

**SACEUR COP 10404 (REVISION 3 AMENDMENT 1) "EAGLE GUARDIAN"  
SACEUR'S CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE REINFORCEMENT OF POLAND AND/OR  
ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA****1. Introduction**

a. This is SACEUR's Contingency Plan (COP) for the reinforcement of Poland (POL) and/or Estonia (EST), Latvia (LVA) and Lithuania (LTU) during a crisis. This COP is focused on potential military manifestation of the Russian Federation (RUS) foreign policy goals directed against Polish and/or Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian sovereignty and territorial integrity. Should a crisis materialize, this COP would inform the development of an OPLAN, in coordination with activities conducted in a broader context.

b. This COP has been updated as part of the NAC-approved NATO assurance measures and provides strategic direction for a NATO-led multinational operation to deal effectively with a crisis that may develop as a result of Russian aggression threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Poland and/or Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The crisis leads to an increase in tension between Russia supported by Belarus on one side and Poland and/or Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the other, culminating in Russian non-military/asymmetric actions and possible military actions that could lead to a military confrontation.

**2. Political and Strategic Context****a. Russian Objectives**

Russia's political objectives appear to be maintaining regime stability and cohesion, safeguarding the support of the Russian general public and ensuring Russia's financial and economic viability. Russia's ultimate strategic objectives are to preserve the regime, restore its 'great power' status and strengthen its influence in neighbouring countries, the so-called 'near abroad' which includes some NATO members<sup>1</sup>. In circumstances that do not bring it into direct military conflict with NATO, Russia is willing to use all instruments of power, including military means, in the advancement of its interests. Russia considers NATO as its main security threat and the main obstacle to its strategic aspirations and will continue to test the credibility and cohesion of the Alliance, particularly its collective defence clause.

(1) Within the Commonwealth of Independent States, Russia will continue to promote its re-integration initiatives, especially the Customs Union/Eurasian Economic Union. Russia's objectives coupled with the prolonged internal instability in Ukraine and the possibility of further escalation of the crisis with Russia, may pose a long-term challenge to Alliance interests and security.

<sup>1</sup> IMSTAM(INT)-0089-2014, Joint Threat Assessment (JTA), dated 03 June 2014.