



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## **A worried NATO holds large-scale combat drills as the US stance on Europe shifts under Trump**

*February 20, 2025* **apnews.com** reported: “NATO members continued their largest combat exercises of 2025 on Wednesday, testing their ability to rapidly deploy large-scale forces on the 32-nation alliance’s eastern border as worries grow over its most powerful member, the United States.

The drills in Romania, which borders Ukraine, come as a shaken Europe grapples with a new U.S. course under President Donald Trump. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has demanded that allies dramatically ramp up military spending and said U.S. security priorities lie elsewhere — casting doubts on Washington’s longstanding security guarantees provided to Europe.

Days before the third anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Steadfast Dart 2025 drills comprise about 10,000 military personnel from nine nations as part of NATO’s new Allied Reaction Force. They are taking place over six weeks in Romania, Bulgaria and Greece.

Although the Trump administration has not announced plans to pull U.S. forces from the region, Hegseth’s remark that “European allies must lead from the front” left NATO partners contemplating a potential new reality in which the U.S. is no longer the powerful, nuclear-armed backstop for the continent’s security...”

## **Zelensky critical of U.S.-Russia peace talks, meets with Turkey’s Erdogan**

*February 19, 2025* **spacewar.com** reported: “As officials in Washington, D.C., and Moscow prepare to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is critical of negotiations that exclude his nation. Zelensky on Tuesday said efforts to end the war must involve European nations, Turkey and the United Kingdom, and must include Ukrainian negotiators to ensure a ‘fair’ negotiations process, France 24 reported.

‘Ukraine, Europe in a broad sense, and this includes the European Union, Turkey and the U.K., should be involved in conversations and the development of the necessary security guarantees with America regarding the fate of our part of the world,’ Zelensky said. He criticized preliminary peace talks between the United States and Russia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to end the war that began when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Zelensky met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, Turkey, on Tuesday to open a new Ukrainian Embassy and discuss possible prisoner exchanges between Ukraine and Russia and other matters, the Kyiv Post reported.



Turkey is a member of NATO and has continued its diplomatic ties with Ukraine and Russia during the Ukraine war. Turkey also has supplied Ukraine with drones while Erdogan has acted as a mediator between Ukraine and Russia, including negotiating prior prisoner exchanges between the two combatants...”

## **IRGC commander: Iran poised for conflict, developed advanced missile arsenal**

*February 19, 2025* **jpost.com** reported: “The Islamic Republic’s Aerospace Force is ready for any conflict that could occur, IRGC Brigadier-General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said on Tuesday, according to Iranian state media Mehr News.

Hajizadeh is also commander of the IRGC’s Aerospace Force. ‘The world’s largest ballistic missile operation was carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this demonstrates our power to defend our people,’ he noted.

Hajizadeh justified Iran’s ballistic missile attacks on Israel in April and October of last year, claiming the Islamic Republic’s actions were due to Israel’s ‘misconception that Iran would not take direct action because it was avoiding war.’...”

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### **Pakistan, Saudi Arabia strengthen military ties during high-level meetings**

*February 18, 2025 jpost.com* reported: “Pakistan and Saudi Arabia’s top military officials have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening defense and security cooperation during recent meetings in Riyadh, Pakistan’s military media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), announced on Saturday.

The discussions took place as part of the eighth round of the Pakistan-Saudi Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting, attended by Gen. Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Pakistan’s chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee...”

### **European leaders gather for an emergency meeting over fear Trump has isolated age-old allies**

*February 17, 2025 military.com* reported: “French President Emmanuel Macron called leaders from key European Union nations and the United Kingdom to his ornate Elysee Palace on Monday for an emergency meeting on how to react to the U.S. diplomatic blitz on Ukraine, which left the once rock-solid partner as a potential political liability.

Last week, top U.S. officials from the Trump administration made their first visit to Europe, leaving the impression that Washington was ready to embrace the Kremlin while it cold-shouldered many of its age-old European allies.

Despite belligerent warnings for months ahead of Donald Trump’s reelection as U.S. president, EU leaders publicly ignored the ominous forebodings, hoping somehow that Trump would stand shoulder to shoulder with Europe while the continent would finally start to beef up its defenses and become less reliant on American firepower.

But a flurry of speeches by Vice President JD Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth last week questioned both Europe’s security commitments and its fundamental democratic principles. Macron said their stinging rebukes and threats of non-cooperation in the face of military danger felt like a shock to the system.

The tipping point came when Trump decided to upend years of U.S. policy by holding talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in hopes of ending the Russia-Ukraine war. Then, Trump’s special envoy for Ukraine and Russia on Saturday all but ruled out the inclusion of other Europeans in any Ukraine peace talks...”

### **Netanyahu, Trump discuss level of US support for Israeli strike on Iran, report**

*February 14, 2025 ynetnews.com* reported: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump discussed the levels of American backing in an Israeli strike on Iran’s nuclear sites, ranging from active military support – such as intelligence, refueling or other assistance, to political backing for a coercive ultimatum, according to a report by the Washington Post’s David Ignatius in an article published late on Thursday.

According to the report the United States has already provided Israel with bunker-busting bombs that could severely damage Iranian uranium enrichment centrifuges and other equipment buried in a mountain fortress in Fordow, near Qom.

Ignatius quoted American and Israeli officials who said that if Iran refuses a ‘Libya-style abandonment’ of its nuclear facilities, Israel would strike them with or without American support. The decision of the Biden administration not to support Israel’s ultimatum, is now put to Trump...”

### **Trump eyes summit with Xi-Putin, shaking up world order**

*February 14, 2025 manilatimes.com* reported: “Donald Trump unveiled an extraordinary vision of a shake-up to the world order Thursday, eyeing a three-way summit with the Russian and Chinese leaders just a day after saying he had agreed with Vladimir Putin to start Ukraine peace talks.

With Kyiv and European capitals still stunned by Trump’s surprise call with Putin, the US president also said he would ‘love’ to have Russia back in the G7, from which it was suspended in 2014 after Moscow annexed Ukraine’s Crimea peninsula.

‘I think it was a mistake to throw him out,’ Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, referring to Putin. Trump — who has cast himself in his second term as a global peacemaker — also said he would consider a summit with Putin and China’s Xi Jinping ‘when things calm down.’...”



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