



Edition 17-04 | Monday, January 23, 2017

# Wikinews



# January 23, 2017

AusOpen - Donald Trump - Cannabis - Pyotr Pavlensky - Gao Explosion

Nigerian Refugee Camp Bombing - Eugene Cernan - Brexit speech

Chelsea Manning - Kyrgyzstan Plane Crash - Arjen Robben - Brazil Prison Riot

US Troops In Poland

# Murray loses to rank 50 Zverev in Australian Open's fourth round

On Sunday, January 22, German tennis player Mischa Zverev defeated Scottish player and current world number 1 Andy Murray in the Australian Open's 4th round. 50th ranked Zverev is to face Roger Federer in his first ever Grand Slam quarter-final.



Murray at a competition last year, from file.  
Image: Carine06. (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Zverev won the first set 7–5, with seven aces total through the match. Last year's runner-up Murray made a comeback in the second set serving ten aces in the match. Zverev took on the next two sets, winning it 6–2 and 6–4 to advance to the quarter-finals of the tournament. Murray committed 28 unforced errors in the entire match — two more than Zverev. The match lasted over three and half hours.

Zverev won 65 net points out of 118. Murray won just 29 out of 44. Zverev won two out of three break points, Murray registering none. Murray has played against Zverev on four occasions previously, winning all four.

After the match, Murray said, "I've had tough losses in my career in the past. I've come back from them. This is a tough one. I'm sure I'll come back okay from it.

But right now I'm obviously very down because I wanted to go further in this event, and it wasn't to be." Murray congratulated Zverev and said, "He deserved to win because he played great when he was down, and also in the important moments".

Federer defeated Japanese player Kei Nishikori 6–7, 6–4, 6–1, 4–6, 6–3. The seven-time Wimbledon Champion has featured in 48 Grand Slam quarter-finals before.

Murray has lost five Australian Open finals, four against Serbian player Novak Djokovic. Current world number 2 Djokovic was eliminated in the second round of the tournament. This is the first time in last fifteen years that neither world number 1 or 2 has competed in the Australian Open's quarterfinal in the men's category.

Murray has never won the Australian Open title but the Scot would still be world number one, because of Djokovic's early exit. 1715 points separate Murray from six-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic who completed his Grand Slam last year.

## Donald Trump inaugurated as 45th U.S. president



Donald Trump being taking oath on the Bible at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.  
Image: The White House. (CC0 1.0/ Public Domain)

At 12:00 p.m. local time (1700 UTC) on Friday, January 20, Donald Trump took the oath of office and was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

Both the Obamas, Bill and Hillary Clinton, and other previous presidents were present.

Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump were welcomed in the morning by outgoing president Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama. At 12:00 local time (17:00 GMT), Chief Justice John G. Roberts swore in Donald Trump as the new President of the United States. Donald Trump took his oath on the Lincoln Bible, and on his own bible that his mother had given him. Vice

President Mike Pence was sworn in on the Reagan Bible.

After assuming the presidency, Donald Trump made his first speech as President of the United States, including the words "January 20, 2017 will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again. The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer."

Barack Obama left a letter to his successor on the nineteenth-century presidential desk in the White House Oval Office.

This news article is available in Català, Español, Français, Português, and Русский language. This article contains material translated from Spanish Wikinews.

## Germany legalises medical use of cannabis

On Thursday, January 19, the German Bundestag passed a law to legalise cannabis drug for medicinal purposes. The law is to come under effect in March.

"Seriously ill people must be treated in the best ways possible [Schwerkranke Menschen müssen bestmöglich versorgt werden]", German health minister Hermann Gröhe tweeted. Doctors can prescribe marijuana — cannabis — for patients suffering from multiple sclerosis, chronic pain, or loss of appetite or nausea from cancer's chemotherapy treatment.

Christian Democrats (CDU) lawmaker Rainer Hayek said this law would still prevent recreational use of cannabis. The cost of cannabis is to be covered under health insurance. Patients can buy dried buds or cannabis extracts from pharmacies with a prescription or get synthetic derivatives from other countries, though possession of the drug in large quantities is not allowed.

Cannabis cultivation is to be monitored by the government. Germany has joined other European countries such as Austria, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and Netherlands in legalising the drug to some extent.

In October, a 53-year-old multiple sclerosis patient showed cannabis was the only solution to reduce his pain, and

the court granted him permission to grow as many as 130 plants in one year for personal use. Purchasing, rather than growing, medical cannabis at the time cost about €15 (US\$16.85) per gram.

This news article is available in Português and Русский language.

## Rape-accused Russian political artist Pyotr Pavlensky to seek asylum in France



File photo of Pyotr Pavlensky.  
Image: Dmitry Rozhkov. (CC BY-SA 4.0)

On Monday, January 16, controversial Russian political artist Pyotr Pavlensky, currently in Paris, informed media that he and his family are to seek political asylum in France. Pavlensky said he and his partner Oksana Shalygina were falsely accused under Section 132 of the Criminal law for rape.

The 32-year-old artist has been charged on several occasions. In the November 2015, Pavlensky set Russia's Federal Security Service's headquarters' door on fire in Moscow. Pavlensky called this an artwork named "Threat" and was sentenced to a prison term for vandalism. He was released seven months later, in June.

Anastasia Slonina, an actress working in a theatre in Moscow called Teatr.doc, known for liberal plays, filed rape charges on Pavlensky and his partner Oksana. The theatre claims to have a CCTV video footage of Pavlensky and other men beating Slonina's boyfriend in the parking lot on October 31. Pavlensky said he does not appear in the video.

Pavlensky and Oksana were detained in December at Sheremetyevo airport for questioning, which went on for seven hours. Pavlensky commented the rape charges had a political motivation behind it and denied the allegations. Olga Papernaya, former art director at Moscow's film club said, "Alas, yesterday a national hero and a great performance artist, today — it's true — a criminal, a psychopath and a rapist". Pavlensky, Oksana, and their two daughters left for Ukraine in mid-December before flying to France. They arrived in Paris on Saturday.

In one of several painful performances, Pyotr Pavlensky sewed his lips to support members of musical band Pussy Riot who were imprisoned that time. The band members were charged with hooliganism for performing an anti-Putin song in a church. In 2013, he nailed his scrotum in Moscow's Red Square naming the art as "Fixation". Earlier in 2013, he wrapped himself, half naked, in a cocoon of barbed wire. The following year, he chopped off a part of his right ear lobe with a chef's knife sitting nude on a roof labelling the art as "Segregation".

About returning to Russia, Pavlensky told BBC, "I have no desire to return like a lamb to the slaughter, especially a slaughter that is desired, by the state." Pavlensky and Oksana are liable to be sentenced to a ten-year jail term if found guilty.

This news article is available in Русский language.

## Bomb kills at least 50 in Gao, Mali

A vehicle packed with explosives was detonated on Monday morning, January 18, in Gao, Mali. At least fifty died.



File photo of French troops arriving in Mali during the 2013 intervention.  
Image: Senior Airman James Richardson (US Air Force). (CC0 1.0/Public Domain)

The bombing targeted a camp housing government soldiers and rebels, some of whom were in a meeting at the time. Northern Mali was seized by Islamic militants in 2012, with France leading a military intervention the following year. The camp was formed as part of a disputed ceasefire.

Occasional attacks continue, and the latest is the worst in years. French Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux called the attack "highly symbolic". French President François Hollande visited the scene last week.

Victims included people tasked with providing patrols, part of a United Nations-backed move to quell the violence. Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita took to Twitter today to declare three days of mourning. His government stands accused by Human Rights Watch of not taking adequate measures to protect the nation's citizens.

The government says the dead include five suicide bombers. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb claimed a single bomber from affiliate group al-Mourabitoun conducted the attack.

## Nigerian jet attacks refugee camp, killing dozens

A Nigerian Air Force jet fighter mistook refugees for rebels on Tuesday, January 17, Nigerian military said, firing on a camp in Rann, Borno State. Dozens of refugees and aid workers died.



File photo of a refugee camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria.  
Image: Voice of America. (CC0 1.0/ Public Domain)

The lowest estimate from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is of 50 dead. The BBC estimates at least 52 dead, while one Borno State official is attributed by AP as saying over 100 are dead. MSF say at least 200 were wounded.

The Red Cross said at least six of its staff died and twelve more injured. The impoverished region, in the northeast of the nation, has suffered severe famine as conflict interrupts agriculture. Farmers are unable to work owing to bombs on their land. The Red Cross said volunteers were at the camp, home to thousands, to distribute food.

The military said the Air Force was dispatched to deal with "remnants" of the Boko Haram militant group, which it claims to be in a final push against. Major General Leo Irabor, who led the operation, said, "Unfortunately, the strike was conducted but it turned out that other civilians were somewhere around the area and they were affected". Irabor said two soldiers were amongst the dead and others were wounded.

Military spokesman General Rabe Abubakar said the military are "all in pain" after the disaster, adding "in a military operation such as this, from time to time these things do occur." Irabor promised an investigation. President Muhammadu Buhari said he was saddened by "this regrettable operational mistake" and sought calm.

"This large-scale attack on vulnerable people who have already fled from extreme violence is shocking and unacceptable," MSF operational chief Dr Jean-Clément Cabrol said. The Red Cross said it has staff and facilities ready in neighbouring Cameroon and Chad to assist. "The whole camp is controlled by the army and no one can come in or out without being checked," said MSF head of emergencies Hugues Robert. Robert added the group knew travel and work in the area was dangerous, and took precautions. Helicopters have been evacuating the wounded, including a United Nations helicopter which brought four medical personnel and 400kg (900lb) of emergency medical aid, and left with eight wounded Red Cross workers. The UN is in the midst of an appeal for aid to the famine-hit region.

the Moon, died on Monday, January 16, aged 82, according to a NASA statement. Cernan, who commanded the Apollo 17 mission to the Moon in 1972, was in Houston, Texas, at the time of his death.



Eugene Cernan.  
Image: NASA. (CC0 1.0/Public Domain)

Cernan, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, on March 14, 1934, earned engineering degrees from Purdue University in 1956 and the Naval Postgraduate School in 1963. He was an aviator in the United States Navy and logged more than 200 landings on aircraft carriers before becoming an astronaut in 1963. He flew in space for the first time aboard Gemini 9 in 1966. In 1969 Cernan flew aboard Apollo 10, a flight to the Moon that rehearsed a descent but purposefully did not land in preparation for the Apollo 11 landing. Cernan's final flight into space was as commander of Apollo 17, the final lunar landing mission of the Apollo program, in which he spent three days exploring the lunar surface along with Harrison Schmitt.

Following Apollo 17, Cernan worked on the Apollo-Soyuz project before retiring from NASA and the Navy in 1976. In his later years he became an executive and consultant, wrote an autobiography, and advocated for returning to the Moon along with Neil Armstrong, the first human to walk on the Moon, who died in 2012.

"Truly, America has lost a patriot and pioneer who helped shape our country's bold ambitions to do things that humankind had never before achieved," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said in a statement.

This news article is available in Español, Français, Polski, and Português language.

## Theresa May's Brexit speech rules out single market membership



Prime Minister Theresa May.  
Image: UK Home Office. (CC BY-SA 2.0)

UK Prime Minister Theresa May on Tuesday, January 17, announced the government's plans for how to proceed with the United Kingdom's exit, or "Brexit" (British exit), from the European Union. May stated the government would not seek to be a member of the European single market and would instead seek a new trade relationship. May said the UK government would seek access to the single market without retaining formal membership in it.

May's speech stressed the need for friendliness between Britain and the EU but also ruled out any deal that did not allow the British government to control immigration, or which would require Britain to continue being bound by decisions of the European Court of Justice. In yesterday's speech, May also ruled out continued membership of the customs union as this prevented Britain from negotiating trade deals with non-EU countries.

Theresa May also said Britain's contributions to the EU budget would cease, although some contributions would be made to some pan-European schemes. In her words, "the days of Britain making vast contributions to the European Union every year will end". The speech also covered the legal status of both UK citizens living abroad and EU citizens living in the UK. May said she wished to guarantee the status of both, but that she also sought "reciprocity" before doing so, and noted "one or two" other countries had not been willing to do so.

## Former NASA astronaut Eugene Cernan dies aged 82

Eugene Cernan, former NASA astronaut and the most recent human to walk on

Following May's speech the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, David Davis, echoed the Prime Minister in a speech he gave to Parliament, adding "the final deal agreed between the UK and the EU will be put to a vote in both Houses of Parliament before it takes effect".

Next week, on January 24, the Supreme Court is due to deliver a decision in a case challenging the government's right to issue Article 50—which starts the Brexit negotiations—without the consultation of Parliament.

This news article is available in Català, Español and Português language.

## Obama commutes whistleblower's sentence: Chelsea Manning to walk free in 120 days

On Tuesday, January 17, mere days before he is to leave office, U.S. President Barack Obama commuted the sentence of Army intelligence officer Chelsea Manning from 35 years to time served. Manning, who in 2010 released thousands of classified documents to the public through WikiLeaks detailing abuses of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, has already served almost seven years in prison and is now scheduled for release on May 17 of this year



Artist's rendition of Manning as she views herself.  
Image: Alicia Neal. (CC0 1.0/ Public Domain)

The information Manning released to the public through WikiLeaks and *The Guardian* in 2010 included diplomatic accounts, videos, military incident logs,

and battle plans, including footage of an American Apache helicopter firing on suspected Iraqi insurgents, reports of prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay without trial, and records of detainees abused by the Iraqi military. Many in Congress have denounced Manning as a traitor, stating the breach endangered U.S. national security. Manning was convicted in 2013 of 22 charges, including espionage, but acquitted of aiding the enemy.

Republican senator John McCain, who ran for president against Obama in 2008, said "It is a sad, yet perhaps fitting commentary on President Obama's failed national security policies that he would commute the sentence of an individual that endangered the lives of American troops, diplomats, and intelligence sources by leaking hundreds of thousands of sensitive government documents to WikiLeaks, a virulently anti-American organization that was a tool of Russia's recent interference in our elections."

Not everyone has considered Manning's actions to be wrong. "Chelsea Manning exposed serious abuses," says Margaret Huang, executive director of the U.S. branch of Amnesty International, "and as a result her own human rights have been violated." Huang went on to call Obama's order for Manning's release "long overdue." Despite being a trans woman, Manning was housed in a men's prison, the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. She spent a long period in solitary confinement and attempted suicide twice in 2016.

Obama's staff told the press WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's promise to agree to U.S. extradition if Manning was granted clemency had nothing to do with the decision. Assange is currently living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he is claiming asylum. He faces rape accusations from two Swedish women.

The Obama administration has seen what *The New York Times* calls an "unprecedented crackdown on leaks of government secrets." Manning is among more than 1,500 individuals whom President Obama has granted clemency during his tenure. White House Press Secretary Josh Ernest was asked if NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden would also be pardoned. Ernest said no, saying the information Snowden released was

more dangerous to the U.S. public and pointed out that while Manning had gone through a formal trial and acknowledged wrongdoing, "Mr. Snowden fled into the arms of an adversary and has sought refuge in a country that most recently made a concerted effort to undermine confidence in our democracy."

This week, Obama also commuted the sentences of Oscar Lopez Rivera, a Puerto Rican nationalist linked to bombings in the 1970s and 1980s, James E. Cartwright, a former Marine general and White House Chief of Staff convicted of lying to the FBI, and over two hundred other individuals, mostly drug offenders. He also pardoned 63 people outright.

## Cargo plane crashes in Kyrgyzstan, killing over 30

A Turkish cargo plane crashed just outside of Manas Airport in Kyrgyzstan en route from Hong Kong to İstanbul early on Monday morning, January 16. The crash destroyed approximately fifteen buildings and resulted in the death of over 30 people, including four crew members, according to the Kyrgyz emergencies ministry.



The crashed jet, last week.  
Image: Kelvin Jahae. (CC BY-S 2.0)

A Kyrgyz official tentatively ascribed the crash to pilot error. The conditions at the time were foggy. The Boeing 747 plane was supposed to make a stop-over at Manas Airport on its way to İstanbul.

The crash occurred in the village of Dacha-Suu, Kyrgyzstan, while many people were still sleeping. The casualties are reported to have included children. Despite the fog, other flights are reported to have landed safely leading up to the collision. Following the collision Manas airport was closed, and yesterday was declared a day of national

mourning in Kyrgyzstan. The flight was operated by ACT Airlines.

Manas international airport is located outside the capital city of Bishkek, and has been the location of other fatal crashes. These include a Boeing 737 en route to Iran, which crashed shortly after take-off in 2008, killing 68 of at least 90 people on board.

This news article is available in Français, Português, and Русский language.

## Robben signs contract extension with Bayern

German football club FC Bayern Munich on Monday, January 16, announced Dutch winger Arjen Robben has signed a one contract extension until June 2018.

32-year-old Robben joined the German side in 2009 from Spanish capital club Real Madrid. Spending seven years with Munich, Robben has scored 82 goals in 152 Bundesliga appearances and netted 23 goals in 53 UEFA Champions League matches. Robben has won five Bundesliga titles, and four DFB-Pokal titles. In 2013, Robben scored the winning goal in the UEFA Champions League final at Wembley Stadium against Bayern's arch rivals Borussia Dortmund.



Robben playing for Bayern in 2015.  
Image: Богдан Заяц/Кирилл Крыжановский  
(Football.ua). (CC BY-SA 3.0)

After signing the contract, Robben said, "I'm very happy that I'll be playing a further year for FC Bayern. The club is one of the best in the world and Munich has become a second home for me and my family. I want to continue playing at the highest level and win as many

trophies as possible. [Ich bin glücklich, dass ich ein weiteres Jahr beim FC Bayern spielen werde. Der Verein gehört zu den besten der Welt und München ist für mich und meine Familie zu einer zweiten Heimat geworden. Ich möchte weiter auf Top-Niveau spielen und so viele Titel wie möglich gewinnen.]"

On Sunday, Bayern announced signings of 21-year-old Niklas Süle and 26-year-old Sebastian Rudy from TSG 1899 Hoffenheim who are to join the Bayern squad in July. The German internationals have penned a five-year and a three-year contract respectively.

In the last two months, Bayern Munich has announced Polish striker Robert Lewandowski signed a contract extension until June 2021 and French winger Franck Ribéry signed a one-year contract extension with the club.

This news article is available in Español language.

## At least 26 killed in another Brazil prison riot

In the latest of a series of prison riots in prisons across Brazil, dozens of inmates, mostly rival gangs, were reported dead at the State Penitentiary of Alcaçuz, a state prison located in Natal, the capital of the Brazilian state, Rio Grande do Norte. Reports vary but, as of Sunday, January 15, the death toll may have reached 26. According to the BBC, this figure is triple the initial reports.



Natal from file.  
Image: Beraldo Leal. (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Prison authorities said that some victims were decapitated. Prison coordinator Zemilton Silva witnessed this happen to three men, and forensic report that there have been more.

The Ministry of Justice and state-run news outlet *Agência Brasil* said the latest riot started at around 5:00 p.m., local time, on Saturday. It continued until the security forces quelled the riot on Sunday at around 7:15 a.m.

Agence France Presse (AFP) and Rio de Janeiro newspaper *O Globo* report that the gang members of the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and Comando Vermelho were the latest riot's participants. CNN reports that its participants were PCC and Sindicato do Crime do RN. The gangs had been housed in separate parts of the prison. Six of the ringleaders have been captured and sent to other facilities. Like other riots this year, overcrowding may have contributed to the latest riot. According to Brazil's justice department, the Alcaçuz prison houses more than 1,000 inmates on a capacity of 620.

Reports about authorities killed or injured in the riots are not yet confirmed, says the BBC.

*O Globo* also reported that one inmate attempted to escape but was quickly recaptured. No other inmates have been reported missing, but nine injured inmates were sent to hospital.

*O Globo* says the cause of the riot was drug-related. PCC and Comando Vermelho cooperated on drug trade from mid-1990s to reportedly summer 2016. Their split led Comando Vermelho to team up with five other gang organizations "to counter the PCC's growing might."

The Alcaçuz prison riot is part of a series of Brazilian prison riots this year. At least 100 inmates died in this month's previous two riots, one in Amazonas and another in Roraima. The Amazonas prison riot on January 1–2 resulted in at least 56 killed inmates, of whom many were beheaded and dismembered. The Roraima riot on January 6 resulted in at least 33 killed, of whom many were disembowelled.

In the wake of this year's riots, the Brazilian President Michel Temer announced to *Reuters* yesterday a plan, under joint cooperation of state and federal governments, to build nearly thirty prisons by 2018, including "five maximum security prisons to house the most violent convicts," and to create intelligence units in effort to counter the

influence of powerful inmates. Temer announced more than one billion Brazilian reals (US\$309 million) as the budget of the plan.

However, human rights activists and experts were skeptical about building more prisons. Camila Nunes, a sociologist of the Federal University of ABC, told the AFP "medium- and long-term policies to reduce the vulnerability of certain social groups [and] to prioritize prevention rather than repression" are needed.

*Reuters* reported Alexandre de Moraes, minister of the Justice Department, recently authorized the state of Rio Grande do Norte to spend 13 million Brazilian reals to upgrade and expand prison equipment. De Moraes promised to prevent more prison riots by increasing funds and prison security.

Meanwhile, Luiz Alberto Cartaxo, the prison chief for the southern Paraná state, said an explosion on Sunday broke a guarding wall of a Piraquara prison, prompting at least 21 inmates to escape. Cartaxo also reported that two other inmates were killed by police during their escape attempt.

A 2014 report by Brazil's justice department analyzes the statistics of the nation's prison population. The country has more than 622,000 inmates, mostly young black men, exceeding the capacity by at least 50 percent. Brazil is placed fourth in the world's largest prison population, surpassed by the respective numbers of those in the United States, in China, and in Russia.

---

This news article is available in Português language.

---

## Polish PM Beata Szydło welcomes US troops

Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło on Saturday, January 14, headed a ceremony in the Western town of Żagań welcoming US troops. The troops are in the region in response to Russian action in Ukraine and began arriving earlier this week.

"Each Polish family must feel safe", Szydło said. "It is the duty of the Polish state, the government to provide

security. Today we have made a big step in this direction". Outgoing US President Barack Obama authorised the move in response to Russian intervention in Ukraine in 2014, in which Crimea was annexed. It was agreed at a NATO summit in Warsaw last year.



Szydło from file.

Image: Kancelaria Premiera/Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland. (CC0 1.0/Public Domain)

Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz was also at the ceremony. "We have waited for you for a very long time," he told the troops. "We waited for decades, sometimes feeling we had been left alone, sometimes almost losing hope, sometimes feeling that we were the only one who protected civilization from aggression that came from the east."

Hundreds of members of the public attended the ceremony, near the German border; the soldiers crossed in from Germany. Part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, the deployment is set to include Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and Paladin artillery. It is the largest deployment of US troops to Europe since the Cold War ended.

The US troops are set to rotate around the region every nine months. Other planned host nations are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary. The rotation is due to a treaty with Russia preventing permanent deployment to any particular territory.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Mechikov said the incoming troops and vehicles were a "factor destabilising European security". The presence of US assets "threatens our interests and our security," according to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin's administration described the deployment as "a threat".

Polish relations with Russia are strained. Since the annexation of Crimea, Russia has recently been increasing its military presence in Kaliningrad. The enclave, Russian territory lying between Poland and Lithuania, now has nuclear-capable Iskander missiles and anti-ship Bastion equipment.

US-Russian relations are also strained. Last month the US expelled 35 Russian diplomats accused of espionage, and sanctioned Russian intelligence agencies. This was in response to a CIA report issued two weeks earlier that concluded the Russian government hacked servers belonging to the U.S. Republican and Democratic parties. The CIA report said this was to turn the 2016 presidential election toward president-elect Donald Trump.

Trump has indicated he seeks closer ties with Russia. He takes power this month. "This is America's most capable fighting force: A combat-ready, highly trained US armoured brigade, with our most advanced equipment and weaponry," according to Paul James, US ambassador to Poland. James, who attended the ceremony, said the troops represent "America's iron-clad commitment to honor our NATO treaty obligation to defend our NATO allies."

In a *Wall Street Journal* interview published on Friday Trump indicated he wishes to maintain sanctions against Russia "at least for a period of time," but ultimately remove them as relations improve. "If you get along and if Russia is really helping us, why would anybody have sanctions if somebody's doing some really great things?" he asked. Outgoing CIA director John Brennan said yesterday Trump "doesn't understand Russia" and expressed concerns the US President-Elect's spontaneity would damage US national security.

A total of around 4,000 troops are pledged to the region.

---

This news article is available in Français language.

---

Wikinews is a free news source, that you can write.

## About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including you) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

## License

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles published in this Print edition were created by Wikinewbies. Other content released under the Creative Commons

CC-BY-2.5 license.

The text is released under the CC-BY-2.5 license. To read about the license, visit [https://creativecommons.org/licenses/b y/2.5/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/)

Various images in this document are available in different Creative Commons license, mentioned below each image.

*Wikinews®*, and the *Wikinews* logo are registered trademarks of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.



Scan the QR Code to visit English Wikinews.