



U.S. European Command

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Operation Atlantic Resolve – Fact Sheet 2016

- Operation Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of our continued commitment to the collective security of NATO and dedication to the enduring peace and stability in the region, in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine specifically.
- U.S. commitment to the security of every NATO ally is resolute and uniform. In meeting our global security commitments, the United States must have strong, committed and capable allies, which is why we have fought, exercised and trained with our European allies for the past 70 years. The U.S.-European strategic partnership is built on a foundation of shared values, experiences and vision.
- 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.
- Operation Atlantic Resolve will remain in place as long as the need exists to reassure our allies and deter Russia from regional hegemony.

European Reassurance Initiative

- ERI is part of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, signed by President Obama on Dec. 19, 2014. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 proposed budget seeks to significantly increase the ERI funding from ~ \$789.3 million in FY 2016 to approximately \$3.4 billion in FY 2017.
- The increased funding will expand the ERI's focus from continued assurance of our commitment to NATO Allies and Partners to the inclusion of deterrence to improve readiness and responsiveness. We will do this by implementing measures to enable a quick response against threats made by aggressive regional actors.
- The expanded focus is a reflection of the United States' strong and balanced approach to Russia in the wake of its aggression in Eastern Europe.
- The collective sum of all ERI lines of effort is much greater than the five individual parts. For example, when you increase rotational presence, you're able to increase the frequency of training with Allies and partners, ultimately leading to greater interoperability. Or improving infrastructure, not only increases your responsiveness, but also builds partner capacity.
- This increased funding will significantly expand the ERI's focus from continued assurance of our commitment to NATO Allies and partners, to the inclusion of deterrence measures that vastly improve our overall readiness.
- As the President (or our leaders) has stated, the United States, along with our NATO Allies, will continue to take actions that increase the capability, readiness, and responsiveness of NATO forces to address any threat or destabilizing action.

ERI FY17 5 Lines of Effort:

- 1) **Increased Rotational Presence:** The United States will continue to maintain a persistent, rotational presence of air, land, and sea forces in Central and Eastern Europe. Our increased rotational presence in Europe is fully in line with our international commitments and is a visible sign of our commitment to collective defense.
- 2) **Additional Bilateral and Multilateral Exercises and Training:** This enhanced U.S. force presence in Europe will enable more extensive U.S. participation in exercises and training activities with NATO allies and partners, which ultimately improves our overall readiness and interoperability. In particular, this year's ERI budget will expand the scope of 28 joint and multi-national exercises which annually train more than 18,000 US personnel alongside 45,000 NATO Allies and Partnership for Peace personnel across 40 countries.
- 3) **Enhance Prepositioning of U.S. equipment:** The FY17 request will increase our overall readiness by pre-positioning ammunition, fuel, and equipment which enhances our ability to provide a rapid response against threats made by aggressive regional actors. This year's request will place additional Army Prepositioned Stock (APS) in Europe. These additional combat vehicles and supplies are intended to reduce force deployment times and will enable a rapid response to potential contingencies.
- 4) **Improve Infrastructure:** Improvements throughout Europe on installations such as airfields, training centers, and ranges, will improve allied military readiness in the region and provide for quick dispersal of forces if required. These upgrades will provide near-term flexibility and responsiveness to the evolving concerns of our Allies and partners.
- 5) **Build the Capacity of Allies and Partners:** ERI funding will continue to build the capacity of our Central and Eastern European Allies and partners to defend themselves and enable their full participation as operational partners in responding to crises in the region.

U.S. Army ERI Implementation Plan

As part of the U.S. commitment to increased assurance and deterrence, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) will begin receiving continuous troop rotations of U.S.-based armored brigade combat teams (ABCT) to the European theater in February 2017, bringing the total Army presence in Europe up to three fully-manned Army brigades. Also, as discussed during the announcement of the FY 2017 (ERI) budget proposal, the Army has decided to begin storing "static" equipment, known as Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS), within Europe for contingency operations.

"This is a big step in enhancing the Army's rotational presence and increasing their combat equipment in Europe. This Army implementation plan continues to demonstrate our strong and balanced approach to reassuring our NATO Allies and Partners in the wake of an aggressive Russia in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. This means our Allies and Partners will see more capability - they will see a more frequent presence of an armored brigade with more modernized equipment in their countries." – Gen Breedlove

The ABCTs will be on nine-month rotations from the U.S. and will bring their own modern equipment to conduct exercises across Atlantic Resolve countries. These rotations will demonstrate our ability to rapidly deploy equipment and forces to Europe by sending U.S.-based rotational forces with their currently assigned equipment. This equipment will be the most modernized the Army has to offer and over the next year will replace the current training equipment in Europe.

When the first rotational armored brigade combat team arrives early next year, the equipment currently used by rotational forces, known as the European Activity Set (EAS), will remain in Europe, be repaired, upgraded, and converted into the core of the APS we announced in February. We plan to have APS stored in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

This equipment will enable rapid deployment of ground forces in response to contingencies throughout the region. It provides additional combat power, if and when needed. By the end of 2017, there will be a continuous presence of three fully equipped Army Brigade Combat Teams (one Armored, one Airborne, one Stryker); one prepositioned set of combat-ready equipment sufficient to support another Armored Brigade Combat Team; as well as division-level enablers in Europe.

DoD Efforts to Date

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

Land

- **MNC-NE/NFIU Staff Exercise** (March 23, 2016) Leaders from 4th Infantry Division Mission Command Element, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade collaborated during a staff exercise with Multi-National Corps-North East Command staff and personnel from NATO's eight Force Integration Units at the MNC-NE headquarters in Szczecin, Poland. At the conclusion of the exchange, it was agreed upon that the NFIUs would use Saber Strike 16 in June 2016 as a validation exercise to measure their ability to facilitate the deployment of a NATO rapid-reaction force to an allied nation.
- **Operation Sabel Wolf** (March 18, 2016) 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment (aka Task Force Wolfpack) continued to demonstrate adaptability while also enhancing allied interoperability. Most notably, the Estonian Chief of Defense asked Iron Troop to participate in a national level alert exercise in Estonia. The troop conducted a no-notice tactical road march to secure Amari Airfield in northwestern Estonia within 6 hours.
- **Operation Knight Rider II** (March 10-12, 2016) K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducted its second cross-country tactical road march across Poland in a month by traveling 719 kilometers from Nowa Deba to Wedrzyn as a demonstration of readiness and a persistent presence in-country. Knight Troop received a warm welcome in Opole, where it set up a static display of its Stryker Combat Vehicles for a community engagement.
- **Operation Knight Rider I** (Feb. 22-23, 2016) K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment demonstrated readiness to deploy with organic assets and freedom of movement in Poland by conducting a two-day cross-country movement from Drawsko Pomorskie to Nowa Deba. During the tactical movement, Knight Troop participated in community celebration with their Polish counterparts in Lodz that drew up to 4,000 residents showing their support for U.S. Army Europe commitment to helping maintain the security of Poland.
- **MND-SE/NFIU Staff Exercise** (Feb. 11-12, 2016) Members of 4th Infantry Division Mission Command Element participated in a staff exercise with Multi-National Division-South East Command and the Romanian NATO Force Integration Unit at the MND-SE and NFIU headquarters in Bucharest, Romania. The STAFFEX was the first in a series of collaborative efforts between the MCE and NATO staff designed to help the NFIUs become fully operational.

- **Exercise Dragoon Shock** (Jan. 31–Feb. 15, 2016) 2nd Cavalry Regiment executed a Level III Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE). Cobra Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, deployed on 96 hours’ notice to Rukla, Lithuania, via tactical road march, pausing in route in Torun, Poland for 10 days to execute gunnery. As part of their arrival to Torun, Cobra participated in a celebration in the city center, setting up a static display of artillery equipment alongside Polish partners.
- **Exercise Patriot Shock/Panther Assurance II** (Jan. 10-19, 2016) A Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Brigade demonstrated rapid deployment capabilities by conducting a tactical road march with M901 Patriot Launching Stations from Baumholder, Germany, to Skwierzyzna, Poland. The 5-7 ADA Soldiers trained with their Polish counterparts, the 35th Air Defense Squadron, during the interoperability and deployment readiness exercise.
- **Exercise Thunder Strike** (Dec. 15-17, 2015) 4th Infantry Division provided observer controller support in order to increase interoperability with NATO partners and facilitate the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) and combined planning efforts to integrate shared warfighting assets. The exercise was conducted in southeastern Lithuania.
- **European Activity Set** (Dec. 3, 2015) U.S. Army Europe and Army Materiel Command began storing portions of the European Activity Set at 3 initial forward locations (Romania, Bulgaria, and Lithuania) in Dec. 2015 with plans to expand to additional countries at a later date. The EAS is approximately 12,000 pieces of equipment being stored in Europe for U.S.-based rotational forces to use when training in Europe. Storing U.S. equipment within allied and partner nations allows Regionally Allocated Forces easier access to that equipment when and where it is needed for training, saving time, resources, and potentially U.S. taxpayer dollars.
- **Exercise Wise Foresight** (Dec. 2-9, 2015) Bravo Troop 5-7 Cavalry, along with Hungarian and Romanian forces conducted the exercise at the Varpalota Training Area in Hungary. The exercise was designed to increase allied nations’ abilities to conduct unified land operations.
- **Exercise Northern Star** (Nov. 28-29, 2015) Alpha Company 3-69 Armored Regiment conducted a tactical field training exercise with Estonia Defense Force (EDF) units in order to train on offensive and defensive tasks and increase interoperability between the forces. This exercise was an Estonian national exercise that took place at the Tapa Training Area there.
- **Exercise Iron Sword** (Nov. 8-21, 2015) Elements from 3-69 Armored Regiment participated in this exercise at the Pabrade Training Area in Lithuania. Iron Sword was a multinational exercise designed to train battalion-level defense and offensive tasks and increase allied interoperability.
- **Bayonet Thrust** (Nov. 3-5, 2015) The 173rd Airborne Brigade’s vehicle road march, known as Bayonet Thrust, was the capstone event of their participation in Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR). The road march traversed more than 1,629 miles (2,623 km) across nine allied borders and included participation from the armed forces of each country involved in the march. The mission command element of 4th Infantry Division supported the event by synchronizing assets to conduct the movement and provide real time updates to U.S. Army Europe.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve** (Nov. 2-6, 2015 Hohenfels, Germany) Combined Resolve V had more than 4,600 participants from 10 NATO allied nations including Albania, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, and the United States, and 3 partner nations of Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia. The purpose of this exercise was to execute a command post exercise that incorporated offensive and defensive operations focused on mission command in order to build Mission Command capability, increase readiness, and develop the cohesiveness of U.S. and allied and partner nations.

- **Exercise Brave Warrior** (Sept. 15–Oct. 30, 2015) is a multinational training exercise that is being held in Hungary. It will include the 4th Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment. The exercise will also include units from the allied nations of Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Hungary. The exercise will begin in mid-September and run through October.
- **4th Infantry Division Headquarters:** (Feb. 2015-Present) Approximately 100 Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division Mission Command Element deployed to Germany to serve as the division-level headquarters for United States Army, Europe under the Army's Regionally Aligned Forces. .
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U.S. Marine Forces-Europe (MARFOREUR)

- **Platinum Lynx:** (March 21-27, 2016) Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force, Romanian, Bulgarian and Slovenian forces participated in the third iteration of this exercise in order to improve readiness, and increase their ability to work seamlessly with other NATO and partner nations around the world. The exercise involved platoon-level tactics with combined-arms integration.
- **Exercise Cold Response 16:** (Jan. 27-March 21, 2016) Approximately 340 Marines with Black Sea Rotational Force participated in this exercise alongside 16,000 troops from 13 NATO and partner nations in Norway. Prior to the start of Cold Response, approximately 220 Marines with BSRF received cold-weather training from U.K. Royal Marine Commando Mountain Leaders in Porsangmoen, Norway, which is 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle. The exercise focused on strengthening partnerships and to opportunity to receive training in such a unique environment.
- **Platinum Lion:** (Jan. 10-17, 2016) Platinum Lion, the first multinational live-fire engagement in which the Combined Arms Company participated, is a NATO-led exercise designed to increase readiness and build partner capabilities through realistic combat scenarios and objective-focused training. During the exercise, the participants orchestrated integrated squad offensive operations, maneuver training, and mechanized integration aimed at collectively increasing combined arms skills, anti-armor tactics and other capabilities needed for combat.
- **Platinum Lynx:** (Nov. 20–Dec. 11, 2015) This exercise was focused on mechanized integration, breaching techniques, dismounted live-fire tactics, indirect fire procedures and practical application. The Combined Arms Company transported the heavy equipment via rail operations from Zimnitsa, Bulgaria.
- **Trident Juncture:** (Oct. 19–Nov. 6, 2015) The largest NATO exercise conducted in the past 20 years with around 36,000 troops from more than 30 nations, including both NATO Allies and partners. More than 5,000 U.S. service members participated in the exercise which was designed to train the troops of the NATO Response Force. Activities were hosted by Spain, Portugal and Italy with training in Belgium, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway and at sea in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The Marine Corps 26th MEU, Fourth Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Black Sea Rotational Force and Special Purpose Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response all participated in the multi-national exercise.

- **Combined Arms Company:** (Sep. 2015 – Dec. 2017) Based at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. The Company is formed from a tank section, artillery section, light armored vehicle section, combat engineer section and logistic support enablers. With 150+ Marines, the Company has a unique capability to conduct operations, support crisis and contingency response, and conduct military training exercises and engagements with Eastern European partner military forces.

Special Operations Forces (SOF)

- **Cold Response:** (Feb. 29-March 9, 2016) U.S. Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR) components worked with NATO allies and partners from 13 nations in a Norwegian Joint Command Post Exercise/Field Training Exercise, Feb. 29-March 9, 2016. The exercise featured naval, land, and air SOF operations to underscore NATO's ability to defend against any threat in any environment. The location in central Norway provided a unique, extreme cold-weather environment for all forces involved to develop tactics, techniques, and procedures and learn from one another. This exercise enables the NATO alliance to work together and demonstrate both our unwavering commitment to our collective defense under the North Atlantic Treaty and our ability to counter transnational threats.
- **NATO Response Force-Special Operations Component Command (NRF-SOCC):** SOCEUR accepted stand-by responsibility as the NATO Response Force-Special Operations Component Command from the Polish SOF on January 2016 and will retain responsibility for the mission until January 2017. In this capacity the SOCC will remain based out of Stuttgart, Germany and will have command and control over two Special Operations Maritime Task Groups, five Special Operations Land Task Groups, and one Special Operations Air Component, positioned across Europe.
- **Trident Juncture:** (Oct. 3–Nov. 6, 2015) SOCEUR augmented by nearly 60 personnel from 17 NATO and European partner nations participated in Exercise Trident Juncture 2015. SOCEUR held command and control responsibility over all special operations forces involved in the exercise. Trident Juncture 2015 served as the certification for SOCEUR to assume responsibility for 2016's NATO Response Force Special Operations Component Command.
- **Joint Multi Training Group-Ukraine:** SOCEUR components have the key mission in the second phase of Fearless Guardian of training one battalion of Ukrainian Special Operations Forces personnel. SOCEUR is also working with the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense on building a training center and institutional level development to sustain the manning and development of their SOF units. The training is part of the U.S. military's ongoing efforts to contribute to Ukraine's long-term military reform and professionalism and to help improve Ukraine's internal defense capabilities and training capacity.

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Air

- **Theater Security Package 16.2** (April 1–Sept. 30, 2016) 12 F-15s and Airmen from the 104 Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard and the 144 Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard executed a TSP rotation which included Icelandic Air Surveillance, participation in a NATO exercise at Leeuwarden RNLAFB. The rotation began in April and will run through September.

- **Greece Off-Station Training** (April 3-16, 2016) Three C-130Js and approximately 80 personnel from the 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, participated in a bilateral training exercise with the Romanian Air Force at Otopeni Air Base, Romania. Participation in this bilateral training event is aimed at enhancing interoperability with Romania and readiness to conduct combined air operations.
- **INIOHOS 16** (April 1-16, 2016) Twelve F-15Es and approximately 260 Airmen from the 492nd FS, RAF Lakenheath, England, participated in Exercise INIOHOS 16 at Andravida Air Base, Greece, alongside Hellenic and Israeli Air Forces
- **A-10 Theater Security Package:** (Sept. 2015-March 2016) 12 A-10s, 300 Airmen and support equipment deployed from the 23rd Wing, Moody AFB, Ga. as part of a continuation of Theater Security Packages in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The A-10s trained at multiple bases across Europe, including Amari Air Base, Estonia; Kecskemet, Hungary; and Campia Turzii Air Base, Romania. These A-10s conducted training alongside our Allies & partners to strengthen interoperability and to demonstrate U.S. commitment to European security.
- **Exercise Brave Warrior** (Sept. 15-Oct. 30, 2015) was a multinational training exercise held in Hungary. Two C-130Js from the 86th Airlift Wing supported the U.S. Army-led exercise, which also included units from the allied nations of Slovakia, Czech, and Hungary. The exercise began in mid-September and ran through October.
- **Exercise Dacian Viper** (Oct. 5-23, 2015) Eight Alabama Air National Guard F-16s participated in exercise DACIAN VIPER with Romanian Air Forces at Campia Turzii, Romania. The exercise was a bilateral, total force training event that enhanced interoperability with the Romanian Air Force and helped bolster readiness to conduct combined air operations.
- **Aviation Detachment 16-1** (Oct. 12-Nov. 6, 2015) Three Illinois Air National Guard C-130Hs from the 169th Airlift Squadron and two C-130Js from the 86th Airlift Wing deployed to Powidz Air Base, Poland. Working side by side, U.S. and Polish airmen completed a variety of training objectives, including realistic night vision goggle training, fighter intercept training and aircraft commander upgrade qualifications.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve V** (Nov. 2-9, 2015) F-16s from the 52nd Fighter Wing supported the U.S. Army and NATO allies and partner nations at the Grafenwoehr training area in Germany. The F-16s participated in the combined- arms live-fire exercise at the culmination of CR V.
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Sea

- **USS Porter (DDG 78):** (2nd FDNF Patrol March 16, 2016-Present) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) departed Rota, Spain to begin her second forward-deployed patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations March 16, 2016 in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Operation Atlantic Resolve. Porter will provide ballistic missile defense support as her primary mission and will engage in tactical exercises with NATO allies and partners to reaffirm the United States commitment to strengthen ties and promote peace and stability in the region. (Maiden FDNF Patrol Jun. 29-Nov. 4, 2015) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) completed its first forward deployed patrol in U.S. 6th Fleet. The ship deployed from Naval Station Rota June 29, 2015. While on patrol, Porter conducted several port visits and engagements with NATO Allies and regional partners, and spent a total of 32 days operating in the Black Sea. Porter entered the Black Sea for the first time during its patrol from July 5-17, 2015 in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, worked with Allies and regional partners to develop and improve interoperability, maintain regional security, and work towards mutual goals in order to advance stability in the region. Porter pulled into Varna, Bulgaria July 6, 2015 to attend the pre-sail conference of exercise Breeze 2015. Breeze was a Black Sea event led by Bulgaria and featured assets from Turkey, Romania, Greece and NATO standing groups. The focus of the exercise was on interoperability, anti-submarine warfare, and maritime interdiction operations, among other warfare capabilities.

Porter also conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX) with the Romanian naval ship ROS Marcellariu (265) July 14, 2015, in the Black Sea. Porter pulled into Vlore, Albania Sept. 25, 2015 which served to strengthen the ties between the U.S. and Albania. Porter returned to the Black Sea Oct. 6, 2015, again engaging Allies and regional partners to develop and improve interoperability and maintain regional security. Porter arrived in Odesa, Ukraine, for a scheduled port visit Oct. 9, 2015. Porter hosted a reception aboard the ship. Guests included the commander of the Ukrainian Navy, and the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, along with other Ukrainian civilian and military visitors.

Porter participated in a PASSEX Oct. 13-14, 2015 with naval ships from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. Porter conducted a port visit in Batumi, Georgia Oct. 20, 2015 giving the crew a chance to interact with the Georgian coast guard in joint training environments, such as medical training. Porter exited the Black Sea Oct. 26, 2015. For Porter's final port visit, the ship pulled into Split, Croatia, providing the crew another opportunity to experience the rich history and culture of an Eastern European country. Porter's visit, board, search and seizure team hosted a Maritime Interdiction Operation Seminar onboard the ship for 15 Croatian navy and coast guard members, demonstrating tactics and techniques. During a reception onboard while in port, Porter welcomed Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet, Vice Adm. James Foggo III, along with Croatian local nationals.

- **USS Donald Cook (DDG 75):** (Fourth FDNF Patrol March 14, 2016-Present) Donald Cook's third patrol from July-November 2015 included underway engagements with the Turkish, Romanian and Ukrainian naval forces, as well as port visits to, Turkey, France, Cyprus and Ukraine, where Donald Cook hosted a reception attended by the Prime Minister of Ukraine; Commander of the Naval Forces Armed Forces of Ukraine; U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine; Minister of Defense of Ukraine; Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet, Vice Adm. James Foggo III; Commander Task Force 65; Capt. Richard Dromerhauser, and other exercise participants. Donald Cook's second patrol, completed April, 2015, included underway engagements with French, Ukrainian and Turkish naval forces, as well as port visits to Romania, Bulgaria and Israel.

On its first forward deployed patrol, from March to July 2014, Donald Cook's patrol also included engagements during port visits in Constanta, Romania, where the crew hosted Romanian President Traian Băsescu. (Black Sea, Aug. 28-Sept. 13, 2015) The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) departed the Black Sea, Sept. 13, after participating in Sea Breeze 2015.

Donald Cook's operations in the Black Sea provided the ship and crew an opportunity to strengthen and build naval capabilities with Allies and partners in the region. Donald Cook entered the Black Sea Aug. 28, 2015 in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The United States continues to demonstrate its commitment to the collective security of its NATO allies as part of Atlantic Resolve.

- **USS Ross (DDG 71)** (3rd FDNF Patrol Nov. 21, 2015-March 21, 2016) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) returned to Naval Station Rota, Spain after completing its third forward deployed patrol in U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations March 21, 2016. The ship deployed from Naval Station Rota Nov. 21, 2015 and conducted three port visits, two international exercises, one international passing exercise (PASSEX), and numerous ballistic missile defense exercises. While on patrol, Ross performed ballistic missile defense and theater security cooperation missions, and conducted anti-submarine warfare exercises. Ross entered the Black Sea Dec. 3, 2015 in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and to demonstrate the United States' commitment to the collective security of its NATO Allies and regional partners. Ross exited the Black Sea on Dec. 17, 2015. Ross pulled into Varna, Bulgaria, Dec. 4, 2015 for a one-day port visit in an effort to strengthen ties while working toward mutual goals of promoting national security. Ross participated in a passing exercise (PASSEX) Dec. 6 and Dec. 15, 2015 with ships from the Ukrainian, Romanian, and Turkish navies. The PASSEX was conducted in order to strengthen maritime capabilities and increase war-fighting proficiency when operating in the Black Sea with Allies' and partner nations' naval forces. (Black Sea, Dec. 3-17, 2015) The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer operated in the Baltic Sea to promote peace and stability in the region. The ship participated in a passing exercise (PASSEX) Dec. 6 and Dec. 15 with ships from the Ukrainian, Romanian, and Turkish navies. The PASSEX was conducted in order to strengthen maritime capabilities and increase war-fighting proficiency when operating in the Black Sea with ally and partner nation naval forces. Ross pulled into Varna, Bulgaria, Dec. 4, for a one-day port visit in an effort to strengthen ties while working toward mutual goals of promoting peace and stability between U.S. and Bulgaria. The ship's presence in the Baltic Sea demonstrates the United States' commitment to working closely with allies to enhance maritime security and stability, readiness, and naval capability, and our commitment to promote peace and stability to our NATO allies in the region.
- **USS Carney (DDG 64)** (Maiden FDNF Patrol Nov. 7, 2015-March 13, 2016) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) completed its first forward deployed patrol in U.S. 6th Fleet. The ship deployed from Naval Station Rota Nov. 7, 2015. While on patrol, Carney conducted ballistic missile defense, anti-submarine warfare and theater security cooperation missions. Carney visited Haifa, Israel in Feb. 2016. While in Israel, Carney hosted the Israeli Minister of Defense and the United States ambassador to Israel for a ship tour and joint press conference. Carney visited Palma De Mallorca, Spain in March 2016. While in Spain, Sailors conducted a community relations project at a local animal shelter. Carney's participation in combined underway tactical exchanges with Allies and regional partners helped the United States continue its efforts to strengthen maritime partnerships throughout Europe.
- **USS Harry S. Truman** (CVN 75): (Mediterranean Sea, Nov. 2015) The Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier operated in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our Allies and partners.
- **At-Sea Demonstration** (FASLANE, United Kingdom, Oct. 27, 2015) – The Maritime Theater Missile Defense (MTMD) Forum wrapped up its At Sea Demonstration (ASD) 2015 event, culminating nearly four years of planning and three weeks of at sea operations in the North Atlantic. The United States, with the assistance of its Forum partners, conducted the first ballistic missile defense (BMD) capable Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) launch in Europe. Significantly, ASD15 included the first international ship (Netherlands and Spain) transmissions of ballistic missile defense (BMD) cues to a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer. Finally, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands,

Spain and the United States were all able to demonstrate their ability to contribute to NATO's BMD link architecture.

- **Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Archive** (Mediterranean Sea, Oct. 2015) The Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/ 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) entered the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations Oct. 13, 2015. The ARG/MEU, comprised of the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), the amphibious transport dock ship USS Arlington (LPD 24), and embarked Marines from the 26th MEU, conducted naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe.
- **Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU):** (Mediterranean Sea, June 21, 2015-July 20) The USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), USS Fort McHenry and USS New York (LPD-21) are deployed as part of the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group/24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and are conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe.
- **USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109):** (Baltic Sea, May 4-Aug. 28, 2015) The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer operated in the Baltic Sea to promote peace and stability in the region. The ship conducted port visits at: Gdynia, Poland (May 6-11, 2015); Haakonsværn, Norway (May 13-18); Gdynia, Poland (June 4-8); Kiel, Germany (June 19-24, 2015); and Karlskrona, Sweden (June 28-July 1, 2015). The ship's presence in the Baltic Sea demonstrates the U.S.'s commitment to working closely with allies to enhance maritime security and stability, readiness, and naval capability, and our commitment to promote peace and stability to our NATO Allies in the region.

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Related Initiative (Not in support of OAR): Support to Ukraine

- **FY2016 Ukraine Security Assistance:** On March 31, 2016, Vice President Biden informed President Poroshenko that the United States was committing \$335 million in FY16 security assistance to Ukraine as part of our ongoing efforts to help build the capacity of Ukraine's forces to preserve and enforce its territorial integrity. This package will bring our total security assistance committed to Ukraine in response to the crisis to more than \$600 million since 2014. The security assistance package will include a continuation of our training programs to enhance Ukraine's internal defense capabilities and institutional training capacity; a robust advisory effort to advance the implementation of key defense reforms & non-lethal equipment to support the operational needs of Ukraine's security forces.
- **Assistance & Advisory teams:** U.S. European Command and DoD civilian and military experts worked with Ukraine to improve its capacity to provide for its own defense and set the stage for longer-term defense cooperation. Specifically, EUCOM deployed medical & security assistance advisory teams to Kyiv to help improve Ukraine's combat medical care and identify areas for additional security assistance.
- **Foreign Military Financing:** In addition to the 300,000 MREs delivered in March 2014, the U.S. also provided Foreign Military Financing to support Ukraine's armed forces with medical supplies, Explosive Ordnance Disposal equipment and various items of individual military equipment.
- **Reforming Defense Institutions:** Defense Department experts in strategy and policy continue to meet with Ukrainian defense officials in Kyiv, to assess specific defense institution building activities/programs we may want to pursue. The objective is to shape and establish an enduring program for future U.S. efforts to support the Ukrainian military, through subject matter expert teams and long-term advisors.

George C. Marshall Center-Hosted Events

- **Specially Tailored Seminar: (Dec. 3-4, 2015)** Ukraine and the Contemporary Security Environment, for Representatives of Ukraine, in Garmisch. The purpose of this seminar was to enhance mutual understanding of the changed security environment by bringing together senior Ukrainian government officials in a neutral location to discuss the contemporary security environment, national security policy, the development of civilian expertise and transparency, and accountability of the processes and developing the foundation for legislation, strengthening civilian control of the military, reforming security institutions, and encouraging transparency. This was planned under defense institution building efforts not an actual ERI-funded event.

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For older Operation Atlantic Resolve information, please see the OAR 2015 and 2014 fact sheets at: <http://www.eucom.mil/operation-atlantic-resolve>