



After the dissolution of the Soviet Union and declaration of independence in 1991, Ukraine inherited one of the most powerful armed forces in Europe. On 24 August 1991, the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine adopted the resolution to take under its jurisdiction all military units of the former Soviet Armed Forces then situated on the territory of Ukraine, and to establish the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. At that time, the Armed Forces included about 780,000 personnel, 6,500 tanks, some 7,000 combat armoured vehicles, 1,500 combat aircraft, more than 350 ships, 1,272 strategic nuclear warheads of inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM), and 2,500 tactical nuclear missiles.

Soon after Ukraine's independence, relations between Ukraine and NATO began to develop and it was as early as January 1992 when a representative of Ukraine for the first time took part in the Working Group of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC). Shortly after, in the period between January and March 1992, all servicemen and reservists had to swear once more their allegiance, but now to Ukraine. According to official data, between the creation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in 1991 and