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NATO, Dead or Alive?
 Produced April 25, 1993



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NARRATOR: ...1949 -- A new military alliance, NATO, is born.

...1955 -- The Soviet Union and seven Eastern European nations conclude the Warsaw Pact Treaty.

...1956 -- Warsaw Pact forces suppress popular uprisings in Poland and Hungary.

...1961 -- The Berlin Wall is erected, dividing a city and a continent.

...1968 -- Soviet forces roll into Czechoslovakia and crush the reformist government of Alexander Dubcek.

Former President RONALD REAGAN: "Let us be aware that while they preach the supremacy of the state, declare its omnipotence over individual man and predict its eventual domination of all peoples on the earth, they are the focus of evil in the modern world."

NARRATOR: ...1989-90 -- Formerly communist-controlled Eastern European nations hold free elections. The iron curtain rises. Germany is reunified.

...1991 -- The Warsaw Pact is disbanded. The Soviet Union is dissolved.

The map of Europe and its institutions have been remade, except for one, NATO.

["AMERICA'S DEFENSE MONITOR" program introduction.]

Admiral GENE LaROCQUE: Welcome once again to "AMERICA'S DEFENSE MONITOR."

During World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union were allies in our war against the Germans. Shortly after that war, however, we had a falling out with the Russians and we became enemies. We were

*Center For
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NATO alive and relevant.

General COLIN POWELL, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (at Naval Academy, Annapolis MD, 1993):

"This is not the time to forget the lessons of history, which we have done so often in the past, to our great subsequent regret. And so, we made the case to the Congress and to our political leaders over the last several years that we should keep forces forward-deployed. Forward presence remain a major part of strategy. In Europe, only half as many, come down from 315,000, but for God's sakes, don't abandon NATO."

DAVID SHORR: NATO is a key political forum in which the United States is dominant. So, there's nervousness in Washington about losing that.

NARRATOR: David Shorr is the associate director of the British American Security Information Council, a private inter-national research organization.

Supporters of NATO are now scrambling for missions that will keep it in business and keep US troops in Europe.

Adm. CARROLL: Let me tell you one of the reasons you hear so many contrived arguments for continuing the NATO alliance. It has been very, very good for the militaries of the countries involved -- the United States, Britain, Germany, Norway, and so on.

The United States alone, for example, almost 25 percent of all of the admirals and generals on duty today owe their stars to their NATO assignment. If NATO goes away, all those jobs go away, all those lovely chateaus, and chauffeurs, and railroad cars go away. It's something that has been very enjoyable for a good many years and the fact that there's no longer any require- ment for it doesn't mean they don't want to keep a good thing going.

NARRATOR: Officials in Europe have tried reshaping NATO's military forces to rely less on heavy armor to thwart invasions and more on rapid reaction forces to intervene in future crises.

Mr. CLARKE: NATO has been giving a very considerable amount of thought to the end of the cold war. It has had all manner of summit meetings to come up with what's called the "new strategic concept," which has produced a more lightly armed, a more mobile version of NATO ready to be deployed