

**WILTON PARK
WILTON PARK, UNITED KINGDOM
02 OCT 12**

MY NAME IS HERTLING, AND I AM A SOLDIER.

THOSE WHO DEVELOPED THE AGENDA FOR THIS CONFERENCE ASKED ME TO GIVE MY VIEWS ON NATO'S CONCEPT OF SMART DEFENSE.

SO MY VIEWS WILL COME FROM THE STANDPOINT OF AN OPERATIONAL COMMANDER...A SOLDIER.

BUT LIKE DAVID LAI, I WAS A BIT CONFUSED AS TO WHY I WAS INVITED.

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE – FIRST – TO TELL YOU A STORY OF A RECENT EXPERIENCE I HAD, TO SET THE STAGE FOR HOW YOU MIGHT VIEW MY REMARKS

(BRAIN TRANSPLANT STORY, USING A THINK TANKER, A POLITICIAN, AND A GENERAL).

(PAUSE)

MY REQUIREMENTS, AS THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF US ARMY IN EUROPE, ARE FOCUSED ON FOUR DIFFERENT LINES OF EFFORT.

I WON'T BORE YOU WITH EACH OF THEM, BUT THE FIRST TWO -- AND PARTICULARLY THE SECOND ONE -- ARE THE ONES THIS GROUP MAY FIND THE MOST INTERESTING.

FIRST, I'M CHARGED WITH TRAINING THE 40,000 SOLDIERS STATIONED IN EUROPE.

TRAINING OUR UNITS FOR FULL SPECTRUM, UNIFIED LAND OPERATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES. TODAY, WE HAVE 22% OF OUR FORCE DEPLOYED – MOST TO AFGHANISTAN, BUT TO OTHER PLACES AS WELL (TURKEY, AFRICA).

SECOND, I AM ASKED BY THE COMEUR, ADM STAVRIDIS, TO CONDUCT THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION, AND BUILD PARTNER CAPACITY WITH OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS.

ESPECIALLY THOSE ALLIES AND PARTNERS WHO ARE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN COALITION OPERATIONS...TODAY IN AFGHANISTAN, OR TOMORROW AGAINST SOME YET UNDEFINED THREAT. SOME WHO ARE PART OF NATO, SOME WHO ARE NOT.

THE FIRST JOB, TRAINING US ARMY FORCES, IS FUN.

THE SECOND ONE – TSC AND BPC WITH OUR ALLIES AND PARTNERS -- KEEPS ME VERY BUSY.

(PAUSE)

SINCE MARCH 2011, WHEN I TOOK COMMAND OF USAREUR, I HAVE VISITED 38 COUNTRIES – SOME NATO MEMBERS, SOME NOT. I'VE ENGAGED WITH MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, CHIEFS OF LAND FORCES, AND VARIOUS MILITARY LEADERS.

AND LAST YEAR, WE CONDUCTED OVER 1,100 COOPERATIVE EVENTS, WITH 41 DIFFERENT NATIONS OF THE 51 THAT ARE IN EUROPE. SOME NATO, SOME NOT.

THE FREQUENCY AND DEPTH OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS HAS BROADENED MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE QUALITY OF THE FORCES AND THE LEADERSHIP WHICH EXISTS IN THE ARMIES IN THIS THEATER. AND, IT HAS HELPED OUR PARTNER ARMIES.

AND I BELIEVE OUR EFFORTS OF BUILDING PARTNER CAPACITY AND THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION HAVE PAID OFF.

FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 40,000 ALLIED FORCES – NON-AMERICAN FORCES – IN AFGHANISTAN AS PART OF ISAF.

OF THOSE, 91% COME FROM COUNTRIES ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT. SOME NATO, SOME NOT.

AND US ARMY, EUROPE, HAS PLAYED A PART IN TRAINING WITH MOST OF THOSE.

THIS CONFIRMS – **AND I HAVE CONTINUOUSLY TRIED TO MAKE THE POINT WITH MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS** – THAT EUROPE IS HOME TO OUR MOST LIKELY, AND OUR MOST CAPABLE ALLIES AND PARTNERS.

WHEN I TALK TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, I NEVER USE THE ACRONYM NATO.

AND I TELL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO BE HERE!

(PAUSE)

IN FACT, OUR NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY CALLS “OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES THE CORNERSTONE FOR U.S. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD.” TO SOME, THAT MAY IMPLY NATO.

I AGREE WITH THAT, AND I CAN DEFEND IT WHEN SPEAKING WITH OUR CIVILIAN MASTERS.

BUT THERE IS ONE FACET OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH NATO THAT IS TROUBLESOME, AND ALWAYS COMES UP IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR CONGRESS.

- OF THE 28 MEMBERS OF NATO, ONLY 5 CONTRIBUTE THE MINIMUM NATO REQUIREMENT OF 2% OF THEIR GDP TO SUSTAINING THEIR MILITARIES. THAT’S A BIG DEAL.
- AND IN RECENT NATO OPERATIONS, WE HAVE SEEN IN OUR AFTER ACTION REVIEWS THAT THERE ARE TROUBLESOME

OPERATIONAL, EQUIPMENT, AND LOGISTICS CONCERNS THAT MAY NEGATIVELY AFFECT FUTURE OPERATIONS UNLESS NATO MAKES SOME RADICAL CHANGES.

THESE TWO DATA POINTS CAUSE A CONUNDRUM FOR AT LEAST THIS OPERATIONAL COMMANDER:

BECAUSE MY JOB REQUIRES THAT I TRAIN WITH – **BUILD TRUST WITH** – THE NATIONS OF EUROPE FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS AND FUTURE CONTINGENCIES, SOME WHO MAY BE PART OF NATO, BUT SOME WHO MAY NOT BE.

YET I ALSO HAVE TO CONVINCING VISITORS, WHO WEAR SUITS, THAT OUR EFFORTS – WHICH ARE COSTLY – ARE IMPORTANT AND AFFECT OUR COLLECTIVE SECURITY, AND OUR US NATIONAL SECURITY.

(PAUSE)

AS WE MOVE TOWARD A POST-ISAF ENVIRONMENT, THERE ARE THREATS TO U.S. SECURITY FROM EUROPE, AND THREATS TO THE COMBINED AND INTERNAL SECURITY TO THE NATIONS OF EUROPE. I AM ATTEMPTING TO ADDRESS THOSE.

WHAT THREATS?

THREATS LIKE:

- TERRORISM
- EXTREMISM
- POLITICAL IRRENDENTISM
- HUMAN, DRUG AND WEAPON TRAFFICKING
- MIGRATION, LIKE WE SEE AS THE RESULT OF THE ARAB SPRING AND NOW IN SYRIA
- TRANSNATIONAL CRIME
- CYBER WARFARE
- PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION...SOME THROWN BY MISSILES, OTHERS PERHAPS CROSSING BORDERS IN MULE CARTS.

HOW WILL WE COUNTER THESE THREATS AS A MULTINATIONAL ALLIANCE, AND HOW WILL WE COUNTER THE HYBRID AND ASSYMETRICAL THREATS AS A COLLECTIVE SECURITY ORGANIZATION?

ESPECIALLY WHEN THE MONEY FOR DEFENSE BUDGETS IN ALL OF OUR NATO NATIONS EXCEPT TWO CONTINUES TO DECLINE?

AS I TRAVEL THROUGHOUT EUROPE, MANY OF MY COUNTERPARTS – AND THEIR CIVILIAN LEADERS – MAKE COMMENT ABOUT THE REDUCTION IN FORCE STRUCTURE OF U.S. ARMY EUROPE.

THEY KNOW THAT IN THE COMING YEAR, USAREUR WILL INACTIVATE TWO OF OUR FOUR COMBAT BRIGADES – TWO TANK/HEAVY BRIGADES, ABOUT 8000 SOLDIERS -- AND WE WILL REDUCE THE NUMBERS SOME SUPPORTING CAPABILITIES – ABOUT ANOTHER 2500 SOLDIERS.

SO WE WILL GO FROM A FORCE OF 40,000 TO ABOUT 30,000.

(PAUSE)

I TELL THEM NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

BECAUSE THE FORCE THAT WILL REMAIN WILL BE THE RIGHT-SIZE AND WITH THE RIGHT CAPABILITIES TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION, IF I'M ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATO, OR IF I'M ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN AD-HOC ALLIANCE.

- WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATO ARTICLE V REQUIREMENTS WITH ALMOST TWELVE THOUSAND SOLDIERS IN THREE COMBAT BRIGADES: AIRBORNE, STRYKER, AND A COMBAT AVIATION WITH OVER 180 HELICOPTERS
- WE WILL HAVE INCREASED INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY, WITHIN A THEATER INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE.
- WE HAVE A FORCE WITH INCREASED MISSILE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, BOTH PROTECTIVE AND EARLY WARNING.
- WE HAVE REDESIGNED A CYBER CAPABILITY.

- WE HAVE A LARGE LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, TO INCLUDE A CIVIL AFFAIRS AND DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION.
- AND WE HAVE A CONSOLIDATED HEADQUARTERS AT A NEW MISSION COMMAND FACILITY.

OUR NATION HAS ALSO COMMITTED TO A ROTATIONAL BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND A ROTATIONAL BATTALION TWO MONTHS EVERY YEAR AS A REINVIGORATED PART IN THE NATO REACTION FORCE.

MANY OF OUR NON-NATO PARTNERS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS CONCEPT.

FROM AN OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT, ALL OF THESE COMBAT ELEMENTS CAN DO THINGS LIKE:

- SUPPORT AND REINFORCE RENEWED TENSION IN THE BALKANS (AS WE HAVE DONE TWICE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS)
- SUPPORT EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CAUCASUS, IN CONTINGENCIES IF CALLED. (TO INCLUDE HA/DR, AS MENTIONED BY BETH COLE, AND WHICH WE CONDUCTED 3 TIMES LAST WINTER)
- CONDUCT SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY MISSIONS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE LEVANT, IF REQUIRED, AND ACCEPT REINFORCEMENT FROM THE U.S.
- CONDUCT MISSILE DEFENSE, CYBER DEFENSE, NEO OPERATIONS.

BUT THE QUESTION REMAINS, WILL OTHER NATIONS IN EUROPE BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AS WELL? AND WITH WHAT?

THE ANSWER IS “YES”, AND WE’LL LOOK AT “SMART DEFENSE” TECHNIQUES TO HELP US DO THAT.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO WHAT I WAS ASKED TO TALK ABOUT.

(PAUSE)

I MUST ADMIT THAT I AM A SKEPTIC WHEN IT COMES TO SMART DEFENSE.

BECAUSE THE MOST TOUTED EXAMPLES OF SMART DEFENSE ARE USUALLY THINGS LIKE BALTIC AIR POLICING, THE CONDUCT OF SPECIFIC TYPES OF MARITIME OPERATIONS, AND AIR GROUND SURVEILLANCE. BY THE WAY, THERE ARE NATIONAL ISSUES BREWING IN EACH OF THOSE AREAS TODAY.

THESE CAN BE GOOD THINGS, BY THE WAY. BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD MANY EXAMPLES OF SMART DEFENSE APPLICATION IN THE "GROUND DOMAIN".

WHEN THE PROJECT INVOLVES SHIPS AND PLANES – THINGS GO RELATIVELY EASILY. SHIPS AND AIRPLANES **ARE CAPABLE OF** POOLING AND SHARING. IF THE AIR AND NAVAL COMMANDERS MAKE TIME FOR IT.

BUT WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT GROUND FORCES, COMING TOGETHER AS WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DO SINCE THE START OF NATO, IT GETS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE DIFFICULT.

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO POOL AND SHARE ON THE GROUND FOR YEARS AS PART OF NATO, AND IT'S TOUGH TO DO.

THEN, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE TYPES OF THREATS I MENTIONED EARLIER, IT GETS EVEN HARDER.

POOLING AND SHARING MAY ADDRESS SOME TYPES OF CONVENTIONAL THREATS, AND CERTAINLY HELP THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERING THE REPERCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC REDUCTIONS FOR THE VARIOUS MILITARIES IN EUROPE.

BUT "POOLING AND SHARING" OF RESOURCES LIKE SHIPS, PLANES, AND ELEMENTS OF MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS WILL NOT ADDRESS ALL THE TYPES OF THREATS WE KNOW WE WILL FACE – TOGETHER – ON THIS CONTINENT, ON THE GROUND.

(PAUSE)

SO AN ISSUE TO ME, AT THE OPERATIONAL AND TACTICAL LEVEL, IS HOW DO WE ADDRESS THE THREATS, IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMS AND MAKE SMART DEFENSE A REALITY..**ON THE GROUND?**

SOME WORK HAS BEEN DONE TO MOVE SMART DEFENSE FROM A PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPT TO A PRACTICAL REALITY.

THE CONNECTED FORCES INITIATIVE ADDRESSES SOME OF MY CONCERNS.

THIS SINGS TO ME.

WITH THIS INITIATIVE, "SMART DEFENSE" STARTS BEING ABOUT SHARED BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL TRAINING AND EXERCISES, EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES, AND INTELLIGENCE SHARING.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ONE COUNTRY PROVIDES TANKS, ANOTHER PROVIDES THE INFANTRY, AND ANOTHER PROVIDES ARTILLERY (THOUGH, ACTUALLY, THAT HAS BEEN PROFFERED). WHILE THATT MIGHT WORK WITH AN ARTICLE V RESPONSE FORCE, IT WOULDN'T WORK FOR HYBRID NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS.

BUT IF THE GROUND SMART DEFENSE FOCUS MEANS WE TRAIN AND EXERCISE OUR FORCES TOGETHER, ATTEND EACH OTHER'S SCHOOLS, AND SHARE AND EXCHANGE INTELLIGENCE IN A WAY THAT AVOIDS NATIONAL INTEL STOVEPIPES AND ENHANCES THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE....THEN I'M FOR IT.

CERTAINLY NOT AS SEXY AS BALTIC AIR POLICE, OR AIR GROUND SENSORS, BUT IT IS A WAY TO BUILD TRUST.

AND TRUST, TO A SOLDIER, IS THE COIN OF THE REALM.

AS SOMEONE WHO HAS COMMANDED A MULTINATIONAL TASK FORCE IN IRAQ, AND WHO SEES THE FRUITS OF OUR CURRENT EXTENSIVE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS,

EXERCISES AND TRAINING EVENTS, I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING TRUST.

THE TRUST WE'VE BUILT WITH OUR ALLIES IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO OVER HALF A CENTURY OF PERMANENT PRESENCE IN EUROPE.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE TRUST WE'VE BUILT WITH ALLIES IS DUE TO OUR ACTIONS IN THE LAST TEN-TWENTY YEARS.

THE LEGACY OF OUR EXERCISES DURING THE COLD WAR PROVIDED A CULTURE OF INTEGRATED TRAINING.

BUT THE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED, EQUIPMENT AND THE NUMBERS OF FORCES INVOLVED HAVE CHANGED, AND THE THREAT HAS CHANGED.

SO TODAY, WE TRAIN – AND LINK EXERCISES -- AT OUR JOINT MULTINATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AT GRAFENWOEHR. A PLACE WE RENAMED SEVEN YEARS AGO, SPECIFICALLY FOR THE REASON THAT WE SAW TRAINING WITH ALLIES TO BE SO CRITICALLY IMPORTANT.

WE ARE DOING THINGS AT THAT TRAINING CENTER, AND WE ARE LINKED WITH OTHER TRAINING CENTERS DIGITALLY AND THROUGH SIMULATIONS.

CENTERS LIKE STAVENGER, NORWAY. CINCU, ROMANIA. DRAWSKO-POMORSKI IN POLAND. BARDUFUSS, SWEDEN. LVIV, UKRAINE. SLUNJ, CROATIA. AND ABOUT TWENTY OTHERS.

AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, OUR ARMY'S 2ND CAVALRY REGIMENT –4000 SOLDIERS – PROVIDE THE BASE FOR A HUGE MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE THAT INCLUDES COMBAT FORMATIONS FROM 19 DIFFERENT ALLIES AND PARTNERS. NOT ALL ARE NATO MEMBERS.

NOT TRAINING IN A COUNTERINSURGENCY SETTING TO PREPARE FOR AFGHANISTAN – THOUGH WE ARE DOING THAT RIGHT NOW AT THIS CENTER, WITH NATO MPAT AND SFAT UNITS – BUT RATHER

OPERATING IN A COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT INVOLVING SOPHISTICATED REPLICATION OF CYBER THREAT, TERRORIST, CONVENTIONAL FORCE ENEMIES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED CIVILIANS, IN A CONFLICT SCENARIO WHICH PAINTS WAR AMONG THE PEOPLE AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.

IN MY VIEW, THAT IS A SMART DEFENSE APPROACH TO TRAINING.

I ALSO MENTIONED EDUCATION AS A WAY TO APPROACH SMART DEFENSE.

SINCE 2004 USAREUR HAS BEEN TRAINING THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF OTHER NATIONS – AND WE HAVE SEEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM OVER FORTY COUNTRIES – AT OUR WARRIOR LEADER COURSE. A COURSE WHERE WE TRAIN YOUNG NCOS. (KOSOVO, SERBIA)

RECENTLY WE HELD THE FIRST COMBINED FORCE LAND COMPONENT COMMAND COURSE AT OUR FACILITIES IN GRAFENWOEHR, WHERE WE HELPED PREPARE SENIOR COLONELS AND BRIGADIERS FROM 17 NATIONS TO BE COMBINED LAND FORCE COMMANDERS. (FRENCH STORY HERE, THEN COMBINED TRAINING CONFERENCE)

THOSE ARE EXAMPLES OF SMART DEFENSE- PREPARING LEADERS FOR COMBINED OPERATIONS.

BUT USAREUR'S VALUE AND CONTRIBUTION DOESN'T END WITH TRAINING, WE ARE ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO SECURITY IN EUROPE.

EARLIER I MENTIONED TERRORISM AS A CONTINUING THREAT, AS IMMIGRANTS FROM THE ARAB SPRING WHICH WILL CERTAINLY INCLUDE AT LEAST A PERCENTAGE OF EXTREMISTS, MOVE INTO THE SCHENGEN ZONE.

THIS THREAT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS AS OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN COME TO A CLOSE AND MANY OF THOSE BATTLE-HARDENED TERRORIST FIGHTERS RETURN HOME - TO EUROPE.

THE KEY COMPONENT OF COUNTER TERRORISM IS INTELLIGENCE, ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION CAPABILITY ALL OF OUR NATIONS POSSESS, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, AND ONE WHICH WE ALL MUST DRAW UPON.

THE TRUST WE BUILD WITH PARTNERS ALLOWS US TO SHARE SOME OF OUR MOST COVETED INTELLIGENCE – INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY, PROCEDURES – WHICH IN TURN GENERATES TRUST AND HELPS US ATTACK THE THREAT.

IN AREAS ACROSS EUROPE WE’VE INCREASED OUR COLLECTIVE EFFICIENCY IN IDENTIFYING AND TARGETING THREATS.

ALONG WITH OUR COMBINED INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS WE HAVE THWARTED ATTEMPTS TO KILL OR MAIM THE INNOCENT

BUT AS ISAF DRAWS TO A CLOSE AND THE MULTINATIONAL AGREEMENTS END, WE MUST CONTINUE TO SHARE INTELLIGENCE, AND WE MUST MAINTAIN THE INTEROPERABILITY IN INTEL-SHARING WE’VE WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

WE’RE ATTEMPTING TO DO THAT, TOO, AT JMTC...WITH THE START OF A COALITION INTEL FOUNDRY PROGRAM, WHICH WE DISCUSSED LAST YEAR WITH LEADERS OF 42 NATIONS AT OUR CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN ARMIES.

(PAUSE)

I GET EXCITED ABOUT ALL THIS.

BECAUSE THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF WAYS TO TRAIN, EXERCISE, BUILD LEADERS, AND SHARE INTELLIGENCE

AS WE REACH THE POST-ISAF PERIOD, ONLY THE NATURE, NOT THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION CHANGES.

AND “SMART DEFENSE” COULD ADDRESS ALL THAT, IF WE FOCUS ON THE GROUND REQUIREMENTS – THE SOLDIER REQUIREMENTS - OF THIS CONCEPT.

WE MUST ELIMINATE THE IDEA OF AD HOC ASSEMBLIES OF NICHE CAPABILITIES, AND INSTEAD LOOK TO THE FORCES EACH OF OUR NATIONS MAINTAIN AS WE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR MUTUAL SECURITY.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SHARE THESE THOUGHTS, WITH ALL OF YOU WHO REMAIN SO INVOLVED, AND SO COMMITTED, TO THE SECURITY OF YOUR NATIONS, AND TO THE SECURITY OF EUROPE.

MY NAME IS HERTLING, AND I AM A SOLDIER, AND IT IS AN HONOR BEING WITH YOU THIS EVENING.