



non-profit National Democratic Institute of the United States, which sends officials into countries that are learning the democratic processes of politics. After a couple of volunteer stints with the institute this spring, including helping politicians of all stripes prepare for the March 27 election in Kyiv, the 42-year of St. John's native will be taking an advisory position in Ukraine.

UKRAINE JOINS NATO MANEUVERS

PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE PROGRAM

The first joint army exercises under NATO's Partnership for Peace program took place on September 12, 1994 near the village of Bieedrusko/Posnan in Poland. There were over 600 participants, including troops from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Germany, Holland, Italy,



NATO COOPERATIVE BRIDGE 1994: Strategy planning at the First Partnership for Peace Training Exercises, Sept. 12-16, 1994, in Poland. (Photo credit: NATO Information & Press Office)

Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the USA, and Ukraine.

Even as Ukrainian troops were

actively participating in the exercises, Ukraine's first civilian defense minister, Valery Shmarov, was telling the press that Ukraine continues to adhere to the policies of non-alignment proclaimed by its Parliament, and that its active involvement in the program does not imply a move to enter into a closer relationship with the Atlantic Alliance. Earlier in the year Ukraine was the first of the former Soviet republics to join the Partnership for Peace program, devised by NATO to forge closer military ties with states of the former Soviet bloc. Since then, Lithuania has been the only republic to officially seek membership to the Atlantic Alliance, an application to which Russia immediately expressed strong objections.

During his two day visit, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, General George Joulwan, held talks with Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaly Masol and top members of his cabinet.



Ukrainian troops participate in the NATO training exercise. (Photo credit: NATO Information & Press Office)