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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory

Model NATO Challenge 2019 to be hosted at Virginia Wesleyan University

NORFOLK, Va. – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Allied Command Transformation and the Norfolk NATO Festival will co-host the 2019 Model NATO Challenge at Virginia Wesleyan University on March 20 at 3 p.m.

The Model NATO Challenge is a scholarship competition in which the top 29 young adult applicants from Hampton Roads are chosen to participate in a mock global crisis simulation, confronting issues facing today's 29-member NATO Alliance. Many of the applicants are from Norfolk high schools.

Following the selection process, student diplomats are assigned mentors, who are military officers assigned with NATO's Allied Command Transformation located in Norfolk, Virginia. The international staff officer mentors assist in preparing the students for the challenge through formal discussions focused on their country's culture, military resources and political backgrounds.

During the challenge, student diplomats work together to address a mock crisis scenario such as piracy, immigration or another global issue that could potentially impact the Alliance. Student diplomats will be judged on their leadership and diplomacy skills, and the top three finalists are awarded scholarships.

The Model NATO Challenge serves as a great bridge between the local community, academia, military organizations and the NATO Alliance. Media in attendance will have an opportunity to interview with student diplomats, mentors and community leaders from the Norfolk NATO Festival.

All interested media must register with U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dawn Stankus (dawn.stankus@act.nato.int, +1-757-685-9814) in the Allied Command Transformation Public Affairs Office by **4 p.m. EST on March 18**. Media are expected to arrive at Virginia Wesleyan University no later than 2 p.m. on March 20 to be escorted to the event location. Additional details will be provided to media following their registration.

For additional details about the Model NATO Challenge, please visit: <https://www.vafest.org/norfolk-nato-festival/education/model-nato-challenge/>

For more information on NATO's Allied Command Transformation visit: <http://www.act.nato.int/>