



## The U.S. Army in Europe: A Pillar of America's Defense Strategy

*Europe is a strategic location from which we can support operations throughout this hemisphere, while we work with our allies and partners, so our goal is to be postured to respond to the wide range of challenges emerging in the 21st century.*

LTG Mark P. Hertling, Commander, U.S. Army Europe  
U.S. Army Europe homepage, [www.eur.army.mil](http://www.eur.army.mil)

### Introduction

The United States' global presence and influence are the foundation of its strategic strength and flexibility. However, as one former President noted: "Our real problem . . . is not our strength today; it is rather the vital necessity of action today to ensure our strength tomorrow."<sup>1</sup> While the specifics of the geopolitical landscape may have changed since then, the underlying themes remain constant. The Quadrennial Defense Review of 2010 laid out four principles that echo the past: prevail in today's wars, prevent the wars of tomorrow, prepare to defeat a wide variety of adversaries and preserve the all-volunteer force. The Army has embodied these themes in the past decade of war, transforming and adapting to meet current challenges while also readying for the future. The U.S. Army is the global force for decisive action and will remain so. The challenge moving forward is to wisely share resources and burdens in an effective manner.

U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) is a critical component of the Army's global force. The retention of an effective land force in Europe directly affects the United States' ability to execute national strategic imperatives and appropriately share the burden of collective security. U.S. forward-deployed forces are not vestiges of the Cold War. They are available, relevant and experienced forces that provide combat power, crisis response capability and—just as critical—allied-nation training and partnerships. As the United States broadens its focus to prevail against future hybrid threats, the Army's ability to provide depth and versatility to the joint force and respond quickly to a contingency with trained and ready allies will only become more critical. U.S. Army Europe



is one of the premier instruments for rapid, multinational power projection. Maintaining this force at an effective level is not a cost; it is an investment in the enduring security of the United States and the world.

### Background

U.S. Army Europe has changed dramatically over the past seven decades. More recently, from a force of nearly a quarter-million Soldiers during the Cold War, USAREUR began the 21st century as a force of 63,000 Soldiers. After ten years of war and further transformation, there are approximately 40,000 Soldiers stationed throughout Europe.<sup>2</sup> USAREUR has transformed from an enormous occupation and stability force arrayed against the former Soviet Union to a smaller, balanced force that routinely conducts multinational engagements and operations around the globe.

USAREUR can conduct full-spectrum operations in support of U.S. unified land operations. However, it is not a force for defending Europe unilaterally, but rather one built for coalition-centric mutual security assurance—inside and outside of Europe. This

<sup>1</sup> President Dwight D. Eisenhower's State of the Union Address, 1958.

<sup>2</sup> Data provided by U.S. Army Europe Command Briefing, October 2011.



multinational theater security cooperation (TSC) approach is significant. America's European allies—NATO and non-NATO—contribute over 85 percent of non-U.S. forces to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. In the contemporary environment, where the United States and allies alike are facing fiscal pressures, the ability to leverage strong alliances and partnerships is a valuable and critical strategic option.

### **The Value of U.S. Army Forces in Europe**

Because of their physical presence, proximity and immersion in host-nation communities, U.S. Army forces in Europe extend U.S. national security interests by building relationships with many of the United States' closest allies and emerging partners. This fostering of trust and the resulting access make USAREUR Soldiers a pillar of the national defense strategy to prevail, prevent, prepare and preserve. Soldiers are, in effect, a strategic asset.

The United States is able to prevail today in places like Afghanistan and Libya in part because of the missions themselves but also in part because of the relationships USAREUR has built over time with European allies. The vast majority of non-U.S. forces in Afghanistan come from NATO and non-NATO European nations. In 2011, these contributions from allies average about 37,000 "boots on the ground" each day,<sup>3</sup> or the equivalent of four and a half brigade combat teams. These forces are able to confidently and decisively operate in a multinational construct and perform as capable partners with the United States. This capability is attributable to the relationships, training and, in some cases, equipping developed in partnership with the U.S. Army in Europe. These enduring allies have contributed blood and treasure alongside their U.S. counterparts since the earliest

days of 21st century combat operations. Without the pre-deployment training provided by USAREUR and the recurring partnerships on the battlefield with several of the USAREUR formations, allied capabilities and interoperability would not be as refined as they are today. The capabilities of USAREUR forces are, in and of themselves, a deterrent and a signal to would-be regional aggressors. Their multinational alignment is a signal to the world that the forces of freedom are united, capable and responsive.

The USAREUR multinational relationship value extends beyond Iraq and Afghanistan and even beyond ground operations. Recent allied operations in Libya were enabled by U.S. Army forces in Europe. USAREUR provided logistics through its Theater Sustainment Command, targeting information through a battlefield coordination detachment and intelligence support through a military intelligence brigade. Without established, working relationships and ties developed over years, the ability to quickly and effectively coordinate resources, information and intelligence across national boundaries would be much less efficient and responsive.

Preventing and deterring conflict—an enduring mission of U.S. Army forces in Europe—remains just as important today as it was during the Cold War. A stable, peaceful and prosperous Europe is vital to the United States. The presence of forces assures partner nations of U.S. commitment to mutual security. This commitment applies not just to NATO countries but to developing nations, e.g., Georgia, Poland and Ukraine, as well. Further, as ballistic missile defense plans evolve and solidify, USAREUR will play a key role in crafting the manning, training and installation efforts that accompany the establishment of sensitive sites in allied nations.

Preparing to defeat a wide range of adversaries under varied circumstances is a blend of the previous two imperatives. The U.S. Army conducts full-spectrum operations—offense, defense, stability operations and support operations—as part of unified land operations within the joint force.<sup>4</sup> To prepare for the range of potential missions and to prepare allies for those same missions, USAREUR operates the only U.S. combat training center outside the United States and routinely trains forces as joint, combined entities; forces are trained as they will fight.

Since 2005 USAREUR has included multinational partners in every mission rehearsal exercise conducted at

<sup>3</sup> ISAF Forces Placemat, <http://www.isaf.nato.int/images/media/PDFs/18%20October%202011%20isaf%20placemat.pdf>.

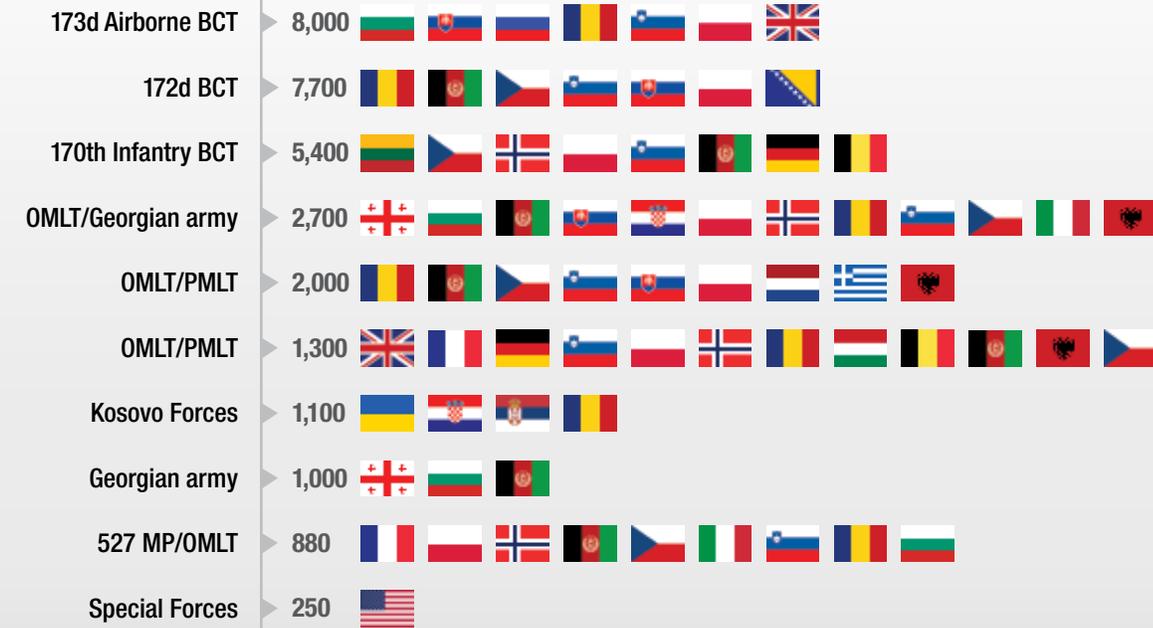
<sup>4</sup> For more information on unified land operations and full-spectrum operations, see AUSA's Torchbearer National Security Report "U.S. Army Training for Unified Land Operations," September 2011, [http://www.ausa.org/publications/ilw/Documents/TB\\_Full-Spectrum\\_web.pdf](http://www.ausa.org/publications/ilw/Documents/TB_Full-Spectrum_web.pdf).

# JOINT MULTINATIONAL TRAINING COMMAND TRAINING FISCAL YEAR 2011

**101,000**  
TOTAL FORCES  
FROM  
**27 NATIONS**  
SINCE 2008

## TRAINING AUDIENCE

## PARTICIPANTS AND COUNTRIES



## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Afghanistan	Croatia	Greece	Norway	Slovakia
Albania	Czech Republic	Hungary	Poland	Slovenia
Belgium	France	Italy	Romania	Ukraine
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Georgia	Lithuania	Russia	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	Germany	Netherlands	Serbia	United States

The data above reflects the lead training unit for each rotation, the approximate number of participants and the participating countries for training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center; these numbers are not inclusive of total theater-wide U.S. Army Europe multinational exercises.

BCT – Brigade Combat Team • MP – Military Police • PMLT/OMLT – Police / Operational Mentor and Liaison Team to train Afghanistan National Army

Source: U.S. Army Europe

its Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC). More than 14,000 allied and partner nation troops have participated in pre-deployment training events.<sup>5</sup> Since 2008, approximately 40,000 multinational forces representing 27 nations have been trained at or by Joint Multinational Training Command, the higher headquarters of JMRC, alongside more than 62,000 U.S. Soldiers. This training includes individual skills and leader development courses

as well as specialized collective task training, such as that for Observation Mentor Liaison Teams. The center has repeatedly trained brigade-plus sized formations in full-spectrum training environments incorporating adaptive, hybrid elements during complex peer-level conventional exercises designed to simulate the complexity and challenges of contemporary and future battlefields.<sup>6</sup> In addition to these activities, USAREUR plans and conducts

<sup>5</sup> LTG Mark P. Hertling, Commander, U.S. Army Europe, speech “The Way Ahead,” Conference of European Armies, 19 September 2011, <http://www.eur.army.mil/leaders/speeches/09212011-way-ahead.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Data provided by the Joint Multinational Training Command briefing for Distinguished Visitor Day during Full-Spectrum Training Environment exercise, 24 October 2011.



joint and combined exercises throughout Europe and Israel to fulfill U.S. European Command's ground component theater security cooperation objectives.<sup>7</sup> In effect, these strategic training capabilities contribute to ensuring ready units up through the joint task force level.

The fidelity, complexity and coalition participation aspects of USAREUR-led training are unprecedented. In October 2011, USAREUR executed its first full-spectrum training event. In this single exercise, nearly 8,000 servicemembers from 11 nations participated as training audience, opposition forces and observers. The event combined the physical training area with computer-aided synthetic expansion of the battlefield.<sup>8</sup> This training opportunity was possible only because of the geographic position and availability of U.S. land forces/assets and the commensurate enduring commitment to allies that generates the desire to participate.

USAREUR is the landpower component of the combatant commander's available resources for operations in Europe. As such, it is able to plan for movement of equipment, preposition stocks and practice for contingencies on a routine basis because of forward posture. Events to protect U.S. citizens abroad, such as noncombatant evacuations, can occur quickly and will always require land forces for security and enablers—relief forces must be able to project inland from the sea or into landlocked areas. Emergency humanitarian assistance will not wait for long-distance deployments; natural disasters and man-made crises can result in catastrophic outcomes without a rapid response.

Finally, preserving and enhancing the all-volunteer force is an imperative that requires a generational effort to build and retain adaptive, experienced and thoughtful leaders and Soldiers. USAREUR's immersive cultural settings and international exposures for leaders, Soldiers and families contributes to the professional development of the force. Cultural awareness is a core competency for leaders and Soldiers; maintaining that competency requires sustained opportunities for cultural contact and immersion. Soldiers rotating through Europe and back into the larger force bring ideas and experience that sustain the intellectual vibrancy that makes the Army attractive as a career. Preserving the established relationships with allies makes the United States an attractive and worthwhile operational partner.

### The Way Ahead

U.S. Army Europe remains a critical formation that protects U.S. interests in Europe and around the world. As the land component for U.S. European Command, USAREUR provides depth, versatility and multinational legitimacy to that joint combatant command. Those characteristics are the critical ingredients of a force that provides flexibility for national security decisionmakers to defend America at home and abroad. With a versatile mix of capabilities, formations and equipment, U.S. Army forces in Europe can accomplish the full range of potential missions, ranging from providing humanitarian assistance, to engaging with allies while building partner capacity, to conducting regular and irregular warfare against hybrid threats. USAREUR is now, and will remain, a strategic force that provides capability and options to the nation in support of its global role while supporting the directives to prevail, prevent, prepare and preserve. Strategy-driven force structure and capabilities-based planning require a robust, enduring and effective U.S. Army presence in Europe. Failure to ensure that presence erodes military power, sends a signal of waning commitment to stability and potentially removes a check against regional aggression. The future is uncertain, but America's commitment to its partners, the world and itself should not be.

<sup>7</sup> ADM James G. Stavridis, Commander, U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander–NATO, testimony before the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, 20 March 2011, <http://armed-services.senate.gov/statemnt/2011/03%20March/Stavridis%2003-29-11.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> "Full-Spectrum Training Environment Exercise in U.S. Army Europe," Stand-To!, 14 October 2011.