

Fact Sheet

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Joint Task Force – East

Joint Task Force – East is a U.S. European Command initiative executed by U.S. Army Europe designed to strengthen relationships between the United States and its Eastern European allies. This program is an innovative element of the Theater Security Cooperation program that focuses on enhancing partner capacity and fostering regional cooperation. JTF-East provides the U.S. and its partners in Romania and Bulgaria with training facilities and, currently, a periodic integrated combined staff that stands up to facilitate combined training.



Exercises at JTF-East hone U.S. and host nation-invited NATO partner nations' ability to deploy forces and operate in austere conditions away from home stations. It enables training participants to learn from each other and improve their capabilities.

Operations in Romania and Bulgaria also provide the U.S. and its partners the opportunity to engage in and demonstrate the continuance of peaceful and friendly international relations through combined training using host nation installations to support and facilitate rotational training activities. The facilities used include the Romanian Air Force's Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield located in the city of the same name and the Romanian Land Forces Babadag Training Area located approximately 70 km to the north. In Bulgaria, the primary facility is located in the Novo Selo Training Area located near Mokren, Bulgaria.

These are sovereign host nation bases with co-located U.S. funded constructed facilities that the U.S. military uses on a consignment basis as stipulated in the Defense Cooperation Agreement signed by the governments involved. The U.S. military units training at the facilities are guests; they remain under a clear U.S. chain of command.

2009 marked the third rotation of JTF-East and it continues to play a key role in the command's desire to build partnerships and enhance security and regional stability. Training together hones and develops techniques, tactics and procedures that assist tactical units in working together in combat. Building interoperability and continuing professional and personal relationships are essential attributes for successful coalitions and JTF-East is a unique tool to help accomplish that.