

NATO's senior military authority is the Military Committee, which provides advice to both the Council and the DPC. It meets periodically at the level of chiefs of defence staff as well as at the level of national military representatives, who are the personal representatives of their chiefs of staff. The Military Committee is served by an International Military Staff, which acts as its executive agency and functions like the civilian secretariat. The Chairman of the Military Committee is selected by the chiefs of staff for a period of two or three years and attends all meetings of the Council and the DPC. NATO's integrated military forces are divided into three major commands (Europe, the Atlantic, and the Channel). Each command is headed by a senior allied officer (SACEUR, SACLANT, and CINCHAN), who is responsible for planning the defence of his area of responsibility and for the conduct of NATO's land, sea and air exercises.

*The destroyer escorts Margaree (Canada) and Stayanger (Norway) refuel at sea from the Canadian fleet supply ship Protecteur during a NATO Stanavforlant exercise.*

CAF Photo