



# U.S. European Command

## Communication and Engagement Directorate

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### **OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE**

- The United States continues to demonstrate its commitment to the collective security of our NATO allies and support for our partners in Europe, in light of the on-going Russian intervention in Ukraine.
- All U.S. efforts in support of our NATO allies and partners in Europe fall under the umbrella of OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE.
- The U.S. took several immediate steps to demonstrate solidarity with our NATO allies, such as augmenting the air, ground and naval presence in the region, and enhancing previously scheduled exercises.
- Russia's aggressive actions have already led many to call for reinforcing NATO's readiness through Article 5-related planning training and adjustments to force posture.
- The U.S. is also taking additional measures to enhance NATO military plans and defense capabilities and remains committed to maintaining a persistent presence in Eastern Europe.
- We look forward to additional commitments by our allies, to ensure a coordinated and continuous land, air, and sea presence in the region at least through the end of the year.

### **European Reassurance Initiative**

- On June 3, President Obama called on Congress to support a European Reassurance Initiative of up to \$1 billion, which will enable us in the next year to undertake measures to:
  - Increase exercises, training, and rotational presence across Europe but especially on the territory of our newer allies. Many of the U.S. air and ground forces participating in these activities would rotate from the United States.
  - As we have done in Poland, deploy detachments of U.S. planners to augment the capability of our allies to design and host a broad range of training opportunities.
  - Increase responsiveness of U.S. forces to reinforce NATO by exploring initiatives such as prepositioning of equipment and improving reception facilities in Europe.
  - Increase participation by the U.S. Navy in NATO naval force deployments, including more persistent deployments to the Black and Baltic seas.
  - Build the partner capacity of close friends such as Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine so they can better work alongside the United States and NATO, as well as provide for their own defense.
- This initiative will build on existing tools and authorities and will be included in the Department of Defense's FY 2015 Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) request to Congress.

## DoD Efforts to date

[Land](#) (USAREUR) | [Air](#) (USAFE) | [Sea](#) (NAVEUR) | [SOF](#) (SOCEUR) | [Support to Ukraine](#)

### Land:

- **Exercise Agile Spirit 14:** (Georgia, June 9-21) Approximately 320 U.S. Marines, with Georgia. Exercise Agile Spirit 14 was an annual Marine Forces Europe-led bilateral exercise with Georgia. It focused on counterinsurgency and peacekeeping operations.
- **Exercise Saber Strike 14:** (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, June 9-20) Approximately 580 U.S. service members, with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, United Kingdom, Lithuania, Latvia and Norway. Exercise Saber Strike 14 was a U.S. Army Europe-led, company-level live-fire field training exercise, multi-national brigade command post exercise, and computer-assisted exercise, designed to help sustain U.S. & Baltic interoperability.
- **Exercise BALTOPS 14:** (Baltic Sea, June 6-21) Approximately 1,300 U.S. service members, with Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, NATO, Poland and Sweden. This year was the 42nd iteration of the U.S. Navy Europe-led exercise in the Baltic Sea, and exercised allied and partner maritime niche capabilities while enhancing coordination and cooperation among Baltic Sea countries.
- **Exercise Flaming Sword 14:** (Lithuania, May 12 – June 2) Approximately 140 U.S. Special Operations Command Europe personnel and seven European partners (Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden) participated in a multinational exercise to enhance Baltic Region and allied special operations forces interoperability.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve II:** (Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr Training Areas, Germany, May 15-30) Approximately 1,200 U.S. service members, with Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. Exercise Combined Resolve II was a U.S. Army Europe-led NATO Response Force (NRF) training rotation at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany. The exercise focused on maintaining and enhancing interoperability during unified land operations in a decisive action training environment.
  - The NRF is a multinational force made up of land, air, and maritime assets, which helps to maintain NATO's readiness and combat-effectiveness.
- **Exercise Rochambeau: (France, May 11-25)** Approximately 300 U.S. soldiers participated in a computer-assisted Command Post Exercise, to maintain NATO Response Force Land Component Command readiness.
- **Exercise Platinum Lynx 14-5:** (Romania, May 5-16) Approximately 75 U.S. Marines conducted squad- to infantry-level training events designed to help familiarity and interoperability between the U.S. and Romania.
- **Exercise Platinum Eagle 14:** (Romania, April 29 - May 24) Approximately 75 U.S. Marines conducted a two-part multilateral exercise with their counterparts from Romania, Bulgaria, Armenia (in the first part, 14-1) and Macedonia (in the second part, 14-2) to build partner nation capacity, reinforce relationships in a joint training environment and increase interoperability of allied/partner forces.

- **Land Forces Assurance Exercises:** U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) deployed company-sized contingents (150 per country) of U.S. paratroopers to Poland (April 23), Latvia (April 24), Lithuania (April 26) and Estonia (April 28) to begin expanded land force training to demonstrate our commitment to NATO and our collective defense responsibilities.
  - These land training exercises, which come at the request of the host nations, help foster interoperability through small unit and leader training.
  - Training rotations are scheduled to take place for the next few months and beyond. These are in addition to previously scheduled multinational land force military exercises in the region such as Combined Resolve II, Saber Strike, Rapid Trident, and Saber Guardian.
- **Exercise Summer Shield 14:** (Latvia, April 7-18) Approximately 100 U.S. Marines trained as part of the Black Sea Rotational Force, with Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Exercise Summer Shield 14 was a combined staff planning exercise and combined arms live fire maneuver event.
- **Exercise Saber Guardian 14:** (Bulgaria, March 21 - April 4) Approximately 550 U.S. service members, with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. The exercise was a U.S. Army Europe and Bulgarian Land Forces-led combined Joint Task Force and brigade command post exercise /computer-assisted exercise. This exercise was designed to strengthen international agency and military partnering, foster trust and improve interoperability between NATO and partner nations involved in foreign humanitarian assistance operations with U.S. forces.

### Air:

- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Łask Air Base, Poland, June 2-18) 18 F-16s and ~300 airmen from the 480<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany trained with Polish airmen in the latest training exercise designed to strengthen the interoperability of NATO Allies. In addition, multiple USAFE units also participated in Exercise BALTOPS 14 and Exercise Eagle Talon, a Polish national air exercise designed to increase interoperability with air-to-air and air-to-surface training.
- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Augmentation:** (Łask Air Base, Poland, May 1) The United States deployed 6 F-16s and Airmen from the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem AB, Germany to replace assets from the 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy. Rotations of military aircraft and Airmen through the Aviation Detachment began in late 2012 but were augmented in March as a deliberate effort to reassure NATO allies of commitment and solidarity to collective defense and enable a persistent presence in the region
- **Air-to-Air Refueling Missions in support of NATO:** The United States agreed to fly refueling missions to support NATO airborne warning and control system (AWACs) aircraft flights over Eastern Europe.
  - This mission began March 16 and – as of June 26 – three KC-135s, forward-based out of RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, have conducted 86 missions.

- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Powidz Air Base, Poland, March 31 - April 12) Three C-130s and ~100 airmen trained with Polish airmen for the regularly scheduled Aviation Detachment rotation.
- **NATO Baltic Air Policing:** The U.S. more than doubled the number of aircraft allocated to this mission. On March 6, the United States deployed an additional six F-15Cs to augment the four F-15Cs already in Lithuania filling a NATO peacetime requirement to have quick-reaction interceptor aircraft "ramp-ready" for a four-month period. The U.S. rotation began in January. Poland took over the Baltic Air Policing task on May 1 with augmentation from the United Kingdom, Denmark and France. Polish and British aircraft operate from Šiauliai Air Base in Lithuania, Danish aircraft from Ämari Air Base in Estonia, and French aircraft from Malbork Air Base in Poland.

### **Sea:**

- **USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79):** The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer recently completed BALTOPS, an annual, multinational (14 countries) exercise to enhance maritime capabilities, interoperability and support regional stability. Next Theater Security Cooperation engagements include port visits in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.
- **USS Vella Gulf:** Entered the Black Sea May 23 to conduct operations to promote peace and stability in the region. Her mission was to work with NATO allies towards mutual goals, demonstrating the United States' commitment to strengthening and improving interoperability in the region.
- **USS Taylor:** Conducted operations in the Black Sea from April 22 - May 12 to show our allies the US commitment to the region. Highlights included conducting a PASSEX with the Turkish Navy, a port visit in Batumi, Georgia and bi-lateral training with the Georgia Coast Guard.
- **USS Donald Cook:** Conducted operations in the Black Sea April 10-24 to reassure our allies of US' commitment to the region. This included conducting a port visit in Constanta, Romania, and exercises at sea with the Romanian navy and the USS Taylor, to improve interoperability, increase readiness and enhance relationships in the region.
- **USS Truxtun:** Conducted operations in the Black Sea March 7-21 to reassure our allies of US' commitment to the region. USS Truxtun entered the Black Sea through the Turkish Straits to conduct port calls in Constanta, Romania and conduct a passing exercise (PASSEX) with Romanian and Bulgarian naval forces. She extended her stay in the Black Sea to conduct a port visit in Varna, Bulgaria, hold an onboard maritime planning conference with Bulgarian and Romanian officers, and conduct a second PASSEX.

### **SOF:**

- **Special Operations Exercises and Training Events:** Approximately 200 U.S. Special Operations forces (SOF) and support personnel conducted an eight-part series of annual, multinational and bilateral special operations exercises and training events from May through June.
  - Annual exercises included Exercise Spring Storm 14 (Estonia, May 5-23), Exercise Flaming Sword 14 (Lithuania, May 12 – Jun 2, with seven other NATO nations participating) and Exercise Namejs 14 (Latvia, May 17-30).

- At the request of the host nations, Special Operations Command Europe added a series of Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) events across the Baltics and Eastern Europe. The events provide U.S. SOF with valuable opportunities to hone language skills, gain vital understanding of the environment and culture in which their partners operate, and sharpen tactical skills.
- These JCET events were the first in a series of expanded U.S. special operations training activities in Eastern Europe and the Baltic region, in support of developing a persistent rotational SOF presence in the region.

### **Support to Ukraine:**

- **Request for Equipment:** The President has approved \$18M in security assistance so far to help Ukraine maintain its borders and sovereignty.
  - In addition to the approx. 300,000 MREs delivered in March, the U.S. is providing Foreign Military Financing to support Ukraine's armed forces with medical supplies, service member equipment (e.g., helmets, sleeping mats, water purification units), Explosive Ordnance Disposal equipment and handheld radios.
  - We have also allocated Cooperative Threat Reduction funding to support Ukraine's State Border Guard Service with supplies (e.g., clothing, shelters, small power generators and hand fuel pumps, engineering equipment, communications equipment, vehicles, and non-lethal individual tactical gear).
  - To date, Embassy Kyiv has purchased and delivered fuel pumps, concertina wire, vehicle batteries, spare tires, binoculars, and communications gear to the Ukrainian Border Guards, for use in monitoring and securing their borders.
- **U.S./Ukraine Bilateral Defense Consultations:** (Kyiv, April 1) Senior DoD leaders met with their Ukrainian counterparts for substantive discussions on regional security, defense cooperation, and areas for growth in the U.S.-Ukraine defense relationship.
- **Requests for Military Assistance:** (March 28-29) The United States delivered ~25,000 cases (~300,000 meals) of Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs) to the Ukrainian military.

**Joint U.S.-Ukraine Humanitarian Assistance Table Top Exercise:** Ukraine requested U.S. officials travel to Kyiv to help plan a humanitarian assistance exercise. DoD officials discussed the request at the April 1 Bilateral Defense Consultations.

### **Upcoming Exercises/Training:**

- **Exercise Rapid Trident 14:** Originally planned for July in Ukraine, is tentatively moved to 14-25 September. Anticipate up to 14 nations will participate but that has yet to be solidified. This change in no way diminishes the importance of this exercise to our command or our NATO partners. The exercise was moved because during the initial planning phase, which occurs months in advance, the legitimate gov't of Ukraine was beginning to deal with Russian aggression which rightfully meant their defense forces were focused elsewhere. Rapid Trident is an annual Ukrainian-led, U.S. Army Europe-supported situational training exercise and battalion field training exercise designed to train a U.S. - Ukrainian combined battalion headquarters with a peace support operations scenario.

- **Exercise Sea Breeze 14:** (August, Black Sea) U.S. forces, along with other partner nations. This annual event, in its 17th iteration, is co-hosted by U.S. and Ukrainian navies, and aims to improve maritime security in the Black Sea through increased interoperability and cooperation among regional Allies and partners.
- **Exercise Saber Junction 14:** (Aug. 13 - Sept. 27, in Germany) Approx. 2,500 U.S. forces, along with NATO, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Serbia & Ukraine. This U.S. Army Europe-led training event's objective is to train brigades to manage the complexities of 21st century threats, to include a non-combatant evacuation operation response computer exercise.
- **Exercise Jackal Stone 14:** (Aug 22-28 in Hohenfels, Germany) Coordinated by the U.S. through Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR) and is primarily a partnership building exercise. Its objective is to provide special operations forces the opportunity to train together and build mutual respect amongst each other while sharing doctrinal concepts, training concepts and various tactics, techniques and procedures.
- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Powidz Air Base, Poland, Sept.) Three C-130s and ~100 airmen from Ramstein Air Base will trained with Polish airmen for the regularly scheduled Aviation Detachment rotation.