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**NATO NEWS - UNITED STATES TO AUGMENT AIR POLICING OVER BULGARIA,  
DEMONSTRATING ALLIED SOLIDARITY**

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NATO News

The US Air Force and the Bulgarian Air Force will jointly conduct air policing to protect Bulgarian airspace starting on 9 September 2016. Two US F-15 fighter jets will join Bulgarias MIG-29s for a week on this mission, which is part of NATOs enhanced air policing measures for eastern Allies.

Until now, air policing over Bulgaria has been conducted by national means. The enhanced air policing measures for Bulgaria are being launched by NATO for the first time, in response to a request by the Bulgarian authorities.

NATO takes its responsibility to ensure the safety and integrity of our airspace very seriously. This mission is a demonstration of solidarity and support for our Ally Bulgaria, NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said.

Air policing scrambles respond to military and civilian aircraft that do not follow international flight regulations, or approach NATO airspace without proper clearance. Often they fail to properly identify themselves, communicate with Air Traffic Control, or file flight plans. NATOs air policing responses seek to minimise risks, and ensure the safety of the airspace and its users.

NATO air policing helps ensure equal protection for all Allies, including those who do not have the full range of air defence assets in their own militaries.

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_134483.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_134483.htm)

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