PART TWO

FOR A COMMON DEFENSE 1950–1973

INTRODUCTION

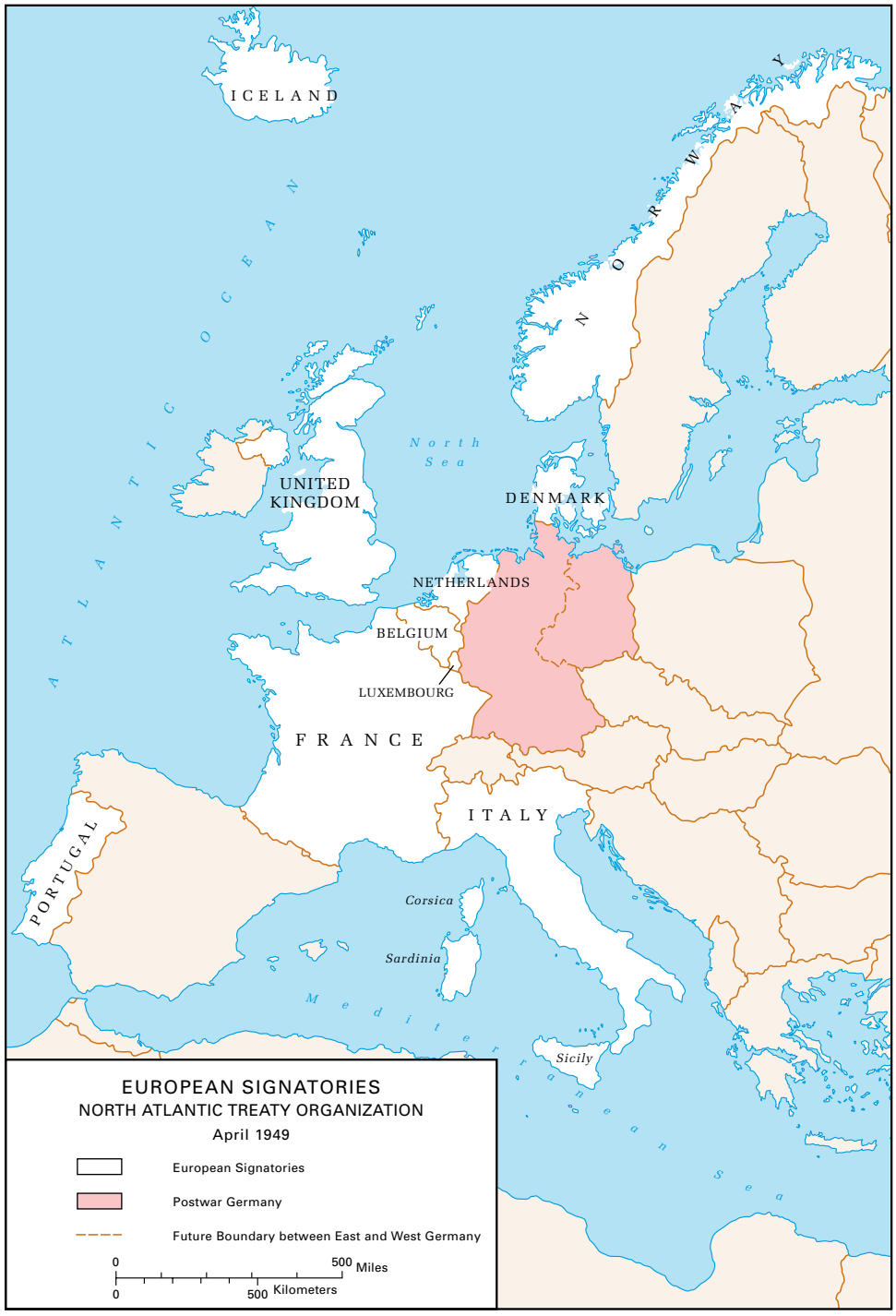
In the summer of 1948, encouraged by the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and President Truman's initiatives to reinstitute conscription, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg entered discussions with the United States that led to the signing in April 1949 of the North Atlantic Treaty and the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In addition to the United States and the five countries that had initiated the discussions, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, and Canada also signed the treaty. (*See Map 5.*) The key provision of the pact was that each signatory agreed to treat an attack on any member state as the equivalent of an attack on its own soil and to render military assistance accordingly.

The establishment of NATO marked the recognition by West European statesmen, and the acceptance by American policymakers, that only the United States could counterbalance the power of the Soviet Union in Europe. The Europeans also realized that an alliance led by the United States would be based on consensus among independent, sovereign, and free states, whereas one dominated by the Soviet Union would involve coerced agreement.

NATO applied to Western Europe, but the next crisis of the Cold War occurred in Asia. In June 1950 the Soviet client state of North Korea attacked South Korea across the political line of demarcation that had divided the Korean peninsula since the end of World War II. Only American armed intervention saved South Korea from being overrun.

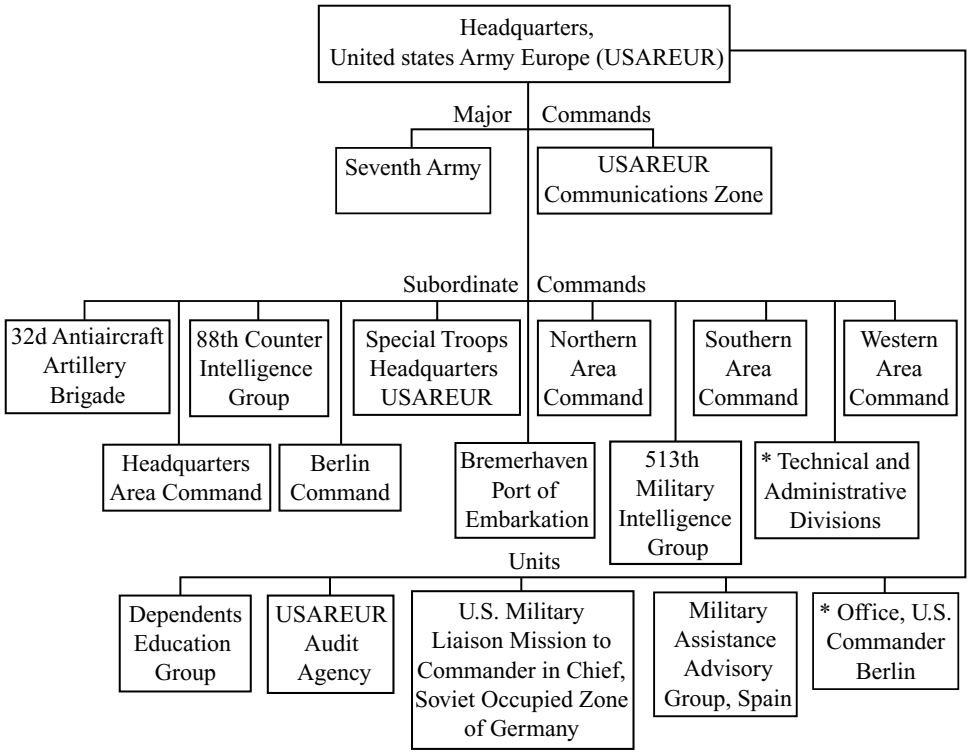
In the face of what they saw as open Communist aggression, the signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty underlined their determination to defend Western interests by creating a military command for NATO. In December 1950 the United States proposed and the North Atlantic partners accepted General Dwight D. Eisenhower as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Over the next several months Eisenhower established the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) near Paris. Its mission was to defend the territory from the North Cape in the Arctic Ocean north of Norway to northern Africa and from the Atlantic coast of Western Europe to the eastern borders of Turkey.

Because SHAPE initially had no international funding, U.S. funds and support were channeled through the European Command in Heidelberg, which furnished budgeting, funding, and accounting for all of the national military elements. As units were assigned to NATO, the United States reorganized its own military headquarters in Europe to clarify lines of authority. In August 1952 the Joint Chiefs of Staff activated a new command, U.S. European Command, to coordinate American


ICELAND
NORWAY
ATLANTIC OCEAN
North Sea
UNITED KINGDOM
DENMARK
NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM
LUXEMBOURG
FRANCE
ITALY
PORTUGAL
Corsica
Sardinia
Sicily
Mediterranean Sea
EUROPEAN SIGNATORIES
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
April 1949
European Signatories
Postwar Germany
Future Boundary between East and West Germany
0
500 Miles
0
500 Kilometers

Map 5

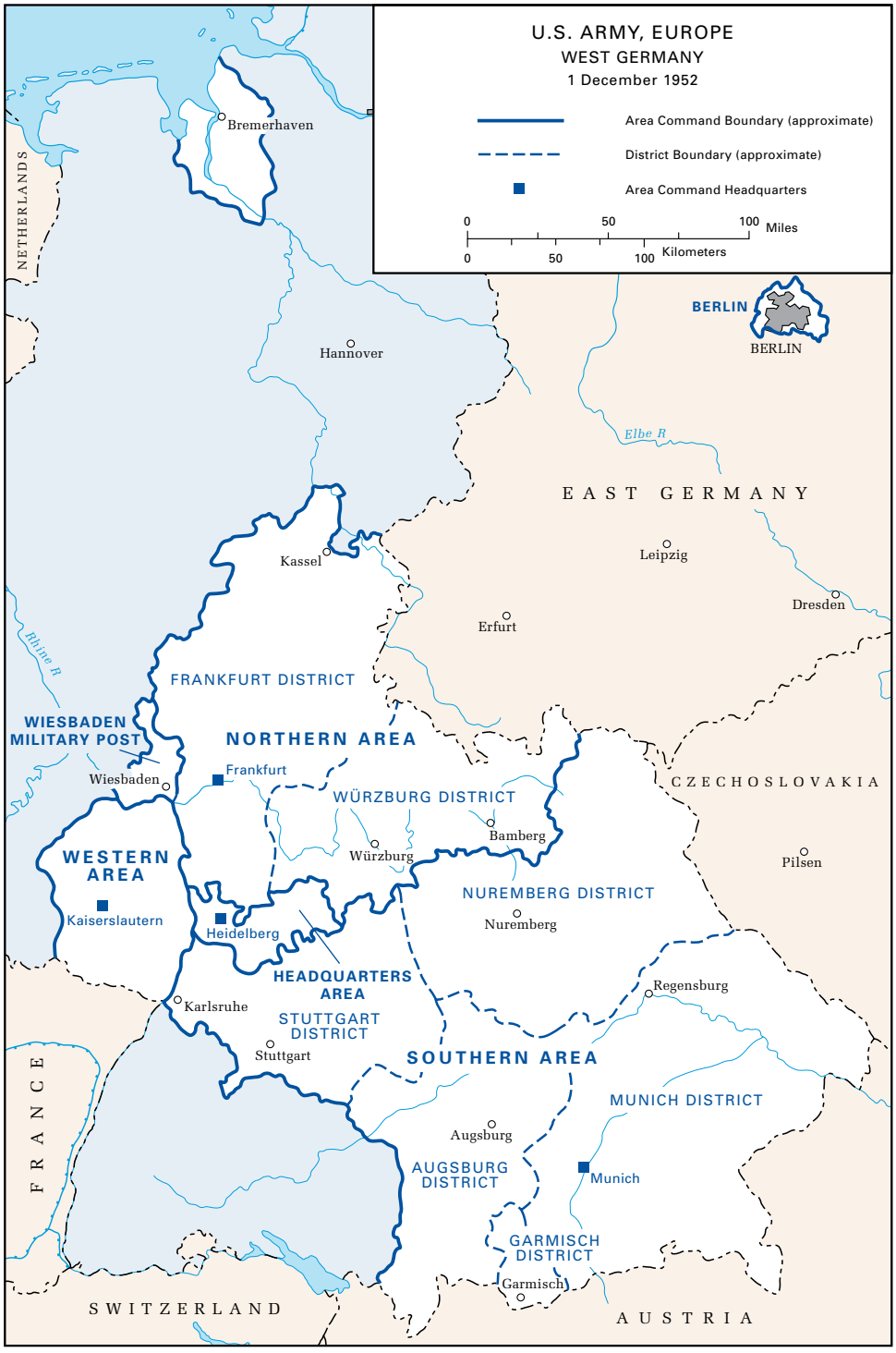
Chart 1: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, 1953



*Staff Divisions of Headquarters USAREUR having certain assigned and attached units under the command of the respective heads of divisions: Adjutant General, Provost Marshall, Special Activities, Armed Forces Information and Education, Finance, Chemical, Engineer, Medical, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Signal, and Transportation.

support for SHAPE-NATO and to serve as the joint command for U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force personnel and activities in Europe.[1] What had been the European Command was redesignated on 1 August 1952 as United States Army, Europe (USAREUR), responsible for all functions related to the Army. (*See Map 6.*) Headquartered in Heidelberg, USAREUR took command of a small NATO planning unit, the Central Army Group, and operated through the Northern, Southern, Western, and Headquarters (Heidelberg area) Commands in Germany and the Communications Zone in France. (*Chart 1*) The Europe Command and its successor USAREUR also provided logistical support to other agencies, including the American elements of NATO forces, the United States Air Forces in Europe, and Military Assistance Advisory Groups in Europe and the Middle East.[2]

Implementing a policy of common defense for the signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty stimulated military construction on a scale that Army engineers had not known since World War II. Whether in Greece,


U.S. ARMY, EUROPE
WEST GERMANY
1 December 1952
Area Command Boundary (approximate)
District Boundary (approximate)
Area Command Headquarters
0
50
100
Miles
0
50
100
Kilometers
NETHERLANDS
Bremerhaven
Hannover
BERLIN
BERLIN
Elbe R
EAST GERMANY
Leipzig
Dresden
Kassel
Erfurt
Rhine R
FRANKFURT DISTRICT
WIESBADEN MILITARY POST
NORTHERN AREA
Wiesbaden
Frankfurt
WÜRZBURG DISTRICT
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Bamberg
Würzburg
Pilsen
WESTERN AREA
NUREMBERG DISTRICT
Kaiserslautern
Heidelberg
Nuremberg
HEADQUARTERS AREA
Regensburg
Karlsruhe
STUTTGART DISTRICT
Stuttgart
SOUTHERN AREA
MUNICH DISTRICT
FRANCE
Augsburg
AUGSBURG DISTRICT
Munich
GARMISCH DISTRICT
Garmisch
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIA

Map 6

Turkey, Austria, Germany, or France, the fundamental responsibility of the Army engineers remained to expand the tactical and the support facilities necessary to meet the new American role.