

# The Adapted Conventional Armed Forces In Europe Treaty at a Glance

Press Contact: Wade Boese, Research Director, (202) 463-8270 x104 or [wade@armscontrol.org](mailto:wade@armscontrol.org)

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**N**ine years to the day after signature of the original Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, the 30 CFE states-parties<sup>1</sup> signed an adaptation agreement on November 19, 1999, that updates the Cold War-era treaty's structure. The agreement jettisons the bloc-to-bloc and zonal

limits of the original treaty and replaces them with a system of national and territorial ceilings. (For more information on the original CFE Treaty, see the Association's *The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) Treaty At a Glance* fact sheet by accessing the Web site at [www.armscontrol.org](http://www.armscontrol.org))

The Adapted Treaty will enter into force when all 30 states-parties have ratified the agreement. However, the United States and its 18 NATO allies have said that they will not ratify the treaty until Russia first complies with its new weapons limits and with the commitments Moscow made in the CFE Final Act. The act—a political, not legally binding, document concluded with the adapted treaty—set out additional commitments by CFE states-parties on future weapons deployments, including pledges by Russia to withdraw treaty-limited weapons from Georgia and Moldova.

Early in 2002, Moscow declared that it had met the adapted treaty's weapons limits. NATO accepted the claim in July 2002 but repeated that Russia must still fulfill its commitments with regard to Georgia and Moldova before ratification. The original treaty therefore remains in effect.

### National Ceilings

Each country will have a specific limit on tanks, armored combat vehicles (ACVs), heavy artillery, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters—collectively referred to as treaty-limited equipment (TLE)—that it can deploy in the treaty's area of application, which covers the area between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural Mountains.

### Territorial Ceilings

Each country with territory in the treaty's area of application will have a cap on the total number of tanks, ACVs, and heavy artillery that can be deployed within its borders. This restricts national and foreign-stationed TLE. During the adaptation negotiations, NATO refused Russia's persistent efforts for similar caps on combat aircraft and attack helicopters.

Most countries, including Russia and the three newest NATO members, agreed to set territorial ceilings equal to national

ceilings, in effect requiring a state's own TLE on its territory to be lower than its national ceilings if that state wanted to host foreign-stationed forces. A host country must give advance consent for any foreign TLE deployments.

Both Russia and Ukraine will have subceilings establishing areas in which their ground TLE deployments on their own territories will be limited within their overall limits.

### Temporary Deployments

A country's territorial ceilings can be exceeded by 153 tanks, 241 ACVs, and 140 artillery for military exercises and temporary deployments. In "exceptional circumstances," countries outside the original treaty's flank zone, which limited ground TLE in the northern and southern flanks of Europe, can temporarily exceed their territorial ceilings by 459 tanks, 723 ACVs, and 420 artillery. Temporary is not defined, but regular notifications are required for TLE exceeding territorial ceilings.

### Transparency

States-parties will be required to permit inspections of 20 percent of their "objects of verification," which are military units down to the regiment level and storage, repair, and reduction sites with TLE present.

Annual reports on the actual location of tanks, ACVs, and artillery are required if they are different from their designated peacetime location. Quarterly reports must detail by territory the actual location of tanks, ACVs, and artillery, as well as the total number of combat aircraft and attack helicopters in the entire treaty area. Changes of more than 30 tanks, 30 ACVs, or 10 artillery on a state's territory must be reported. Any increase by 18 or more combat aircraft or attack helicopters in a country's holdings in the entire treaty area must be notified to all states-parties.

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### NOTE

1. CFE states-parties: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States.