

MESSAGE FROM ADMIRAL JAMES STAVRIDIS
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST US ARMY EUROPE ROTATION OF A
PATRIOT BATTERY TO POLAND
26 MAY 2010

I send my warmest greetings to my friends in Poland and particularly the men and women of the United States and the Polish Armed Forces on the occasion of the arrival of the first battery of trainers from the 5/7 Air Defense Artillery battalion. My priority for the United States European Command is building mutually beneficial partnerships to enhance security, regional stability, and support global initiatives. The European Command will also strive to strengthen NATO's collective defense and assist NATO transformation efforts through our work with NATO's Allied Command Operations. It is clear the quarterly rotation of the Patriot battery into Poland for training and exercises will meet the spirit and intent of these priorities.

U.S. defense cooperation is a keystone of the European Command's strategy as we move forward into the 21st century. Polish patriots were key in creating an independent United States, and the United States has been at Poland's side both in 1918 and in 1989. The Patriot rotations mark another step along the path of cooperation of our two nations, joining a long list of successful Polish-US training and exercise events. United States Air Forces in Europe have developed a special relationship between our C-130 Wing at Ramstein Air Base and the Polish Wing at Powidz, as have the F-16 Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base and the Polish F-16 bases at Lask and Krzesiny. Our commitment to Polish Special Operations Command by Special Operations Command-Europe is demonstrated through our execution of the 2009 memorandum of understanding signed by the Secretary of Defense and Minister of Defense. U.S. Army Europe is working closely with Polish Land Forces to ensure our mutual preparation for ISAF deployments. U.S. Navy Europe is training the Polish Navy in Replenishment at Sea, as well as Port Security and numerous other activities which enhance our mutual maritime readiness.

The challenges we collectively face today are real, but I am confident our friendship and cooperation will pay dividends in the form of increased security for our nations and our Alliance. I am very pleased by the hard work and desire of the Polish Armed forces as we work together. I have great respect for the sacrifices Poland is making for freedom. The United States armed forces will continue to partner with our Polish counterparts because our forces are stronger together. It gives me great confidence as a commander to know that Poland and the United States are indeed partners.

I would also like to commend the great work of my friend General Gagor, who helped bring all of this to fruition. I wish he were here to see it.

Keep up the superb work!

Best regards,
Admiral James Stavridis