

# Fact Sheet

## Headquarters, United States European Command

Directorate of Public Affairs (ECPA)

Tel: 0711-680-8574, FAX: 0711-680-5380

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## U.S. European Command

The mission of the U.S. European Command is to conduct military operations, international military partnering, and interagency partnering to enhance transatlantic security and defend the United States forward.

We do this by establishing an agile security organization able to conduct full spectrum activities as part of whole of government solutions to secure enduring stability in Europe and Eurasia.

U.S. EUCOM is one of the United States' two forward-deployed Geographical Combatant Commands, whose area of focus covers almost one-fifth of the planet, including all of Europe, large portions of Asia, parts of the Middle East and the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans. The command is responsible for U.S. military relations with NATO and 51 countries on two continents with a total population of close to a billion people.

From its state-of-the-art plans and operations center, the command directs the operation of more than 100 thousand military and civilian personnel operations across 10.7 million square miles or 27.7 million square kilometers of land and 13 million square miles or 33.6 million square kilometers of ocean.

The command is also responsible for maintaining the quality of life, including health care and schools, for almost 130 thousand military family members living in Europe.

Headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, EUCOM is a joint forces community of approximately 1,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and government civilians, who work and live at four different locations around the city.

U.S. European Command is comprised of components from all of America's military services who provide ready forces to provide regional security:

- *U.S. Army Europe* trains, equips, deploys and provides command and control of forward-deployed land forces, able to support and conduct the full spectrum of joint, and combined multi-national operations, and engagement activities.
- *U.S. Naval Forces Europe* is prepared for future challenges and mission requirements by operating, training, maintaining and sustaining combat-ready naval forces.
- *U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe* taps pre-positioned assets to rapidly deploy expeditionary forces and equipment and conduct a wide array of operations.
- *U.S. Air Forces in Europe* delivers its well-respected air power to support command missions due to impressive technology and a meticulous attention to logistics.
- *Special Operations Command Europe* provides tremendous flexibility throughout a full range of military operations including combat, special operations, humanitarian assistance, non-combatant evacuations and joint-combined military operations.

These components teamed with our long-time allies and newfound partners in the region provide cooperative solutions to a mutual security challenge.

Continuing to build these enduring partnerships in the region ensures we are "*Stronger Together.*"

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## History

U.S. European Command (EUCOM) was established Aug. 1, 1952 to provide "unified command and authority" over all U.S. forces in Europe. For several years after World War II the services had maintained separate commands in Europe that reported directly to the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Air Forces in Europe; Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (later became U.S. Naval Forces, Europe); and Commander-in-Chief, U.S. European Command (later became U.S. Army, Europe).

America's rapid post-war demobilization, followed by the end of the occupation of Germany in 1949, led many to question the U.S. commitment to the defense of Western Europe against the Soviet Union. The period saw a sense of looming crisis in the West about how to provide for the common defense, especially after the Berlin Crisis of 1948-49, when the Soviet Union blocked access to the divided city and the U.S. and United Kingdom responded with an unprecedented airlift. In 1949 the allies established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), but did little else to meet their new commitments.

In June 1950 the United States and its allies were jolted into action by the surprise attack on South Korea by Communist North Korea. Early in 1951 NATO established Allied Command Europe and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was called from retirement to become the first Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

The U.S. continued to defend Korea, but simultaneously sent massive reinforcements to Europe to deter the Soviet Union from similar aggression there. Between 1950 and 1953 U.S. military personnel in Europe grew from 120,000 to over 400,000. U.S. Air Forces in Europe grew from three groups with 35,000 personnel to eleven wings with 136,000 personnel. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean doubled to more than forty warships. U.S. Army Europe grew from one infantry division and three constabulary regiments to two corps with five divisions (including two mobilized National Guard divisions), and in November 1950 activated a new field army, Seventh Army, at Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. The Army activated the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg in 1952 and deployed it to Bad Tölz in November 1953 for unconventional warfare missions behind the Iron Curtain.

To provide for national command within NATO, and to help control this build-up of forces, Gen. Eisenhower proposed a separate command for all U.S. forces in Europe. Because the senior U.S. commander would continue as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Eisenhower recommended giving "a maximum of delegated authority" to a four-star deputy.

Eisenhower returned to the United States just as the new command was established. The first U.S. Commander-in-Chief Europe (USCINCEUR) was Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, former commander of Eighth Army and the Far East Command during the Korean War. His deputy was Gen. Thomas T. Handy, former Army deputy chief of staff under Gen. George C. Marshall and commander of U.S. Army, Europe.

Headquarters EUCOM initially shared the I.G. Farben Building in Frankfurt, Germany, with Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe. In 1954 the headquarters moved to Camp des Loges, a French Army base west of Paris and a short distance from SHAPE. There, EUCOM prepared plans for the defense of Western Europe within the NATO framework against the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact. EUCOM used the Military Assistance Program to help its NATO partners build their military capabilities, including the German Bundeswehr after 1955. In 1955 EUCOM established a Support Operations Command Europe, soon renamed Support Operations Task Force Europe (later became SOCEUR) for special operations missions. EUCOM also assumed responsibility for command and control of U.S. nuclear forces. In 1961 EUCOM began operating an airborne command post, Operation Silk Purse.

The Cold War was marked by continued tensions with the Soviet Union, including widespread unrest in Eastern Europe following the death of Joseph Stalin. EUCOM also conducted out-of-sector operations such as a major contingency operation to Lebanon in 1958. In 1961 Berlin once again became a flashpoint when the Soviets erected a wall to stop the hemorrhage of people fleeing Communist rule.

In the early 1960's, sharp policy disagreements emerged within NATO, and in 1966 France demanded the removal of all U.S. and NATO headquarters and forces from French soil. The following year SHAPE moved to Mons, Belgium, while Headquarters EUCOM moved to Patch Barracks. Headquarters Seventh Army moved to Heidelberg, where it merged with Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe. At Patch Barracks EUCOM renovated the buildings, built a new operations center, modernized communications infrastructure and improved the airfield.

EUCOM continued to prepare for the defense of Europe and began a series of annual REFORGER (Return of Forces to Europe) exercises in 1967 to reassure its allies. Cold War crises continued, including the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. But the readiness of U.S. forces in Europe slowly declined due to the Vietnam War and balance of payment problems. Troop strength in Europe fell to 265,000 by 1970.

During the 1970's, force protection concerns in Europe grew as terrorist groups such as the Red Army Faction and the Red Brigades targeted U.S. facilities and personnel with bombings, kidnapping and assassinations, and Palestinian groups brazenly conducted terror operations in Europe, such as the kidnapping of Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

During the 1970's, the Cold War appeared to mellow into an era of détente and negotiations, but tensions remained high as both sides modernized their conventional and nuclear forces. In the late 1970's the Soviet Union deployed SS-20 intermediate-range ballistic missiles into Eastern Europe and in 1979 invaded Afghanistan. NATO responded with a "two-track" decision to step up negotiations while deploying U.S. intermediate-range Pershing II missiles and ground-launched cruise missiles to counter the Soviet threat.

During the 1980's, the armed forces began to recover from the Vietnam War and U.S. forces in Europe grew to over 350,000. EUCOM established Fleet Marine Force Europe (later MARFOREUR) in 1980. The unified command plan was changed in 1983 to transfer responsibility for the Middle East from EUCOM to a new combatant command, U.S. Central Command, but EUCOM retained responsibility for the "confrontation states" of Israel, Lebanon and Syria. At the same time EUCOM was formally assigned responsibility of Africa, south of the Sahara.

The Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, together with a powerful Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin L. Powell, who served from 1989-1993, further strengthened the role of combatant commanders. Goldwater-Nichols also established U.S. Special Operations Command, which led to the activation of a new sub-unified command, Special Operations Command, Europe.

During the 1980's, negotiations continued with the Soviet Union on strategic and theater-level arms limitation. In 1987 the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty called an end to the deployment of SS-20's, Pershing II's and GLCM's. In 1990 NATO and Warsaw Pact members signed a treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE).

In 1989, the Soviet Union and its empire in Eastern Europe collapsed and the Cold War came to an end. The citizens of a reunified Berlin tore down their wall. As a sign of reduced tensions, in 1991 EUCOM took its airborne command post off alert. Meanwhile in 1991 EUCOM and its components provided forces to CENTCOM for another out-of-sector operation, Desert Storm.

EUCOM reached out to the emerging democracies through programs such as the Joint Contact Team Program, NATO Partnership for Peace and the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. It was also active in peace and stability operations in the Balkans, including Bosnia, Macedonia and Kosovo. But it had to conduct these new missions with fewer assigned forces as its strength fell below 120,000.

Immediately after the terrorist attacks against New York and Washington on Sep. 11, 2001, NATO invoked Article V of the treaty and deployed a NATO early warning aircraft to help monitor the skies over North America. EUCOM provided major forces for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and stepped up its efforts to protect U.S. interests in Europe and Africa. Subsequent terrorist attacks in the EUCOM theater in Casablanca, Madrid, London and Algiers made it clear that terrorism demanded a collective response. EUCOM worked to build partner capacity in Europe and Africa for peacekeeping operations and deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. EUCOM launched Operation Enduring Freedom and Trans-Sahara in 2007 while continuing to provide rotational forces to Afghanistan and Iraq.

As EUCOM's challenges evolved, so did its missions and functions. In 2003 the headquarters reorganized to establish the EUCOM Plans and Operations Center. From 2006-2008 it helped stand-up a new unified command, U.S. Africa Command, which took over responsibility for Department of Defense activities in Africa on Oct. 1, 2008.

For more than half a century EUCOM has helped keep the peace in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. As it transforms for the future, it will continue to meet new challenges.

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## Civil Military Operations Program

The U.S. European Command Civil Military Operations Program provides money to subordinate commands and to the Offices of Defense Cooperation located at U.S. embassies throughout the command's 51-country area of responsibility, to fund basic humanitarian projects. These projects include improving potable water, renovating elementary schools and hospitals, providing medical vaccinations and veterinary services, as well as, helping with fire and rescue first response. Materials and supplies are also provided to those countries and organizations that have a need.

The program supports global initiatives by building partnerships within the region, enhancing security and contributing to regional security. Building capacity of our partners promotes interoperability and improves basic living conditions – preventing future crises.

During fiscal year 2009 the program funded more than 160 projects in 18 countries with a completion cost of nearly \$7 million. These projects included school renovations in Estonia, water well projects in Serbia, the building of a fire/rescue station in Moldova, high school renovations in Albania and the renovation to an orphanage in Latvia. In 2010, we expect to have more than 130 projects in 15 countries, with an estimated cost of \$6 million.

View photos and read stories about the command's Civil Military Operations Program at our website: [www.eucom.mil/english/Helping\\_people/](http://www.eucom.mil/english/Helping_people/)

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## State Partnership Program

Initially started in 1993, the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program supports military-to-military contacts and activities between the U.S. and those nations partnering with us in the program. These activities support the U.S. European Command's theater campaign plan, as well as the individual mission plans of the U.S. Ambassador in each country within which the program operates.

Along with providing organized, trained and equipped forces to support the theater campaign plan, the program also demonstrates the U.S. commitment to reassure allies, friends and coalition partners. The program expands relationships with existing and new partners and increases U.S. and partner operational capabilities, interoperability and capacity.

The primary focus is to develop military-to-military engagements, contacts and activities that promote defense and security-related cooperation in critical areas such as emergency management and disaster response, border and port security, leadership and non-commissioned officer development, medical capacities, economic security, natural resource protection, peacekeeping operations, counter trafficking, counter proliferation and counter and anti-terrorism.

In support of the EUCOM's Theater Campaign Plan, the National Guard states build relationships with partner countries in Europe and Eurasia to increase the capacity and capabilities of the partner countries.

View photos and read stories about the command's State Partnership Program at our website:  
[www.eucom.mil/english/spp/](http://www.eucom.mil/english/spp/)

*The National Guard of 20 U.S. States has partnerships with 21 countries in the European Command area of operations.*

### Partnerships within USEUCOM

Alabama / Romania  
California / Ukraine  
Colorado / Slovenia  
Georgia / Georgia  
Illinois / Poland  
Indiana / Slovakia  
Kansas / Armenia  
Maine / Montenegro  
Maryland / Estonia  
Maryland / Bosnia  
Michigan / Latvia  
Minnesota / Croatia  
New Jersey / Albania  
North Carolina / Moldova  
Ohio / Hungary  
Ohio / Serbia  
Oklahoma / Azerbaijan  
Pennsylvania / Lithuania  
Tennessee / Bulgaria  
Texas & Nebraska/Czech Rep  
Vermont / Macedonia

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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.

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## Georgia Deployment Program

Georgia is scheduled to provide an infantry battalion to serve alongside U.S. and other partner nations in Afghanistan.

In order to prepare the Georgian unit for the initial 2010 deployment and follow-on deployments, U.S. Marine Forces, Europe, began training Sept. 1, 2009 under a program called the Georgia Deployment Program for International Security Assistance Force or GDP-ISAF.

GDP-ISAF is a two-year program consisting of four six-month rotations, culminating with a Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

Each rotation is comprised of six phases. The phases support training at all levels, from basic first aid to the more advanced, battalion staff-level planning process. At the end of the six-month train-up, the Georgian infantry battalions will be trained, equipped and integrated with U.S. forces to conduct operations in a counterinsurgency environment.

Georgia's offer to serve alongside NATO and ISAF partners is a vital contribution to the mission of bringing peace and security to Afghanistan and strengthening NATO's collective defense. Ninety percent of the nations supporting ISAF are from within the U.S. European Command area of focus, and without this collective defense, nations are unable to focus properly on global security challenges.



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## Combined Endeavor

Combined Endeavor is an annual U.S. European Command-sponsored exercise that increases the flexibility, agility and efficiency of participating nations by enabling expeditionary forces to rapidly deploy in support of joint and combined operations.

It is the largest and most powerful security cooperation effort of its kind emphasizing command, control, communications and computer integration and interoperability. The overall objective is to achieve a level of compatibility between nations to successfully conduct future multi-national operations – such as humanitarian, military, peacekeeping and disaster relief missions.

In addition to developing strategic partners during the exercise, participating nations integrate and test the world's best communications equipment, which often leads to nations being able to skip generations of technology as a result.

The interoperability test locations and participation by NATO and Partnership for Peace nations are unique. Combined Endeavor sets conditions for multinational communication network success and eliminates discovery learning upon deployment. The test documentation gained from these series of exercises has been utilized in multinational deployments.

The simple concept of enabling countries to communicate effectively was envisioned in 1994, and has evolved into a "Global Endeavor" of worldwide workshops. A Combined Endeavor workshop was held in the Pacific Region in September 2005 and in Africa in July 2006.

This capacity building of partner governments helps them prevent crises – and indirect approach to regional security that is advantageous both to partner nations and the U.S.

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