



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION
ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ DE L'ATLANTIQUE
NORD**

HEADQUARTERS, SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

NATO to Welcome new Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

From NATO Allied Command Transformation Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. – Gen. Philippe Lavigne will relieve Gen. André Lanata as Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) during a change of command ceremony in Norfolk, Va. Sept. 23.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will preside over the ceremony, highlighting the critical strategic role Allied Command Transformation plays in the Alliance today. Other distinguished guests include Vice Chief of Defense Staff, French Air Force General Eric Autullet, Chair of the NATO Military Committee, Royal Netherlands Navy Admiral Rob Bauer and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe General Tod D. Wolters.

General Lavigne, former Chief of Staff for the French Air Force, began his career as a fighter pilot. Lavigne has more than 2,750 flying hours and has flown more than 56 war missions during operations over the former Yugoslavia and Iraq. Among other leadership roles, Lavigne most notably commanded Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan and all the French forces engaged in Operation Pamir. He supervised the smooth transfer of responsibility of the airport from Allied forces to the civilian authorities. General Lavigne is Officer of the Legion of Honor and Commander in the National Order of Merit. He is decorated with the Military Valor Cross.

The Supreme Allied Commander Transformation is one of NATO's two strategic commanders. ACT was created in 2003 to ensure the Alliance has the requisite thinking, capabilities and education and training to keep a military edge against any and all adversaries. ACT harnesses innovative principles to enhance NATO's ability to respond to threats with a speedy and agile military instrument of power. ACT ensures that NATO's war fighting capabilities remain relevant, provides an indispensable understanding of current and future security challenges, and contributes to the development of NATO doctrine, concepts and interoperability standards. The Command is also responsible for NATO's training and education programmes.

NATO is the world's oldest and most successful political-military Alliance, dating back to 1949. NATO promotes democratic values and enables its 30 member nations to consult and cooperate on defense and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the end,

prevent conflict. NATO is also committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.

For more on Allied Command Transformation visit:

<https://www.act.nato.int/>

<https://www.facebook.com/NATO.ACT>

All interested media must register to cover BOTH the Press Conference and Change of Command Ceremony on September 23rd.

The Press Conference will be held at the Half Moon Terminal in Norfolk, Va. September 23rd. Press conference speakers will include Chair of the NATO Military Committee, Royal Netherlands Navy Admiral Rob Bauer, Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation, French Air and Space Force Gen. Andre Lanata, and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe U.S. Air Force Gen. Tod D. Wolters.

The Change of Command Ceremony will be open to press, held at Towne Point Park in Norfolk, Va. at 11:30 a.m. September 23rd. Speakers will include: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg; Vice Chief of Defense Staff, French Air Force General Eric Autellet; French Air Force Gen. Andre Lanata; and incoming Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, French Air and Space Force Gen. Philippe Lavigne,

Please contact U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rochelle Rieger (Rochelle.rieger@act.nato.int, +1-619-405-9580) in the Allied Command Transformation Public Affairs Office no later than September 21st to register. Press are asked to arrive at check in no later than 10:15 a.m.

BIOS

Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/who_is_who_49999.htm

Chair of the Military Committee, Royal Netherlands Navy Admiral Rob Bauer:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/who_is_who_150228.htm

Supreme Allied Commander, Transformation Gen. Andre Lanata:

<https://www.act.nato.int/supreme-allied-commander-transformation>

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe Gen. Tod D. Wolters:

<https://shape.nato.int/saceur/biographies>