

NATO	WHAT IS ACT?	ORGANIZATION	EVENTS CALENDAR	MULTIMEDIA	CONTACT	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
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2/20/2009

Atlantic Treaty Association members visit ACT

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Carla Burdt

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Members of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) study group, including ATA Secretary General Troels Froling, visited Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation February 20, for briefings and discussions with Allied Command Transformation (ACT) leadership.

Hosted by Old Dominion University and ACT, ATA members received briefings on transformation support, ACT's Multiple Futures Project, and Civil Military Security.

"We know that the kind of work going on here is so important to the future of the transatlantic community, not only to NATO. In terms of long-range planning, we represent the link between decision makers and the public," said Froling. "This is an opportunity for us to get a firsthand impression of the ideas and recommendations coming out from your headquarters."

The ATA is an organisation that acts as a facilitator in the European-Atlantic region and beyond, and brings together political leaders, academics and diplomats to further the values set forth in the North Atlantic Treaty, including democracy, freedom, liberty, peace, security and the rule of law.

Since the end of the Cold War, the ATA has shifted their focus from affairs within the Euro-Atlantic borders to promoting new initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean and the South Caucasus.

The ATA is active in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) and Mediterranean Dialogue programmes, as well as directing their own initiative, the Central and South Eastern European Security Forum (CSEESF).

While in the Norfolk area, the ATA will participate in a think tank session at Old Dominion University. The ATA group will engage with ODU staff on identifying global challenges and how NATO should evolve to meet those challenges.

[Back to ACT News](#)



Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) Secretary General Troels Froling speaks to ATA members and ACT leadership during a visit to HQ SACT February 20.

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