

JOINT DECLARATION
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ICELAND

The security environment in Europe and the North Atlantic region has changed since the United States and Iceland signed a Joint Understanding in 2006, which remains valid, and continues to shape our bilateral defense relationship. To strengthen the basis for future cooperation, the Department of Defense of the United States of America (DoD) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland (MFA) declare the following:

The DoD and MFA reaffirm their continued commitment to close cooperation on defense and security matters, both bilaterally and as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Defense Agreement Pursuant to the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Reykjavik, May 5, 1951 ("1951 Defense Agreement"), remains the cornerstone of defense cooperation between the two countries.

The DoD reaffirms its commitment regarding the defense of Iceland in accordance with the 1951 Defense Agreement, including with a plan that ensures the defense of Iceland with dynamic and mobile means and forces.


As a contribution to the common defense of NATO, the MFA reaffirms its commitment to the operation of defense facilities and equipment, including the Iceland Air Defense System (IADS), providing host nation support for other operational requirements such as NATO's Air Policing missions from Keflavik Air Base, increased rotational deployments as necessary, including but not limited to Anti-Submarine Warfare, and the associated joint planning and execution of defense exercises for the Alliance.

To reinforce the two countries' common commitments regarding the implementation of the 1951 Defense Agreement and the arrangements for NATO defense assets in Iceland, the following understandings have been reached:

1. The MFA continues to ensure the operation of relevant defense facilities and equipment to implement the North Atlantic Council decision on Air Surveillance and Interception Capabilities and to meet other operational requirements by NATO as mutually determined.
2. The MFA allows for the use of facilities by the DoD and NATO as needed and consistent with the 1951 Defense Agreement and NATO commitments for mutually determined efforts that support the defense of Iceland and the security of the North Atlantic Treaty area.
3. The DoD has participated regularly in NATO Air Policing Missions in Iceland and intends to continue to collaborate with the MFA in support of this effort.

4. The DoD and MFA commit that the defense relationship, including the defense plan for Iceland, is to remain resilient, emphasizing situational awareness and response readiness in the North Atlantic. The MFA accepts the DoD's plans for the defense of Iceland by military means.
5. The DoD and MFA intend to maintain reliable arrangements for timely and effective communications in times of emergency, including with relevant civilian and military authorities.
6. Regular senior-level strategic discussions have been a valuable complement to security consultations. Both the DoD and MFA intend to continue to conduct those talks in order to advance bilateral defense and security cooperation, consider Iceland's national defense needs, and review security developments in the North Atlantic.
7. Expert-level bilateral discussions on defense and security cooperation, both military and non-military, are to continue to address issues of mutual interest such as cyber and maritime security, exchange of classified information, and other issues as mutually determined.
8. The DoD and relevant Icelandic authorities intend to explore increased cooperation, including possible joint exercises, training activities, and personnel exchanges in areas such as, but not limited to, search and rescue and disaster relief.

Signed in duplicate.


Deputy Secretary of Defense of
the United States of America

Date: JUN 28 2016


Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Iceland

Date: 29 June 2016

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