

## Chicago Summit Sets the Course - ACT

Written by General Mieczysław Bieniek, Polish Army, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

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**Several months have already passed since the Chicago Summit and it offers me a moment to review the results of the work Allied Command Transformation has had influence over what the Summit means for NATO and for Allied Command Transformation in the long run.**

The many strands of work that came out of the Summit in May have given our Command a set of new goals and momentum towards our transformational efforts. This is a clear call for a multifaceted and smart approach and to enhance the ways we do our work, for the benefit of the Alliance and all our Nations' Armed Forces.

Our Headquarters is actively bringing to fruition many of the significant decisions taken in Chicago regarding Smart Defence (SD), Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD), Cyber Defence (CyD), the Connected Forces Initiative (CFI), Partnerships, Afghanistan 2014 and Beyond, and many other important topics. While some of these areas are new, others have been worked on for the last few years. Only together and jointly acted upon can they bring worthwhile and long-lasting results to the Alliance.

The scale and ambitions of the Chicago Summit decisions demand from all of us a mental agility, innovative thinking and an ability to see both details and the big picture. It is important to reiterate that the Summit Declaration and decisions of Heads of States and Governments taken in Chicago need to be seen holistically, bearing in mind their interrelations and mutual influence. Taking a holistic approach, reflecting upon the bigger picture while undertaking root level

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activities, can guarantee the best overall implementation quality of Summit decisions and guidance.

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The implementation of concrete actions resulting from the Smart Defence concept or Connected Forces Initiative, while reflecting upon Future Challenges, is of our most imminent interest and involves nearly all areas of expertise in the Headquarters. Be it through the work on capability development, education, training and exercises, support for operations, the reform of the Alliance or growing network of partnerships, ACT remains a key player and facilitator of work on concepts and capability development and offers direction to the Alliance on further actions. We put together the conceptual landscape which will bring all of these multifaceted efforts to fruition.

The phrase 'think globally, act locally' perhaps has never been more true for all of us, working in ACT. I believe this is worthwhile to reiterate that the direction given during Chicago Summit is reflected in our daily work, along with the respective interrelations, synergies and dependencies allowing everyone in ACT to contribute to the work of the Alliance and all our Nations better. ACT can be proud of the work that has already been done and everyone's commitment to continue with analysis of the Chicago documentation and its impact on specific areas of expertise. The guidance and direction is set, it is now time to make it happen.



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