**Counter-terrorism**

The fight against terrorism is high on NATO’s agenda. Both the Strategic Concept and the Lisbon Summit Declaration make clear that terrorism poses a real and serious threat to the security and safety of the Alliance and its members. NATO will continue to fight this scourge, individually and collectively, in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter. NATO’s new Policy Guidelines for Alliance work on counter-terrorism focus on improved threat awareness, adequate capabilities and enhanced engagement with partner countries and other international actors

Terrorism is a global threat that knows no border, nationality or religion. It is therefore a challenge that the international community must tackle together. Since the attacks of 11 September 2001, NATO has been actively engaged in the fight against terrorism. In response to those attacks, NATO invoked Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, the Alliance’s collective defense clause, for the first time in its history. The North Atlantic Council (NAC), the Alliance’s principal political decision-making body, decides on NATO’s overall role in the fight against terrorism.

The multifaceted nature of terrorism is such that NATO has engaged in a number of initiatives – political, operational, conceptual, military, technological and scientific – to address this issue. The creation of the Emerging Security Challenges Division within NATO Headquarters in August 2010 reflects NATO’s intent to deal with a growing range of non-traditional risks and challenges, including terrorism, in a cross-cutting manner.  NATO has since agreed new Policy Guidelines on Counter-Terrorism, which were endorsed at the Chicago Summit in May 2012.

The Alliance contributes to the international community’s fight against terrorism in several ways. First, NATO is a permanent transatlantic consultation forum, capable of transforming discussions into collective decisions and action. Second, NATO has at its disposal unique military and civilian capabilities that can contribute to fighting terrorism or managing the consequences of an attack. Third, NATO cooperates as part of a very large network of partnerships involving other states and international organizations.

**Source**: <http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_77646.htm>

1. **Read the text and discuss the NATO role in counter-terrorism fight.**

<http://www.mzv.cz/un.newyork/en/news_events/review_of_the_united_nations_global.html>

1. **Discuss the following questions with your partner.**

What are the special operations forces in the Czech Republic?

What missions do they perform?

1. **Read the text “Counter-Terrorism” (Campaign 3, p 104) and decide if the following statements are true or false.**

1 Number of troopers has increased since 2004.

2 The Regiment was formed before World War 2.

3. The SAS is the only British military Special Forces organisation.

4 The SAS were originally formed to gather intelligence and carry out raids behind enemy lines.

5 The SAS personnel also serve as observers.

6 The SAS do not carry out missions in the UK.

7 The SAS frequently deploy to terrorist incidents overseas as observers

1. **Explain the following abbreviations. Check your answers in the text (“Counter-Terrorism” Campaign 3, p 104).**

MOD

MACP

SAS

SF

UK

1. **Read the following report.**

Four soldiers were injured yesterday when a bomb (1) exploded (explode) near their armoured vehicle. The incident happened at 4.30 pm when the soldiers were returning to base after a routine patrol. Their vehicle was travelling along the High Street and had to slow down due to the bad condition of the road. Two terrorists were hiding on the roof of a building opposite and they detonated the bomb which was hidden in a rubbish bin. The soldiers received serious burns and cuts from flying glass. A second team that was patrolling in the area managed to catch the terrorists as they were running away from the scene.

1. **Re-order the words to make questions dealing with the report and answer them.**

1 did time what the happen incident?

2 soldiers where the were going?

3 slow down why their vehicle did?

4 hiding the where were terrorist?