



## Mark Laity

Mark Laity is the Director, Communications Division at SHAPE, the first post holder. He set up StratCom within NATO's military structure in 2007 and as such has been a leading figure in developing StratCom within the Alliance. This role followed nine months in Afghanistan in 2006-7 as the NATO Spokesman in Kabul and Media Adviser to the ISAF Commander, for which he received NATO's Meritorious Service Medal. Previously he had been Chief of Public Information at SHAPE.

From 2000, Mark Laity was for four years the Special Adviser to the NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, and NATO's Deputy Spokesman. He had a wide variety of defence policy and information roles including a year as NATO spokesman.

In 2001 he was sent to Skopje as personal adviser to the Macedonian President at a time when that country was on the verge of civil war. He was closely involved with the communications effort during the negotiations with the insurgent group that led to the final peace agreement. When a NATO military force was deployed he became the Media Adviser to the operation's commander and civilian spokesman for the successful Operation Essential Harvest. His history of the crisis, 'Preventing War in Macedonia' was published in 2008 and later translated into Macedonian and Albanian.

Mark Laity joined NATO after 22 years in journalism, including 11 years as the BBC's Defence Correspondent from 1989, when he reported from the frontlines of most major conflicts of the nineties, but particularly the break-up of Yugoslavia, and the Gulf War in 1991.