

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 156

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the 10-year anniversary of NATO
Allied Command Transformation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2013

Mr. WARNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

JULY 24, 2013

Reported by Mr. MENENDEZ, with an amendment and an amendment to the
preamble

JULY 31, 2013

Considered, amended, and agreed to with an amended preamble

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on the 10-year
anniversary of NATO Allied Command Transformation.

Whereas, on June 19, 2003, NATO's Allied Command
Transformation (ACT), was formally established to in-
crease military effectiveness and prepare the Alliance for
future security challenges;

Whereas, on June 19, 2013, the North Atlantic Treaty Orga-
nization (NATO) will celebrate the 10-year anniversary
of the establishment of NATO ACT;

Whereas the security of the United States and its NATO allies have been enhanced by the establishment and continued work of NATO ACT;

Whereas for the past 10 years, ACT has been leading NATO's military transformation, and providing relevant and timely support to NATO operations, while developing partnerships around the globe to adapt to the changing global security environment;

Whereas ACT is the only NATO headquarters in the United States, and the only permanent NATO headquarters outside of Europe;

Whereas ACT provides state of the art education, training, and application of best practices and lessons learned from past operations, and equips Alliance troops with the tools they need to win today's wars;

Whereas ACT improves NATO's defense planning and develops compatible equipment and common standards necessary to keep Alliance capabilities aligned;

Whereas NATO ACT has been integral to a NATO mission of promoting a Europe that is whole, undivided, free, and at peace;

Whereas NATO ACT strengthened the ability of NATO to perform a full range of missions throughout the world;

Whereas NATO ACT has provided crucial support and participation in the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, as NATO endeavors to help the people of Afghanistan create the conditions necessary for security and successful development and reconstruction;

Whereas ACT employs personnel from 26 of the 28 NATO member nations and six of the 41 NATO Partner nations

and contributes more than \$100,000,000 annually to the local economy;

Whereas NATO has been the cornerstone of transatlantic security cooperation and an enduring instrument for promoting stability in Europe and throughout the world for over 60 years, representing the vital transatlantic bond of solidarity between the United States and Europe, as NATO nations share similar values and interests and are committed to the maintenance of democratic principles;

Whereas the Chicago Summit Communique affirms that all NATO members “are determined that NATO will continue to play its unique and essential role in ensuring our common defense and security” and that NATO “continues to be effective in a changing world, against new threats, with new capabilities and new partners”;

Whereas through the Alliance, the United States and Europe are effective and steadfast partners in security, and ACT is well positioned to contribute to the strength of the Alliance on both continents;

Whereas NATO ACT has done much to help NATO meet the global challenges of the 21st century, including the threat of terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, instability caused by failed states, and threats to global energy security; and

Whereas the 10th anniversary of NATO ACT is an opportunity to enhance and more deeply entrench those principles, which continue to bind the alliance together and guide our efforts today: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) celebrates the 10th anniversary of the es-
2 tablishment of NATO Allied Command Trans-
3 formation (NATO ACT);

4 (2) recognizes NATO ACT's leading role in
5 transforming Alliance forces and capabilities, using
6 new concepts such as the NATO Response Force
7 and new doctrines in order to improve the Alliance's
8 military effectiveness;

9 (3) expresses appreciation for the continuing
10 and close partnership between the United States
11 Government and NATO to transform the Alliance;

12 (4) remembers the 64 years NATO has served
13 to ensure peace, security, and stability in Europe
14 throughout the world, and urges the United States
15 Government to continue to seek new ways to deepen
16 and expand its important relationships with NATO;

17 (5) recognizes the service of the brave men and
18 women who have served to safeguard the freedom
19 and security of the United States and the whole of
20 the transatlantic alliance;

21 (6) honors the sacrifices of United States per-
22 sonnel, allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organi-
23 zation, and partners in Afghanistan;

1 (7) recognizes the outstanding partnership be-
2 tween the local community in Norfolk, Virginia and
3 NATO personnel assigned to ACT;

4 (8) reaffirms that NATO, through the new
5 Strategic Concept, is committed to helping the Alli-
6 ance adapt and prepare for the complex and de-
7 manding future security;

8 (9) urges all NATO members to take concrete
9 steps to implement the Strategic Concept and to uti-
10 lize the taskings from the 2012 NATO summit in
11 Chicago, Illinois, to address current NATO oper-
12 ations, future capabilities and burden-sharing issues,
13 and strengthen the relationship between NATO and
14 partners around the world;

15 (10) calls upon the President to use the mo-
16 mentum of the occasion of the 10th anniversary of
17 NATO ACT—

18 (A) to engage each of the member states of
19 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in a
20 dialogue about the long-term health of the Alli-
21 ance, and strongly encourage each of the mem-
22 ber states to make a serious effort to protect
23 defense budgets from further reductions, better
24 allocate and coordinate the resources presently
25 available, and recommit to spending at least 2

1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) on de-
2 fense; and

3 (B) to examine and report to Congress on
4 recommendations that will lead to a stronger
5 Alliance in terms of military capability and
6 readiness across the 28 member states, with
7 particular focus on the smaller member states;
8 and

9 (11) conveys appreciation for the steadfast
10 partnership between NATO and the United States.

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