

## The first invocation of Article 5

Article 5 is the core clause of the Washington Treaty, NATO's founding charter, which states that an armed attack against one Ally shall be considered an attack against them all. In response to an invocation of Article 5, each Ally determines, in consultation with other Allies, how it can best contribute to any action deemed necessary to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area, including the use of armed force.

Article 5 was first invoked on 12 September 2001 immediately following the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States. The invocation was initially provisional, pending determination that the attacks were directed from abroad. This was confirmed on 2 October 2001, after US officials presented findings on investigations into the attacks to

the North Atlantic Council, concluding that the *al-Qaida* terrorist network was responsible.

On 4 October, the Allies agreed a series of measures to assist the US-led campaign against terrorism. These include enhanced intelligence sharing and cooperation, blanket over-flight clearances and access to ports and airfields for US and other Allied craft for operations against terrorism, and the deployment of part of NATO's standing naval forces to the Eastern Mediterranean and of the Alliance's airborne warning and control systems (AWACS) aircraft to the United States. In addition, individual Allies are contributing according to resources and capabilities, in response to US requests. Assistance includes military support, as well as legal and financial measures to cut the flow of revenue to terrorist organisations.