territory. As a result, all forces within France's borders would have to come under French control by April 1969.

The Belgian Government then offered Camp Casteau, a 200-hectare Belgian Army summer training camp near Mons.

SHAPE closed its facility at Rocquencourt near Paris on 30 March 1967, and the next day opened its new headquarters at Casteau.

In November 2002, during the Prague Summit, it was decided that only one command with responsibility for all NATO operations – Allied Command Operations with its headquarters at SHAPE, would exist in the future.



### Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)

The SACEUR is one of the two strategic **commanders for NATO and the commander of Allied Command Operations (ACO).**

He is responsible to NATO's Military Committee, the highest military authority in NATO, for the overall direction and conduct of military operations for NATO.

SACEUR, a United States Flag or General officer, leads all NATO military operations.

His command is exercised from the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) at Casteau, Mons, Belgium.

The current SACEUR is Admiral James G. Stavridis, United States Navy.



### SACEUR's Mission

To contribute to the peace, security and territorial integrity of Alliance member countries by:

- assessing risks and threats
- conducting military planning
- identifying and requesting the forces needed to undertake the full range of Alliance missions, as and when agreed upon by the North Atlantic Council.
- contributing to the Alliance's crisis management arrangements
- providing for the effective defense of the territory of NATO countries and of their forces.

### Current Operations

1. The Kosovo Force, Jun 99.
2. Operation Active Endeavour, Oct 01.
3. The International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Apr 03.
4. Air Policing, May 2004.
5. NATO Training Mission-Iraq(NTM-I), Feb 05.
6. NATO Support to the African Union, July 05.
7. Operation Ocean Shield, Aug 09.
8. NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan(NTM-A) Oct 09