

Date of most recent action: October 22, 2009

**Agreement Between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty
Regarding the Status of Their Forces**

Done: London; June 19, 1951

Entry into force: August 23, 1953

In accordance with Article XVIII, instruments of ratification of the Agreement shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America. The Agreement entered into force between the signatory States which had ratified it thirty days after four of the signatory States deposited their instruments of ratification and the Agreement came into force for each other signatory State thirty days after the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

After its entry into force, the Agreement shall, subject to the approval of the North Atlantic Council and to such conditions as it may decide, be open to accession on behalf of any State that accedes to the North Atlantic Treaty.

Accession to the Agreement shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Government of the United States of America. The Agreement shall come into force for each acceding State thirty days after the date of deposit of its instrument of accession.

Note: An Agreed Minute was signed by the North Atlantic Council Deputies on April 4, 1952 to transfer the functions of the Chairman of the Council Deputies under this Agreement to the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (or the Secretary-General's deputy or any such other person as the North Atlantic Council may decide) in consequence of the NATO reorganization which abolished the office of Chairman of the Council Deputies.

Legend: (no mark) = ratification; **a** = accession; **w** = withdrawal or equivalent action

Participant	Signature	Consent to be bound		Entry into Force	Other Action	Notes
Albania		April 9, 2009	a	May 9, 2009		
Belgium	June 19, 1951	February 27, 1953		August 23, 1953		¹
Bulgaria		October 4, 2004	a	November 3, 2004		²
Canada	June 19, 1951	August 28, 1953		September 27, 1953		
Croatia		September 22, 2009	a	October 22, 2009		³
Czech Republic		October 31, 2000	a	November 30, 2000		
Denmark	June 19, 1951	May 28, 1955		June 27, 1955		
Estonia		November 26, 2004	a	December 26, 2004		
France	June 19, 1951	September 29, 1952		August 23, 1953		⁴
Germany		June 1, 1963	a	July 1, 1963		
Greece		July 26, 1954	a	August 25, 1954		
Hungary		January 21, 2000	a	February 20, 2000		
Iceland	June 19, 1951	May 15, 2007		June 14, 2007		
Italy	June 19, 1951	December 22, 1955		January 21, 1956		
Latvia		August 2, 2004	a	September 1, 2004		
Lithuania		July 21, 2004	a	August 20, 2004		⁵

Luxembourg	June 19, 1951	March 19, 1954		April 18, 1954		⁶
Netherlands	June 19, 1951	November 18, 1953		December 18, 1953		⁷
Norway	June 19, 1951	February 24, 1953		August 23, 1953		
Poland		September 21, 1999	a	October 21, 1999		
Portugal	June 19, 1951	November 22, 1955		December 22, 1955		⁸
Romania		November 4, 2004	a	December 4, 2004		
Slovak Republic		September 13, 2004	a	October 13, 2004		
Slovenia		September 28, 2004	a	October 28, 2004		
Spain		August 10, 1987	a	September 9, 1987		
Turkey		May 18, 1954	a	June 17, 1954		⁹
United Kingdom	June 19, 1951	May 13, 1954		June 12, 1954		¹⁰
United States	June 19, 1951	July 24, 1953		August 23, 1953		¹¹

¹ At the time of signature of the Agreement, Belgium signed, with Luxembourg and the Netherlands, a document which reads as follows:

“On signing the Agreement of today’s date regarding the Status of the Forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Countries, the Plenipotentiaries of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, make the following Declaration:

“The forces of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, their civilian components and their members may not avail themselves of the provisions of the present Agreement to claim in the territory of one of the afore-mentioned Powers any exemption which they do not enjoy in their own territory, with respect to duties, taxes and other dues, which have been or will be standardized under the terms of conventions which have been or will be concluded for the purpose of bringing about the Economic Union of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.”

The instrument of ratification of the Agreement by Belgium includes the foregoing declaration.

² The instrument of accession to the Agreement by the Republic of Bulgaria contains a statement, the English translation of which provided by the Republic of Bulgaria reads as follows:

“For the purposes of Article VIII, paragraph 2 (f) from the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their forces, the Republic of Bulgaria waives its claims in any such case where the damage is less than 1457 leva.”

³ Attached to the instrument of accession to the Agreement by the Republic of Croatia is the following declaration:

“In accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 2(f) of the Agreement, the Republic of Croatia declares that it waives its claims concerning property damage in cases provided in Article VIII of the Agreement when the amount of the damage is less than 3,951 kuna.”

⁴ The Embassy of the French Republic, by a note dated October 11, 1956 and received on that same date, notified the Department of State, in accordance with the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 2 of the Agreement, that the French Government had decided to extend the application of the Agreement to the French Departments of Algeria, subject to the conclusion of a special agreement with each of the sending States.

⁵ The instrument of accession to the Agreement by the Republic of Lithuania contains the following declaration:

“ . . . pursuant to Article VIII, paragraph 2, subparagraph f, of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of their Forces, the Republic of Lithuania declares that it waives its claims against any other Contracting Party for damage to property owned by the Republic of Lithuania in any such case where the damage is less than LTL 2,574. The said amount can be adjusted accordingly to the appropriate agreements between the Contracting Parties and the decisions of the North Atlantic Council.”

⁶ At the time of signature of the Agreement, Luxembourg signed, with Belgium and the Netherlands, a document which reads as follows:

“On signing the Agreement of today’s date regarding the Status of the Forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Countries, the Plenipotentiaries of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, make the following Declaration:

“The forces of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, their civilian components and their members may not avail themselves of the provisions of the present Agreement to claim in the territory of one of the afore-mentioned Powers any exemption which they do not enjoy in their own territory, with respect to duties, taxes and other dues, which have been or will be standardized under the terms of conventions which have been or will be concluded for the purpose of bringing about the Economic Union of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.”

The instrument of ratification of the Agreement by Luxembourg includes the foregoing declaration.

⁷ At the time of signature of the Agreement, the Netherlands signed, with Belgium and Luxembourg, a document which reads as follows:

“On signing the Agreement of today’s date regarding the Status of the Forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Countries, the Plenipotentiaries of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, make the following Declaration:

“The forces of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, their civilian components and their members may not avail themselves of the provisions of the present Agreement to claim in the territory of one of the afore-mentioned Powers any exemption which they do not enjoy in their own territory, with respect to duties, taxes and other dues, which have been or will be standardized under the terms of conventions which have been or will be concluded for the purpose of bringing about the Economic Union of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.”

The instrument of ratification of the Agreement by the Netherlands includes the foregoing declaration.

⁸ The signature of the Agreement by Portugal included a statement that the Agreement is “. . . only applicable to the territory of Continental Portugal”.

The instrument of ratification of the Agreement by Portugal also contains a statement, an English translation of which reads as follows: “The Portuguese Government declares that, in relation to Member States who have appended, or may in future append, reservations or declarations to their acts of ratification of this Agreement, it reserves the right to follow the principle of reciprocity in the interpretation and application of the provisions involved.”

⁹ The instrument of accession to the Agreement by Turkey includes the Agreed Minute signed on April 4, 1952.

¹⁰ The instrument of ratification of the Agreement by the United Kingdom includes the Agreed Minute signed on April 4, 1952.

The British Ambassador notified the Acting Secretary of State by a note dated January 30, 1962, which was received on that same date, that “the said Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of Article XX thereof, shall extend to the Isle of Man.”

The British Ambassador notified the Secretary of State by a note dated June 18, 2002, which was received on that same date, that “the said Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of Article XX thereof, shall extend to Bermuda.”

¹¹ The instrument of ratification of the Agreement by the United States of America includes the following statement: “It is the understanding of the Senate, which understanding inheres in its advice and consent to the ratification of the Agreement, that nothing in the Agreement diminishes, abridges, or alters the right of the United States of America to safeguard its own security by excluding or removing persons whose presence in the United States is deemed prejudicial to its safety or security, and that no person whose presence in the United States is deemed prejudicial to its safety or security shall be permitted to enter or remain in the United States.

“In giving its advice and consent to ratification, it is the sense of the Senate that:

“1. The criminal jurisdiction provisions of Article VII do not constitute a precedent for future agreements;

“2. Where a person subject to the military jurisdiction of the United States is to be tried by the authorities of a receiving state, under the treaty the Commanding Officer of the Armed Forces of the United States in such state shall examine the laws of such state with particular reference to the procedural safeguards contained in the Constitution of the United States;

“3. If, in the opinion of such commanding officer, under all the circumstances of the case, there is danger that the accused will not be protected because of the absence or denial of constitutional rights he would enjoy in the United States, the commanding officer shall request the authorities of the receiving state to waive jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 (c) of Article VII (which requires the receiving state to give 'sympathetic consideration' to such request) and if such authorities refuse to waive jurisdiction, the commanding officer shall

request the Department of State to press such request through diplomatic channels and notification shall be given by the Executive Branch to the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives;

“4. A representative of the United States to be appointed by the Chief of Diplomatic Mission with the advice of the senior United States military representative in the receiving state will attend the trial of any such person by the authorities of a receiving state under the agreement, and any failure to comply with the provisions of paragraph 9 of Article VII of the agreement shall be reported to the commanding officer of the armed forces of the United States in such state who shall then request the Department of State to take appropriate action to protect the rights of the accused, and notification shall be given by the Executive Branch to the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.”