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TOPICS: NATO's Relations in the Indo-Pacific,
Defending Against Unconventional Methods of
Warfare

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NATO's Relations in the Indo-Pacific; Recent Updates

After NATO's recent summit in Madrid 2022, where Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand participated, the agreement of a one billion innovation fund was created. After establishing the fund, the countries also invited Sweden and Finland to join the alliance. With the participation of "The Pacific Four," NATO opens a new chapter with the vital Indo-Pacific region that recognizes China's power ascension.¹ The North Atlantic Council agreed on September 26th to accept the request of the Republic of Korea to designate its Embassy to Belgium as the country's Mission to NATO, further strengthening allyship with Indo-Pacific countries.² NATO's Secretary General Mircea Geoaană spoke at the GoTech World 2022 Conference and shared that NATO is working closely with big-tech companies and academia. She stated that they aim to bring the "brightest" minds together from allied nations across the world, especially from the Indo-Pacific, to foster a stronger connection between NATO and the Indo-Pacific countries. Later the deputy goes on to mention that NATO is striving to unite disruptors and put the security of both NATO and its allied nations at the utmost priority.³ At NATO's Cyber Defence Pledge Conference in Italy from November ninth through tenth, the Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, stated the prevalence of land and air attacks. However, in light of recent events that escalated with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and cyber-attacks, cybersecurity has become a pressing concern. The Secretary-General stated that

¹ "Indo-Pacific Powers and NATO: A Conversation with the Ambassadors of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea." *IISS*, <https://www.iiss.org/events/2022/11/indo-pacific-powers-and-nato>.

² Nato. "Keynote Address by NATO Secretary General at the NATO Cyber Defence Pledge Conference." *NATO*, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_208925.htm?selectedLocale=en.

³ "Indo-Pacific Powers and NATO: A Conversation with the Ambassadors of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea." *IISS*, <https://www.iiss.org/events/2022/11/indo-pacific-powers-and-nato>.

the North Atlantic Council strongly condemned the recent cyber-attack on Albania's national information infrastructure. NATO has been working closely with their Indo-Pacific allies regarding cyber security and rising with one voice to protect countries' security. Overall, NATO has been working to strengthen its allyship with the Indo-Pacific, especially in the uncertain and unsure times Russia's Invasion has brought upon NATO.

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Defending Against Unconventional Methods of Warfare; Recent Updates

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there have been multiple accusations of chemical and biological warfare tactics being used in the future. In March 2022, a Russian foreign ministry spokesperson raised the concern that the Americans were imposing and provided Ukraine with a bioweapons program. Russia accused the "Ukraine nationalists" of provoking the Russian government. Later in March, Biden made it clear that there would be consequences if Russia put its biochemical weapons into action.⁴ The United States hosted a virtual event named the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Transparency Event, where the U.S. highlighted the destruction of the last of its stockpile of chemical weapons. Russia's defense ministry accused Ukraine of "chemical terrorism" after several Russian soldiers in the Zaporizhzhia region were transported to a hospital where they were tested for varying chemicals. The test showed botulinum toxin type B in their bodies. However, the accusation was met with Ukraine's denial stating that a can of expired meat could have brought on this illness. The rise of economic warfare has also been very prevalent, with rising tensions with countries surrounding Russia and Ukraine. The Russian government cut off gas to Poland and Bulgaria back in April of 2022; this disrupted Poland and Bulgaria and heavily affected the European Central Bank. China has also had an extreme threat of economic warfare; being the world's largest exporter, the mere idea of them cutting off the supply chain has been dangerous.⁵ Recently tensions between Beijing

⁴ "Fact Sheets & Briefs." *Timeline of Chemical and Biological Weapons Developments During Russia's 2022 Invasion of Ukraine* | Arms Control Association, <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/timeline-chemical-biological-weapons-developments-during-russias-2022-invasion-ukraine>.

⁵ "Why China-Taiwan Relations Are so Tense." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations-tension-us-policy-biden>.

and Taiwan have become increasingly worse, as China is trying to absorb Taiwan, as well as Taiwan's biggest trade partner being China. Officials have said that this might be the main factor leading to an economic warfare tactic China might put into play. Overall, countries, rather than utilizing the "normal" tactics of warfare, are starting to find more advanced ways to fight than physical violence.

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