



U.S. European Command

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OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE 2015

- Operation Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of our continued commitment to the collective security of NATO and dedication to the enduring peace and stability in the region, in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine specifically.
- U.S. commitment to the security of every NATO ally is resolute and uniform. In meeting our global security commitments, the United States must have strong, committed and capable allies, which is why we have fought, exercised and trained with our European allies for the past 70 years. The U.S.-European strategic partnership is built on a foundation of shared values, experiences and vision.
- The U.S. took several immediate steps to demonstrate solidarity with our NATO allies, such as augmenting the air, ground and naval presence in the region, and enhancing previously scheduled exercises.
- Russia's aggressive actions have already led many to call for reinforcing NATO's readiness through Article 5-related planning training and adjustments to force posture.
- Operation Atlantic Resolve will remain in place as long as the need exists to reassure our allies and deter Russia from regional hegemony.

European Reassurance Initiative

ERI is part of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, signed by President Obama on December 19, 2014, included \$985 million in ERI funds. These monies enable the DoD to continue its efforts to reinforce America's solemn commitment to the safety and territorial integrity of our allies and to strengthen the capacity of our partners in the region.

The ERI enables the DoD to, among other things: Continue Operation Atlantic Resolve, which includes conducting military exercises and training on land, in the air and at sea, while sustaining a rotational presence across Europe; and increase the responsiveness of U.S. forces to reinforce NATO by exploring initiatives such as prepositioning of equipment and enhancing reception facilities in Europe.

ERI funding will help increase the capability, readiness and responsiveness of NATO forces, primarily through the funding of rotational force presence in Eastern Europe, as well as through the improvement of ground and air training and staging sites. Combined training and theater security cooperation engagements with our Allies and partners demonstrate that we share a commitment to promoting a Europe that is whole, free and at peace.

The ERI is already increasing responsiveness and readiness by pre-positioning ammunition, fuel and equipment for use in regional training and exercises, as well as improving infrastructure that enhances NATO operations and enables Eastern Allies to rapidly receive reinforcements. For more information on ERI, go to: <http://www.eucom.mil/media-library/article/33026/eucom-provides-update-on-the-european-reassurance-initiative>

DoD Efforts to Date

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Land

- **Exercise Thunder Strike** (15-17 Dec. 2015) 4th Infantry Division provided observer controller support in order to increase interoperability with NATO partners and facilitate the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) and combined planning efforts to integrate shared warfighting assets. The exercise was conducted in southeastern Lithuania.
- **European Activity Set** (3 Dec. 2015) U.S. Army Europe and Army Materiel Command began storing portions of the European Activity Set at 3 initial forward locations (Romania, Bulgaria, and Lithuania) in Dec. 2015 with plans to expand to additional countries at a later date. The EAS is approximately 12,000 pieces of equipment being stored in Europe for U.S.-based rotational forces to use when training in Europe. Storing U.S. equipment within Allied and partner nations allows Regionally Allocated Forces easier access to that equipment when and where it is needed for training, saving time, resources, and potentially U.S. taxpayer dollars.
- **Exercise Wise Foresight** (2-9 Dec. 2015) Bravo Troop 5-7 Cavalry, along with Hungarian and Romanian forces conducted the exercise at the Varpalota Training Area in Hungary. The exercise was designed to increase allied nations' abilities to conduct unified land operations.
- **Exercise Northern Star** (28-29 Nov. 2015) Alpha Company 3-69 Armored Regiment conducted a tactical field training exercise with Estonia Defense Force (EDF) units in order to train on offensive and defensive tasks and increase interoperability between the forces. This exercise was an Estonian national exercise that took place at the Tapa Training Area there.
- **Exercise Iron Sword** (8-21 Nov. 2015) Elements from 3-69 Armored Regiment participated in this exercise at the Pabrade Training Area in Lithuania. Iron Sword was a multinational exercise designed to train battalion-level defense and offensive tasks and increase allied interoperability.
- **Bayonet Thrust** (3-5 Nov. 2015) The 173rd Airborne Brigade's vehicle road march, known as Bayonet Thrust, was the capstone event of their participation in Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR). The road march traversed more than 1,629 miles (2,623 km) across nine allied borders and included participation from the armed forces of each country involved in the march. 4th Infantry Division's mission command element supported the event by synchronizing assets to conducting the movement and providing real time updates to U.S. Army Europe.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve** (2-6 Nov. 2015) Combined Resolve V had more than 4,600 participants from 10 NATO allied nations including Albania, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, and the United States, and three partner nations of Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia. The purpose of this exercise was to execute a command post exercise that incorporated offensive and defensive operations focused on mission command in order to build Mission Command capability, increase readiness, and develop the cohesiveness of U.S. and allied and partner nations. The exercise was conducted at the Hohenfels Training area.

- **Exercise Brave Warrior** (15 Sep – 30 Oct) is a multinational training exercise that is being held in Hungary. It will include the 4th Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment. The exercise will also include units from the allied nations of Slovakia, Czech, and Hungary. The exercise will begin in mid-September and run through October.
- **Immediate Response 15** (9-22 Sep) was a multinational, brigade-level exercise utilizing computer-assisted simulations and field training exercises in Croatia and Slovenia. The exercises included more than 1,400 soldiers from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Immediate Response 15 supported the goal that partner nations are trained and ready to combine forces to ensure unified security across allied nations.
- **Exercise Swift Response:** (18 Aug.-10 Sep. 2015) Swift Response was a joint and combined certification training event that took place at multiple locations across the U.S. Army Europe area of operations to exercise a multinational Brigade Task Force integrated by a coalition of NATO nations, including France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States. The multinational training exercise was built around the construct of an Airborne Combined Joint Forcible Entry operation, and served to evaluate brigade- and battalion- level execution of strategic out-load in conjunction with allies and partner nations through the use of an Intermediate Staging Base (ISB) in the EUCOM AOR, Airborne Joint Forcible Entry and follow-on missions. The training event provided participants with the opportunity to integrate multiple partner nations' high-readiness forces to train as a cohesive and interoperable team and demonstrate the global reach of the Global Response Force (GRF) and high readiness of multinational forces.
- **Exercise Allied Spirit II:** (2-24 Aug. 2015) More than 1,600 participants from Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the U.S. participated in Exercise Allied Spirit II, which enhanced NATO interoperability at brigade and battalion levels and test secure communications amongst Alliance members. The exercise took place at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, showcasing the world class facility and highlighting its capabilities, allowing allies and partners to connect – personally, professionally, and tactically – to create stronger, more capable forces.
- **European Activity Set** (Jun. 23) Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced in coordination with our Allies, the United States intends to place temporarily approximately 250 tanks, Bradleys, and self-propelled howitzers, and associated armored brigade combat team equipment in Baltic and Central European countries in order to support training and exercises by rotational units deployed to Europe. This equipment set, termed the European Activity Set (EAS), will consist of company- to battalion-size equipment sets located on the territory of several NATO Allies: Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania.
- **Exercise Saber Strike 15** (Jun. 8-19) Saber Strike is a long-standing U.S. Army Europe-led cooperative training exercise. This year's exercise objectives focused on promoting interoperability with regional partners and improving joint operational capability in a variety of missions to prepare the participating nations and units for future operations. Participating nations included Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland as well as Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, and the United States. The exercise was held in four locations: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

- **173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne):** (Jun.-Nov. 2015) 1-503rd Airborne Infantry Battalion, assumed responsibility for the U.S. Army's Operation Atlantic Resolve land forces training mission on June 24. Approximately 500 Soldiers, organized in company teams of approximately 150 Soldiers are training alongside allied forces in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. At the end of October, the regionally aligned brigade, the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Stewart, Georgia will return to Europe and assume the OAR mission.
- **Exercise Platinum Eagle** (May 18-28) Romania hosted Bulgarian and U.S. forces during a multinational exercise designed to demonstrate the ever-increasing capability of NATO allies to defend Eastern Europe. This exercise, which occurs annually with Marines and Sailors from the Black Sea Rotational Force, and Romanian and Bulgarian forces, took place at the Babadag Training Area. Functional training areas consisted of basic-infantry skills, advanced marksmanship, company-level command and control, and use of anti-armor weapon systems.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve IV:** (May 15-Jun. 6) U.S. Army's Regionally Aligned Forces to Europe trained alongside NATO allies and partner nations at the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas in Germany. The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division (Raiders) from Ft. Stewart, Georgia, participated as the main U.S. Army brigade. They utilized pre-positioned tanks and equipment of the European Activity Set under the command and control of the 4th Infantry Division, the regionally aligned division HQ in Europe. CR IV included multinational combat maneuver training in Hohenfels and culminated in a combined-arms live-fire exercise in Grafenwoehr that blended virtual, simulated, and live armored and mechanized infantry formations to replicate a complex combat environment.
- **Operation Cavalry March:** (May 13-14) 350 U.S. Army Soldiers and 80 vehicles (Strykers and wheeled support vehicles) from the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducted a 400-kilometer road march across Romania from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base to the Cincu Training Area. A joint Romanian and U.S. effort to honor the past, build upon the future and demonstrate NATO interoperability, Cavalry March served as the lead-in to "Sarmis 15," a combined Canadian, British, Romanian, and U.S. exercise held in Cincu. A-10's from the 354th Fighter Squadron, demonstrated close air support by performing passes over the convoy. Other community events including a welcome ceremony, vehicle static displays, sporting events between U.S. & Romanian soldiers and a wreath laying at the WWII Heroes Memorial.
- **Exercise Saber Junction 15:** (Mar. 23-Apr. 30) More than 4,700 participants from 17 nations participated in multiple training activities, which occurred simultaneously in Germany, Lithuania and Romania. SJ15 kicked off with an airborne assault at the Smardan Drop Zone in Romania by paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, followed by decisive action training by the 2nd Cavalry Regiment with multinational land forces at the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, Hohenfels Training Area. C2 functions were exercised through simulations, connecting distributed locations across all three countries.
- **Operation Dragoon Ride:** (Mar. 21-Apr. 1) The 2nd Cavalry Regiment OAR training rotation concluded with a capstone event named, Operation Dragoon Ride, an 1,800-kilometer road march which crossed five allied borders between Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, and Germany and tested the regiment's leadership and sustainment capabilities. The exercise demonstrated the freedom of movement that exists within NATO, afforded U.S. soldiers an opportunity to engage with community members along the route, and reinforced U.S. commitment to our NATO partners.

- **3rd Infantry Division:** (Mar.-Jun. 2015) 3ID's 1st Brigade assumed responsibility for the U.S. Army's OAR land forces training mission. Approximately 150-200 Soldiers trained in each of the following four countries: Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. On March 9, 110 vehicles were offloaded in Riga, Latvia, and were shipped to the Baltic states, while other equipment was offloaded in Bremerhaven, Germany. After the 3ID rotated, more than 120 pieces of equipment were relocated to Germany to support the European Activities Set.
- **4th Infantry Division Headquarters:** (Feb.-Dec. 2015) Approximately 100 Soldiers from the 4ID Mission Command Element deployed to Germany to serve as the division-level headquarters for United States Army, Europe under the Army's Regionally Aligned Forces.
- **2nd Cavalry Regiment** (Jan. 14-Mar. 31) Approximately 550 Soldiers and 75 Stryker vehicles from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment trained with our allies in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in support of OAR. 2CR conducted a variety of training events alongside Soldiers from NATO and partner nations, including individual and team tasks that culminated in platoon level-events. This was the first Stryker unit to deploy to the Baltics and Poland in support of OAR and it is the 2nd brigade-sized element from U.S. Army Europe to support the mission.
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U.S. Marine Forces-Europe (MARFOREUR)

- **Platinum Lion:** (Jan. 10-17, 2016) Platinum Lion, the first multinational live-fire engagement in which the Combined Arms Company participated, is a NATO-led exercise designed to increase readiness and build partner capabilities through realistic combat scenarios and objective-focused training. During the exercise, the participants orchestrated integrated squad offensive operations, maneuver training, and mechanized integration aimed at collectively increasing combined arms skills, anti-armor tactics and other capabilities needed for combat.
- **Platinum Lynx:** (Nov. 20 – Dec. 11, 2015) This exercise was focused on mechanized integration, breaching techniques, dismounted live-fire tactics, indirect fire procedures and practical application. The Combined Arms Company transported the heavy equipment via rail operations from Zimnitsa, Bulgaria.
- **Combined Arms Company:** (Sep. 2015 – Dec. 2016) Based at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. The Company is formed from a tank section, artillery section, light armored vehicle section, combat engineer section and logistic support enablers. With more than 150 Marines, the Company has a unique capability to conduct operations, support crisis and contingency response, and conduct military training exercises and engagements with Eastern European partner military forces.
- **Trident Juncture:** (Oct. 19 – Nov. 6, 2015) The largest NATO exercise conducted in the past 20 years with around 36,000 troops from more than 30 nations, including both NATO Allies and Partners. More than 5,000 U.S. service members participated in the exercise which was designed to train the troops of the NATO Response Force. Activities were hosted by Spain, Portugal and Italy with training in Belgium, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway and at sea in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The Marine Corps 26th MEU, Fourth Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Black Sea Rotational Force and Special Purpose Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response all participated in the multi-national exercise.

- **Agile Spirit:** (Jul. 18-21, 2015) A Joint Exercise Program funded, EUCOM scheduled, MARFOREUR/AF conducted, and NATO-linked exercise that included Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania in the Republic of Georgia. The exercise enhanced U.S., Georgian and regional partner interoperability. AS15 consisted of a Brigade-level Command Post Exercise (CPX) driven by a NATO Response Force (NRF). The FTX consisted of weapons live fire ranges, situational training exercise (STX) lanes, and a multinational force on force. NATO attended the exercise with observers from NATO Supreme Allied Command Transformation (SACT).
- **BaltOps:** (Jun. 7 – 24, 2015) The premier maritime exercise in the Baltic Sea region and one of the largest exercises in northern Europe. A multinational force, including U.S. Marines, demonstrated the interoperability of NATO allies and partners while assuring nations of NATO's commitment to security and stability in the Baltic Sea region. BALTOPS 15 also delivered high-end training across the entire spectrum of naval warfare, including Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Antisurface Warfare (ASuW), Antisubmarine Warfare (ASW) and Mine Counter Measures (MCM), as well as Amphibious and Maritime Interdiction Operations.
- **Saber Strike:** (Jun. 11 – 16, 2015) This exercise was designed to promote regional stability and security; strengthen partner capacity; and foster trust while improving interoperability with NATO Partners. The overarching exercise concept had a focus on preparation of HQs and troops for the NATO Response Force (NRF). The Marine Corps supported with more than 200 Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force and 4th ANGLICO providing infantry tactics, a Supporting Arms Liaison Team (SALT) and Fire Control Team (FCT), to support the Multinational Battalion HQ and maneuver units in the combined arms live fire FTX
- **Platinum Eagle:** (May 18-28, 2015) This was an exercise with 120 Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force and over 400 Romanian & Bulgarian military forces training at Babadag Training Area, Romania. This was a Battalion level exercise to improve infantry skills and increase interoperability. Concurrent with PL 15, MARFOREUR/AF conducted a sustainment exercise deploying Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force, Crisis Response, Africa MV-22s to support BSRF's rapid response platoon.

Special Operations Forces (SOF)

- **Joint Combined Exchange Training:** (Mar. 25) Ten members of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe conducted a Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCEIT) program with 36 members of Special Police Units of the Ministries of Interior of the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska in order to develop military tactics and skills in unfamiliar settings while also developing interoperability with partner nation forces.
- **Medical Assistance Team:** (Nov.-Dec. 2014) A medical team from Special Operations Command Europe deployed from Stuttgart, Germany, to Western Ukraine in order to coach and mentor Ukrainian Ministry of Defense personnel on basic battlefield medical procedures in order to enhance point of injury care. Initially the mission focused on coaching and mentoring more than 300 Ukrainian Ministry of Defense personnel (military) to develop a pool of individuals who are capable of conducting basic battlefield medical care.

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Air

- **A-10 Theater Security Package:** (Sep-March '16) 12 A-10s, 300 Airmen and support equipment deployed from the 23rd Wing, Moody AFB, Ga as part of a continuation of Theater Security Packages in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The A-10s are training at multiple bases across Europe, including Amari Air Base, Estonia; Kecskemet, Hungary; and Campia Turzii Air Base, Romania. These A-10s are conducting training alongside our NATO allies and partners to strengthen interoperability and to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the security and stability of Europe. They are in theater for 6 months.
- **Exercise Brave Warrior** (15 Sep - 30 Oct) was a multinational training exercise held in Hungary. Two C-130Js from the 86th Airlift Wing supported the U.S. Army-led exercise, which also included units from the allied nations of Slovakia, Czech, and Hungary. The exercise began in mid-September and ran through October.
- **Exercise Dacian Viper** (5-23 Oct) Eight Alabama Air National Guard F-16s participated in exercise DACIAN VIPER with Romanian Air Forces at Campia Turzii, Romania. The exercise was a bilateral, total force training event that enhanced interoperability with the Romanian Air Force and helped bolster readiness to conduct combined air operations.
- **Aviation Detachment 16-1** (12 Oct - 6 Nov) Three Illinois Air National Guard C-130Hs from the 169th Airlift Squadron and two C-130Js from the 86th Airlift Wing deployed to Powidz Air Base, Poland. Working side by side, U.S. and Polish airmen completed a variety of training objectives, including realistic night vision goggle training, fighter intercept training and aircraft commander upgrade qualifications.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve V** (2-9 Nov) F-16s from the 52nd Fighter Wing supported the U.S. Army and NATO allies and partner nations at the Grafenwoehr training area in Germany. The F-16s participated in the combined- arms live-fire exercise at the culmination of COMBINED RESOLVE.
- **A-10 Theater Security Package** (Sep-Dec 2015) 12 A-10s, 300 Airmen and support equipment deployed from the 23rd Wing, Moody AFB, Ga as part of a continuation of Theater Security Packages in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The A-10s will train at multiple bases across Europe, including Amari Air Base, Estonia; Kecskemet, Hungary; and Campia Turzii Air Base, Romania. These A-10s will conduct training alongside our NATO allies and partners to strengthen interoperability and to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the security and stability of Europe. They will be in theater for 6 months.
- **F-15 Theater Security Package** - 12 F-15Cs from the 142nd FW, Oregon ANG, continue to train at Campia Turzii, Romania, 25 Jun - 30 Sep as part of a TSP in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.
- **F-22 Training deployment to Europe** -- Four F-22 Raptors from the 95th Fighter Squadron at Tyndall AFB, FL, one C-17 Globemaster III, and approximately 60 Airmen and associated equipment to Spangdahlem Air Base. The 2-week deployment took place from earlier this month (28 Aug -17 Sep). The inaugural F-22 training deployment to Europe was funded by the European Reassurance Initiative. The F-22s also forward deployed from Germany to Poland and Estonia for additional training opportunities while demonstrating our commitment to NATO allies and the security of Europe.

- **Two MQ-1 Predator** remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs) and approximately 70 Airmen from the 147th Reconnaissance Wing of the Texas Air National Guard based in Ellington Field in Houston, Texas, deployed to Lielvarde Air Base, Latvia from 28 Aug-15 Sept. This training deployment tested the unit's ability to forward deploy RPA to conduct air operations and assure our Latvian allies, NATO allies and European partners of our commitment to regional security and safety. This training deployment was also funded by the European Reassurance Initiative.
- **Romania Off-Station Training: (Aug 14-29)** Three C-130Js and approximately 80 personnel from the 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, are participating in a bilateral training exercise with the Romanian Air Force at Otopeni Air Base, Romania. Participation in this bilateral training event is aimed at enhancing interoperability with Romania and readiness to conduct combined air operations.
- **Bulgaria Off-Station Training: (Jul. 16-25)** Three C-130Js and 90 personnel from the 37th Airlift Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany participated in bi-lateral training with the Bulgarian Air Force in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The focus of the training was on maintaining joint readiness while building interoperability capabilities.
- **Exercise Thracian Star 15: (Jul. 13-24)** Eight F-16s from the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard participated in exercise THRACIAN STAR with Bulgarian Air Forces at Graf Ignatievo Air Force Base, Bulgaria. The exercise was a bilateral, total force training event that enhanced interoperability with the Bulgarian Air Force and to help bolster readiness to conduct combined air operations.
- **Theater Security Package, Poland: (Jun. 25-Jul. 30)** Twelve A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and 200 Airmen from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron forward-deployed to Lask Air Base, Poland as part of the first-ever Theater Security Package in Europe. The unit conducted training alongside our NATO allies to strengthen interoperability.
- **Theater Security Package, Romania: (Jun. 23-Sep. 30)** Twelve 12 F-15Cs from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon ANG, are forward deployed to Campia Turzii, Romania as part of the first-ever Theater Security Package in Europe. The unit is training with NATO allies to strengthen interoperability.
- **Flying Training Deployment with Poland/Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation: (Jun. 2-30)** Four F-16s from the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, and four F-16s from the 169th Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard, participated in this bi-lateral training rotation aimed at maintaining readiness and reassuring NATO allies and partners.
- **Theater Security Package, Bulgaria: (May 5-Jun. 25)** Twelve A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and approximately 200 Airmen from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron forward deployed as part of the first-ever Theater Security Package to Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria. The unit conducted training alongside our NATO allies to strengthen interoperability.
- **Exercise Hedgehog: (May 4-12)** Approximately 66 Airmen and 4 A-10s from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron deployed to Amari Air Base, Estonia, at the invitation of the Estonian Defense Forces. The 354th FS trained with the Estonian air forces to improve interoperability in allied air operations and train multi-national Close Air Support operations in support of ground combat forces. Soldiers from 173rd IBCT and a tank platoon from the 2nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division also participated in the exercise.

- **Theater Security Package, Romania: (Mar. 30-Jun. 30)** Twelve A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and 200 Airmen from the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron forward deployed as part of the first-ever Theater Security Package to Campia Turzii, Romania. The unit conducted training alongside our NATO allies to strengthen interoperability.
- **Theater Security Package, Netherlands and Bulgaria: (Mar. 27-Jun. 30)** Twelve F-15Cs from the 125th Fighter Wing, Florida ANG, Jacksonville, Fla., deployed to Leeuwarden, Netherlands, and Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria, to conduct training alongside our NATO allies.
- **Poland Aviation Detachment: (Mar.23-Apr. 17)** Four C-130 aircraft, including two from the 86th Airlift Wing and two from the 302nd Airlift Wing (AFRC) from Peterson Air Force Base, participated in bilateral training with the Polish Air Force at Powidz, Poland.
- **Flying Training Deployment, Amari, Estonia: (Mar. 19-Apr. 17)** Fourteen F-16s and approximately 280 Airmen from the 510th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy, deployed to Amari Air Base to participate in a flying training deployment with the Estonian Air Force. The 510th FS trained with the Estonian Air Force on Tapa Range with Estonian Joint Terminal Attack Controllers focusing on maintaining joint readiness while building interoperability capabilities. The 510th FS also participated in other training with Finnish and Swedish air forces.
- **Flying Training Deployment, Romania: (Mar. 16-27)** Six F-16Js and approximately 100 Airmen from the 52nd Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, participated with the Romanian Air Force in a bilateral flying training deployment at Campia Turzii, Romania. Supported by the 435th Air Ground Operations Wing, the 52nd Fighter Squadron participated in the bilateral event to strengthen interoperability with Romania and readiness to conduct combined air operations.
- **Theater Security Package Deployment to Spangdahlem Air Base: (Feb.-Aug., 2015)** Twelve A-10 aircraft, 300 Airmen and support equipment from the 354th Fighter Squadron, 355th Fighter Wing from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, are conducting a six month deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and the new Theater Security Package mission. The term Theater Security Package, or TSP, refers to the routine deployment of additional fighter squadrons, support personnel and equipment to bolster U.S. forces in Europe on a rotating basis, conducting flying training deployments and off-station training with our NATO allies to further enhance interoperability.

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Sea

- **USS Carney (DDG 78) (6th Fleet AOR, 19 Sept.-Present)** USS Carney is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe.
- **USS Ross (DDG 71)** (Black Sea, 3 Dec.-17 Dec.) The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer operated in the Baltic Sea to promote peace and stability in the region. The ship participated in a passing exercise (PASSEX) Dec. 6 and Dec. 15 with ships from the Ukrainian, Romanian, and Turkish navies. The PASSEX was conducted in order to strengthen maritime capabilities and increase war-fighting proficiency when operating in the Black Sea with ally and partner nation naval forces. Ross pulled into Varna, Bulgaria, Dec. 4, for a one-day port visit in an effort to strengthen ties while working toward mutual goals of promoting peace and stability between U.S. and Bulgaria. The ship's presence in the Baltic Sea demonstrates the United States' commitment to working closely with allies to enhance maritime security and stability, readiness, and naval capability, and our commitment to promote peace and stability to our NATO allies in the region.
- **USS Harry S. Truman** (CVN 75): (Mediterranean Sea, Nov. 2015) The Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier operated in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners.
- **At-Sea Demonstration** (FASLANE, United Kingdom, Oct. 27, 2015) – The Maritime Theater Missile Defense (MTMD) Forum wrapped up its At Sea Demonstration (ASD) 2015 event, culminating nearly four years of planning and three weeks of at sea operations in the North Atlantic. The United States, with the assistance of its Forum partners, conducted the first ballistic missile defense (BMD) capable Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) launch in Europe. Significantly, ASD15 included the first international ship (Netherlands and Spain) transmissions of ballistic missile defense (BMD) cues to a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer. Finally, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States were all able to demonstrate their ability to contribute to NATO's BMD link architecture.
- **Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Archive** (Mediterranean Sea, October 2015) The Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/ 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) entered the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations October 13, 2015. The ARG/MEU, comprised of the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), the amphibious transport dock ship USS Arlington (LPD 24), and embarked Marines from the 26th MEU, conducted naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe.
- **USS Porter (DDG 78):** (Maiden FDNF Patrol Jun. 29- Nov. 4, 2015) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) completed its first forward deployed patrol in U.S. 6th Fleet. The ship deployed from Naval Station Rota June 29, 2015. While on patrol, Porter conducted several port visits and engagements with NATO allies and regional partners, and spent a total of 32 days operating in the Black Sea. Porter entered the Black Sea for the first time during its patrol from July 5 to 17, 2015 in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, worked with allies and regional partners to develop and improve interoperability, maintain regional security, and work towards mutual goals in order to advance stability in the region.

- Porter pulled into Varna, Bulgaria July 6, 2015, to attend the pre-sail conference of exercise Breeze 2015.
 - Breeze was a Black Sea event led by Bulgaria and featured assets from Turkey, Romania, Greece and NATO standing groups. The focus of the exercise was on interoperability, anti-submarine warfare, and maritime interdiction operations, among other warfare capabilities.
 - Porter conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX) with the Romanian naval ship ROS Marcellariu (265) July 14, 2015, in the Black Sea.
 - Porter pulled into Vlore, Albania Sept. 25, 2015 which served to strengthen the ties between the U.S. and Albania
 - Porter returned to the Black Sea Oct. 6, 2015, again engaging allies and regional partners to develop and improve interoperability and maintain regional security.
 - Porter arrived in Odesa, Ukraine, for a scheduled port visit Oct. 9, 2015. Porter hosted a reception aboard the ship. Guests included the Commander of the Ukrainian Navy, and the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, along with other Ukrainian civilian and military visitors.
 - Porter participated in a PASSEX Oct. 13 and 14, 2015 with naval ships from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.
 - Porter conducted a port visit in Batumi, Georgia Oct. 20, 2015 giving the crew a chance to interact with the Georgian coast guard in joint training environments, such as medical training. Porter exited the Black Sea Oct. 26, 2015.
 - For Porter's final port visit, the ship pulled into Split, Croatia, providing the crew another opportunity to experience the rich history and culture of an Eastern European country. Porter's visit, board, search and seizure team hosted a Maritime Interdiction Operation Seminar onboard the ship for 15 Croatian navy and coast guard members, demonstrating tactics and techniques. During a reception onboard while in port, Porter welcomed Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet, Vice Adm. James Foggo III, along with Croatian local nationals.
- **USS Donald Cook (DDG 75): (Black Sea, 28 Aug -13 Sep)** The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) departed the Black Sea, Sept. 13, after participating in Sea Breeze 2015. Donald Cook's operations in the Black Sea provided the ship and crew an opportunity to strengthen and build naval capabilities with allies and partners in the region. Donald Cook entered the Black Sea Aug. 28, 2015 in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The United States continues to demonstrate its commitment to the collective security of its NATO allies as part of Atlantic Resolve.
 - **Sea Breeze 15 (31 Aug-12 Sep)** The annual U.S.-Ukraine co-hosted multinational training exercise Sea Breeze 2015 concluded in Odesa, Ukraine and the Black Sea Sept. 12, 2015. Maritime forces from 11 allied and partner nations participated in the 14th iteration of Sea Breeze. This year's exercise included training at Ukrainian naval bases, airfields, and land bases, training within the Black Sea, and an additional exercise relative construction military port. The annual exercise enhanced inter-operability and strengthened regional security. Participating nations included Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The at-sea phase focused on maritime interdiction operations as a primary means to enhance maritime security. U.S. participation in Sea Breeze 2015 included approximately 400 Sailors, the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) and a P-3C Orion from Patrol Squadron (VP) 9.

- **Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU):** (Mediterranean Sea, June 21-Present) The USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), USS Fort McHenry and USS New York (LPD-21) are deployed as part of the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group/24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and are conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe.
- **BALTOPS 15** (Jun. 5-20) Seventeen NATO and partner nations participated in the 43rd iteration of the multinational maritime exercise BALTOPS 2015 in Poland, Sweden, Germany, and the Baltic Sea. Approximately 5,600 ground, maritime, and air forces demonstrated air defense, maritime interdiction, anti-subsurface warfare, and amphibious operations in a joint environment to ensure regional security. BALTOPS is an annual multinational exercise designed to enhance flexibility and interoperability, as well as demonstrate resolve of allied and partner forces to defend the Baltic region. Participating nations included Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, United States, and the United Kingdom.
- **USS Laboon (DDG 58):** (Black Sea, June 21-July, 2015) The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Laboon (DDG 58) operated in the Black Sea to promote peace and stability in the region. The ship's presence in the Black Sea demonstrated the United States' commitment to working closely with allies to enhance maritime security and stability, readiness, and naval capability, and our commitment to promote peace and stability to our NATO allies in the region.
- **USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109):** (Baltic Sea, May 4-Present) The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer operated in the Baltic Sea to promote peace and stability in the region. The ship conducted port visits at: Gdynia, Poland (May 6-11); Haakonsværn, Norway (May 13-18); Gdynia, Poland (June 4-8); Kiel, Germany (Jun. 19-24); and Karlskrona, Sweden (Jun. 28-1 Jul.). The ship's presence in the Baltic Sea demonstrates the U.S.'s commitment to working closely with allies to enhance maritime security and stability, readiness, and naval capability, and our commitment to promote peace and stability to our NATO allies in the region.
- **USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71):** (Mediterranean Sea, Apr. 2015) The Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier operated in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners.
- **USS Ross (DDG 71):** (Apr. 2015) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer operated in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners in the region.
- **USS Laboon (DDG 58):** (Mar.29-Apr.2) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer conducted a port visit to Haifa, Israel, and conducted a media availability on April 2. She operated in theater to reaffirm the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners in the region.
- **USS Cole (DDG 67):** (Black Sea, Feb. 2015) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer conducted a NATO Underway Engagement with the Romanian navy ship ROS Marasesti on Feb. 12. The engagements, which were designed to enhance maritime capabilities, included tactical maneuvering exercises, passenger transfers, bridge-to-bridge communication drills, and simulated threat defenses with aircraft. Cole arrived in Constanta, Romania, Feb. 9, for a port visit and departed Feb. 13. Cole's visit to Romania provided Sailors with the opportunity to engage with their Romanian counterparts on both a professional and personal level along with

reaffirming to NATO allies that the U.S. Navy shares a commitment to strengthening ties while working toward mutual goals of promoting peace and stability in the Black Sea region.

- **USS Donald Cook (DDG 75):** (Jan. 11) Conducted underway passing exercise with UKRS Hetman Sahaidachny (U130) and continued Black Sea operations through mid-January.

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

- **Train and Equip Ukraine's National Guard:** (Apr. 2015-Present) "Fearless Guardian," the training being provided to the Ukraine National Guard by U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Airborne Brigade out of Vicenza, Italy, began Apr. 21. Approximately 290 troops, mostly from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, are conducting the National Guard training mission at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center, in Yavoriv, which is in western Ukraine, near the border with Poland. They are training six Ukrainian National Guard companies (approximately 780 Ukrainians), with a focus on internal defense. There will also be some training for headquarters personnel.
 - Funding for the training has been authorized by Congress and is provided by the Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF), a U.S. government mechanism enacted in the past few years to provide security sector assistance for partner countries so they can address emergent challenges and opportunities important to U.S. national security. Body armor, night vision devices, and sets of communications equipment already arrived at Kyiv's Borispol Airport on April 8. These items, worth over \$3 million, are provided under the authority of the \$19 million Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF) for training Ukraine's National Guard units.
 - This training mission meets U.S. and partner national interests by demonstrating U.S. commitment to security in the Black Sea region, and demonstrating the value of forward stationed forces accustomed to training with partner nations.
- **Additional \$46 million in Security Assistance:** As part of the Sep. 18 White House announcement, an additional \$25 million was allocated to the Ukrainian Armed Forces through the Presidential Drawdown authority; and an additional \$21 million supported the State Border Guard through Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) funds. This includes non-lethal military equipment and supplies such as counter-mortar radars, body armor, helmets, vehicles, night and thermal vision devices, heavy engineering equipment, advanced radios, patrol boats, rations, tents, uniforms and other items.
- **Assistance & Advisory teams:** U.S. European Command and DoD civilian and military experts worked with Ukraine to improve its capacity to provide for its own defense and set the stage for longer-term defense cooperation. Specifically, EUCOM deployed medical & security assistance advisory teams to Kyiv to help improve Ukraine's combat medical care and identify areas for additional security assistance.
- **Foreign Military Financing:** In addition to the 300,000 MREs delivered in March 2014, the U.S. also provided Foreign Military Financing to support Ukraine's armed forces with medical supplies, Explosive Ordnance Disposal equipment and various items of individual military equipment..

- **Reforming Defense Institutions:** Defense Department experts in strategy and policy continue to meet with Ukrainian defense officials in Kyiv, to assess specific defense institution building activities/programs we may want to pursue. The objective is to shape and establish an enduring program for future U.S. efforts to support the Ukrainian military, through subject matter expert teams and long-term advisors.

George C. Marshall Center-Hosted Events

- **Collective Security/Chapter VI & VII United Nations Charter:** (Jun. 13-19) A one-week lecture at the Mohyla Academy, Kyev/Ukraine. The seminar included: Revisiting the History of the UN, Purposes & Aims of the UN, the Prohibition of the Use of Force, Article 51 UNC, the System of Collective Security and an overview of the various generations of UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- **SOCOM's First Multinational Propaganda Working Group:** (Jun. 1-5). Initial meeting of a multinational working group co-chaired by SOCOM J39 and J3/Chief IO Plans of Ukraine's Armed Forces General Staff, in Kiev. The meeting brought together subject matter experts in the field of Propaganda and Information Operations from Ukrainian government agencies as well as selected NATO partners to gain a better common understanding of today's adversarial activities in the information space in Ukraine and identify feasible solutions to counter them. Two follow-on meetings are tentatively scheduled for September and November 2015.
- **PCSS Cyber Alumni Community of Interest (COI) Workshop:** (May 4-7) Emergent Challenges: Practitioner Action, in Garmisch. The ERI part was the funding of 10 additional Ukrainian experts. The purpose of the workshop for cyber security alumni experts (including alumni from multiple Regional Centers) and cyber practitioners from across the globe to serve as a forum to address international, multi-stakeholder security concerns in the cyber domain. Workshop participants examined current cyber security challenges and discussed practical and pragmatic ways to improve regional and international cooperation to effectively counter cyber threats.
- **Specially Tailored Seminar:** (Dec. 3-4) Ukraine and the Contemporary Security Environment, for Representatives of Ukraine, in Garmisch. The purpose of this seminar was to enhance mutual understanding of the changed security environment by bringing together senior Ukrainian government officials in a neutral location to discuss the contemporary security environment, national security policy, the development of civilian expertise and transparency, and accountability of the processes and developing the foundation for legislation, strengthening civilian control of the military, reforming security institutions, and encouraging transparency. This was planned under defense institution building efforts not an actual ERI-funded event.

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