

The U.S. Army in Europe

Fighting Above Our Weight Class'

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In early 2001, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) planners began a transformation effort that—unbeknownst to them at the time—would result in a radically changed stance linked to the demands of an evolving security situation in Europe. The decision points that drove that plan were a guiding beacon, even during this last decade, which saw continual deployments of assigned forces, changing theater operational and mission requirements, and fluctuating force-posture decisions.

The plan was prescient, and as that plan was executed it contributed to a

U.S. Army in Europe that is now uniquely postured to support multiple combatant commanders while executing an ambitious theater-security-cooperation and partner-capacity-building effort—contributing to allied trust—with 51 European countries.



U.S. Army Europe and Polish Soldiers board a German army CH-53G transport helicopter during a predeployment exercise at a Hohenfels (Germany) training area last October. The exercise was the first air assault training mission for the U.S. troops from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



Comparing USAREUR to a boxer might be most appropriate, as we have slimmed down to our fighting weight (with U.S. forces) while competing above our weight class (through training, exercises and combat preparation with myriad European partners). What is entering the ring daily is *not* your Cold War USAREUR.

Today the U.S. Army in Europe is an adaptable force of 41,000-plus soldiers, with an additional 42,000-strong host-nation and U.S. civilian workforce, and 81,000 family members living in 17 major communities. Down from a force of more than 210,000 soldiers at the height of the Cold War in 1982 (and smaller than the 62,000 that existed in Europe on 9/11), USAREUR now prepares U.S. and allied forces in exercises and at our own combat training center. When we're not deployed, we broaden our cultural and professional experiences by training with different armies and living in unique communities.

Since 2003, USAREUR has returned more than 12,000 soldiers to the continental United States through inactivation or redeployments. But we've also relocated more than 8,000 soldiers in theater to our now refined and enduring garrisons in key and strategic locations in Germany and Italy. Since making the first of several rounds of official force-posture announcements in 2002, the face of the Army in Europe has changed dramatically.



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We've improved and diversified what had been a "heavy force" by accepting the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment to Grafenwoehr, Germany, and forming a modular airborne brigade in Italy. We've consolidated multiple aviation units' assets into the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) in Ansbach, Germany. We've right-sized theater enablers such as the 21st Theater Support Command, our 5th Signal Command, the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade and the 7th (Reserve Component) Civil Support Command.

Our consolidation and new construction actually is saving the Army money. We've returned 91 sites to our host-nation partners during this decade, which resulted in a plant replacement value worth \$8.6 billion since 2006—that's more than the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure returned in the continental United States. Our headquarters, garrison and barracks consolidation efforts at six enduring communities—Wiesbaden, Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, Ansbach and Grafenwoehr in Germany and Vicenza, Italy (and two joint garrisons at Stuttgart, Germany, and the Benelux)—while initially costly will save our Army hundreds of millions of dollars in the long term.

All the while, we've contributed quality forces to operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, North Africa and other contingencies around the globe. We've averaged 30 to 40 percent of our forces deployed at any given time, and we've peaked as high as a 60 percent deployment of forces on several occasions. What's critical, however, is that we have also focused our training with both traditional allies and new partner-nations in Europe.

Our close relations and coordination with European partners remain fundamental to U.S. security interests across a wide spectrum of challenges. It is part of the "prevent" portion of our national strategy, and it has the advantage of helping other nations prepare for combat, too. When we train, we train *with* those whom we'll stand by in combat. That is beneficial to us and them; it has been the case in

Afghanistan and could be the case in future NATO collective security operations.

Contributing to Overseas Contingency Operations

During the past two years, all of our brigade combat teams and most of our headquarters and support units deployed in support of combat operations. The 173rd and 2nd Stryker recently redeployed from Afghanistan, while the 170th and 172nd have just begun missions to mentor and train Afghan security forces. The 12th CAB returned in the spring from a split deployment, simultaneously supporting ground units in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Our theater support command has deployed a variety of company and battalion forces—from military police to transportation units—while our signal units have been in a continual rotation.

Our V Corps also returned from Afghanistan, where they were the U.S. contribution to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Intermediate Joint Command. While they are scheduled to inactivate, we are now keeping them in Europe and preparing them for another deployment as a three-star headquarters.

In Iraq, the 1st Armored Division advised, trained and supported Iraqi forces—providing security in both the greater Baghdad area and Anbar Province. (Upon returning, "Old Ironsides" cased its colors in Wiesbaden and departed USAREUR for its new home in Fort Bliss, Texas, in May.)

While Afghanistan receives the most attention for U.S. ground forces, USAREUR also has provided theater logistics, medical support, military intelligence and signal assistance to the U.S. Navy and Air Force and many of our



Family members rush onto the parade field at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, to welcome paratroopers of U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team home from deployment to Afghanistan last October.

NATO partners during operations in Libya and in other theater conflict areas. Planning for U.S. European Command contingency requirements is more than a part-time job, and the "Arab Spring" put forces located across our footprint on alert.

Building Partner Capacity Through Theater Security

While we're training and preparing our forces, we're also training with allies who are much more involved in conflict than before. More than 75 percent of the nations that provide forces to ISAF in Afghanistan come from the USAREUR area of operations. Those soldiers and units that are part of ISAF—the great majority coming from Europe—fight in areas as our coalition partners, which means we're not fighting there alone.

Beyond the "known" contributors such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy, the following are examples of how other allies contribute:

- Poland provides a large contingent of forces in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. Polish troops have no



CSM Nick Rolling of U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team (left) facilitates a discussion among a multinational group of senior enlisted leaders during the fifth annual Conference of European Armies for Noncommissioned Officers, at Hungarian Joint Forces Command headquarters in Székesfehérvár, Hungary, in May.



ESPN SportsCenter's Hannah Storm and Josh Elliot interview then-MAJ Keith E. Matisckella of U.S. Army Europe's Joint Multinational Training Command and his son, Sven, during a live Veterans Day broadcast in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

national caveats for their operations and co-deploy with Illinois National Guard Soldiers. USAREUR is a firm partner, helping them with their "Bagram" series of exercises every six months.

- Romanian forces provide part of the main effort in Zabul Province. Romania and the United States recently ended a four-year partnership in which a U.S. company was embedded with a Romanian battalion. That partnership allowed the Romanian forces to assume a greater role and operate independently in support of ISAF, to the point that our Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) opposing force company no longer is required by the Romanian commanders.

- Turkey currently holds the rotating command of Regional Command-Capital. Turkish forces' unique rapport with the Afghan people gives them significant influence in ISAF efforts to gain support of the population.

Other European nations—Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden—all have more than 100 troops participating in the ISAF mission, and many of them train at JMTC prior to deploying. Some train with our brigade combat teams, which provides a double benefit. In addition to the countries contributing forces to Afghanistan, European allies and partners also provide forces and support to other missions including operations in Iraq, Kosovo, Cyprus, Lebanon and areas of North Africa.

JMTC: Our Crown Jewel

The majority of the nations contributing forces to these operations benefit from coalition exercises, exchanges (such

as the Conference of European Armies that USAREUR conducts), and especially training offered at JMTC.

While we consider JMTC both our combat training center and our home-station training area, we're sharing this unique training center with our allies. In the past year, more than 12,000 U.S. and European troops have trained at this complex.

Partner-nation soldiers across Europe attend institutional and leadership courses at the Combined Arms Training Center and the Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy. Our Warrior Leader Course is unlike any in the Army, with varying percentages of the class wearing the uniforms of various nations. The Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED), Combat Lifesaver, and mine resistant ambush protected vehicle training are the most popular courses, but staff training tailored to partner and allied

needs is provided by the Joint Multinational Simulation Center.

Poland, Romania and Georgia have used the simulation center and other JMTC resources before deploying. JMTC offers 44 computerized ranges, including a combat outpost 360-degree live-fire range, a deployable C-IED training kit (currently in Poland), and an interim battle area complex for squad, platoon and company live-fire training.

JMTC also supports NATO operational mentor and liaison team (OMLT) and police OMLT (POMLT) training, the cornerstone of building professionalism and self-sufficiency in Afghan security forces. JMTC has trained more than 170 OMLTs and 10 POMLTs; that training includes a full range of combat and police operations, from reacting to contact, defending combat outposts, crime scene management, evidence collection and cordon-and-search operations.

Come Visit ... or Ask to Be Assigned

If you haven't been to USAREUR in the last few years, be prepared for a different and unique environment—modern facilities, unique training environments, broadening professional experiences and focus on the family. Today's U.S. Army in Europe is a far different organization from the Army that defended the intra-German border and helped with the Cold War. Like that Army, however, it is still focused on supporting our nation's strategic and operational goals, though those have changed considerably in the 21st century.

The U.S. Army in Europe—the soldiers, families and civilian employees who serve in a transformed environment—is all muscle, no fat, and with our allies we will continue to "fight above our weight class." ★