

NATO mulls defense spending increase

ANTALYA, Turkey (AP) — NATO foreign ministers on Thursday debated an American demand to massively ramp up defense investment as the United States focuses on security challenges outside of Europe.

At talks in Antalya, Turkey, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said more investment and military equipment are needed to deal with threats posed by Russia and terrorism but also by China, which has become the focus of U.S. concern.

“When it comes to the core defense spending, we need to do much, much more,” Rutte told reporters. He underlined that once Russia’s war in Ukraine is over, Moscow could reconstitute its armed forces within three years to five years.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said “the alliance is only as strong as its weakest link.” He insisted that the U.S. demand for allies to invest 5% of their gross domestic product on defense over the next seven years is about “spending money on the capabilities that are needed for the threats of the 21st century.”

The debate on defense spending is heating up before the summit of President Donald Trump and his NATO counterparts in the Netherlands on June 24-25. That gathering will set the course for future European security, including that of Ukraine.

In Istanbul, Russian and Ukrainian delegations will hold their first direct peace talks in three years, though the timing is unclear. Russian President Vladimir Putin spurned Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s offer to meet face to face in Turkey this week. Trump had pressed for Putin and Zelenskyy to meet but brushed off Putin’s decision to skip.

Meantime, Rubio, who is due in Istanbul on Friday, met with Syrian Foreign Minister Assad al-Shaibani on the sidelines of NATO meeting as Damascus seeks to reintegrate into the Mideast and beyond.

THE NATO sessions focused on a new spending plan in the works. As



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte attends a news conference at a NATO’s informal meeting of foreign ministers in Antalya, southern Turkey, Thursday, May 15. AP PHOTO/KHALIL HAMRA

Russia’s war on Ukraine entered its second year, NATO leaders agreed in 2023 to spend at least 2% of gross domestic product on national defense budgets. So far, 22 of the 32 member countries have done so.

The new plan is for all allies to aim for 3.5% of GDP on their defense budgets by 2032, plus an extra 1.5% on poten-

tially defense-related things like infrastructure — roads, bridges, airports and seaports.

While the two figures add up to 5%, factoring in infrastructure and cybersecurity would change the basis on which NATO traditionally calculates defense spending. The seven-year time frame is also short by the alliance’s usual standards.

Rutte refused to confirm the numbers but acknowledged the importance of including infrastructure.

It’s difficult to see how many members would reach a new 3.5% goal. Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Italy, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain are not even spending 2% yet, though Spain expects to reach that goal

A push for Europe to ensure its security

Europe-wide, industry leaders and experts have pointed out challenges the continent must overcome to be a truly self-sufficient military power, chiefly its decades-long reliance on the U.S. as well as its fragmented defense industry.

“There is a lot at stake for us,” Lithuanian Foreign Minister Kęstutis Budrys said. He urged NATO partners to meet the investment goals faster than the 2032 target “because we see the tempo and the speed, how Russia generates its forces now as we speak.”

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said his country should reach 2.5% by 2027, and then 3% by the next U.K.

elections planned for 2029.

“It’s hugely important that we recommit to Europe’s defense and that we step up alongside our U.S. partners in this challenging geopolitical moment where there are so many precious across the world, and particularly in the Indo-Pacific,” he said.

AS AN organization, NATO plays no direct security role in Asia, and it’s unclear what demands the Trump administration might make of the allies as it turns its attention to China. The last NATO security operation outside the Euro-Atlantic area, its 18-year stay in Afghanistan, ended in chaos.

Asked whether the next summit communiqué will underline that Russia still poses the greatest threat to NATO allies, Rutte said, “We will see what is the best way to play that.”

Questions also hang over the way the leaders will frame NATO’s commitment to Ukraine. The war has dominated recent summits, with envoys struggling to find language that would further anchor the country to the alliance without actually allowing it to join.

But this year, Washington has taken Ukraine’s membership off the table. Trump has shown impatience with Zelenskyy and remains unclear whether the Ukrainian leader will be invited to the June meeting in The Hague.

Florida bans flouride

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Thursday signed a bill that will stop local governments from putting fluoride in water.

The bill DeSantis signed doesn’t specifically mention flouride. Instead, it bans local governments from putting anything in the water that doesn’t help with improving water quality or reducing contaminants.

The move to block fluoride has been decried by major health organizations, who warn that it would negatively affect resi-

dents’ health.

DeSantis said the bill was about informed consent, and letting people choose what to do with their health.

“Some of these people, they think that they know better for you than you do for yourself,” DeSantis said. “They think because they have medical training that they should just be able to decree how we live our lives.”

As of July 1, local governments in Florida won’t be able to add extra fluoride to the water to fight tooth decay.

Public notice

(First published in The Iola Register April 30, 2025)

Millsap & Singer, LLC
8900 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 180
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 339-9132
(913) 339-9045 (fax)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF Allen County, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Plaintiff,

vs.

Cody W Weast aka Cody Wayne Weast, Jane Doe, John Doe, and Kansas Department of Revenue, et al.,

Defendants

Case No. AL-2025-CV-000020

Court No.

Title to Real Estate Involved
Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Allen County, Kansas by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

BEGINNING AT A POINT 35 FEET EAST OF THE WEST QUARTER SECTION CORNER OF SECTION TWENTY-THREE (23), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-FOUR (24) SOUTH, RANGE EIGHTEEN (18), EAST OF THE 6TH PM., ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS, EAST 208.7 FEET, SOUTH 208.7 FEET, WEST 208.7 FEET, EAST TO RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. 169 HWY, NORTH 208.7 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Parcel ID No. 001-076-23-0-30-02-002.00-0. Commonly known as 2401 N State St., Iola, KS 66749-1638 (“the Prop-erty”) MS 227043

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are re- quired to plead to the Petition on or before June 10, 2025 in the District Court of Allen County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

By:
Wayne A. Duncan, #27533
dduncan@msfirm.com
612 Spirit Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
(636) 537-0067 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF MS 227043.455913 KJFC
MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

(4) 30 (5) 7, 16

More than 60 killed in Israeli strikes

By SARA LEMEL
dpa/TNS

TEL AVIV, Israel — Dozens of people have been killed in fresh Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian hospital staff said on Thursday.

At least 15 Palestinians, many of them children, were reportedly killed in strikes on Jabaliya in the north of the coastal strip in the early afternoon. A hospital in the area was also hit.

Overnight, more than 50 people were killed in attacks in the Khan Younis area in the south of the Gaza Strip, according to the city’s Nasser Hospital.

An Israeli army spokesman said that the reports were being investigated.

There were further

reports in Palestinian media of deaths in Israeli attacks in other locations.

Israel has ramped up its attacks on Gaza in recent weeks, with the aim of destroying the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, and forcing the release of the remaining Israeli hostages.

The Israeli government has cut off all aid to the territory for more than two months, with international aid organizations warning of catastrophic humanitarian conditions.

According to the Hamas-controlled health authority, almost 53,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip since the start of the war with Israel more than a year and a half ago.

The war was triggered

by an assault on Israeli communities near Gaza by Hamas and other Islamist terrorists on

October 7, 2023. About 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage.

Today

83 | 54

Saturday

80 | 59

Sunday

81 | 65

Temperature		Precipitation	
High Wednesday	85	24 hrs as of 8 a.m. Thursday	0
Low Wednesday night	61	This month to date	1.68
High a year ago	75	Total year to date	14.81
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Published Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, except New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Subscription Rates

	One Year	6 Months	3 Months	1 Month
Mail in State	\$180.14	\$100.10	\$56.71	\$20.39
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Postmaster: Send address changes to The Iola Register, P.O. Box 767, Iola, KS 66749.

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Periodicals postage paid at Iola, Kansas. USPS 268-460 | Print ISSN: 2833-9908 | Website ISSN: 2833-9916