

News Release



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
Allied Joint Force Command Lisbon
Office of the Public Affairs Advisor



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Oeiras, 13 December 2012

Allied Joint Force Command Lisbon

Deactivation Ceremony

Oeiras, Portugal – NATO Allied Joint Force Command Lisbon (JFC Lisbon) will be deactivated at the end of December 2012, after the Deactivation Ceremony at the Reduto Gomes Freire Compound in Oeiras on Tuesday, 18 December 2012 starting at 1300 hrs.

JFC Lisbon Commander Lieutenant General Manuel Mestre will welcome the Portuguese Minister of Defence, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), the Portuguese Chief of Defence and a large number of guests for the **Deactivation Ceremony**.

Before the ceremony on the same day, SACEUR will officially **pass the authority of NATO Support to African Union** (see next page) from JFC Lisbon to JFC Naples in a separate event. After the deactivation ceremony the **JFC Lisbon Monument** will be unveiled.

JFC Lisbon was selected as one of the headquarters to be deactivated by the end of 2012 within the transformation process aiming at a new NATO Command Structure (NCS) which is effective, leaner and affordable.

NATO, however, will maintain a significant footprint in Portugal with the continued presence of the Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre (JALLC) in Monsanto, the Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO (STRIKFORNATO) already transferred from Naples (Italy) to Oeiras, and the NATO Communications and Information Systems School (NCISS) which is planned to be transferred from Latina (Italy) to Oeiras.

Media is invited to register with the form in the enclosure using the contact information below no later than 14 December 2012 1200 hrs. Further information will be provided after receiving the filled registration form.

For further information, please contact:
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Background Information:

NATO presence in Portugal goes back to 1967. The history of its headquarters in Oeiras started in 1971. After that, there have been several changes to the functionality and area of responsibility in parallel to the NATO Transformation efforts. And in the final stage, at the NATO Summit in Lisbon in November 2010, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance adopted a new strategic concept that will serve as the Alliance's roadmap for the next ten years. The new NATO Command Structure (NCS) is part of this effort.

The new NCS will be effective, leaner and affordable. It will have an overall strength of some 8,800 posts after the reduction from 13,000, and there will be a significant reduction in the current number of headquarters (from 11 to 6). This reduction includes the closure of JFC Lisbon, while two Operational level Headquarters remain, one in Brunssum and one in Naples. In order to enhance NATO's presence in Portugal, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO (STRIKFORNATO) was moved from Italy to Oeiras, and the NATO CIS (Communications and Information Systems) School will also be moved from Italy to Oeiras.

NATO Support to African Union: NATO began providing support to the African Union in May 2005. The approach in Africa is based on recognition of the African Union's desire to provide African solutions to African problems. SHAPE delegated the authority to JFC Lisbon to have the operational lead for NATO engagements with the African Union. With the deactivation of JFC Lisbon, the authority for this mission will be passed to JFC Naples.

Please check JFC Lisbon website (www.jfclb.nato.int) for more information.

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