

Fact Sheet

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European Rotational Force / NATO Response Force

U.S. Army Europe is poised, alongside the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to ensure that America's commitment to NATO and other European partners remains strong and flexible. 1/1 CAV, the "Ironhorse Brigade," from Fort Hood, Texas, is the first unit to join with USAREUR and European Command as the Department of the Army moves forward with its Regionally Aligned Forces.

European Rotational Force and NATO Response force at a glance

European Rotational Force

- A Battalion-sized task force and BDE HQ (C2) assigned to the USEUCOM AOR twice annually for two months per rotation to conduct training and exercises starting in FY 14.
- Relies upon enablers already forward stationed in Europe and allows the CONUS bases 1-1 CAV to better train at interoperability.

NATO Response Force

- NRF provides a modern, high-readiness, joint expeditionary force able to effectively address a wide range of Alliance missions
- SECDEF committed to providing a BCT to support the NRF and rotating a BN-sized force to Germany for exercises and training starting in FY 14

Europe's participation in this plan is called the European Rotational Forces (ERF) and the NATO Response Force (NRF). Together both help ensure that American's NATO and European Partners are prepared for any contingency, anywhere inside EUCOM's 51-country area of responsibility.

The skill set of the 1/1 CAV complements U.S. Army Europe's two forward based combat brigades, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne).

Together the ERF and the NRF stand ready to support U.S. national objectives across the U.S. European Command's area of operations while contributing significantly to the other Department of Defense's combatant commands when called upon.

The implementation of ERF and NRF improves our ability to work and train with our European allies. Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom our European partners contributed significantly in both theaters. Now as the U.S. military looks toward a period of significantly reduced operations a unique opportunity presents itself. This opportunity takes shape in the form of the ability to work with allies to help build partner capacity, to promote security and prosperity by leveraging the capabilities of ERF and NRF in Europe and elsewhere.

1/1 CAV will conduct two 60-day training events in Europe yearly starting in fiscal year 2014, training a battalion-sized task force during each rotation. Using pre-positioned equipment the brigade will train on a variety of different scenarios both at the state-of-the-art Joint Multinational Training Command at Grafenwoehr, Germany, and in numerous other training areas throughout Europe. Operating in this fashion and making use of various enablers already located within the theater allows commanders to conduct joint and multinational training helping ensure all involved are fully intergraded into interoperability. It strengthens NATO's capacity to conduct expeditionary operations, ensuring that the continental US based 1/1 CAV is fully integrated into coalition operations.

Both the ERF and NRF provide commanders a modern, high-readiness, joint expeditionary force able to effectively address a wide range of missions. Further the alignment of the brigade significantly mitigates the recent deactivation of two combat brigades in Europe ensuring that America and the U.S. military remain committed to NATO, Europe and to regional stability and prosperity.