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*“Troops and soldiers from many different countries work together, operate together, and protect together. This is the strength of NATO.”*



**JENS STOLTENBERG**  
Secretary General of NATO

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Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg shares the lessons he’s learned leading the 30-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) over the last seven years. Additionally, he explains how his parents’ approach to diplomacy influenced his leadership style. He also discusses his experiences with tragedy as the Prime Minister of Norway following the terrorist attacks on 07/22/11 and shares a message for all the service members who have

deployed in support of NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

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About Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (@jenstoltenberg)

Jens Stoltenberg became NATO Secretary General in October 2014, following a distinguished international and domestic career. As a former Prime Minister of Norway and UN Special Envoy, Mr. Stoltenberg has been a strong supporter of greater global and transatlantic cooperation. Mr. Stoltenberg's mandate as NATO Secretary General has been extended until the end of September 2022.

Under Mr. Stoltenberg's leadership, NATO has responded to a more challenging security environment by implementing the biggest reinforcement of its collective defence since the Cold War, increasing the readiness of its forces and deploying combat troops in the eastern part of the Alliance. He believes in credible deterrence and defence while maintaining dialogue with Russia. He has also advocated for increased defence spending and better burden sharing within the Alliance, and a greater focus on innovation. NATO has also stepped up its efforts in the fight against terrorism. He strongly supports a partnership approach, with cooperation between NATO and the European Union reaching unprecedented levels.

Before coming to NATO, he was the UN Special Envoy on Climate Change from 2013 to 2014. He has also chaired UN High-level Panels on climate financing and the coherence between development, humanitarian assistance and environmental policies.

As Prime Minister of Norway, Mr. Stoltenberg increased the defence spending and transformed the Norwegian armed forces with new high-end capabilities and investments. He also signed an agreement with Russia on establishing maritime borders in the Barents

and Polar Sea, ending a 30-years dispute.

Mr. Stoltenberg was also Prime Minister during the deadly terrorist attacks, which killed 77 people in Oslo and Utøya on 22 July 2011, urging in response, *“more democracy, more openness, and more humanity, but never naïvete”*.

Mr Stoltenberg holds a postgraduate degree in Economics from the University of Oslo. After graduating in 1987, he held a research post at the National Statistical Institute of Norway, before embarking on a career in Norwegian politics.

- 2005-2013: Prime Minister of Norway
- 2002-2014: Leader of the Norwegian Labor Party
- 2000-2001: Prime Minister of Norway
- 1996-1997: Minister of Finance
- 1993-1996: Minister of Industry and Energy
- 1991-2014: Member of Parliament
- 1990-1991: State Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment
- 1985-1989: Leader of the Norwegian Labour Youth

Jens Stoltenberg was born in Oslo on 16 March 1959. He is married to Ingrid Schulerud. They have two grown-up children. \*\* [Bio courtesy of NATO](#)

## Season Finale: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg- Strength in Numbers

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