

HOUSE AND SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES

TESTIMONY OF:

**ADMIRAL JAMES STAVRIDIS, UNITED STATES NAVY
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND**

BEFORE THE 113TH CONGRESS, 2013



INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Distinguished Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to appear again before you today. For nearly four years now, I have commanded the exceptional men and women of the United States European Command and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Allied Command Operations. It has been the privilege of a lifetime, for a mission I deeply believe in: one that directly links U.S. national security and the American way of life with our most steadfast allies and partners in vital strategic partnerships that produce global security and stability. I can report to you today that we continue to make strong progress—in military operations, theater security cooperation, strategic rebalancing efforts, and important initiatives with our international, interagency, and public-private partners—to protect America’s vital national security interests and provide stability across Europe and Eurasia. In meeting this enduring mission, most recently endorsed and mandated in the Department’s 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, *Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense*, these exceptional men and women continue to provide for the forward defense of the United States and ensure the collective security and continued viability of the NATO Alliance.

Today, thanks to decades of sustained leadership, tireless devotion, and ironclad commitment on both sides of the Atlantic, the United States and our historic allies enjoy an unprecedented degree of freedom, interconnectedness, economic opportunity and prosperity, and interdependence toward achieving these common goals of global security and stability. Indeed, as former Secretary of State Clinton remarked in assessing the legacy of the last century and its impact on the current one: “Today’s transatlantic community is not just a defining achievement of the century behind us. It is indispensable to the world we hope to build together in the century ahead.”

This partnership and investment, made in the twentieth century, continues to pay us considerable dividends in the twenty-first. For even as the global economy fights through its current perturbations, the fact remains that the transatlantic partnership—rooted in the stability that flows from security—constitutes nearly half the world’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a third of global trade. The transatlantic economy is valued at nearly \$31 trillion,¹ generates approximately \$4 trillion in annual trade revenue, and supports 15 million jobs.² Acting together, the United States and Europe still command the heights of the global economy, and maintain the advantage that position offers.



¹ *CIA World Factbook*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2001rank.html>.

² European Commission Directorate-General for Trade, “Report on European trade with the United States,” <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/united-states/>.

In support of that position, our European partners continue to make important financial and military contributions to our shared security. For, in spite of recent and oft-repeated criticisms focused exclusively on single national contributions, the fact is that, collectively, our European allies and partners are annually investing nearly \$300 billion on defense, second only to the United States (\$600 billion) and well ahead of available figures on annual defense expenditures by China (\$140 billion) and Russia (\$70 billion).³

It is also a fundamental reality of the modern security environment—one recognized in the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance—that these defense contributions and NATO’s continued evolution have transformed Europe, in the span of a single generation, from a security consumer to one of the world’s most important security producers. Today, NATO militaries include 750 ships, 24,000 aircraft, and over three million active duty personnel. Over the past decade, as these assets were vigorously put to use, our European allies and partners made conscious national decisions to set aside the security paradigms of the previous century and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States, making unprecedented deployments on out-of-area expeditionary operations to confront 21st century threats. And it remains one of history’s more ironic twists that NATO’s only Article 5 declaration was made by our NATO allies in the defense of the United States after the events of September 11, 2001.

In the decade of war and military operations that followed, European military personnel comprised 80% of non-U.S. forces in Iraq and 90% of non-U.S. forces in Afghanistan—essentially a third of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). In addition, our European partners provided substantial military support—in command and control, basing, air sorties, and maritime interdiction—to execute Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR in Libya successfully in 2011. They also sustain 90% of the mission in Kosovo, provide 6,000 troops for U.N. peacekeeping operations across the world, and continue providing important support to current missile defense and counter-piracy operations. These are extraordinarily valuable contributions, both diplomatically and in terms of their relief on U.S. force generation requirements. They represent burden-sharing unparalleled in any other region of the world, showcasing the vital importance of our European allies and partners to U.S. national security interests and the viability of coalition warfare as we continue moving into the 21st century.

Yet, even as we acknowledge these extraordinary contributions and commitments, the fiscal realities and current inflection point that follow a decade of war have prompted necessary national deliberation to reconsider the U.S. defense strategy and rebalance global U.S. posture. Indeed, the Cold War and its strategic imperatives are long over. And, as the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance makes clear, after ten years of combat operations “our nation is at a moment of transition” requiring us to put “our fiscal house in order here at home and renew our long-term economic strength.” These considerations have increased scrutiny of U.S. posture in Europe. Yet, the reality is that U.S. posture in Europe has been steadily declining for more than two decades.

³ *The Guardian*, “Military Spending: How Much Does the Military Cost at Each Country, Listed,” <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2012/apr/17/military-spending-countries-list>.

At the height of the Cold War, more than 450,000 U.S. forces were stationed across 1,200 sites on the European continent. Today, U.S. forces on the continent have been reduced by more than 85% and basing sites reduced by 75%. Indeed, shortly after release of the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, European Command announced further significant force structure cuts, phasing out the Army's V Corps Headquarters, the 170th and 172nd Brigade Combat Teams, three forward-stationed Air Force squadrons, and a host of Army and Air Force enablers in concert with the Department's strategic rebalancing effort. Additionally, over the past six years, the U.S. Army has dramatically consolidated its theater footprint, closing six garrisons and over 100 sites across Europe to consolidate and align its much smaller presence with enduring 21st century missions.

In light of these reductions, European Command is today comprised of approximately 64,000 joint forces—representing less than 5% of the military—strategically located across 21 main operating bases and smaller supporting sites. The command is sharply focused on the goals outlined by the Secretary of Defense in his own preface to the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance. That guidance seeks to ensure that 'Joint Force 2020' is capable of: "maintaining our defense commitments to Europe; strengthening alliances and partnerships across all regions; deterring and defeating aggression by our adversaries, including those seeking to deny our power projection; countering weapons of mass destruction (WMD); effectively operating in cyberspace, space, and across all domains; maintaining a safe and effective nuclear deterrent; and protecting the homeland." For European Command, these remain our existing and most critical missions, performed from forward-stationed locations that protect the United States through strategic depth and distance, while providing our nation the strategic agility and responsiveness to deal rapidly with 21st century crises and complex contingencies in an environment of unforgiving speed.

Despite these realities, there persists in some quarters a notion that the strategic rebalance represents a zero-sum game for U.S. global posture, recalling debates from the last century pitting advocates of 'Europe first' or 'Asia first' against each other. Yet, what that century taught us, and what the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance makes clear, is that the United States must retain its global reach, access, and prerogatives to maintain its status and influence as a global superpower, particularly in regions vital to U.S. economic well-being such as Europe and the Middle East. Power, like nature, abhors a vacuum. A zero-sum withdrawal or substantial diminishment of U.S. presence, influence, and supporting infrastructure across these vital regions provides opportunity for other rising powers to displace the United States, and gain the geostrategic benefits from that substitution.

The new strategic guidance is also clear in identifying the nation's evolving strategic challenges, as well as its enduring strategic partnerships. While the guidance directs that the U.S. military will "of necessity rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region," it also articulates that, in addition to working with America's allies in the Pacific, Europe remains "our principal partner in seeking global and economic security, and will remain so for the foreseeable future." Chairman Dempsey echoed this point at the strategy's roll-out:

“Our strategic challenges are shifting, and we have to pay attention to those shifts. But what we do will always be built on the strong foundation of our traditional strategic partnerships, and NATO is chief among them.” Thus, NATO remains an essential vehicle, given its more than 60 years of security experience, strong and progressive direction from the Lisbon and Chicago summits, and a decade of sustained investment and gains in expeditionary out-of-area operations, capabilities, and interoperability. Within this construct, European Command remains the essential catalyst, driving and strengthening that principal partnership through vital theater security cooperation and multilateral training events, particularly at places like U.S. Army Europe’s full-spectrum Joint Multinational Training Command, centrally located and accessible in southern Germany.

Geographically, Europe provides the critical access and infrastructure to meet the Defense Strategic Guidance’s priorities and expand U.S. global reach across half the world, to Europe and on to Eurasia, Africa, and the Middle East. America’s enduring presence and leadership in Europe provides our nation with an indispensable geostrategic platform—a metaphorical forward-deployed “unsinkable aircraft carrier”—to facilitate and conduct global operations in direct support of NATO, six U.S. Combatant Commands (European Command, Central Command, Africa Command, Transportation Command, Special Operations Command, and Strategic Command), a wide host of U.S. Government interagency organizations, and 51 U.S. Embassies. In accordance with the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, our evolved but enduring presence will continue to support these missions, assure our allies, deter potential adversaries, promote enhanced capabilities and interoperability for future coalition operations, support and provide leadership for NATO’s continued progressive evolution, and provide critical forward defense against the rising threats of the 21st century.

The timing of the U.S. strategic rebalance—coming simultaneously with a number of other rapidly unfolding events in and around our theater, in places like Israel, Turkey, Syria, North Africa, the wider Middle East, and Afghanistan—has also provided the command with a strategic inflection point of our own to consider and to focus on as we move into the future.

European Command has aggressively leveraged this opportunity to undertake a significant strategic review last fall, guiding our implementation of the Defense Strategic Guidance and ensuring the responsible utilization and maximum efficiency of increasingly precious defense resources. That strategy acknowledges the environment we are witnessing: one characterized by decreasing resources and increasing instability; one that endorses the Department’s emphasis to work with America’s “most stalwart allies and partners” to maintain our commitments to allied security; one that promotes enhanced allied capacity and interoperability, ensuring that a decade of sustained investment and combat experience with these partners is not lost; and one that leverages resource pooling and sharing opportunities—such as NATO’s ‘Smart Defense’ program—to economize our efforts as we meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In light of this environment and the path forward, European Command's new strategy tightly aligns our enduring posture with the command's most pressing 21st century missions and priorities. Those priorities include: the command's readiness to execute NATO Article 5 missions and other priority U.S. contingency plans; preservation of our strategic theater partnerships, both to enable a successful ISAF transition and to preserve the return on past U.S. investment in partner capability and interoperability; and European Command's charge to defend the homeland forward against rising threats from ballistic missiles, international terrorism, WMD proliferation, transnational illicit trafficking, piracy, and malevolence in cyberspace. European Command's new strategy will serve to ensure that our resources are harmonized effectively and efficiently across the command, that we are prepared to address conflict across the spectrum of operations with a focus on the most likely scenarios, and that we are meeting the growing need, based on fiscal realities, to align high-end training opportunities, capability development, and sustained outreach with our allies and partners on future coalition operations and military burden-sharing.

The transatlantic alliance is and will remain an essential foundation for sustained global security, stability, and freedom. It is a precious and profound generational inheritance from those who preceded us; a tool forged in the fire of the last century to provide us the edge we need in this one. In candid remarks on his departure, outgoing Secretary of Defense Robert Gates warned against the growing devaluation among American leadership of this inheritance: "The policymakers who will follow us will not have the same historical, personal, and, indeed, emotional ties to Europe and may not consider the return on America's investment in Europe's defense worth the cost...and that will be a tragedy." Former Secretary Panetta has also stated it clearly: "We live in a world of growing danger and uncertainty where we face threats from violent extremism, nuclear proliferation, rising powers, and cyber attack. We cannot predict where the next crisis will occur. But *we know we are stronger when we confront these threats together*. It is precisely because of these growing security challenges and growing fiscal constraints that we need to work more closely than ever as partners."

To summarize, there are five key responses to the question: "Why is Europe of such importance to the United States?" First, Europe is home to most of the world's progressive democracies; nations with which we share the fundamental values that are a critical element in building effective coalitions. Second, with a GDP of \$19 trillion—a quarter of the world's economy—and approximately \$4 trillion in annual trade with the United States, Europe's importance to the U.S. and global economies cannot be overstated. Third, the European theater remains critical geostrategic terrain, providing the United States with the global access it needs to conduct worldwide operations and crisis response. Fourth, Europe is the backdrop for NATO, history's most successful and effective alliance, and a vital partner for dealing with the challenges of the 21st century. Fifth, Europe is today a security exporter, possessing among the most highly trained and technologically advanced militaries in the world. No other region possesses such a comparable pool of capable and willing partners able to conduct global operations with the United States.

Therefore, our nation must take care—even as we grapple with significant economic challenges and chart the necessary strategic reorientations—to protect, preserve, and continue evolving this extraordinary partnership. We must keep the transatlantic light burning brightly. It will help guide us as we continue navigating the shadows, complexity, and continuous evolution of the 21st century security environment. And it will prove, as we persevere and rise to meet today’s economic and security challenges, that we are still, and will remain, STRONGER TOGETHER.

“Over a decade of war, from the mountains of Afghanistan to the shores of Tripoli, this alliance has proven its relevance in the security challenges of the 21st century. We have moved closer to realizing a vision for the Atlantic community articulated by President John F. Kennedy 50 years ago, envisioning that one day the U.S. would partner with a revitalized Europe ‘in all the great and burdensome tasks of building and defending a community of free nations.’”

- Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta

MISSION, VISION, PRIORITIES

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

Vision: We serve the nation as an agile security organization executing full-spectrum activities in a whole-of-government framework to deliver solutions that contribute to enduring security and stability across the world.

2013 THEATER PRIORITIES

1. Ensure readiness to execute European Command's NATO Article 5 commitment and other contingency plans.
2. Preserve our strategic partnerships.
 - Sustain relationship with our allies to ensure a strong NATO Alliance;
 - Preserve recently developed allied and partner capability and interoperability;
 - Maintain regional stability and security.
3. Enable ISAF's transition to Afghan security lead.
4. Counter transnational threats, focusing on: missile defense; weapons of mass destruction; counter-terrorism; illicit trafficking; counter-piracy; and cyberspace.
5. Maintain U.S. strategic access across Europe in support of global operations.
6. Maintain particular focus on four key countries: Israel, Poland, Russia, and Turkey.



***SUCCESS & PROGRESS:
Meeting the Chairman's Strategic Priorities
Aligned and Supporting Joint Force 2020***

The Defense Strategic Guidance provides a blueprint for optimizing the U.S. Joint Force by the year 2020. This blueprint provides a 21st century fighting force that sustains U.S. global leadership, is postured to protect America's vital national security interests, stands ready to confront and defeat aggression anywhere in the world, and maintains the missions, capabilities, and capacity to prevail in the complex security environment of the 21st century. As part of that blueprint, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has outlined ten critical mission areas for Joint Force 2020:



1. Counter Terrorism and Irregular Warfare
2. Deter and Defeat Aggression
3. Maintain a Safe, Secure, and Effective Nuclear Deterrent
4. Defend the Homeland and Provide Support to Civil Authorities
5. Project Power Despite Anti-Access / Area Denial Challenges
6. Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction
7. Operate Effectively in Cyberspace and Space
8. Provide a Stabilizing Presence
9. Conduct Stability and Counterinsurgency Operations
10. Conduct Humanitarian, Disaster Relief, and Other Operations

U.S. European Command is closely aligned with, and executing, all ten of these mission areas. Every day, through a wide array of operations, exercises, and supporting initiatives, conducted in conjunction with our allies and partners, European Command is providing the forward defense of the United States and preserving America's vital national security interests across multiple continents in each of these priority areas. Over the past year, we have achieved significant progress in line with the Chairman's strategic priorities. Highlights include:

1. Counter Terrorism and Irregular Warfare

Afghanistan. European Command continues a wide range of activities to enable a successful transition to Afghan security lead at the end of 2014. Our European allies and partners, who constitute a third of ISAF, have made an “in together, out together” commitment, with some countries, including Georgia, Hungary, and Romania, having recently increased their ISAF contributions to address critical shortfalls. Allied and partner special operations forces, working in concert with Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR) under the Partnership Development Program, have demonstrated a particularly noteworthy level of commitment, indicating their willingness to continue contributing to Afghan stabilization efforts beyond 2014 should this requirement exist. European Command leverages a number of essential programs and authorities, including Section 1206 (global train & equip), the Coalition Support Fund, the Coalition Readiness Support Program, and the SOCEUR Partnership Development Program to assist our allies and partners with necessary pre-deployment training and equipment needs. Through these vital programs, we have provided training in critical combat skills and specialized equipment to enhance our partners’ downrange interoperability and operational effectiveness. The continued availability of these programs is essential to support the transition and post-2014 missions in Afghanistan.



In quarterly training rotations this year through U.S. Army Europe’s Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, European Command has also prepared a total of 72 Security Force Assistance Teams from 16 countries for ISAF deployment. Additionally, we provided life-saving Counter-Improvised Explosive Device training to 2,481 personnel from 22 countries. To date, the command’s Expeditionary Intelligence Training Program has developed counterinsurgency intelligence, analysis, and operational skill sets for over 1,000 personnel from 26 countries. And European Command has expanded our ‘Georgia Deployment Program’ to support the simultaneous deployment of two Georgian battalions every six months to ISAF’s Regional Command Southwest, where they operate in conjunction with the U.S. Marines without caveats. U.S. Air Force Europe’s Warrior Preparation Center has also contributed to the ISAF mission by training 60 Joint Tactical Air Controllers from 19 partner nations. Finally, in 2012, European Command obtained and delivered critical life-saving equipment for deploying partners from ten Central and Eastern European countries.

Theater Counterterrorism. Exercise JACKAL STONE is U.S. European Command's premier Special Operations Force (SOF) training event. In 2012, this theater-wide SOF exercise was conducted in Croatia involving over 1,700 personnel representing 15 countries: Canada; the Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Hungary; Italy; Lithuania; Latvia; Norway; Poland; Romania; Slovakia; and the United Kingdom. Exercise JACKAL STONE honed theater SOF capabilities in all mission sets from counterterrorism to high-intensity conflict. The exercise validated Special Operations Task Force-Europe's ability to conduct special operations, and enhanced SOF relationships with these key partners who continue deploying to ISAF and fully support our strategy of active security.

2. Deter and Defeat Aggression

AUSTERE CHALLENGE. In its eighth year as European Command's premier joint force headquarters exercise, AUSTERE CHALLENGE 12—the largest and most significant exercise ever to



Israeli Minister of Defense Ehud Barak speaks with U.S. forces during Exercise AUSTERE CHALLENGE in October, 2012. AUSTERE CHALLENGE was the largest exercise conducted in EUCOM since the end of the Cold War. It involved 3,500 U.S. and 1,000 Israeli forces exercising critical air and missile defense capabilities.

take place in U.S. European Command since the end of the Cold War—continued to provide world-class training opportunities for U.S. European Command Headquarters, our Service Component Commands, and the Israel Defense Forces. An extensive, multi-phased event, AUSTERE CHALLENGE 12 exercised existing U.S. European Command plans and capabilities in the Levant, focused on combined missile defense training and interoperability with a critical partner in a challenging strategic environment. The exercise involved 3,500 U.S. personnel from all four military services, integrating U.S. Army Patriot batteries, Air Operations Center command and control capabilities, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense

(BMD) ships, and other air defense systems to sharpen combined defensive capabilities against a variety of threats. As part of the broader AUSTERE CHALLENGE event, European Command also conducted the largest of our combined exercises and engagements with Israel, Exercises JUNIPER COBRA and JUNIPER FALCON. These exercises also sustain the U.S.-Israeli political-military relationship, exercise important theater capabilities, and provide further demonstration of the United States' strong commitment to the security of Israel.

The Combatant Command Exercise and Engagement Fund continues to be a linchpin for theater-wide Joint and Coalition training. In 2012, the fund supported 31 Joint and Coalition exercises, training European Command Headquarters staff and more than 25,000 U.S. military personnel across a full spectrum

of critical missions from integrated air and missile defense to counterterrorism. This funding enables European Command and NATO to be a net exporter of security, from ISAF operations to the defense of Israel, and was instrumental in ensuring the success of Exercise AUSTERE CHALLENGE 12, demonstrating a fully-rehearsed, seamlessly integrated missile defense capability and clear U.S. commitment to a key ally during a critical period.

3. Maintain a Safe, Secure, and Effective Nuclear Deterrent

Theater Nuclear Forces. U.S. European Command maintains a safe, secure, and effective theater nuclear deterrent in support of the NATO Alliance and enduring U.S. security commitments. Through rigorous and effective training, exercises, evaluation, inspection, operations, and sustainment, European Command ensures U.S. nuclear weapons, dual-capable aircraft, nuclear command centers, materials, procedures, and personnel are fully ready to support national strategic nuclear directives. Our annual program includes command-only exercises, such as FIG LEAF and CLOVER LEAF, as well as participation in the NATO STEADFAST exercise series, and multiple Joint Staff, NATO, and U.S. European Command assessments and inspections.

4. Defend the Homeland and Provide Support to Civil Authorities

Collective Security Defends the U.S. Homeland. In 2012, U.S. European Command continued its mission to defend the homeland forward by expanding our planning efforts with, and in support of, NATO. Through America's fulfillment of its Article 5 commitments, and a strong and enduring NATO Alliance, we support our national and collective security, manifested so clearly in NATO's historic and only Article 5 declaration, made in the wake of September 11, 2001.

Supporting the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime. Additionally, through the work of European Command's Joint Interagency Counter Trafficking Center (JICTC), we continue to provide strong support to the President's Transnational Organized Crime Strategy, the U.S. Government interagency, and numerous U.S. Country Teams working to counter global transnational illicit trafficking and terrorism. With profits from illicit enterprises estimated in the trillions, these efforts focus on disrupting versatile illicit networks who traffic in a wide host of destabilizing influences, including narcotics, terrorism, weapons (from small arms to WMD), human trafficking, and illicit finance. These networks pose a growing threat to the U.S. Homeland, as well as the security of our allied and partner nations. Through these efforts, we are contributing to U.S. interagency efforts to disrupt and dismantle these networks, and assisting our partner nations develop and refine the counter-trafficking and counterterrorism skills and capacity needed to keep these threats as far as possible from American shores.

5. Project Power Despite Anti-Access / Area Denial Challenges

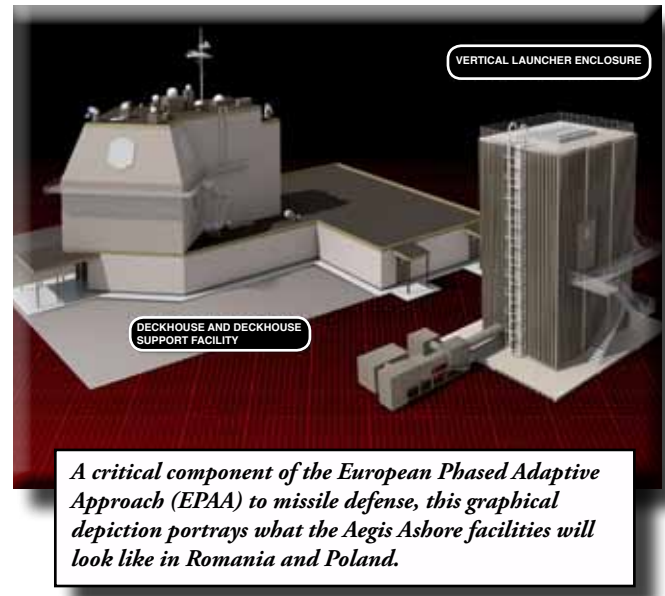
Ballistic Missile Defense. Throughout 2012, European Command continued to improve its ballistic missile defense (BMD) readiness for the defense of Israel and Europe. In particular, 2012 saw the AN/TPY-2 radar—on-line at Kürecik, Turkey, since 2011—transition to NATO control as part of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) to missile defense. Additionally, important EPAA Phase Two progress was made last year, as we successfully completed all international negotiations to forward-station four U.S. Navy Aegis BMD warships in Spain, and continued to prepare the Aegis Ashore site in Romania.

European Command has also taken a number of proactive steps to set the theater and increase our readiness in response to heightened instability in the Levant. Increased Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations enable the command to maintain a close watch on that region. As the situation in the Levant became increasingly serious last year, we significantly increased our coordination and collaborative planning with our counterparts in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). European Command also took steps to increase our force posture and readiness during this time frame, in order to be prepared to rapidly execute operations in the Levant should it become necessary.

6. Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction

European Counter-Proliferation Stakeholders. Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in the hands of a rogue state or non-state actors continue to represent a grave threat to the United States, our allies, and partners. In confronting this high-stakes challenge, one that possesses far-reaching and highly destabilizing consequences, several factors intersect across European Command's theater: the bulk of the world's WMD resides here; European population centers and U.S. military installations present numerous targets for terrorist organizations; and European ports and terminals are the last line of defense for much of the commercial traffic that enters the U.S. port system.

Our allies and partners share these concerns, and we continue to leverage their capabilities as we pursue efforts, both bilaterally and regionally, to reduce the potential for successful WMD trafficking. We



have increased our preparedness through several military-to-military and military-to-civilian engagements, joint training events, NATO's annual consequence management exercise (conducted in conjunction with over 30 European nations), U.S. interagency cooperation, defensive consequence management planning with Israel, the work of the Joint Interagency Counter Trafficking Center, and other partnering to bolster our collective capabilities in this critical mission area.

7. Operate Effectively in Space & Cyberspace

Cyberspace Operations. European Command is pursuing a cyber posture that ensures mission assurance by protecting the command's critical data, information systems, and networks against an expanding number of increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. Over the past year, European Command has refined the organization and functionality of its Joint Cyber Center (JCC), which serves as the focal point for coordinating, integrating, and synchronizing the theater's cyber activities. It is an integral part of the command's contingency planning efforts and operations, working closely with U.S. Cyber Command and Service cyber components to ensure responsiveness to priority mission requirements in the cyber domain.

In an effort to enhance the security of its networks and enhance their operational effectiveness, European Command is also working with U.S. Africa Command and the U.S. Army to implement the initial increment of the Joint Information Environment. This is a multi-phased effort supporting the Department's migration from Service-centric networks to a single information technology infrastructure and common network architecture. This undertaking will allow analysts at each combatant command to assess potential cyber threats on a near-real time basis and react to potential adversary activity in a more cohesive and effective manner.

Cyber Defenses. European Command's cyber posture also includes military engagement to strengthen coalition networks and the cyber defense capabilities of our NATO Allies and Partnership for Peace nations. Thirty-seven European Command country cooperation plans include activities that help partners strengthen their cyber defense programs and exchange information about cyber threats and vulnerabilities. Successful again last year, European Command conducted Exercise COMBINED ENDEAVOR 12, the largest communications and information systems interoperability exercise in the world. The event drew delegates from 40 nations (26 NATO and 14 Partnership for Peace countries) focused on partnership capabilities, operational preparation of deployable command, control, communications, and computer forces, cyber training and professional development, and the development of interoperability standards for cyberspace.

European Command also hosted Exercise CYBER ENDEAVOR, which promotes a common standard for network defense processes and procedures. The exercise involved 175 participants from 32 countries, including NATO members and Warsaw Initiative Fund-resourced Partnership for Peace nations. It focused on malware analysis and reverse engineering, cyber incident response, and network and computer forensics. Through this capstone event with NATO, partner nations, academia, and industry, European Command is

enhancing theater-wide cyber capabilities, and building strong defense partnerships to ensure that the U.S. and NATO are prepared to prevail in this critical domain.

8. Provide a Stabilizing Presence

Israel and the Levant. European Command's sustained engagement with Israel, through our theater security cooperation program and numerous annual military-to-military engagement activities, continues to strengthen our nations' enduring ties and military capabilities. European Command chairs four bilateral, semiannual conferences with Israel addressing planning, logistics, exercises, and interoperability. Additionally, the U.S.-Israeli exercise portfolio includes eight major recurring exercises. Through these engagements, our leaders and staff maintain uniquely strong, recurring, personal, and direct relationships with their IDF counterparts.

U.S. Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority. European Command's comprehensive engagement strategy with Israel complements other U.S. government security cooperation initiatives, including the important work of the U.S. Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (USSC). USSC's mission is to help Israel and the Palestinian Authority meet security conditions to support a two-state solution; to transform and professionalize the Palestinian Authority's security sector; and to support U.S. and international whole of government engagement, with both the Israelis and the Palestinians through security initiatives designed to build mutual trust and confidence. Continued U.S. support for this engagement and the progressive capacity and capabilities of the Palestinian Authority Security Forces remain in the interest of overall Israeli-Palestinian regional security.

Kosovo. In advance of the Serbian elections last year, for which there were indications Serbia would attempt to organize illegally in the territory of Kosovo, European Command worked closely with Senior Department of Defense officials to identify Kosovo Force (KFOR) capacities, capabilities, and risks to mitigate against a deterioration in security resulting from such an effort. We prepared ground forces, forward-stationed in Germany, to deploy rapidly to reinforce KFOR if required. Though this augmentation was ultimately not needed as a diplomatic solution was found to allow the OSCE to administer polling sites where dual national Kosovo Serbs could vote, the proximity and presence demonstrated important U.S. resolve to continued stability in the Balkans.

Caucasus. With U.S. assistance, Georgia conducted cross-border Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response training with Armenia in 2012, and also continued to develop their biohazard threat analysis capabilities to enhance regional stability. Further south, European Command facilitated Armenia's participation in Exercise COMBINED ENDEAVOR and the U.S. Marine Corps' Black Sea Rotational Force, efforts focused on regional security, while also providing non-commissioned officer training to the



Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers participating in a live-fire drill with Lithuanian soldiers during Exercise SABER STRIKE held in Adazi, Latvia. Lithuania is paired with Pennsylvania under the State Partnership Program. Lithuanian troops joined with 2,000 other forces from Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Canada, France and the United Kingdom for this important Baltic-focused multinational security exercise.

Armenian military. In Azerbaijan, European Command also involved Azerbaijan forces in the Black Sea Rotational Force, coordinated training events at the Joint Multinational Training Center in Germany, and provided Section 1206-funded explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training to Naval Special Operations Forces.

9. Conduct Stability and Counterinsurgency Operations

Baltic States. In support of this priority, focused on stability and expanding military-to-military cooperation to strengthen partner capabilities and reduce reliance on

U.S. forces, European Command sponsored the 42nd annual Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) engagement, a maritime exercise which has grown to become the largest military-to-military event in the region. BALTOPS '12 continued America's highly visible outreach and engagement in the Baltic region, supporting development of Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian maritime capabilities, enhancing regional and NATO Alliance unity of effort, and exercising a host of key military competencies focused on joint and combined air, land, and sea training. The exercise brought together 12 European nations—including Russia—27 ships, 33 aircraft, and one submarine to conduct tactical unit actions, in-port and at-sea events, and a culminating exercise employing multi-national sea and air forces. The exercise was important in promoting assurance and stability in this key maritime region, and expanding our engagement with Russia, one of European Command's leading priorities.

State Partnership Program. The National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) remains one of European Command's most effective and efficient programs to enhance theater stability and influence the development of partner nation military capabilities. Launched in 1993 to reach out to former Warsaw Pact and Eastern European countries after the Cold War, the program accounts for 25% of European Command's theater security cooperation and military-to-military engagement programs with these nations. In the European Command Theater,



Dr. Darko Nisavic, a member of Montenegro's emergency medical team is hoisted aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk MEDEVAC helicopter by Sgt. Joseph Campbell of U.S. Army Europe's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade during last year's humanitarian assistance mission to rescue stranded Montenegrins affected by severe weather.

SPP partners U.S. National Guard forces from 21 participating states with 22 allied and partner nations. SPP in the theater leverages other programs and authorities, such as National Guard annual training and Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid program activities to conduct military training and education, pursue key theater security cooperation objectives, and foster positive relationships among junior and mid-grade military professionals. These relationships pay dividends as these professionals progress to ever higher positions of responsibility in their militaries. The program has also delivered a significant operational return on investment, with 19 participating nations contributing forces to ISAF, and nine of these nations training, deploying, and serving side-by-side with participating U.S. National Guard units in Security Force Assistance Teams and Provincial Reconstruction Teams across Afghanistan.

10. Conduct Humanitarian, Disaster Relief, and Other Operations

Disaster Relief. In 2010, in coordination with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), European Command provided critical firefighting support to control wildfires raging across Russia and Israel. A year later, in August 2011, the Command provided significant disaster relief to Turkey in the wake of a devastating earthquake. Last year, in response to a particularly harsh winter, European Command provided rapid disaster response across the Balkans. In February 2012, blizzard conditions caused widespread power outages across Bosnia and Herzegovina, prompting officials to request emergency assistance from the international community. On short notice, European Command delivered badly needed parts and supplies to repair degraded military helicopters so that Bosnians could respond to isolated mountain communities. A short time later, Montenegro declared a similar state of emergency. European Command again answered the call, providing intra-theater lift to transport required material, personnel, and equipment to Montenegro, and dispatched two U.S. Army UH-60 helicopters to assist the government with emergency resupply and medical evacuation operations.

Humanitarian Assistance. European Command also supports civil-military engagement programs that focus humanitarian assistance and disaster response along four key lines of operation: disaster preparedness; education; health; and water and sanitation. These programs provide training and construction support to develop disaster preparedness in poorer regions of southeastern Europe and Eurasia. This program, also coordinated with USAID, generates significant 'soft power' for the United States, as efforts to renovate clinics, schools, orphanages, and water lines build tremendous goodwill and leave a lasting positive American legacy for a relatively modest investment. In 2012, the program obligated \$9 million across 17 countries in the region to help build and reinforce stability.

To summarize, through the execution of the command's combined operations, theater exercises, interagency outreach, and security cooperation across each of these ten national mission areas, European Command is protecting and preserving every one of America's vital national security interests. These interest, defined by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs are:

- ✦ Survival of the nation (deterrence of nuclear attack);
- ✦ Survival of the global economic system (enabling physical and virtual flow of global commerce);
- ✦ Prevention of catastrophic attacks on the nation (from ballistic missiles, WMD, or terrorists);
- ✦ Freedom of action for the United States (facilitate the exercise of American power);
- ✦ Secure, confident, and reliable allies and partners (fulfilling obligations to our partner states);
- ✦ Protection of American citizens abroad (defending diplomatic facilities and conducting hostage rescue, counterterrorism, and evacuation operations);
- ✦ Preserving and, where possible, extending universal values (human rights, democracy, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief).

Supporting each of these vital national security interests, European Command is making a difference, keeping America safe, and ensuring the nation's defenses are ***Stronger Together*** with our European allies and partners.

CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, *and* INITIATIVES

“European security remains an anchor of U.S. foreign and security policy. A strong Europe is critical to our security and our prosperity. Much of what we hope to accomplish globally depends on working together with Europe.”

– Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

The most important challenge facing U.S. European Command is maintaining our readiness to conduct unilateral operations, as well as combined operations with our European allies and partners, to support our collective NATO Article 5 responsibilities, out-of-area operations, and other contingency missions. Today, rising tensions—stemming from declining resources, long-simmering ethnic strife, regional hegemonic desires impacting U.S. European Command area of responsibility partners’ security, and a host of demographic, social, political, and economic forces—pose challenges and risk to security and stability in and around our theater. Enduring U.S. presence and engagement remains critical to preventing destabilizing influences or simmering resentments from erupting into violence or escalating into open conflict. While these challenges are real, European Command remains vigilant, proactive, and engaged to seek out opportunities in each of these challenges and leverage our presence, leadership, and capabilities to continue to protect U.S. vital national security interests and meet our collective security commitments.

Afghanistan. We have entered the critical transition period in Afghanistan. Over the next 20 months, ISAF must continue to fully recruit and field the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), both army and police, in order to shift the main security effort to the Afghans later this year. We must also prepare to support the Afghan presidential election and the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A), while planning to

redeploy thousands of ISAF forces and restructure our basing readiness to ensure that European Command is postured to support this redeployment and the post-2014 mission.

European Command is involved in a wide range of supporting activities to enable a successful transition in Afghanistan in accordance with the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance and NATO’s Chicago Summit Declaration. As mentioned, European Command continues to leverage Section 1206, Coalition Support Fund, Coalition Readiness Support Program, and a host of other security assistance programs to provide the critical training and equipment that enable our European allies and partners—particularly Central and



A Turkish UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is loaded onboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, for deployment to Kabul. EUCOM will provide indispensable logistical capacity and collaboration with U.S. Transportation Command to conduct significant U.S. and allied retrograde and redeployment operations from Afghanistan in 2013 and 2014.

Eastern Europeans who are punching far above their weight in ISAF—to continue contributing to security and stability in Afghanistan. The continued availability of these authorities, particularly Section 1206, is essential to helping us meet the transition timeline and our post-2014 responsibilities. European Command is also providing critical logistical support to the mission in Afghanistan. We are working closely with U.S. Transportation Command to ensure the existing capacity, versatility, and responsiveness of redeployment mechanisms, routes, and infrastructure can cover the size and scope of the Afghanistan redeployment mission. To that end, European Command’s recently established multi-modal logistical hub at U.S. Forward Operating Site Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield in Romania represents an extremely valuable addition to this logistical capacity, helping to mitigate risk from existing logistical ground and sea lines of communication in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

NATO Evolution. While progress continues, in step with the Lisbon and Chicago summit declarations, budget pressures and the transition in Afghanistan will continue to affect NATO’s ongoing evolution. This challenge is characterized by several elements. First, NATO will discover new force capacity when troops, both U.S. and European, return home from Afghanistan as we move closer to 2014. This will facilitate support to the NATO Response Force (NRF), which provides the alliance with Article 5 and other crisis response capabilities. Second, the allies will naturally re-focus on training, exercising, and initiatives inside alliance borders, even as they seek to retain hard-earned counterinsurgency and expeditionary capabilities. The Department’s decision to reinvigorate U.S. participation in the NRF offers a significant opportunity to ensure America’s allies and partners sustain their expeditionary capabilities and maintain their interoperability with U.S. forces. European Command is working to implement this decision, through support to rotational U.S. battalion task forces participating in NRF exercises and important training events with our European allies and partners. Third, the importance of counterinsurgency skill sets will give way to other priorities, including missile defense, cyberspace, and regional stability. Fourth, NATO will continue to adjust to its recently reduced command structure. Fifth, the alliance will seek to integrate increasingly capable allies, such as Turkey and Poland, into high-end planning, command structures, and exercises. Lastly, the alliance will become more aware of, and focused on, evolving transnational challenges, including illicit trafficking, piracy, terrorism, WMD proliferation, and energy security.

The challenge to NATO presented by the current evolution is to develop a capable force structure to ensure enduring alliance credibility. European Command continues to support NATO’s ongoing evolution through our bilateral and multilateral engagements, exercises, training, theater security cooperation programs, participation in the NATO Centers of Excellence, and a wide variety of other initiatives. One of the most effective enablers in this effort continues to be the U.S. International Military Education and Training (IMET) program. Through this invaluable program, the United States has trained and educated a number of our partner nations’ top performing military personnel and future leaders, increasing international understanding, cooperation, and interoperability. IMET beneficiaries have risen to the highest echelons of their defense establishments, which today include three Eastern European Chiefs of Defense, eleven partner

nation Service Chiefs, and eight Sergeants Major of our partner nations' militaries. The IMET program continues to build and expand on these vital relationships, strongly supports NATO's continued evolution, and provides the U.S. with considerable advantage in outreach and connection as we maintain these relationships over the years. Through these programs, European Command reinforces U.S. leadership in NATO and reenergizes our enduring commitment to the alliance's collective security. These efforts sustain confidence in NATO's aggregate strength, shared democratic values, recognition of global responsibilities, and continued adherence to operational competence.

By supporting NATO's continued viability and success, the United States encourages European nations to approach global security issues from within the alliance, ensuring that European and U.S. viewpoints are shared, considered, and weighed together in the decision-making process. Today, NATO stands at a second major crossroads, similar to the decision point that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall. Our challenge is to work diligently to support the broader U.S. government effort to demonstrate tangible U.S. commitment to the alliance, ensuring that the correct choices are made to maintain NATO's capabilities, capacity, and credibility.

"NATO not only serves to protect our collective nations but our Homeland as well."

- Congressman Michael Turner (R-OH), House Armed Services Committee

Israel and the Levant. The 'Arab Spring' movement is significantly reshaping leadership across the Middle East and North Africa. New strategic challenges are emerging. Several Arab countries are undergoing major internal changes resulting in a more dynamic, less predictable region. For Israel, a country inside European Command's area of responsibility, these movements bring increased uncertainty for enduring stability in the region. The Sinai's growing instability is of increasing concern to Israel. Over the past three decades, Israel has made significant military reductions along its southern border based on a stable Egyptian/Israeli border. Internal developments in Egypt have now put the stability of that border into question. Additionally, aggressive actions by elements inside Gaza eventually compelled Israel to launch its 7-day 'Pillar of Defense' operation last November. To the north, events in Syria have severely destabilized Israel's northern border. Israel must be prepared to deal with the actions of the current Syrian regime as well as a range of possible successors. In addition, Lebanese Hezbollah continues to grow as a powerful actor on the Israel/Lebanon border, possessing lethally accurate rockets and missiles with the potential to severely damage Israeli infrastructure. To the east, Iran continues to increase its ballistic missile stockpile and pursue a nuclear weapons program, further narrowing Israel's strategic depth and decision space. Given this situation, it is feasible that increasing violence or war could erupt from multiple directions within the Levant with limited warning and grave implications for regional stability, Israeli security, and U.S. interests.

Accordingly, European Command continues to work with our IDF partners to ensure strong U.S. support to the defense of Israel. European Command works closely with U.S. Central Command to keep abreast of all emerging threats and intelligence regarding Iran, Syria, the Sinai, Hamas, and Hezbollah, ranging from missile threats to terrorist activity. Lastly, European Command continues a robust program of security cooperation and military-to-military activities with Israel to demonstrate U.S. resolve and ensure a high degree of defense synchronization between our two nations.

Russia. Though a significant actor who at times disagrees with U.S. and NATO policies, Russia still presents potential for future engagement. The military component of the relationship exists principally in the annual bilateral U.S.-Russian Military Cooperation Work Plan. Since its re-establishment in 2008, focused on ‘zones of cooperation’ where our interests overlap and that avoid enhancing Russian combat capabilities, our bilateral activities have increased from 10 events in 2009 to 110 events and exercises in 2012, in areas of mutual interest including: combating terrorism; counter-piracy; counter-trafficking; crisis response; maritime capabilities; search and rescue; the Arctic; and support to coalition stabilization efforts in

Afghanistan. Despite recent disagreements over missile defense, we continue to seek out additional areas for cooperation, such as security for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and Russia’s recent request for assistance developing its new Military Police organization, which the U.S. Army is working diligently. The ability to effectively work together not only provides important strategic access for ongoing NATO and coalition operations, but continues to satisfy our mutual strategic goals.

Militarily, Russia seeks to enhance its regional influence and leverage through participation with former Soviet states in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (membership includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan), as well as a robust defense build-up through its ‘State Armament Plan.’ That plan calls for the construction and modernization of: naval surface combatants and submarines; air defense brigades; attack helicopters; developments in fifth generation fighters; and the continued maintenance of its existing strategic and tactical nuclear weapons. At the same time, Russia faces many challenges, including declining demographics, a high rate of drug and alcohol abuse, a relatively narrow economic base stemming from oil and gas, and uneven infrastructure. While appropriately anticipating these developments, European Command will continue to seek and leverage existing and emerging zones of cooperation as a priority and focus for our current and future engagement with Russia.



USS Normandy (CG 60) and Russian Federation Ship (RFS) Kaliningrad (LSTM 102) conduct anti-piracy training on the high seas. Naval operations, from counter-piracy to counter-trafficking to search-and-rescue, remain an important zone of cooperation for continued constructive U.S.-Russian engagement.

Turkey. A NATO ally since 1952, Turkey continues to make important contributions to vital U.S. national security interests, particularly in its support for regional missile defense with the AN/TPY-2 radar site located in eastern Turkey as well as ongoing counter-terrorism operations. Turkey is an indispensable partner in addressing the increasingly complex challenges in the Levant and across the broader Middle East. Turkey's own challenges include a growing refugee crisis on the Syrian border, threat of Syrian ballistic spillover (hence NATO's Patriot deployment to southern Turkey), and increased terrorist activity, specifically with the Kongra-Gel (KGK, formerly the Kurdistan Workers Party or PKK) along their border with Iraq.

We continue to support U.S. efforts with the Government of Turkey to ensure optimum cooperation and outcomes given the Assad regime's uncertain future in Syria. European Command and the Turkish General Staff are engaged in a dialogue that will serve as the foundation for deeper cooperation as the situation requires. Turkey's status as a stable, democratic nation, its sizable security resources, and its influence as a regional power broker combine to make this NATO ally a critical component in achieving U.S. regional objectives. In return, Turkey is raising its expectations for U.S. cooperation and partnership, specifically with access to high-end Foreign Military Sales (FMS), cooperation on counter-terrorism activity, and increased leadership opportunities in NATO and coalition political/military structures. That said, Turkey's eroding relationship with Israel bears special emphasis. Resumption of good relations between these two U.S. allies, and willingness to facilitate these relations on a military-to-military level, remain a priority for European Command.

Poland. Poland remains a pivotal nation in our theater, and an emerging leader in eastern Europe and the NATO Alliance. The strong cooperation between the United States and Poland remains important to overall regional security. European Command sees value in the increased visibility and presence of U.S. forces in Poland, through military engagements and regionally-hosted exercises, to assist Poland in realizing its full potential as a capable and reliable security partner, able to contribute forces that can operate side-by-side with the United States in future NATO and coalition operations. U.S. military engagement with Poland is multi-faceted. Recent cooperation across a variety of initiatives, to include missile defense, Patriot battery rotations, the establishment of the U.S. Air Force aviation detachment, and multinational exercises, has allowed the United States to maintain strong defense ties with this important regional power.

Balkans. In the Balkans, the overarching U.S. goal is to achieve stability and advance Euro-Atlantic integration. However, strong enmity remains between former warring factions, especially within Bosnia and Herzegovina and between Serbia and Kosovo. Bosnia and Herzegovina possesses a stagnant economy. Public sector spending accounts for an unsustainable 40% of GDP. Efforts at post-conflict economic revitalization have proven fitful at best. The complex governmental structures created by the Dayton Peace Accords are inefficient and prone to obstruction by political interference, and resistant to reforms promoted by the international community. European Command continues its outreach and engagement with Bosnia and Herzegovina through theater exercises, humanitarian assistance activities, disaster readiness training, theater exercises, and the State Partnership Program. We are also energizing defense reform efforts to address chronic problems in logistics, procurement, and defense institution building.

Serbia's efforts to realize its aspirations to join the European Union, as well as advance military-to-military relations with the United States, will be strained until and unless Belgrade makes real progress to normalize relations with Kosovo and reach durable solutions on northern Kosovo. European Command is looking to the EU-facilitated Pristina-Belgrade dialogue to deliver progress in these areas, while further engaging Serbia in regional exercises and engagement to encourage a constructive relationship.

Serbia's refusal to date to normalize relations with Kosovo – as well as actions by hardliners and criminal elements in northern Kosovo – have hampered Pristina's ability to extend its authority to its



U.S. and German Soldiers assigned to the Kosovo Force (KFOR) provide perimeter security during roadblock removal operations on June 1, 2012 near Mitrovica, Kosovo. Border tensions in northern Kosovo continue to bear close watching, and require KFOR to maintain current force levels for now to ensure stability and support the ongoing Pristina-Belgrade dialogue.

northern borders without significant international presence. Tensions in northern Kosovo remained high in 2012, including at least one serious violent incident that required the rapid deployment of KFOR personnel to control the situation. Accordingly, despite earlier NATO plans to continue drawing down alliance force levels in Kosovo, of which U.S. troops comprise only 15%, KFOR should remain at current levels until further progress is made. In addition to KFOR support, European Command continues to facilitate State Partnership Program engagement between Kosovo and the Iowa National Guard, as well as traditional military-to-military efforts aimed at professionalizing the Kosovo Security Force's training program and non-

commissioned officer corps. These efforts are designed to assist in the eventual transition of international security responsibilities to Kosovo institutions.

Overall in the Balkans, European Command continues its work to encourage greater collaboration among partners in regional venues such as the Adriatic Charter. The Adriatic Charter serves as the flagship forum for regional cooperation, and builds on U.S.-provided support toward the goals of eventual integration into NATO and other Euro-Atlantic institutions. European Command's objectives remain focused on facilitating regional solutions to challenges, promoting regional stability, protecting and strengthening borders through counter-trafficking and counter-proliferation initiatives, and promoting a safe and secure environment in Southeast Europe's most fragile countries.

Caucasus. Similar to the Balkans, instability and fragility in the Caucasus will continue. That instability is highlighted by Russia's continued non-compliance with the August 2008 cease-fire agreement with Georgia, as well as the ongoing political struggle between Georgia and Russia over the occupied regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The North Caucasus may very well experience more violence in the near term, as persistent economic stagnation, lack of government investment (outside of Sochi, the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics), social instability, and wholesale emigration by ethnic Slavs seeking safer territories all take their toll, resulting in challenges to governance and susceptibility to the increasing influence of radical Islamists. Though not as volatile as the North Caucasus, the South Caucasus remains a concern

in the absence of an agreed political resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and continued violent incidents on the Line of Contact separating the opposing forces.

European Command continues vigorous engagement across the Caucasus, given the region's strategic importance as a global energy corridor, key node on the Northern Distribution Network, source of national contributions to ISAF, potential for narcotics and illicit weapons trafficking, interest area for both Russia and Iran, and location of frozen conflicts that have potential to flash into wider and more destabilizing wars. In 2012, Armenia deployed a platoon of peacekeepers to serve alongside the United States in KFOR, and Georgia remains a key partner in the region, one who continues to make extraordinary ISAF contributions. European Command is involved in defense cooperation assessments and efforts with Georgia as directed in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. Additional security cooperation program priorities in the South Caucasus are focused on developing and sustaining relationships that: ensure U.S. access and freedom of action (focused in the near term on Northern Distribution Network areas); counter regional and transnational threats, especially violent extremist organizations, counter-WMD proliferation, and illicit trafficking; solidify defense institutional reforms; and sustain partner capacity to enhance regional security while not hindering diplomatic efforts to settle the region's frozen conflicts.

European Economic, Social, and Demographic Dynamics. Europe will continue to feel the cumulative effects of several economic and associated socio-cultural stresses for the foreseeable future. These stresses include: the lasting impact of the Euro zone debt crisis; the aging and retirement of a large segment of the population, with its attendant pressure on already stressed social services; increased labor demand that exceeds worker supply, with a resultant pressure to assimilate a growing immigrant work force; and the draining of human resources and intellectual capital in countries experiencing slow or no growth. These economic and demographic forces pose a challenge to European economic and political clout in the near term, stress transnational and national governance structures, including the European Union and NATO, and increase the potential for instability around the continent. The result of these forces is also magnified on European militaries, as national GDPs have fallen and governments reduce the GDP percentage dedicated to defense spending in order to deal with increasing deficits and reduced revenue. European Command's response is a campaign of active engagement with allied and partner Ministries of Defense across the theater to keep national defense funding at effective levels, encouraging wise investment of available defense spending and supporting the broader U.S. interagency effort to assist newly democratic nations develop well-crafted government institutions and reduce the effects of corruption.

Pooling Resources, Sharing Capabilities. In response to this climate of fiscal austerity and corresponding defense cuts, European Command is working with NATO to make the most of available defense expenditures by pooling resources, sharing capabilities, setting priorities, and enhancing coordination of effort—in initiatives like the NATO Centers of Excellence—that sustain the required military capabilities that underpin the alliance's core tasks, evolving needs, and priorities set in Lisbon and Chicago. Additionally, we must also continue to strongly encourage our allies to meet the minimum NATO goal of spending at least 2% of their GDP on defense.

Ballistic Missile Defense. Unfortunately, our adversaries continue efforts to procure, develop, and proliferate advanced ballistic missile technologies, posing a serious threat to U.S. forces and installations in the theater, as well as to the territory, populations, and forces of our European allies and partners.

Accordingly, European Command continues to make significant progress in implementing the President's European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) to missile defense. EPAA Phase One is complete, with the AN/TPY-2 land-based radar established and operating from eastern Turkey, U.S. Navy Aegis BMD



Admiral James Stavridis, NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, describes shipboard capabilities for the NATO Ballistic Missile Defense program to NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO Military Committee Chairman General Knud Bartels, and other officials during the NATO Summit in Chicago last May.

warships on-station in the Mediterranean, and NATO's declaration last May in Chicago of its interim ballistic missile defense (BMD) capability. EPAA Phase Two is currently in progress, with planning and construction efforts on track to home port four forward-deployed U.S. Navy Aegis BMD warships at Naval Station Rota, Spain, and with work progressing on the first of two Aegis Ashore facilities, with the first site located in Romania. The BMD agreement with Poland for the second Aegis Ashore site, as part of EPAA Phase Three, is signed and in force.

The BMD mission also offers another excellent example of the tangible benefits of cooperative resource pooling with our allies and partners in a critical collective security mission. At last year's European Command-sponsored BMD conference in Berlin, the U.S. and our allies conferred on existing advanced maritime air defense systems that could be upgraded to provide European-procured upper-tier BMD surveillance or interceptor contributions to NATO's BMD mission, augmenting the U.S. national contribution. The conference also explored ways to burden-share through a multi-national interceptor pool. This is an important dialogue that, adequately supported, can generate ideas and realize initiatives to increase allied upper and lower-tier BMD contributions complementary to, and interoperable with, existing high-demand, low-density U.S. assets. European Command efforts in this area are already achieving results, as we contributed to the recent Dutch decision to procure upper-tier maritime surveillance BMD systems.

Terrorism & Violent Extremism. With more than 700 kinetic terror incidents occurring in the theater over the past several years, ongoing instability and terrorism (both international and indigenous) existing in, and transiting through, our theater will continue to threaten Europe and the United States. The diversification of the threat landscape in Europe combined in some cases with the destabilizing social and economic factors described earlier will increase the number of disaffected groups across the political and cultural spectrum that may support extremist groups or seek to express their growing frustrations through violence. The concern is that, stretched increasingly thin by fiscal and policy constraints, theater national governance mechanisms, including law enforcement and intelligence agencies, may be hard-pressed to

respond to these trends. Meanwhile, Al-Qaida and other Islamist extremist groups, with extensive ties to individuals and groups in Western Europe, continue to pose a significant regional threat. These groups regard Europe as an important venue for recruitment, logistical support, financing, and the targeting of U.S. and Western interests. Additionally, Iran's Qods Force continues to operate in Europe, and the rising influence and actions of Lebanese Hezbollah in our theater also operates against U.S. and partner interests.

In addition to designating Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR) as the lead organization for theater counter-terrorism efforts, and the associated creation of the SOCEUR CT-Core Cell organization described in the SOCEUR appendix, European Command continues to work closely with theater-based U.S. Intelligence Community partners, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and U.S. Northern Command to track terrorist threats across Europe and the Levant which may pose a risk to the security of the Homeland, forward-stationed or deployed U.S. forces, or our allies and partners.

In fighting back against theater terrorism and extremism, influence operations constitute a key element of the command's 21st century strategy and military activities. In the literate and wired societies of Europe, these operations provide us with the ability to communicate and influence key target audiences using traditional print and broadcast media, as well as increasingly pervasive 21st century tools, including web sites, social media, and cell phones. Our ongoing influence program, Operation ASSURED VOICE, is a vital contributor to the pursuit of our military objectives and theater campaign plan. Through these increasingly necessary 'soft power' activities, we seek to counter violent extremist messaging and mitigate the potential loss of influence given reduced force presence in Europe. We must be able to compete effectively in the information environment, confront violent extremist ideology and recruitment, and reach out to fence sitters wherever ideas compete. Success on the front lines of the information age is critical to preserving stability in our theater and shaping the information environment should a crisis occur.

Transnational Organized Crime & Illicit Trafficking. In addition to, and often in collusion with, terrorist and extremist threats is another source of growing instability inside the European Command theater: the expanding reach and influence of transnational organized crime. Transnational organized crime networks are using increasingly sophisticated business models, operations, and networks to perpetrate global illicit activities. These networks are highly adaptable, bold in technique, ruthless in execution, and are expanding and diversifying their activities at an alarming rate. Some estimates project their revenue at 8-15% of the \$70 trillion in global GDP.⁴ The result is a convergence of well-funded transnational organized crime networks that can destabilize entire economies, undermine good governance, and create national security threats to the United States, our allies, and partners.

There is also growing evidence of an evolving relationship among terrorists, criminals, and financiers, as each group attempts to exploit the seams that exist in national policies to further this growing illicit global enterprise. Additionally, the pace and scope of 21st century global commercial activity is increasing smuggling venues and innovation to facilitate the movement of a wide range of threats from small arms to threat finance to human trafficking to, in a worst-case scenario, WMD agents and delivery systems.

⁴ U.S. National Defense University, "Final Report of the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on Combating Crime-Terror Pipelines," June 25-26, 2012.

Continued pressure on European security budgets, along with Europe's open borders and eased customs checkpoints, could increase the difficulty in combating these threats. Yet, as the President's strategy makes clear, we must continue our collective efforts to understand, disrupt, and dismantle these growing threat networks. In an increasingly interconnected world, the threat from transnational organized crime represents a 21st century national and global security imperative.

Joint Interagency Counter-Trafficking Center.

In support of the President's National Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), European Command has stood up the Joint Interagency Counter-Trafficking Center (JICTC). It is important to note that JICTC is a facilitator in support of U.S. Country Teams, and that JICTC is not a law enforcement organization and does not conduct law enforcement activities. Created from existing European Command personnel and infrastructure, JICTC uses existing legal authorities to support U.S. security cooperation activities conducted by U.S. Embassy personnel, operating in countries within the European Command area of responsibility. All of the support and training provided to any particular European nation is done at the request, and through the auspices, of the U.S. Country Team in that nation. JICTC's operations are focused security cooperation activities in the areas of counter-narcotics and support to law enforcement. JICTC provides a single point of contact for U.S. Country Teams to provide training to host-nation partners in these areas. The emphasis on counter-narcotics is consistent with NATO's priorities, and has been a European Command mission for many years.

In support of these objectives, JICTC supports U.S. Country Team and interagency efforts, and collaborates with similar European organizations, to assist our partner nations build self-sufficient counter-trafficking skills, competencies, and capacity to defend the United States and Europe from rising TOC threats. Importantly, JICTC does not seek a leadership role for combating organized crime; rather it simply serves as an important forward, theater-based facilitation platform for U.S. agencies and international partners to synchronize counter-trafficking efforts in a collaborative, whole of government approach. In a recent example of its contributions and effectiveness last year, JICTC partnered with Southeastern Europe nations to implement biometric screenings at border entry ports in order to rapidly identify potential terrorists and TOC figures. In just the first day in operation, these enhancements netted two arrests, including a known terrorist.



U.S. European Command's Joint Interagency Counter-Trafficking Center (JICTC) supports the President's National Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) by working with U.S. interagency and international partners to fight global illicit trafficking networks. These networks raise an estimated \$7 trillion in annual revenue from drugs, weapons, human trafficking, material support to terrorists, and threat finance.

Whole of Government Approach. Given the likelihood of reduced budgets for years to come, a ‘whole of government’ approach to finding and implementing solutions to sources of instability and conflict is more important than ever. Partnering unlocks efficiencies and avoids costly duplication of effort. European Command’s J-9 Interagency Partnering Directorate, a model that is also in use at numerous other U.S. combatant commands, applies the multiple perspectives of U.S. Government interagency partners to address complex 21st century problems that transcend military-only solutions. For three years, European Command has diligently worked to assemble a diverse team of representatives from eleven U.S. Government agencies, including the Departments of State, Justice, Treasury, Energy, Homeland Security, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Their expertise, skills, and direct linkage to their Washington D.C.-based headquarters make these team members an invaluable resource in taking a more probative look at sources of regional instability across our theater, including terrorism and extremism, and applying the collective wisdom and intellectual resources of the interagency community to form more comprehensive long-term solutions.

Public-Private Partnering. ‘Whole of society’ solutions are the next evolution to build upon ‘whole of government’ success. European Command continues to support the Department of Defense initiative to integrate the capabilities and expertise of the private and non-profit sectors, in coordination with our interagency partners, to support theater objectives. Our long-term strategic partnership with the Business Executives for National Security (BENS) group continues to enhance our partner nations’ abilities to provide for their own security. This year, BENS sent a delegation of volunteer business executives to the Azores in Portugal to help identify economic development opportunities in anticipation of projected force structure reductions at Lajes Airfield. BENS also teamed with cyber experts to assist the Government of Iceland cope with a host of cyber security challenges.

In direct support of the transition mission in Afghanistan, European Command has developed strategic partnerships with the private sector, non-profit organizations, and U.S. interagency partners to improve access and economic opportunities for countries along the Northern Distribution Network. Additionally, we are working with partner nations in the South Caucasus to develop and improve treatment capabilities for their wounded warriors who have suffered complex amputations from combat in Afghanistan. Lastly, these public-private efforts are focused on assisting partners improve their disaster preparedness and response capabilities by working with private sector and non-profit partners to enhance the ability of local commercial sectors to assist national recovery efforts in vulnerable areas.

Cyberspace. Cyberspace remains largely indifferent to national borders and traditional security arrangements. Continuous technology evolution and the relative ease of employing disruptive effects in cyberspace have elevated its strategic significance in the military arena. Challenges in attribution and identity management in cyberspace make it difficult to differentiate between state-sponsored and non-state threat actors, while employment of non-state proxies in cyberspace allows states to mask their involvement in malign activity. Traditional deterrence strategies and defensive concepts still need to be adapted to the

unique character and functions of this increasingly vital operational domain, without negatively impacting the vital global connectivity, commerce, and free flow of information that cyberspace provides.

Apart from developing technologically superior defensive countermeasures and seeking multinational commitment to ensuring fundamental freedoms, privacy and the free flow of information in cyberspace, European Command continues to work collaboratively with regional allies and partners in a whole of government effort to build strong and resilient collective cyber security. These efforts include assisting our partners develop and sustain information assurance and cyber defense programs, capable cyber defense workforces (including a cyber incident response capacity), and promoting shared situational awareness about existing threats and the best practices to mitigate them. The command pursues these initiatives through our annual cyber exercise program, COMBINED ENDEAVOR, our ongoing coordination with U.S. Cyber Command, and our participation in the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn, Estonia.

Energy. Reliable access to affordable energy remains a core issue for countries across the European Command theater, whether they are energy exporters, importers, or transit states. The reality is that dependence on Russian natural gas will continue to drive energy security considerations for many of our European partners. We continue to support alternatives and monitor changes to the energy status quo in Europe, including changes in global oil markets, the potential large-scale development of unconventional gas resources, alternate hydrocarbon supply lines (such as those from the Caspian Sea region), and the increased supply of liquefied natural gas.

European Command's J-9 Interagency Partnering Directorate assists our partners in this area by working with the U.S. Department of Energy and other U.S. agencies to investigate and expand alternative opportunities, primarily in support of partner nation military forces and facilities. Advances in hydrocarbon exploration and extraction, developments in current and next-generation renewable energy technologies, and improvements in energy efficiency all combine to provide European states a significant opportunity to reduce their energy dependence. The J-9 Directorate continues to work closely with these nations to explore these issues and identify energy solutions. Last fall marked a milestone, as European Command's bilateral engagement and 2011 Memorandum of Understanding with Lithuania's Energy Security Center assisted in elevating the importance of that Center's work; one which was recently certified by the North Atlantic Council to become NATO's fully-accredited Energy Security Center of Excellence. Closer to home, J-9 continues its work with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to implement the Department's Operational Energy Strategy Implementation Plan, focused on energy security and efficiency for U.S. forces, defense installations, and critical infrastructure.

THEATER POSTURE

“For Europe, the U.S. defense strategy reaffirms the lasting strategic importance of the transatlantic partnership with the United States. Although it will evolve in light of strategic guidance and the resulting budget decisions, our military footprint in Europe will remain larger than in any other region in the world. That’s not only because the peace and prosperity of Europe is critically important to the United States, but because Europe remains our security partner of choice for military operations and diplomacy around the world.”

- Former Secretary Panetta

Force Laydown. The United States will sustain a military presence in Europe that meets our NATO Article 5 commitment, enables execution of our likely European Command contingency plans, continues to support America’s leadership position in NATO, ensures a credible deterrent against aggression, and is sufficiently robust to maintain and sustain the strategic access, infrastructure, and lines of communication that enable the United States to conduct global operations. Global access through Europe remains a critical aspect of America’s ability to execute our existing contingency plans in and beyond Europe. This strategic access is dependent upon continued success in sustaining the long-term relationships we enjoy with our European allies and partners, who remain our hosts. We recognize the challenges of the fiscal environment and, in accordance with the Defense Strategic Guidance, continue to consolidate our installations and seek additional efficiencies in U.S. overseas posture while maintaining the necessary capacity to meet our mission requirements. We will continue to advocate for a deliberate and balanced approach to posture in Europe to ensure that future changes meet minimum requirements to conduct U.S. contingency operations, support U.S. global strategic access, and meet our NATO commitments.

U.S. posture in Europe provides unparalleled proximity and access to three continents (Europe, Asia, Africa), stands ready to support U.S. and NATO operations on extremely short notice, and is critical to U.S. planning, logistics, and operations in support of U.S. European Command, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Transportation Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and U.S. Strategic Command. Forward-stationed active duty service members, forward-deployed rotational units, and reserve forces remain the nation’s primary tool to maintain influence across our theater and, when called upon, to project power quickly within and beyond it. U.S. posture in Europe is an incontestable manifestation of our commitment to the region, preserving strategic relationships and trust, helping build interoperability with our allies and partners, and facilitating progressive transformation within European militaries. The U.S. approach throughout the recent defense strategy review was guided by our enduring need for, and commitment to, these objectives.

There are approximately 64,000 military personnel authorized for the support of U.S. European Command and our Service component commands. Additionally, there are approximately 10,000 additional U.S. personnel supporting U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Transportation Command, NATO, and other U.S. Government and Department of Defense activities in Europe. Moving forward into the future, European Command's mission focus for our enduring forces is as follows:

- **Ground Forces:** U.S. Army Europe will retain a deployable Contingency Command Post, two Brigade Combat Teams (BCT), and theater enabling forces to include aviation, signal corps, medical, engineers, air and missile defense, logistics units, and the Joint Multinational Training Command. From a pool of globally available forces, the U.S. Army will also allocate a BCT, with rotational assignments described previously, to be part of the NATO Response Force (NRF) beginning this year.

- **Air Forces:** U.S. Air Forces Europe will retain the capability to conduct air superiority, theater nuclear support, suppression of enemy air defense (SEAD), and strike missions. In addition, the Air Force will maintain its current capability in terms of operational and tactical-level command and control, theater airlift, air refueling, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, special operations forces, and base operations support.

- **Naval and Marine Forces:** U.S. Naval Forces Europe will retain the USS MOUNT WHITNEY and provide command and control of rotational naval forces. Additionally, the U.S. Navy will begin to base four Aegis destroyers at Naval Station Rota beginning in FY 2014. U.S. Marine Corps presence includes the U.S. Marine Forces Europe Headquarters, the USMC Prepositioning Program in Norway, and rotational forces, including those assigned to the Black Sea Rotational Force.

- **Special Operations Forces:** Special Operations Command Europe will retain a headquarters element, along with an Army Special Forces Battalion, an Air Force Special Operations Group, and a Naval Special Warfare (SEAL) unit.

Strategic Rebalance. In accordance with the Defense Strategic Guidance, U.S. European Command continues to rebalance its force levels and base footprint in order to help the Department of Defense divest itself of legacy forces, reapportion forces toward regions of greater instability, and save money. Several recent inactivation decisions will make significant changes to our posture. The most notable change is the inactivation of the U.S. Army's V Corps Headquarters (2013), 170th Brigade Combat Team (2012), and 172nd Brigade Combat Team (2013). Additionally, as the U.S. Army reduces force structure in the coming years, there will be an additional reduction of approximately 2,500 enabling forces and their equipment. Lastly, the Air Force de-activated an air support operations squadron (2012), and plans to inactive an A-10 squadron and an air control squadron.

Consistent with the Defense Strategic Guidance and the new NATO Strategic Concept, we will also continue to adapt and develop our theater requirements by: 1) reinvigorating our contribution to the NATO Response Force, allocating elements of a rotational BCT to train in a multi-national European environment and leveraging the premier U.S. Army training facilities located at the Joint Multinational Training Center in Germany; 2) meeting the objectives of the European Phased Adaptive Approach by supporting the AN/TPY-2 radar in Turkey, home-porting four Aegis BMD-capable ships in Spain, and establishing land-based Aegis Ashore sites in Romania and Poland; 3) enhancing regional SOF responsiveness by stationing CV-22 aircraft in the United Kingdom, and continuing our strong partnership with the NATO SOF Headquarters in Belgium; and 4) continuing C-130 and F-16 aircraft rotation to the newly established aviation detachment in Poland to enhance Eastern European aviation training and interoperability.

Military Construction. Thanks to strong and continued Congressional support, previous annual military construction authorizations and appropriations have enabled us to address a balanced mix of our most pressing requirements to support the missions and priorities articulated above. The goal of our FY 2014 military construction program is to support our posture initiatives, recapitalize key infrastructure, and consolidate at enduring locations. Of particular importance in the coming year is support for our EPAA missile defense projects and the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center / Rhine Ordnance Barracks theater medical consolidation and recapitalization project.

Congressional support for EPAA Phase One projects, including approval to replace expeditionary facilities in Turkey with semi-permanent facilities, was critical to achieving a high degree of readiness at the AN/TPY-2 radar site. In FY 2013, the command will begin EPAA Phase Two projects, including an Aegis Ashore site in Romania. Additionally, a request for an EPAA Phase Three Aegis Ashore site in Poland is being developed in FY 2015 as part of the budget submission and will provide the U.S. and our allies improved deterrence against rogue BMD activity.

The Landstuhl / Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center replacement project remains one of the command's highest military constructions priorities. FY 2012 and 2013 funding support have greatly facilitated the project's progress to date. The new facility consolidates duplicative medical facilities in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, and provides a vitally important replacement to theater-based combat and contingency operation medical support from the aged and failing infrastructure at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. This recapitalization project will provide life-saving intervention, combat trauma,



The aeromedical evacuation system and trauma care provided at U.S. medical facilities in Germany have saved thousands of lives and driven U.S. combat-related deaths to historic lows. Sustaining these capabilities is critical to ensuring their continued availability for U.S. military personnel serving across half the globe, including areas of persistent conflict in Africa and the Middle East.

emergency care, and other medical support to warfighters operating in the U.S. European Command, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. Africa Command theaters, as well as forward-stationed U.S. forces in Europe and their families. Continued support and progress with this critical project will ensure the continued availability of the highest level trauma care to future U.S. warfighters at this medically significant half-way point between the United States and areas of persistent conflict in the Middle East, Africa, and other regions across half the globe.

European Command continues to carefully assess our investments at enduring locations. We have reduced our footprint dramatically over the past 22 years, consolidating all operations to approximately 21 main operating bases, with smaller supporting sites. As mentioned earlier, this represents a 75% reduction in installation inventory since the end of the Cold War. Additionally, the command is on a trajectory to reduce our footprint further, to 17 main operating bases with the closure of the U.S. Army communities at Heidelberg, Mannheim, Darmstadt, Schweinfurt, and Bamberg. While further theater consolidation at enduring locations remains a command priority, it is important to note that continued reductions and consolidations to gain greater efficiencies may require additional military construction.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE

“We will keep faith with our troops, military families, and veterans who have borne the burden of a decade of war and who make our military the best in the world. Though we must make hard fiscal choices, we will continue to prioritize efforts that focus on wounded warriors, mental health, and families. And as our newest veterans rejoin civilian life, we continue to have a moral obligation—as a government and as a nation—to give our veterans the care, benefits, and the job opportunities they deserve.”

- President Obama

Taking Care of our People & their Families. As the Department of Defense continues to deal with the effects of more than a decade at war, we have a solemn obligation and responsibility to continue successful programs and seek new and innovative ways to support our forces and families. In that effort, European Command’s ‘Force and Family Readiness’ priorities are closely aligned with the Administration’s ‘Strengthening Our Military Families’ initiative.

While maintaining our focus on mission readiness, we continue to seek avenues and resources to respond to the significant stress placed on our forces and families due to protracted combat operations and cyclical unit and personnel deployments. There remains a need for sustained behavioral health services to support our warriors and their families, particularly in an overseas environment with few private sector options. It remains a command priority that the members of our all-volunteer force and their families continue receiving the quality care and responsive support they need in a stigma-free environment.

European Command also supports the efforts being led by the Department of Defense Education Activity to transform and modernize our 1950s-era, aged and, in some cases, failing overseas school infrastructure. European Command is fortunate to have some of the best and most committed teachers at work in our theater. We are committed to providing the resources these educators need to ensure the children of our military and DoD civilian families receive a first-rate education.

Lastly, as total force levels continue to change, service members must transfer more often than originally expected, placing yet another burden on the military family. The inability of the military spouse to remain in his or her chosen career field is a part of that burden, adding further economic strain in difficult times. Of the 26,000 active duty and reserve spouses who live in our theater, 25% possess a college degree and 10% hold graduate degrees. Accordingly, in order to support greater spouse employment, European Command launched our first-ever ‘Spouses Virtual Job Fair’ last year. Part of the wider ‘Military Spouse Employment Partnership’ program, this initiative provided key assistance by linking military spouses with employers seeking a highly qualified 21st century workforce.

NATO & ALLIED COMMAND OPERATIONS (ACO)

NATO's Strategic Direction. The NATO Alliance remains the center of a transatlantic framework focused on the strategic concept of 'Active Engagement, Modern Defense.' The core principles of collective defense, crisis management, and cooperative security contribute to the peace and safeguarding of the United States and our European allies and partners. The alliance has evolved from a Cold War construct, consisting of a few nations, to twenty-eight member nations today with a shared vision and growing interoperability to provide expeditionary capabilities for out-of-area operations. To safeguard the alliance against the evolving challenges of 21st century security, including ballistic missile defense, cyber attack, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism, NATO is evolving through institutional reform, programs and initiatives, and increased interoperability and partnerships.

NATO Command Structure Reform. The Lisbon Summit set the glide path for a new NATO command structure that is leaner, more affordable, and more effective at conducting operational and transformational tasks across the full range of alliance missions. NATO Command Structure reform is on track to reduce its staff manpower from 13,000 to 8,800 and cut major headquarters from eleven to six. Organized under two Strategic Commands (Operations and Transformation), it will include two deployable joint force headquarters (JFHQs), land, air, and maritime components, and the NATO communications and information systems group. The NATO command structure links the alliance's over three million active military personnel, 24,000 aircraft, 750 ships, and 50 AWACS to operate stronger together in the 21st century.

NATO Forces 2020. NATO's vision for future capability improvement was unveiled at the Chicago Summit as a framework to build the concepts of 'Smart Defense' and the 'Connected Forces' initiative. NATO's Smart Defense initiative provides the path to develop the capabilities; the Connected Forces initiative is how NATO will employ these capabilities.

Smart Defense. The Smart Defense initiative is a means to provide access to crucial capabilities while collectively taking multinational and innovative approaches to pooling resources. As mentioned, this initiative creates opportunity for the alliance to work together, wisely using individual defense budgets to make NATO greater than the sum of its parts. In critical areas—such as sustainment, training, engagement, ballistic missile defense, force protection, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance—Smart Defense gives nations the ability to contribute to projects and acquire capabilities that they may otherwise be unable to afford individually. To date, the Europeans participate in every one of the 147 Smart Defense projects. More importantly for the transatlantic partnership, they lead over two-thirds of them. Smart Defense aims to assure continued capability development commensurate with global security challenges in order to meet NATO's Strategic Concept, even in the prevailing resource-constrained global economy.

“We will ensure that our Alliance has the modern, deployable, and connected forces that we need for the next decade and beyond. We will do this through a renewed culture of cooperation called ‘Smart Defense’...We call it ‘Smart Defense’ because it is about spending defense money in a smarter way. The smarter way is to prioritize, to specialize, to cooperate, to focus on not just what we cut, but on what we keep. And to choose multi-national solutions instead of unilateral solutions.”

- NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

Connected Forces Initiative. The Connected Forces initiative presents an opportunity to contribute to the ‘NATO Forces 2020’ vision and goal, by building on alliance experience in recent operations, and maintaining and enhancing NATO’s combat effectiveness—hard earned over the past decade—through expanded education and training events, increased exercises, and the better use of technology.

Major Operations. Over the past year, NATO and Allied Command Operations have executed multiple major operations, demonstrating the alliance’s impressive capabilities. Today, roughly 150,000 military personnel are engaged in NATO missions around the world, successfully managing complex ground, air and naval operations in every type of environment. Every day, NATO forces are operating in Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Mediterranean, with the African Union, in the skies over the Baltic and North

Seas, and in the waters off the Horn of Africa.

Afghanistan. NATO’s operation in Afghanistan continues to remain the top priority and operational commitment of the alliance and our partner nations comprising ISAF. There are 106,000 troops from 50 troop-contributing nations sharing the combined burdens and sacrifices of the Afghanistan mission as we press forward with a balanced drawdown of combat forces and provide sustainment post-2014. The sacrifices shared by ISAF and our Afghan partners will ensure that Afghanistan will never again become a safe-haven for terrorists. Since NATO’s intervention, the lives of Afghan men, women, and children have significantly improved with respect to security, health care, education, and opportunity. Today, over 80% of



International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) efforts continue to build the strength, confidence, and competencies of Afghan National Security Forces, supporting the transition of security responsibilities to Afghans in 2013 and 2014. Asia Foundation’s 2012 Survey of the Afghan People reflected Afghans’ continued confidence in the Afghan National Army and National Police as the country’s most trusted public institutions.

Afghans have access to health care. Since 2002, school enrollment for children has increased from two million to eight million with girls representing 38% of this enrollment, up from a dismal low of 3% under the Taliban. Infant, child, and maternal mortality rates have decreased by over 34% since 2002, and adult life expectancy has gone from 42 to 62 years of age. NATO's goal remains to turn over full responsibility for security to Afghanistan by December 31, 2014.

The strategy outlined at the 2010 Lisbon Summit, assured at the May 2012 Chicago Summit, and reinforced at the July 2012 Tokyo Conference is on track to build the capacity, capability, and professionalism of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). Today, ANSF stand at a force level of 335,000: 182,000 from the Afghan National Army; 6,000 from the Afghan Air Force; and 147,000 from the Afghan National Police. In October 2012, ANSF reached their recruiting goal of 352,000. The transition—which started in 2011, and is being sequentially expanded through five tranches of selected districts and cities to encompass all of Afghanistan by mid-2013—is underway in some part of all 34 provinces, all provincial capitals, and two-thirds of all districts. The ANSF have assumed lead responsibility for areas that encompass 76% of the Afghan population, and conditions in these areas have remained stable or improved. In fact, civilian casualties have fallen for the first time in six years, down 12%, and ISAF casualties are down 27% compared to last year. Last December, the 'Tranche 4' announcement transitioned security responsibility for the remaining internal and border areas. Once the full transition is complete by the end of 2014, the ISAF mission will end.

In support of post-2014 operations in Afghanistan, NATO will launch the NATO Train, Advise, and Assist Mission, tentatively named 'Resolute Support' in Afghanistan. In October 2012, NATO Defense Ministers approved the North Atlantic Council (NAC) Initiating Directive for developing the concept of operations for the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. It is due this spring. This demonstrated resolve ensures the gains made during the transition are irreversible.

Tangible signs of the gains in Afghanistan continue to be shown. In findings recorded by the Asia Foundation in their 2012 *Survey of the Afghan People*, 52% of Afghans polled conveyed their belief that the country is "headed in the right direction," up from 46% last year.⁵ It is worth noting that this statistic is higher than the percentage found in most Western countries. Moreover, the survey noted a moderate decrease in the percentage of Afghans who fear for their safety, while reflecting Afghans' continued confidence in the Afghan National Army and National Police as the country's most trusted public institutions. NATO will not leave a security vacuum in Afghanistan.

Kosovo. The international supervision of Kosovo has ended four and a half years after it became independent. The situation remains outwardly calm, but there remain underlying tensions and fragility while Serbia and Kosovo proceed within the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina dialogue to resolve their differences peacefully. To ensure this outcome, the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission maintains 5,600 troops

⁵ The Asia Foundation, "Afghanistan in 2012: A Survey of the Afghan People," <http://asiafoundation.org/publications/pdf/1155>.

from 30 contributing countries in Kosovo. KFOR will be staying there for the time being, along with the 1,250 international legal experts and police supporting the EU's rule of law mission. While progress will require committed political dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, KFOR continues to create positive conditions for this dialogue by helping to maintain a safe and secure environment and facilitate freedom of movement.

Counter-Piracy and Operation OCEAN SHIELD. Operation OCEAN SHIELD is NATO's counter-piracy mission, consisting of up to seven ships working alongside EU and U.S. task forces to counter piracy in waters surrounding the Horn of Africa. These relationships and the shipping companies' use of armed security teams and industry best practices have notably reduced piracy. During the first six months of 2012, there were 69 incidents involving Somali pirates, down from 163 during the same period in 2011, a reduction of over 40%. Today, 2 vessels and less than 100 hostages are being held, compared with 30 ships and 682 mariners in 2011.

Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOR. As NATO's only current Article 5-based operation, Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOR provides maritime situational awareness through operations in the Mediterranean to demonstrate NATO's resolve to deter, defend, disrupt, and protect against terrorism. Ongoing since 2001, ACTIVE ENDEAVOR is on a path to transform from a platform-based to a network-based operation, based on an intelligence and information-sharing network among the 63 nations and regional partners that contribute to the Maritime Safety and Security Information System.

NATO Members Defense Commitments & Budgeting Outlook. The European financial crisis has had a security impact on NATO and partner nations. Few allies currently meet the NATO goal that each ally commits 2% of GDP to defense spending. The Smart Defense Initiative, Connected Forces Initiative, and NATO Forces 2020 all strive to fill capacity and capability gaps. However, at a time of uncertain security challenges and severe fiscal austerity it remains difficult, but still critical, to adequately fund defense spending.



A vessel burns off the Somali coast after being used by pirates to attack the Dutch warship HNLMS Rotterdam. HNLMS Rotterdam, NATO's counter-piracy flagship, returned fire, disabling the vessel and scattering the attackers. NATO's Operation OCEAN SHIELD, in coordination with shipping industry best practices, continues to reduce episodes of piracy in waters off the Horn of Africa.

Enduring 21st Century Impact & Relevance. The 2012 U.S. Defense Strategic Guidance addresses Europe and NATO prominently, noting: “Europe is home to some of America’s most stalwart allies and partners, many of whom have sacrificed alongside U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere.” One of NATO’s most important priorities is to maintain working relationships, at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels, with those allies who have recently developed capabilities and interoperability with each other and with U.S. Forces. The NATO Response Force (NRF) is a key way to meet this priority.

“Today, I can announce that the United States will make a new commitment to the security of our NATO partners by reinvigorating our contribution to the NATO Response Force that we value so much. The NRF was designed to be an agile, rapidly deployable, multinational force that can respond to crises when and where necessary. The United States had endorsed the NRF but has not made a tangible contribution due to the demands of the wars—until now.”

- Former Secretary Panetta, Munich Security Conference, February 2012

As announced by the Secretary of Defense last year, our commitment of U.S. forces to the NRF is a means to reinvigorating and bolstering the NRF. By providing a rapid demonstration of force or an early establishment of NATO military presence in support of Article V or crisis response operations, NRF mitigates force structure reductions in Europe by improving interoperability and capitalizing on flexibility. Over the long term, NRF will be a vital asset for post-ISAF interoperability ensuring adherence to, and constant improvement of, Standing NATO Agreements (STANAGS). The NRF will also serve as both a key training resource and valuable tool for evaluating the status of European forces. As they remain our most likely companions in any security effort—from humanitarian assistance to full-spectrum conflict—the U.S. must have confidence in the interoperability and readiness of European forces.

Ballistic Missile Defense. The protection of NATO European territory, populations, and forces against ballistic missiles from increasing threats to the alliance is vitally important. NATO declared an Interim Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability at the May 2012 Chicago Summit. As mentioned, the U.S. AN/TPY-2 surveillance radar based in Turkey has been declared to NATO as a part of EPAA’s Phase One implementation. The initial operational capability of NATO BMD is anticipated in 2016, with full operational capability in 2020.



USS The Sullivans (DDG-68), a guided missile destroyer, conducts at-sea training with Royal Netherlands Navy frigate HNLMS De Ruyter (F804). Allied maritime support includes ‘riding shotgun’ to protect U.S. Aegis BMD platforms, an important contribution to the Ballistic Missile Defense mission. The Netherlands Navy is also pursuing maritime upper-tier BMD tracking capabilities for their vessels.

Moreover, NATO's recent decision to provide Patriot missiles to defend Turkey against the threat of Syrian ballistic missiles is yet another sign of the alliance's solidarity and effectiveness in this area.

Cyber Defense. NATO's policy on cyber defense focuses on the protection of cyber assets and sharing of cyber situational awareness among NATO nations. The fielding of the NATO Computer Incident Response Center was a significant milestone as we progress towards full operational capability in 2013 to support alliance operations and missions.

NATO Special Operations Forces. U.S. leadership of the NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ) remains instrumental in driving the rapid transformation of NATO Special Operations Forces (SOF) and creating a NATO allied and partner SOF collaborative network. A deployable core of the NATO Special Operations Component Command Headquarters will achieve initial operational capability in 2013, providing an assured, responsive, and agile command and control entity for NATO SOF under the operational command of the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. This core will be capable of coordinating NATO military operations within the complex and asymmetric environments of the 21st century. Today, over 2,000 NATO allied and partner SOF are conducting SOF missions in Afghanistan. Additionally, NSHQ is moving forward with several initiatives to develop interoperable SOF standards. NATO SOF brings unprecedented opportunities to leverage partnerships, improve interoperability, and deliver expanded

capabilities for NATO to ensure peace and stability for the alliance and our partner nations.

Keeping the Edge through Exercises. The planned reduction of NATO forces supporting ISAF, combined with U.S. reinvigoration in the NRE, provides a unique opportunity for NATO to modify and align exercise programs with U.S. combatant commands and regional partners. After ten years of combat deployments against an asymmetric enemy, NATO will need to dedicate itself to flexible training that emphasizes traditional skill sets, while incorporating lessons learned from recent conflicts. Additionally, these exercises provide the opportunity

for newer members of the alliance, as well as our other NATO partners, to pair with some of the highly-capable founding members, continuing to burden-share collective defense while raising the overall quality of NATO forces.



NATO exercises remain a critical venue to align and sustain high-end capabilities among NATO's most developed partners for continued burden-sharing; preserve a decade of hard-earned Alliance expeditionary capabilities; and support newer Allies' capability development for current and future NATO operations.

"The NATO Alliance continues to wield unprecedented influence in our world, and remains a critical element of U.S. and European security."

– Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Senate Armed Services Committee

CONCLUSION

Every day, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Civilians of U.S. European Command and NATO Allied Command Operations are making vital contributions to the forward defense of the United States, the preservation of America's vital national security interests, and the continued evolution and effectiveness of NATO. As they continue their work, through the seamless execution of combined military operations, interagency cooperation, and whole of society activities, I ask that you keep faith with these extraordinary men and women, and their families, to ensure they receive the care and benefits they have earned and so rightly deserve.

I entered Annapolis and joined the Navy over forty years ago. Among the many things I have learned, one of the clearest lessons is that the most reliable constant in this world is change. But in today's world of accelerating change, connectivity, and complexity, another anchor has also held remarkably constant, recognized by national leaders time and again, for providing the essential foundation of continued security and stability in the 21st century. That anchor is the transatlantic alliance. It is simply a fact, one bridging two centuries and continuing to evolve in a dynamic security environment, that Europeans remain our most steadfast, reliable, battle-tested, and important global partners as we confront the strategic risks and military challenges of the 21st century. No other region so readily combines the same commitment to shared values, high-end military capabilities and capacity, and willingness to stand with America—as our European Allies and partners have demonstrated at great cost and sacrifice over the past decade—in this century's fight for freedom and the pursuit of global security and stability. The 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance states it clearly: “Europe is our principal partner in seeking global and economic security, and will remain so for the foreseeable future.”

The world is changing again. Yet, as we consider the contributions and future of the transatlantic alliance, the numbers are worth repeating, especially in an era of significant fiscal pressure and austerity: Together, the U.S. and Europe generate *half the globe's* GDP. Our European partners collectively spend \$300 billion on defense, second only to the United States and well ahead of China and Russia. As essential contributors to an alliance comprised of 750 ships, 24,000 aircraft, and over three million active-duty forces, and with over 40,000 European forces currently devoted to NATO and UN operations, our European allies and partners are significant and necessary global security providers, fielding forces for combat and stability operations that have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the U.S. in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Kosovo, and other hot spots across the world. Europeans have willingly shared the burden of war over the past ten years, consistently comprising the bulk of non-U.S. coalition forces for the missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Libya.

Even as we acknowledge these facts, the convergence of several factors last year—the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, rising tensions in the Levant, North Africa, and the Balkans, and the global tightening of defense resources—has provided an opportunity for European Command to reconsider and rebalance our present priorities and enduring capabilities to ensure that we are providing the most efficient and effective support to the nation and to NATO. This effort offered several conclusions. First, European Command is actively contributing to every one of the Defense Department’s ten national missions for Joint Force 2020, protecting America’s vital national security interests, and defending the nation against the threats of the 21st century: ballistic missiles; WMD proliferation; terrorism; piracy; cyber attack; and transnational illicit trafficking. Second, U.S. presence and infrastructure in Europe, which continues to be right-sized for these enduring missions and the future security environment, provide the United States with an indispensable strategic platform for engagement across the globe, directly supporting the operations of six U.S. Combatant Commanders, numerous U.S. Government Interagency functions, and 51 U.S. Country Teams. Third, U.S. leadership and commitment to the NATO Alliance continues to support the evolution of that institution into the world’s premier security organization, contributing highly capable and interoperable forces to Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Kosovo, and preparing them for future coalition expeditionary operations. As such, the alliance has also become a hub for continued cooperation and outreach with like-minded partners in the Pacific, including Australia, South Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, and Japan, essential in the years ahead. In this capacity, the transatlantic partnership—one the President calls the “cornerstone of global security”—remains one of the nation’s most valuable and enduring strategic investments. Properly sustained, it will continue providing critical security dividends in the challenging decades ahead.

To safeguard that investment, European Command continues to leverage the funding and authorities that Congress has provided to preserve our strategic partnerships and maintain the essential warfighting capabilities and interoperability that our allies and partners have gained, with our help, over a decade of sustained deployment and combat operations. In the near term, European Command is working to enable a successful ISAF transition and preserve partner capability and commitment to the post-2014 mission in Afghanistan. To that end, we request that Congress continue supporting Section 1206 (Global Train and Equip) and other ISAF coalition support programs, in order to meet our goals to transition security responsibility in Afghanistan over the coming year and, in concert with our allies and partners, to continue training, advising, and assisting the ANSF after they assume full security responsibility in 2014.

Over the longer term, we seek your assistance and support to sustain the value of the transatlantic alliance and its continued contributions to global security. As you know, the key to that future is ensuring our European allies and partners can and will continue contributing deployable, capable, and interoperable forces for future conflicts and coalition military operations. Despite the economic constraints we all face, this future is within reach if we sustain the necessary investments to maintain critical gains in expeditionary

capabilities and interoperability that have been achieved in recent years, and preserve the vital strategic relationships that have been painstakingly built over the past six decades. The preservation and future employment of these capabilities represent the impending return on our investment when crises arrive on our doorstep at their unscheduled hour, seeking urgent, multilateral, and coalition-based solutions.

Mitigating the risks posed by the fiscal environment to U.S. influence in the region and NATO's enduring strength and cohesion also requires a clear and unequivocal U.S. commitment to our theater and Article V responsibilities. Those responsibilities require that we maintain a balanced and enduring U.S. presence in Europe; reinvigorate U.S. participation in the NATO Response Force; continue resourcing important security assistance programs such as Foreign Military Financing, International Military Education and Training, the Warsaw Initiative Fund, and the Combatant Commanders' Exercise and Engagement Fund; and support NATO's Smart Defense, Connected Forces, NATO 2020, and related initiatives.

History may not repeat itself, but its patterns are clear. After a decade of war, and facing significant fiscal challenges, we stand once again at the crossroads: on one side, the military retrenchment and risk that has traditionally accompanied the end of every period of American war; on the other, a belt-tightening but balanced approach that sustains U.S. leadership and engagement in the world, with a focus on continued global security and prosperity. Each choice entails risks, and the future is hard to see. But one thing history has also shown us, time and again, is the enduring value of this remarkable transatlantic alliance.

Though the strategic and fiscal challenges are very real on both sides of the Atlantic, this historical moment offers us a critical opportunity, one acknowledged by former Secretary Panetta: "I believe that today's strategic and fiscal realities offer NATO the opportunity to build the alliance we need for the 21st century—an alliance that serves as the core of an expanding network of partnerships around the globe in support of common security objectives. But it is an alliance that remains rooted in the strong bonds of transatlantic security cooperation and collective defense."

The men and women of U.S. European Command and NATO Allied Command Operations are building, strengthening, and preserving those vital bonds to provide for the forward defense of the United States, our collective security, and the viability of this critical partnership. This is critical work, as the transatlantic partnership continues to serve as the security foundation for the world's economic center of gravity, America's secure Eastern flank, and the "vital cornerstone of global security and stability" to deal with the challenges of a rapidly changing century and security environment. Through this work, European Command and NATO form that vital "core" of an "expanding network of partnerships"—through joint and coalition forces, civil-military security partnerships, and international security structures—that provide us with what I call the "sum of all security."

In his remarks at last year's NATO summit in Chicago, President Obama reiterated and reinforced the importance of this security and an enduring truth of the global security environment; one that bridges the past and current centuries in order to guide us into the future. In that statement, the President acknowledged: "NATO has been the bedrock of common security, freedom and prosperity for nearly 65 years. It hasn't just endured—it has thrived—because our nations are stronger when we stand together."

For nearly four years now, the motto of U.S. European Command has been that we are, clearly and unequivocally, 'Stronger Together.' For nearly 65 years, this has been NATO's historic organizing principle. It is even truer today in light of the economic challenges and increasing threats we face. We must continue to work together, trust each other, and continue building and evolving this historic partnership to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st century. In doing this, we will not only endure; we will prevail, we will thrive, and we will continue to grow and to be **STRONGER TOGETHER**.

"Our transatlantic partnership is the most successful alliance and the greatest catalyst for global action. I am determined to keep it that way."

- President Obama

APPENDIX

EUROPEAN COMMAND SERVICE COMPONENTS



Service Component Commands. Except when assigned to a joint task force for military operations or participating in joint exercises, European Command forces are managed, trained, and equipped by our five Service component headquarters: U.S. Army Europe; U.S. Marine Forces Europe; U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Naval Forces Africa; U.S. Air Forces Europe/Air Forces Africa; and U.S. Special Operations Command Europe. These organizations provide forces for our military-to-military engagements, serve both an assurance and deterrence function in the region, deploy units for contingency operations, and, when necessary, may be tasked to provide a tailored joint task force headquarters. Understanding our service component commands is essential to understanding European Command, as they conduct the majority of our steady-state activities. A brief description of each Service Component Command, and its recent activities, is provided in this appendix.

*U.S. Army Europe
Wiesbaden, Germany*

Introduction & Overview: United States Army Europe leads Army forces in support of U.S. European Command and the Department of the Army by training and preparing for unified land operations, strengthening alliances, and conducting theater security cooperation. Executing this mission, U.S. Army Europe supports numerous U.S. combatant commands around the world as America seeks to prevent conflict, shape the global environment with our international partners, and win any contemporary fight. U.S. Army Europe plays a critical role in strengthening and preserving European Command's strategic partnerships, specifically by increasing interoperability, building partner capacity, and enhancing allied and partner expeditionary capabilities.

Major Accomplishments: In 2012, U.S. Army Europe provided trained and culturally aware units and enabling forces, capable of conducting full-spectrum operations in support of ISAF and other contingency operations. Supporting ballistic missile defense in Europe, U.S. Army Europe played a leading role in operating and maintaining the ground-based AN/TPY-2 radar site in Turkey. Theater enabler units also provided vital intelligence, logistics and sustainment support to U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Special Operations Command forces operating across Europe and Africa.

In accordance with the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, U.S. Army Europe is aggressively continuing consolidation efforts and theater force rebalancing. As mentioned, key modifications include the inactivation of the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (BCT) last year, and the inactivation of the 172nd BCT and U.S. Army V Corps Headquarters this year. As a result of ongoing reductions, the U.S. Army will have closed 102 theater sites from FY 2006 to FY 2012. The closure of an additional 30 sites, including the entire communities of Heidelberg, Mannheim, Darmstadt, Schweinfurt, and Bamberg, has also been publicly announced and is on track for completion by FY 2015.

Operations & Operational Support: U.S. Army Europe stands ready to support contingency operations and meet future global threats. Though some operations have been ongoing for years, others are completely new and unexpected, requiring flexibility and innovation to support. Last year, an average of 20% of U.S. Army Europe's forces were deployed to support to U.S. Central Command and ISAF. In 2012 alone, the U.S. Army's V Corps, 173rd Airborne BCT, and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade all deployed to Afghanistan.



Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe's 1st Battalion, 503rd infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team fire an 81-mm mortar while executing operations at Combat Outpost Kherwar, Afghanistan, on August 6, 2012.

Critical to supporting operations in Afghanistan, U.S. Army Europe has established and maintained a transportation node in Romania. Located at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield and operated by U.S. Army Europe's 21st Theater Sustainment Command, this transportation node is a critical link in the Northern Distribution Network. Since its establishment, this facility has supported over 130 flights, transporting nearly 10,000 service members and approximately 800 tons of equipment between the United States and Afghanistan. In addition, U.S. Army Europe personnel have established a trans-shipment point at Naval Station Rota, Spain, transporting 141 helicopters out of Afghanistan and redeploying them by sea to the United States.

In cyberspace, U.S. Army Europe's 5th Signal Command is addressing the array of rising challenges while, at the same time, providing the backbone for communications between deployed forces and the United States. Already partnered with multinational experts, 5th Signal Command is incorporating simulated cyber threats into U.S. and multinational training exercises and improving operational approaches to these threats.

Exercises, Theater Security Cooperation, and Partnerships: The U.S. Army Europe exercise program remains critical to the pre-deployment training of U.S. and coalition forces supporting ISAF and other contingency operations. It serves to prepare these same forces for future operations across U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Central Command. In 2012, U.S. Army Europe prepared two Polish brigades, two Romanian battalions and, in close cooperation with the Marine Corps, two Georgian battalions for deployment to ISAF.

Leveraging U.S. Army Europe's forward deployed brigades and America's long-standing investment in the premier training facilities at the Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, Germany, U.S. Army Europe trained and mentored 2,481 multinational soldiers from 22 countries in counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) skill sets, and trained 1,204 multinational drivers on Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles. U.S. Army Europe teams also mentored and advised the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. In partnership with NATO, four mission rehearsal exercises were conducted at JMTC in 2012, training 72 mentoring and advisory teams from 16 European partner nations to support ISAF. U.S. Army Europe also enabled 190 National



U.S. Army Europe's Joint Multinational Training Command (JMTC) is a strategic national asset, providing U.S. forces and our multinational partners an unparalleled training venue to prepare for ISAF deployments and exercise critical theater security skills. Here, Polish Special Operations Forces conduct search-and-rescue drills as part of a downed-aircraft exercise in Hohenfels, Germany.

Guardsmen to co-deploy as part of 14 advisory/mentoring and embedded support teams, deploying with over 4,200 multinational personnel in support of ISAF operations.

Additionally, U.S. Army Europe participated in 21 Joint and combined Army exercises last year, including four major mission rehearsal exercises conducted in 14 countries with 44 participating nations. Highlights from those highly successful events include:

- AUSTERE CHALLENGE 12, supported by the 10th Air and Missile Defense Command, which partnered with the Israeli Defense Forces to exercise missile defense capabilities.

- ATLAS VISION 12, conducted with forces from the Russian Ground Forces Central Military District as an important confidence-building measure and the first exercise of its kind since 2006. The exercise supported European Command's priority for increased cooperation with Russia.

- SABER JUNCTION, a decisive maneuver action training event conducted last October by the 2nd Calvary Regiment (2CR) with over 1,800 multinational soldiers from 19 partner nations—the largest and most sophisticated such exercise in 20 years.

Way Ahead: With approximately 90% of multinational forces in Afghanistan contributed by our European allies and partners, European armies remain our most likely, willing, and able coalition partners. Accordingly, it is critical that we maintain the strong alliances that U.S. Army Europe has forged over the past 60 years. Forward-based U.S. Army forces in Europe do this, and continue making major contributions to U.S. vital national security interests by extending U.S. strategic reach, assuring access, preserving strategic partnerships in Europe in a post-ISAF environment, addressing a wide array of hybrid threats, and maintaining regional security and stability. Importantly, the consolidation of U.S. Army Europe's command leadership continues, with U.S. Army Europe Headquarters finishing its move from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden this year, the inactivation of V Corps, and the reduction of 2,500 enabler forces. Also in 2013, the Army will commit a CONUS-based brigade to reinvigorate U.S. participation in the NATO Response Force (NRF). As part of this commitment, elements of this brigade will rotate twice annually to Europe to train with our NATO and non-NATO partners. JMTC will play an important role in hosting and supporting this U.S. component as we implement the Department's pledge to reinvigorate U.S. participation in the NRF.

U.S. Marine Forces Europe

Stuttgart, Germany

Introduction & Overview. Marine Forces Europe leverages rotational expeditionary Marine Forces and prepositioned capabilities-based equipment to reassure allies, deter potential adversaries, and maintain strategic access while supporting rapid response to crises and contingencies. Throughout 2012, Marine Forces Europe strengthened strategic partnerships, assured access, enhanced interoperability, and prepared forces for operations in Afghanistan through three critical programs: the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Black Sea Rotational Force; the Georgia Deployment Program for the International Security Assistance Force (GDP ISAF); and the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program Norway (MCPN); as well as an aggressive annual exercise program. Additionally, Marine Forces Europe's 2012 security cooperation activities focused on the Caucasus, Black Sea, Balkan, and Baltic regions, contributing to European stability and the forward defense of the United States.

Major Accomplishments. During the summer of 2012, Marine Forces Europe coordinated with Naval Forces Europe to support three simultaneous theater requirements: configuring vessels in the Mediterranean to posture for contingency operations; supporting Exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS 12) with Baltic NATO partners; and trans-loading vital equipment and ammunition from a Military Sealift Command vessel in support of the MCPN initiative. This concurrent planning and execution demonstrated extraordinary in-theater flexibility, organization, and teamwork.

Marine Forces Europe also continues to serve as a vital and integral contributor to U.S. relations with Georgia. Following last year's meeting between the U.S. and Georgian Presidents, Marine Forces Europe was tasked with leading assessments of the Georgian junior officer and non-commissioned officer professional development programs as well as Georgian combat engineer training and education. These efforts have informed the ongoing development of U.S. security cooperation engagement plans directed in the FY 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. Marine Forces Europe is also coordinating Georgian field grade officer augmentation to deploy Marine Regimental Combat Teams. This effort will support enhanced security cooperation for Georgian Brigade command and staff development. Finally, Marine Forces Europe enhanced the Black Sea Rotational Force in 2012 by adding capabilities to support non-combatant evacuation operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief missions.

Georgia Deployment Program—International Security Assistance Force (GDP-ISAF). In support of nationally directed theater strategic end states, Marine Forces Europe is leading European Command's mission to train the Georgian Armed Forces. Performing this mission since 2010, Marine Forces Europe has developed and implemented a program that applies the USMC organizational model for Security Force Assistance, using general purpose forces and security cooperation organizations to train

Georgian battalions for full-spectrum counterinsurgency operations supporting ISAF. The program's first iteration, GDP-ISAF 1, contributed four battalions to the fight in Afghanistan. GDP-ISAF 2 is contributing an additional nine battalions, making Georgia one of the largest non-NATO contributors providing full-spectrum counterinsurgency support to ongoing ISAF coalition operations.

In order to simultaneously train two battalions, the Georgians have added the Vaziani South Training Area (VSTA) to enduring training activities at the Krtsanisi Training Area (KTA). Pre-deployment training at these locations have incorporated lessons learned from previous deployments, and optimized the training curriculum to include biometrics, counter-IED tactics, Pashtu language training, blue force tracker, medical training, driver training, and improved squad and small unit level tactics. This highly successful program continues to develop Georgian institutional capacity to conduct its own full-spectrum counterinsurgency training. It also takes advantage of proximity to the training facilities at U.S. Army Europe's Joint Multinational Training Center for mission rehearsal exercises prior to ISAF deployment. This program's success is clear, as deployed Georgian battalions currently constitute half of the ground combat power in ISAF's Regional Command Southwest. GDP-ISAF Rotations 10 and 11 are currently conducting their pre-deployment training evolutions for subsequent rotation into Afghanistan later this year.

U.S. Marine Corps' Black Sea Rotational Force. Marine Forces Europe also deploys and supports the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF), a program that demonstrates U.S. commitment and maintains strategic access across the Caucasus and Black Sea regions through theater security cooperation and security force assistance. The BSRF uses the well-placed U.S. Forward Operating Site at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield in Romania as its staging base.

BSRF focuses its partner engagement on tasks that prepare and train these regional partners for out-of-area operations. The program builds enduring trust while enhancing U.S. strategic objectives in the region. In 2012, BSRF supported European Command crisis response requirements through its capabilities



Macedonian soldiers participating with U.S. Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force in the Marine Corps Combat Marksmanship Program sharpening their tactics, techniques, and procedures in essential military skills.

to conduct non-combatant evacuation control center actions and provide support to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Equipped by the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program Norway (MCPN), BSRF executed 97 engagement events with 20 countries (15 of which contribute forces to ISAF), participated in three Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises, and conducted five community relations projects. This year, BSRF will continue supporting European Command's crisis response mission, is scheduled for 85 engagement events with 22 countries, will participate in four JCS exercises, and will conduct at least five community relations projects.

Marine Corps Prepositioning Program Norway (MCPN). In 2012, the Marine Corps began transforming this program from the current Marine Expeditionary Brigade prepositioning objective to an equipment set capable of supporting an ashore-based, balanced Marine Air Ground Task Force, built around the core of an Infantry Battalion Task Force. This Marine Air Ground Task Force, equipped through the MCPN for crisis response, can support operations up to the mid-intensity conflict level. European Command has supported MCPN's transformational effort in coordination with the Norwegian Ministry of Defense, the Department of State, Joint Staff, Headquarters United States Marine Corps, and Marine Forces Europe to obtain the necessary Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) entitlements to store USMC combat vehicles in Norway. MCPN transformation mitigates, but does not replace, the divestiture of the theater's Maritime Prepositioning Squadron which occurred last September. MCPN also continues to support the reinforcement of Norway, reaffirming America's strategic relationship with this important partner.

Exercises. Marine Forces Europe participated in 18 joint, bilateral, and multilateral exercises in 2012, reassuring theater allies and deterring potential adversaries by demonstrating rapid assembly, deployment, and maritime expeditionary capabilities. Noteworthy exercises last year included:

- AGILE SPIRIT, a Warsaw Initiative Fund (WIF)-resourced pre-deployment training workup for Georgian Battalions slated for the Georgia Deployment Program;
- BALTOPS 12, training important amphibious assault, arrival, and assembly skills with our Baltic NATO partners; and
- NOBLE SHIRLEY, building and maintaining critical interoperability with our Levant partners.



U.S. Marines and amphibious forces from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, the Netherlands, and Germany hit the beach during Exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2012. BALTOPS '12 reinforced key theater security cooperation efforts through joint maritime, air, and land operations conducted across the Baltic region.

Way Ahead. Marine Forces Europe will continue to pursue an innovative task-organized expeditionary force presence in the European Command theater to meet crisis and contingency response requirements. We will provide bilateral combined arms and amphibious training with key partners, including Israel, Turkey, France, and the United Kingdom. Establishing and exercising expeditionary presence supports important theater reassurance and deterrence objectives. Marine Forces Europe will continue to support Service-led efforts to transform the MCPN, while maintaining our commitment to the reinforcement of Norway. Additionally, Marine Forces Europe will continue to evolve BSRF's crisis response capability, fully aligning this force with maritime crisis response capabilities inside the European Command theater.

*Commander Naval Forces Europe / Commander Naval Forces Africa
Naples, Italy*

Introduction & Overview: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa is a unified organization that reports to both U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command. It is responsible for leading full-spectrum maritime operations in concert with allied, coalition, joint, and interagency partners to advance U.S. interests and enhance maritime security and stability in Europe and Africa. U.S. Naval Forces Europe performs Navy Component Commander functions that support daily fleet operations and Joint Force Maritime Component Commander/Joint Task Force Commander missions, strengthen U.S. relationships with enduring allies, and provide leadership for the development of maritime capabilities with emerging partners, particularly in European Command's southern and eastern regions.

Major Accomplishments: U.S. Naval Forces Europe met all mission requirements in 2012 and retained its certification as Joint Force Maritime Component Commander. By concentrating on key theater security cooperation initiatives, the command advanced vital U.S. and partner-nation skills in maritime domain awareness, security, and sea control in the European Command area of responsibility. The command also supported numerous global security and stability operations in 2012, including U.S. Central Command's Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and U.S. Africa Command's Operation JUKEBOX LOTUS, while maintaining its readiness posture for regional crisis response operations.

Operations & Operational Support:

North Africa. Responding last September to attacks on U.S. facilities in Libya, U.S. Naval Forces Europe's forward-stationed and rotational forces played a critical role in the response mission. The availability of Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, and Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece, enabled U.S. forces to be rapidly postured, employed, and sustained as tasking evolved over the course of the crisis response, designated Operation JUKEBOX LOTUS. U.S. Navy and Joint force operations could not have occurred without these bases and the direct support they provided. Additionally, the command flagship, USS MOUNT WHITNEY, operating from international waters with the Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, embarked, provided command and control, planning, and support coordination during the initial phase of the crisis.

Ballistic Missile Defense. Through the deployment of U.S. Navy Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD)-capable surface combatants, Naval Forces Europe supported Phase One implementation of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) to the ballistic missile defense of Europe. The command also supported EPAA Phase Two, with efforts to complete implementing agreements and prepare for construction of an Aegis Ashore site in Romania. U.S. Naval Forces Europe facilitated NATO's declaration of interim BMD capability through its participation in the European Air and Missile Defense Exercises and NATO Exercise RAPID ARROW, which was the first live fire test of NATO's BMD capability. Weekly BMD exercises with NATO participants are being conducted to sustain the proficiency gained through these events and others, and are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR). U.S. Naval Forces Europe supported theater ISR objectives with persistent coverage of vital operating areas, using air, surface, and subsurface assets. U.S. Navy surface combatants conducted active radar surveillance of airspace over or near regions of potential volatility to provide indications and warnings of aircraft activity as well as surveillance of surface



USS McFAUL (DDG-74), an Arleigh-Burke class guided missile destroyer launching a 'Scan Eagle' UAV during Operation JUKEBOX LOTUS last September. These versatile platforms cover multiple theater missions, from Ballistic Missile Defense to maritime interdiction to expanded U.S. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance.

and subsurface vessels. In addition, P-3 Maritime Patrol Aircraft and EP-3 Reconnaissance Aircraft operating from bases in Italy, Spain, and Greece, as well as ship-based Remotely Piloted Aircraft missions (SCAN EAGLE and FIRE SCOUT), also provided mobile, flexible ISR coverage in areas of interest within the theater. Employing a mix of these platforms and capabilities, U.S. Naval Forces Europe was able to support NATO forces in Kosovo, Operation JUKEBOX LOTUS, and operations in the Baltic Sea.

Forward Deployed Naval Forces, Spain. The decision to station four Aegis destroyers at Naval Station Rota, Spain, will significantly increase the availability of these multi-mission surface platforms for training, interoperability, and crisis response operations in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. Tasking will include theater BMD, maritime security operations, humanitarian missions, and bilateral and multilateral exercises in support of regional security and stability.

Theater Submarine Operations. U.S. submarine forces provided assurance, deterrence, and unique ISR capabilities, while maintaining their readiness to execute anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare



USS GEORGIA (SSGN-729) heads out on patrol in the Mediterranean, on-call for missions supporting multiple U.S. Combatant Commands.

operations, ensure undersea dominance, deliver precision strike weapons, and provide high-value unit protection.

Exercises, Theater Security Cooperation, and Partnerships: U.S. Naval Forces Europe participated in seven JCS exercises and 15 NATO and European Command exercises in 2012. As mentioned, Exercise BALTOPS 2012 brought together 12 European nations, including Russia, to conduct maritime operations and interoperability training in the Baltic Sea. Exercise

SEA BREEZE 12, another WIF-funded event, aggregated 13 ships and personnel from 15 nations to train in and around the Black Sea. Exercise FRUKUS (France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States)—led by Russia in 2012—joined maritime forces from all four nations for a high-end multi-lateral engagement focused on maritime capabilities and interoperability. U.S. Sixth Fleet also led Exercise NORTHERN EAGLE, which involved Russia and Norway, and culminated in a successful U.S. ship visit to Severomorsk in northern Russia.

U.S. Naval Forces Europe continued to lead Eurasia Partnership Capstone, an initiative designed to integrate numerous efforts across Eurasia into a comprehensive maritime partnership. Training with naval forces from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Russia, Poland, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine, U.S. Naval Forces Europe



U.S. Sailor greeting a Ukrainian Marine at the launch of Exercise SEA BREEZE '12. Co-hosted by the U.S. and Ukrainian Navies, SEA BREEZE brought together naval, air, and land forces from Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Moldova, Norway, Qatar Sweden, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine, and the United States. The largest multinational exercise conducted in the Black Sea region, SEA BREEZE provides an important venue for U.S. allies and partner nations to improve maritime safety, security, and stability in this vital area.

focused on non-commissioned officer development, maritime interdiction operations, visit/board/search/seizure, search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, and environmental protection. In associated outreach to the Caspian Sea region last year, U.S. Naval Forces Europe coordinated with U.S. Central Command to include participation from Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan as well. The Partnership of Adriatic Mariners, a similar regional effort, was led by U.S. Naval Forces Europe and joined by Albania and key partners along

the Adriatic Sea to increase maritime domain awareness and enhance counter-illicit trafficking capabilities.

Way Ahead: U.S. Naval Forces Europe remains focused on maintaining maritime safety, security cooperation, and crisis response capabilities to defend the nation and secure its interests across Europe and Africa. The command will support, develop, and expand BMD capabilities afloat and ashore in synchronization with other European Command Service component commands and NATO. U.S. Naval Forces Europe will continue to exercise command and control of forward-stationed and rotational forces, focus on its primary mission of warfighting, and provide the nation with robust power projection capabilities across two combatant commands. Equally important, the command will continue to strengthen allied and partner maritime capabilities in foreign humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and other operations, while responsibly balancing these initiatives within a fiscally constrained environment.

*U.S. Air Forces Europe / U.S. Air Forces Africa
Ramstein Air Base, Germany*

Introduction & Overview: U.S. Air Forces Europe / U.S. Air Forces Africa is a unified organization that reports to both U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command, postured to provide forward-based, full-spectrum airpower in support of global, national, alliance, and coalition operations. U.S. Air Forces Europe provides credible, capable, and responsive air forces for U.S. European Command prepared to defend the Homeland forward and respond at any time to crises across the world. Furthermore, U.S. Air Forces Europe maintains critical infrastructure to provide mobility and communications throughput, logistical support, contingency bed-down, and command and control capabilities in support of global operations. Additionally, Europe is a critical entry and relay point for all cyber activities across U.S. European Command, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. Africa Command, including 90% of all ISR feed data. Our forward posture allows us to project U.S. power globally, support the NATO Alliance and multilateral coalitions, and reduce the burden on U.S. forces while providing ready access to European bases, as required.

Major Accomplishments: U.S. Air Forces Europe flew over 37,500 hours in support of ongoing European Command operations in FY 2012. Forward-based air forces were essential to the U.S. rapid response to emergent requirements following the attacks on our diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, providing forces to support U.S. Africa Command's Operation JUKEBOX LOTUS. The command leveraged its strong international partnerships to facilitate the basing of CONUS forces in Europe in less than five days. U.S. Air Forces Europe's forward-based presence and partnerships also enabled execution of aeromedical evacuation and subsequent security missions in Libya.

U.S. Air Forces Europe has made major contributions to ongoing operations in Afghanistan, deploying aircraft for multi-role ground attack, refueling, combat search and rescue, and operational support missions. Airmen from across the command have deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, and U.S. Air Forces Europe continues to provide critical lift and sustainment for the deployment and redeployment of forces and equipment into and out of the U.S. Central Command theater to support current operations and the future transition in Afghanistan.

U.S. Air Forces Europe supported four nuclear logistics missions, successfully conducted three nuclear surety inspections of its nuclear-capable units, as well as two joint safety and security inspections, and a strike evaluation in concert with NATO. All of these events ensured that the United States and NATO maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear capability.

A critical global communications hub, U.S. Air Forces Europe provides vital data links for worldwide communications, unmanned aerial system command and control, intelligence collection, and space operations. U.S. Air Forces Europe has worked diligently to implement new technologies and expanded

systems enhancing European Command's air component capabilities. In support of EPAA, the command acts as a force provider and performs vital command and control (C2) functions for U.S. BMD forces. Last year, U.S. Air Forces Europe transitioned the NATO European territorial missile defense C2 mission from a U.S. capability to an alliance interim operating capability, and is working with NATO to develop initial operating capability requirements. In other areas, the command's land mobile radio capabilities matured into radio over internet protocol terrestrial connections, maximizing the resources available to emergency services across the region and enabling real-time crisis notification. U.S. Air Forces Europe has also become a defense leader in the improvement of base infrastructure and investment to develop a resilient command, control, communications, computer, and information (C4I) architecture, providing improved support to flight operations and contributing to the BMD mission in Europe.

Operations & Operational Support: U.S. Air Forces Europe supports the operations of U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Transportation Command, and NATO, while conducting combat deployments at the same or higher rate than U.S.-based air forces, and maintaining the throughput of over 60% of global air mobility missions. U.S. Air Forces Europe maintains combat air patrols supporting NATO's Icelandic and Baltic air policing and surveillance missions, and conducts ISR missions across the greater Levant.

Recent combat support operations in North Africa highlighted the importance of our ability to interoperate with NATO and non-NATO coalition partner nations in all phases of the ISR mission. To this end, we have dramatically increased our contact with potential partners to build partner ISR capacity. Leading the success in this area is the joint U.S. / U.K. 'Project Diamond' initiative, begun in 2007, which seeks to develop a Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) ISR imagery processing, exploitation, and dissemination capability. This capability, located in the United Kingdom, is tied to the 693rd ISR Group at Ramstein Air Base. A significant success story, Project Diamond has resulted in U.K. analysts conducting processing, exploitation, and dissemination (PED) of U.S. Predator and Reaper Unmanned Aerial System operations in Afghanistan since April 2011. These efforts have supported ISAF warfighters while demonstrating the high degree of cooperation that exists between the U.S. and U.K. ISR communities. Building on these lessons, we have launched the Coalition ISR / PED Integration Initiative. This initiative seeks to build and integrate partner ISR capacity among key partner nations in the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command theaters. These efforts will enhance cooperation, facilitate greater burden-sharing,



An F-15E Strike Eagle conducts in-flight refueling with a KC-135 Stratotanker over the Atlantic Ocean. U.S. Air Forces Europe conducts operations for 4 U.S. Combatant Commanders—European Command, Africa Command, Central Command, Transportation Command—and supports U.S. commitments to NATO.

share ISR information and methodologies, and incorporate important PED objectives and capabilities into NATO and non-NATO exercises in order to ensure the alliance is better postured in these critical mission areas for future contingency operations.

Exercises, Theater Security Cooperation, and Partnerships: In addition to our operational missions and support, U.S. Air Forces Europe participated in 21 JCS exercises, to include Exercises AUSTERE CHALLENGE, BALTOPS, and RAPID TRIDENT, and accomplished over 1,870 outreach, engagement, and training events with 21 U.S. allied and partner nations in direct support of U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Central Command. These efforts sustained America's strategic partnerships and achieved a number of significant milestones in 2012. First, engaging one of NATO's newer and increasingly

important allies, U.S. Air Forces Europe personnel activated the Aviation Detachment (AVDET) at Lask Air Base, Poland, last November. The AVDET will support the rotation of U.S. military aircraft to Poland, enable cooperative training events between U.S. and Polish Airmen, enhance the capabilities and interoperability of our nations' air forces, and ultimately increase the air resources available for future NATO operations.

Second, U.S. Air Forces Europe achieved initial operational capability at the newly established European Integrated Air and Missile Defense Center, the only one of its kind, dedicated to advancing BMD



November 9, 2012: Members of the 52nd Operations Group, Detachment 1, conduct the activation ceremony for U.S. Air Force Europe's AVDET on the flight line at Lask Air Base, Poland. Comprised of 10 U.S. Airmen supporting the periodic rotation of U.S. F-16 and C-130 aircraft, the AVDET will make important contributions to Poland's defense modernization and NATO interoperability.

education, training, and wargaming for our European partners. Third, supporting Joint Force 2020's emphasis on humanitarian and disaster relief operations, we recently celebrated the 20-year anniversary of our 'Eagle Vision' Program, a cooperative agreement with France that has provided imagery for numerous disaster relief operations over the past year. Fourth, eyeing efficiencies, U.S. Air Forces Europe continued its successful 'Tactical Leadership Program,' preparing next-generation combat air leaders from ten allied nations for worldwide operations augmenting, or in some cases reducing the need for, U.S. Airmen. Finally,



General Philip Breedlove, Commander, U.S. Air Forces Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa, briefs German Chancellor Angela Merkel and U.S. Ambassador to Germany Philip Murphy during a tour of U.S. military aircraft at the Berlin Air Show in September 2012.

U.S. Air Forces Europe continues to help develop a strong cadre of non-commissioned officers through engagement and training, at the Kisling Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, with senior enlisted leaders from nations across Europe and Africa.

Way Ahead: Recognizing the current inflection point and the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance, U.S. Air Forces Europe continues to implement significant efficiencies executing its mission to support two combatant commands. Most notably, U.S. Air Forces Europe has consolidated its subordinate numbered air forces and their associated Air and Space Operations Centers to create an extremely lean, agile, and flexible headquarters with leadership and staff supporting both U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command while maintaining essential service support to forces in and across the theater. As we look to the near term, U.S. Air Forces Europe will continue aggressively implementing EPAA and associated BMD initiatives, and support U.S. global reach and access to achieve national and military objectives through our forward-based forces and infrastructure. Europe's strategic location and our strong international relationships remain critical enablers for rapid unilateral, joint, and multinational response to contingency missions across Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

U.S. Special Operations Command Europe

Stuttgart, Germany

Introduction & Overview: Special Operations Command Europe operates from two main forward-deployed locations, in Stuttgart, Germany, and the Royal Air Force (RAF) station at Mildenhall, England. The Command is comprised of three assigned components: 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne); Naval Special Warfare Unit 2; and the 352nd Special Operations Group (Air Force Special Operations Command). Special Operations Command Europe continues to focus on expanding theater-wide special operations forces (SOF) capabilities, mainly by developing and enabling allied and partner nation SOF to deploy to Afghanistan in support of ISAF. Through the development of allied and partner SOF skills, we seek to enable niche capabilities which, taken together, can translate into unified SOF actions that support U.S. national security objectives, NATO, and our shared security interests.

Major Accomplishments: Special Operations Command Europe focused its efforts to deliver significant results across multiple areas in 2012. First, as mentioned above, the command maintained its emphasis on engagement activities with allied and partner nation SOF preparing them for deployment to Afghanistan. Additionally on this front, the command conducted numerous Joint Combined Exchange Training and other bilateral training activities, Partnership Development Program events, bilateral counter narco-terrorism training, an intelligence conference on Iranian activities in Europe, and numerous key leader and staff engagements to sustain partner SOF development. Second, Special Operations Command Europe continued to develop its important counterterrorism-related bilateral relationships with Russian and Turkish SOF. Third, Special Operations Command Europe was tasked to lead the theater counterterrorism (CT) mission and is responsible for monitoring, facilitating, coordinating, and synchronizing all CT efforts across the European Command area of responsibility.

Exercises, Theater Security Cooperation, and Partnerships: Special Operations Command Europe continued to facilitate SOF interoperability and prepare partners for current and future contingency missions through an intensive 2012 exercise schedule. Last September, Croatia hosted JACKAL STONE '12, our capstone SOF exercise, including 15 nations and over 1,700 participants,



By Sea, Air, or Land: Participants in Special Operation Command Europe's Exercise JACKAL STONE display the uniforms and tools of their trade. The purpose of this capstone exercise is to enhance Special Operations Forces (SOF) capacity and interoperability among 15 participating Allied and partner nations, simultaneously building cooperation and key partnerships for current and future coalition SOF missions.

with Croatian President Ivo Josipovic making a personal appearance to observe joint U.S.-Croatian exercise projects. Other JACKAL STONE activities included a vigorous aviation component featuring Slovakian and Croatian Mi-17 helicopters, and U.S. MH-60 Blackhawks facilitating exercise movements and parachute operations.

Special Operations Command Europe has also developed and strengthened important theater CT bilateral relationships across a wide range of FY 2012 activities, including:

Russia: The U.S. Army's 10th Special Forces Group hosted Russian airborne forces at Ft. Carson, Colorado. This is the first time U.S. SOF have worked together with Russian forces since 2008. This three-week tactical training event fostered positive relationships, helped to further important interoperability goals, and developed a mutual understanding and working knowledge of each other's CT capabilities. This successful bilateral training event culminated with the stated intention to conduct similar training events annually, another potential area for continued U.S.-Russian engagement.

Turkey: After a two-year hiatus to develop a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Turkey, we are once again working closely with our Turkish SOF counterparts. The establishment of the MOU with Turkish Army Special Forces will greatly improve the U.S.-Turkish bilateral SOF relationship, enabling exchanges that will continue to pay strong dividends for both countries in the near future. Special Operations Command Europe key leader engagements with CT forces from the Turkish Ministry of the Interior have also increased potential for important future cooperation.

Operations & Operational Support: Special Operations Command Europe continues to lead European Command's SOF support to U.S. Central Command and the mission in Afghanistan. For the sixth year in a row, Special Operations Command Europe has provided U.S. forces, directly supporting ISAF through the deployment of Combined Special Operations Task Force 10 (CSOTF-10), providing



SOCEUR's Partnership Development Program provides valuable support and pre-deployment training for partner-nation SOF forces, including Poland (shown above). These nations have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to ISAF.

military assistance to five Afghan Provincial Reaction Companies. Notably, CSOTF-10, commanded by Special Operations Command's 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, is comprised of multinational special operations forces from eight European nations: Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Additionally, Special Operations Command Europe continues to provide advisory assistance to Polish SOF in ISAF. By coordinating the Special Operations Command Europe Partnership Development Program with other security cooperation resources, we have been able to

assist these developing allies and partners with their concerted national effort to create SOF capabilities that are, at the tactical level, on par with U.S. Special Operations Forces. Once developed, these allies and partners have demonstrated the willingness to employ these forces in a manner that supports and enables heavily-tasked U.S. SOF. Most importantly, these combined efforts have made critical contributions to the Government of Afghanistan and the transition effort, mentoring Afghan National Security Forces and reinforcing their sustained progress into a self-run, confident force capable of contributing to security operations across sizable Afghan population centers.

Special Operations Command Europe also chairs the Stuttgart Effects Group, a multi-headquarters interagency forum established to increase understanding of transnational threats and de-conflict associated efforts with U.S. combatant commands and U.S. Government interagency partners.

As the European Command lead for all theater CT execution, Special Operations Command Europe is focused on intelligence, information-sharing, and developing partner capabilities in step with the Department's highest prioritization for Joint Force 2020's 'Counterterrorism and Irregular Warfare' mission. To meet these responsibilities and synchronize the theater's CT Regional Campaign Plan, the command established the Special Operations Command Europe CT-Core Cell. The CT-Core Cell monitors, facilitates, coordinates, and synchronizes CT efforts across the theater, in concert with other U.S. Government agencies and our partner nation counterparts, in order to disrupt violent extremist organizations and promote an environment inhospitable to terrorism. These efforts, and ongoing coordination with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), have assisted investigations in more than 80 countries to date. Special Operations Command Europe continues to work closely with our allies and partners, the U.S. Intelligence Community, and other U.S. combatant commands to identify and counter threats to the United States and U.S. forces originating from Europe, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Lastly, Special Operations Command continues to refine and adapt theater-wide strategic SOF requirements while also taking care of our people. Operational concepts, to include the Distributed SOF Network and ongoing coordination with allied and partner SOF through our U.S. Country Team SOF liaison elements, continue to pay dividends. Importantly, after a decade of sustained combat operations, the command remains focused on ways to take care of our warriors and their families. We continue to prioritize several family events and increase service member awareness regarding comprehensive health and well-being.

Way Ahead: Special Operations Command Europe will continue to focus its Partnership Development Program (PDP) efforts on contributing to ISAF SOF preparation beyond 2014. In 2012, the command increased its footprint from a company-size U.S. Special Forces element to a battalion-size task force, while increasing partner nation participation through staff positions, special operations task units, and special operations task groups. Beyond ISAF, Special Operations Command Europe will coordinate

and direct its critical security cooperation resources and authorities (PDP, 1206, etc.) toward working with our allies and partners to develop the national and institutional mechanisms required to sustain the SOF capacity that we have collectively built over the past decade. Our European allies and partners have proven their willingness, with relatively minimal assistance, to deploy their SOF to combat and other operations important to the United States. Our strategic objective is to ensure that we sustain this vital investment in order to have world-class, interoperable SOF available for employment where our national security interests converge in the future, without having to begin capacity building efforts anew. Looking forward, Special Operations Command Europe will continue to support U.S. European Command, national, and NATO objectives, maintain our combat edge, further develop allied and partner SOF, and always be ready for crisis response—a vanguard force for the forward defense of the United States.