



QUESTION  
MORE



US refuses to condemn Russia's plans to target Kiev | Russia-Ukraine conflict

LIVE

/ [Home](#) / [World News](#)

# US plans to slash NATO contributions – Spiegel

## Washington will reportedly make fewer jets, warships, and drones available to the bloc's European members

Published 26 May, 2026 14:57 | Updated 26 May, 2026 16:00



A US Navy F-35C Lightning II is chained down on the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln in the Mediterranean Sea, March 2, 2026 © Getty Images; US Navy

The US has told NATO's European members that it will reduce its military contributions to the bloc as Washington's military planners set their sights on China, Der Spiegel reported on Tuesday.

Delivered by senior Pentagon adviser Alexander Velez-Green at a confidential NATO meeting in Brussels last week, the message from Washington marks the latest step in US President Donald Trump's slow disengagement from Europe.

### Top stories



### [Joe Biden sues US government](#)

[Ethiopia opens new regional airport](#)

[Israel claims new Hamas military chief killed in Gaza strike](#)

[Ukrainian strike on Russian college was Zelensky's revenge – Moscow](#)

[Iran accuses US of 'gross ceasefire violation'](#)

[Homosexuality a mental disorder – Russian psychiatrist](#)

[Canadian PM warns oil-rich province against Brexit-style split](#)

Trump has reportedly drawn up a *“naughty and nice”* list of NATO members based on their support for his policies, and earlier this month announced that he would withdraw 5,000 US troops from Germany.

According to Der Spiegel, Velez-Green told NATO members that the US will drastically reduce its commitments to the ‘NATO Force Model’ – the contingent of troops and equipment that the bloc can deploy on short notice.



**Read more:** The slow American retreat from Europe has already begun

The US will cut the number of fighter jets available to NATO by a third, and significantly reduce the number of strategic bombers and warships, the newspaper reported. NATO will also receive no American submarines or drones, leaving its European members to provide this hardware themselves, Velez-Green reportedly said.

It is unclear how many – if any – US troops will be pulled from the NATO Force Model.

The announcement reportedly shocked the Europeans at the meeting, who had predicted more minor and gradual cuts. Now, Der Spiegel claimed, the US expects them to have a plan in place to fill the gap before the bloc’s annual summit in Türkiye this July.



However, the move comes amid a broader scaling back of the US military presence in Europe, where more than 80,000 US troops were stationed in 2025. The US has

**Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox**

- We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

### RT Features



**‘The next blow will be more painful’: Russian experts are signaling something bigger than retaliation** FEATURE



**Action, election: How Gen Zs are rewiring Indian politics** FEATURE