

# US-NATO Largest War Exercise Against Russia. “It Will Also Be Nuclear”. Italy on the Front Line.

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By [Manlio Dinucci](#)

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*US Army General Christopher Cavoli, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, announced that the largest NATO exercise in decades, Steadfast Defender 2024, will occur in Europe from the end of January to the end of May. 90,000 soldiers from the 31 NATO countries will participate and are about to join NATO Sweden. Over 80 combat aircraft along with helicopters and drones, 50 warships including aircraft carriers, 1,100 tanks, and other combat vehicles will be used in the exercise. The exercise — the largest since the end of the Cold War — will test and refine the war strategy against Russia.*

European countries of the Alliance in NATO declared that, with *the Steadfast Defender 2024*

*“the Alliance will demonstrate its ability to strengthen the Euro-Atlantic area through the transatlantic movement of forces from North America. This reinforcement will occur during a simulated emergent conflict scenario against a near-peer adversary.”*

The reference to Russia is clear.

The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe also announced that Italy had been chosen as the headquarters of the Allied Reaction Force. The US general underlined that it is *“a fundamental component of our new force model and that it is capable of carrying out the entire spectrum of missions and serves as a rapidly deployable strategic reserve”*.

During the exercise, the Italian headquarters of the Allied Reaction Force will carry out a deployment of the *Rapid Reaction Force* in Poland on the eastern flank of the Alliance, clearly directed against Russia.

The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe did not say that the war exercise, taking place for four months in Europe, would also be nuclear. The aircraft, ships, and missile systems deployed in the *Steadfast Defender 2024* have dual conventional and nuclear capabilities. The USA will thus be able to test in a realistic simulation the new nuclear weapons that they are deploying in Europe increasingly close to Russia.

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