

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE**  
**April 24 - 30, 2014**

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**1. [Ambassador Power at U.N. Security Council Meeting on Ukraine \(04-30-2014\)](#)**

*Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council Meeting on Ukraine, April 29, 2014*

Thank you Madame President. Thank you, Under Secretary Feltman, for your briefing. On April 17, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the European Union and the United States issued the Geneva Joint Statement to deescalate the crisis that brings us together this evening. That statement outlined a series of concrete steps to end the violence, halt provocative actions, and protect the rights and security of all Ukrainian citizens. As Secretary Kerry said on April 17, "all of this, we are convinced, represents a good day's work. The day's work has produced principles, and it has produced commitments, and it has produced words on paper, and we are the first to understand and to agree that words on paper will only mean what the actions that are taken as a result of those words produce."

Secretary Kerry also commended Foreign Minister Lavrov and the Ukrainian Foreign Minister for their cooperation in achieving this hard-negotiated agreement. It was a moment of hope. Since then, the Government of Ukraine has been implementing its commitments in good faith. Regrettably, the same cannot be said of the Russian Federation.

As we meet, observers from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission are reporting that most of Ukraine – including eastern Ukraine – is peaceful. The exceptions are in such areas as Donetsk, Luhansk, and Slovyansk where pro-Russian separatists continue to occupy buildings and attack local officials. There, we have seen a sharp deterioration in law and order.

Just today, pro-Russian separatists – armed with baseball bats – stormed the government buildings in Luhansk, seizing control of the center of municipal activity in one of the largest cities in eastern Ukraine. This kind of thuggery mimics the seizures of police stations, city halls, and other government buildings in cities and towns in Donetsk Oblast and surrounding areas.

In addition to occupying government buildings, over the past two weeks: Gunmen kidnapped a senior police officer in Luhansk. In Donetsk, pro-Russian thugs armed with baseball bats attacked peaceful participants at a pro-unity rally, seriously injuring at least 15. Also in Donetsk, pro-Russian groups continue to hold 17 buildings, including the regional television broadcasting center. In the city of Slovyansk, the mayor was kidnapped, as were several journalists. The separatists in that area now hold an estimated 40 hostages. Nearby, three bodies were recently pulled from a river; each showing unmistakable signs of physical abuse; one has been identified as a local politician, another as a 19 year-old pro-unity student activist. Yesterday, gunmen reportedly chased members of the Slovyansk Roma community from their homes.

Make no mistake, these are not peaceful protests. This is not an eastern Ukrainian spring. It is a well-orchestrated campaign – with external support – to destabilize the Ukrainian state.

Finally, as all the world knows, pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk have kidnapped and continue to hold seven international inspectors, openly declared as members of a Vienna Document mission, along with their Ukrainian escorts. My government joins with responsible governments everywhere in condemning this unlawful act and in being outraged by the shameful exhibition before the media of these international public servants. The Vienna Document, agreed upon by all 57 participating States of the OSCE, has been a lasting source of cooperation and military transparency. We call, with others, for the immediate and unconditional release of the inspectors and their Ukrainian escorts and the immediate end to their mistreatment while in captivity. We also call upon Russia, as a signatory to the Vienna Document, to help secure their release, and to confirm publicly – even if belatedly – for the record that the abducted monitors were part of a legitimate mission on behalf of the international community.

My colleagues, since April 17, the government of Ukraine has acted in good faith and with admirable restraint to fulfill its commitments. The Kyiv City Hall and its surrounding area are now clear of all Maidan barricades and protestors. Over the Easter holiday, Ukraine voluntarily suspended its counterterrorism initiative, choosing to de-escalate despite its fundamental right to provide security on its own territory and for its own people. Unlike the separatists, Ukraine has cooperated fully with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and allowed its observers to operate in regions about which Moscow had voiced concerns regarding the treatment of ethnic Russians.

In addition, Prime Minister Yatsenyuk has publicly committed his government to undertake far-reaching constitutional reforms that will strengthen the power of the regions. He has appealed personally to Russian-speaking Ukrainians, pledging to support special status for the Russian language and to protect those who use it. He announced legislation to grant amnesty to those who surrender arms.

All this should be cause for optimism and hope. Tragically, what we have seen from Russia since April 17 is exactly what we saw from Russia prior to April 17. More attempts to stir up trouble. More efforts to undermine the government of Ukraine. And statement after statement that are at odds with the facts. What we have not seen is a single positive step by Russia to fulfill its Geneva commitments. Instead, Russian officials have refused to publicly call on the separatists to give up their weapons and relinquish their illegal control of Ukrainian government buildings. In fact, Russia continues to fund, to coordinate, and to fuel the heavily-armed separatist movement. In addition, just outside of Ukraine's border, Russia has continued to engage in threatening troop movements that are designed not to calm tensions, but to embolden the separatists and to intimidate the government.

In closing, I emphasize that the United States remains committed to supporting the principles of the UN Charter and will continue to uphold the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We continue to seek stability within a peaceful, democratic, inclusive, and united Ukraine, especially in advance of the upcoming important elections. We remain committed to a diplomatic process. But Russia seems committed to destabilization and fantastical justifications for her actions. The truth about what is happening in Ukraine should guide our discussion – because truth is the only foundation on which an equitable and lasting solution to this crisis can be based. Thank you.

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## **2. Events in Ukraine a "Wake-up Call" for NATO, Kerry Says (04-29-2014)**

**By Jane Morse**

Washington — The 65-year-old North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is facing a “wake-up call” with recent Russian incursions into Ukraine, says U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

“The crisis in Ukraine now calls us back to the role that this alliance was originally created to perform, and that is to defend alliance territory and advance trans-Atlantic security,” Kerry said in remarks delivered April 29 at a conference hosted by the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based nonpartisan think tank.

“The events in Ukraine are a wake-up call,” Kerry said. “Our European allies have spent more than 20 years with [the United States] working to integrate Russia into the Euro-Atlantic community. ... But what Russia's actions in Ukraine tell us is that today Putin's Russia is playing by a different set of rules, and through its occupation of Crimea and its subsequent destabilization of eastern Ukraine, Russia seeks to change the security landscape of Eastern and Central Europe.”

The 28 independent member countries of NATO, Kerry said, find themselves “in a defining moment.” He said that “we are prepared to do what we need to do, and to go the distance to uphold that alliance.”

“Our strength will come from our unity,” Kerry said. “So together we have to push back against those who want to try to change sovereign borders by force.”

“We have to make it absolutely clear to the Kremlin that NATO territory is inviolable. We will defend every single piece of it,” Kerry said.

U.S. sanctions on Russia and restrictions on export licenses for high-tech items as well as steps NATO partners have taken over the past few months are “forcing Russia to pay a steep price for its efforts to create this instability,” the secretary said.

“You just have to look at the ratings on the bonds, you look at the capital outflow, you look at the [gross domestic product] numbers that are trending downwards — this is having an impact,” Kerry said.

Kerry said the Ukraine crisis is a call to accelerate work for a stronger, more prosperous trans-Atlantic community.

“We cannot continue to allow allied defense budgets to shrink,” he said. “Clearly, not all allies are going to meet the NATO benchmark of 2 percent of GDP overnight or even next year. But it’s time for allies who are below that level to make credible commitments to increase their spending on defense over the next five years.”

Kerry stressed that there is an urgent need to ensure that European nations are not dependent on Russia for the majority of their energy. Making Europe more independent of Russia's energy supplies would be “one of the greatest single strategic differences that could be made,” he said.

Kerry also called for greater investment and economic partnerships. “The fact is that we can seriously strengthen our economic ties and accelerate growth and job creation,” he said. The Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement, Kerry said, “will do more to change the way we do business and some of our strategic considerations than any other single economic step that we can take, with the sole exception of the energy independence.”

“If we stand together,” Kerry said, “if we draw strength from the example of the past and refuse to be complacent in the present, then I am confident that NATO, the planet’s strongest alliance, can meet the challenges, can absolutely take advantage of the opportunities that are presented by crisis, and that we can move closer to a Europe that is whole and prosperous, at peace and free and strong.” **Remarks: [Kerry at Atlantic Council on NATO, Ukraine](#)**

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### **[3. Hagel Steps Up Consultations With Eastern European Allies \(04-29-2014\)](#)**

By Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON, April 29, 2014 – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has stepped up his consultations with Eastern European NATO allies in light of Russia’s activities along its border with Ukraine, Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby said today.

Hagel met at the Pentagon today with Estonian Defense Minister Sven Mikser, and this afternoon he will meet with Czech Defense Minister Martin Stropnický.

The Estonian leader “thanked the secretary for the United States response for events in Ukraine, to include strengthening the NATO Baltic Air Policing rotation and sending soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team to Estonia for bilateral training and exercises,” Kirby said during a news conference.

Hagel told Mikser that the United States will look for other ways to maintain a U.S. presence in the region. The two men spoke about two upcoming exercises – BaltOps and Exercise Saber Strike – as possible vehicles to demonstrate the alliance commitment to the region. Both exercises will have about a dozen NATO nations participating, Kirby said.

The United States has sent jets to Poland, and to the Baltic Air Policing effort. It has also sent company sized units to Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to exercise with those nations in what defense officials have called a direct response to Russia's intervention in neighboring Ukraine. Hagel is committed the defense of NATO allies and has also directed U.S. European Command Commander Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove to consult with allies to update defense plans as the security situation in Europe evolves.

“What we're looking at trying to do is ways in which we can make these preset exercises more robust, using additional assets that are already in Europe, perhaps more aircraft, maybe more ships,” Kirby said. “No decisions have been made yet, but the secretary expressed to the Estonian minister this morning that he's interested in ways we can make those two exercises more robust than they already are. And they're already pretty good-sized NATO exercises.”

Kirby said the U.S. military will provide a robust rotational presence in the region through the end of 2014 but no final decisions have been made on what that's going to look like.

Kirby shed more light on Hagel's phone call with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu yesterday. The 45-minute conversation was described as substantive and the Russian leader said twice that Russian forces would not cross the border into Ukraine.

“Both men had an opportunity to present their views and perspectives and to listen to one another,” Kirby said. “And though it was at times terse, it was never uncivil between the two of them. And both agreed at the end of the call to continue to have those discussions.”

Hagel was very clear with the Russian defense minister that the United States wants a better understanding of Russian intentions and Russian force levels along the border. “The force levels, as they are, are not doing anything to reduce tension in Ukraine -- in fact, quite the opposite -- because they have been there for so long and in such great number that it's simply making things more tense,” Kirby said.

“Our expectation is that their actions are going to meet their words and their promises,” he added. To date, there has been no indication that large numbers of Russian troops have stepped away from the border, Kirby told reporters.

The admiral also addressed “irregular elements” inside Ukraine fomenting violence. “That's one of the issues that Secretary Hagel raised with Minister Shoigu yesterday,” he said. “It's an influence we'd like to see stop.”

These forces are clearly military trained personnel, the admiral said, but Russian leaders say they are not. “I think it's safe to say that Minister Shoigu held a different view about who those individuals are and who they're working for,” Kirby said. “But, look, I mean, I grew up in Florida. If it looks like an alligator, it's an alligator.”

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#### **4. State's Countryman on Ukraine's Renunciation of Nuclear Weapons (04-29-2014)**

Remarks by Thomas M. Countryman  
Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation

*Twenty Years of Renunciation From Nuclear Weapons by Ukraine: Lessons Learned and Prospects of Nuclear Disarmament*

#### **Introduction**

The 2014 PrepCom is an opportunity to strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to reinforce our shared responsibilities to uphold it. The United States remains committed to full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan. Through this PrepCom we will build on the momentum of the successful 2010 Review Conference and PrepComs in 2012 and 2013. As we approach the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the United States looks to all States Parties to work together towards strengthening this critical treaty which has underpinned international security for nearly 45 years.

I thank our Ukrainian friends for hosting us today. As President Obama and Secretary Kerry have said, the United States strongly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Last week, Vice President Biden traveled to Kyiv in order to demonstrate our solidarity with the Ukrainian people. He discussed how the United States is supporting the international community's efforts to stabilize and strengthen Ukraine's economy and assist Ukraine in political reform and uniting the country. The Vice President announced a U.S. package of assistance totaling \$50 million to help Ukraine pursue political and economic reform and strengthen our partnership. He made clear that Ukraine has a difficult road ahead, but it will not walk this road alone. And today the United States announced that it will impose new targeted sanctions on a number of Russian individuals and entities and restricting licenses for certain U.S. exports to Russia.

#### **Budapest Memorandum Commitments**

In the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, the United States, Russia, and the United Kingdom made a commitment to respect the independence, sovereignty, and existing borders of Ukraine. The United States government remains committed to the Budapest Memorandum. Our partnership with Ukraine goes back many years, and is particularly strong in the area of nonproliferation. We appreciate Ukraine's continued leadership in this area.

#### **Ukraine's Nonproliferation Record**

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Ukraine's historic decision to remove the third largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world from its territory and to accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon state. Ukraine's unwavering commitment to its obligations under the NPT demonstrates that when a country places itself squarely within the NPT and diligently adheres to all of the Treaty's obligations, all nations benefit.

Since 1994, Ukraine has a strong record of supporting nuclear nonproliferation and threat reduction. With support from the "Nunn-Lugar" Cooperative Threat Reduction program, Ukraine dismantled an enormous stockpile of ICBMs, heavy bombers, and related delivery systems. In 2004, it began an augmented program with the U.S. Department of Defense that includes weapons of mass destruction proliferation prevention and border security initiatives. By hosting the multilateral

Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU), Ukraine has engaged over 20,000 scientists from the former Soviet weapons program in peaceful activities. The United States has been proud to be a partner in those efforts.

Ukraine brought its IAEA safeguards agreement into force in 1995; it signed the Additional Protocol in 2000 and brought it into force in 2006. Ukraine joined the Global Partnership against the spread of WMD in 2005, in 2007 it was one of the first countries to join the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Ukraine participated actively in all three Nuclear Security Summits. In 2012, Ukraine fulfilled its pledge to remove all highly enriched uranium from Ukraine, a highlight of the 2012 Summit.

In 2013, we extended the U.S.-Ukraine Cooperative Threat Reduction Umbrella Agreement for another seven years, as well as an agreement to increase safety and risk reduction at civilian nuclear facilities in Ukraine. Recent events in Ukraine underline the importance of bringing to closure to the legacy of Chernobyl by finishing construction of a landmark shelter to durably protect the population and environment, a project to which the United States has pledged approximately \$337 million. Last month, a joint U.S. – Ukraine project to construct a Neutron Source Facility at the Kharkiv Institute for Physics and Technology was completed, providing Ukraine with new research capabilities and the ability to produce industrial and medical isotopes. In short, U.S. – Ukrainian cooperation on nuclear security and nonproliferation is broad and deep.

### **U.S. Commitment to Nonproliferation**

We applaud Minister of Foreign Affairs Deshchytzia's reaffirmation of Ukraine's longstanding commitment to its nonproliferation obligations at the Nuclear Security Summit last month. Like Ukraine, the United States is committed to achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons. This is a central element of President Obama's nuclear agenda. There is a long road ahead, but we are working to create the conditions for its eventual achievement. As President Obama said in Berlin in June, 2013, the United States can ensure its security and that of its allies while safely pursuing further nuclear reductions with Russia of up to one-third in the deployed strategic warhead level established in the New START Treaty.

As next steps toward nuclear disarmament, the United States remains committed to pursuing entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and consensus to start negotiations on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. I would like to highlight the work done at the P5 Conference earlier this month in Beijing toward implementing the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference

The NPT serves as a key element of international security and the basis for international nuclear cooperation. We will continue to address the serious challenges of cases of noncompliance with Treaty obligations, and will continue to support expanding access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We look forward to a productive Preparatory Committee meeting, and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the Treaty's contributions to international peace and security are strengthened.

I thank our Ukrainian hosts again for today and congratulate them again on this important anniversary and their continued leadership within the NPT. I look forward to working with Ukraine, and with all other NPT Parties, over the coming weeks to ensure that the NPT remains strong. As Secretary Kerry stated last week, the world will remain united for Ukraine.

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## **5. Philippines, U.S. Agree to Enhanced Security Cooperation (04-28-2014)**

By Jane Morse

Washington — The Philippines and the United States have agreed to enhance their security cooperation.

During a joint press briefing in Manila April 28, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III and President Obama announced that the two nations will sign an enhanced defense cooperation agreement (EDCA).

According to a White House fact sheet, the EDCA will facilitate the following:

- Enhanced rotational presence of U.S. forces.
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the Philippines and the region.
- Improved opportunities for bilateral training.
- Long-term modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

“Our defense alliance has been a cornerstone of peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region for more than 60 years,” Aquino said during the joint press briefing. “The Philippines-U.S. Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement takes our security cooperation to a higher level of engagement, reaffirms our country’s commitment to mutual defense and security, and promotes regional peace and stability.”

Obama said the agreement signals “an important new chapter in the relationship between our countries.” He added: “I want to be very clear: The United States is not trying to reclaim old bases or build new bases.”

In 1992, the United States, at the request of the Philippines, turned over to Philippine control its largest overseas Navy base — Subic Bay — along with the rest of U.S. military facilities in the country.

Obama said the 2014 EDCA is also at the invitation of the Philippines. Philippine and U.S. forces, Obama said, will “train and exercise more together so that we’re prepared for a range of challenges, including humanitarian crises and natural disasters like Yolanda.”

The United States has already begun to provide \$40 million in technical expertise, training and equipment through the Global Security Contingency Fund to strengthen the Philippines’ security operations and maritime domain awareness capabilities, according to the White House fact sheet.

Obama noted that the existing U.S. security treaty alliance with the Philippines is the oldest the United States has in Asia, adding: “Given its strategic location, the Philippines is a vital partner on issues such as maritime security and freedom of navigation.”

Aquino noted that the Philippines is “not a threat militarily to any country,” but has “legitimate needs.”

“We have a 36,000-kilometer coastline,” the Philippine president said. “We do have an exclusive economic zone. We do have concerns about poaching on our waters and preserving the environment and even protecting endangered species. So I think no country should begrudge us our rights to be able to attend to our concerns and our needs.”

Obama said the EDCA “is going to be a terrific opportunity for us to work with the Philippines to make sure that our navies, our air force are coordinated, to make sure that there’s information-sharing to allow us to respond to new threats, and to work with other countries, ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] countries — Australia, Japan.

“My hope is, is that at some point we’re going to be able to work cooperatively with China as well,” Obama said, “because our goal here is simply to make sure that everybody is operating in a peaceful, responsible fashion. When that happens, that allows countries to focus on what’s most important to people day to day, and that is prosperity, growth, jobs. Those are the things that we as leaders should be focused on, need to be focused on. And if we have security arrangements that avoid conflict and dispute, then we’re able to place our attention on where we should be focused.”

Obama’s visit to the Philippines concludes a weeklong trip through Asia that also took him to Japan, the Republic of Korea and Malaysia.

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## **6. Republic of Korea, U.S. United on North Korea Policy, Obama Says (04-25-2014)**

By Jane Morse

Washington — The United States and the Republic of Korea “stand shoulder-to-shoulder” both in the face of North Korea’s provocations and in both nations’ refusal to accept a nuclear North Korea, says President Obama.

North Korea has recently threatened additional nuclear tests, a move that “will get North Korea nothing other than greater isolation,” Obama said.

Obama is in Seoul, Republic of Korea, April 25–26 for talks with President Park Geun-hye and military officials. Discussions are focused on the U.S.–Republic of Korea security alliance and trade relations.

During a joint press briefing with President Park April 25, Obama said the Republic of Korea and the United States are “united on the steps Pyongyang needs to take, including abandoning their nuclear weapons and ballistic weapons programs and living up to their international obligations.”

Obama expressed concern for the people of North Korea, who are among the most isolated in the world. The United States, Obama said, is “deeply concerned about the suffering of the North Korean people, and the United States and South Korea are working together to advance accountability for the serious human rights violations being committed by the North.”

President Obama (left) joins officials April 25 in silent tribute for victims of the Sewol ferry accident, which killed more than 150 people. Obama held talks with President Park Geun-Hye on security and economic development.

There is no “magic bullet” for ending North Korea’s intransigence, Obama said.

“What we’re going to have to do is to continue with a consistent, steady approach,” he said. “And the single most important thing is making sure that there’s strong unity of effort between ourselves, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and other like-minded countries in the region. We have to present a strong, forceful alliance and we have to prepare for any eventuality while still opening the prospect for a negotiated resolution to this long-standing conflict.”

“America’s commitment to the South Korean people will never waver,” Obama said. He thanked Park for her “strong personal commitment” to the U.S.-Republic of Korea military alliance, which he said will continue to modernize for increased interoperability of missile defense systems. “President Park recommended, and I agreed, that given the evolving security environment in the region, including the enduring North Korea nuclear and missile threat, we can reconsider the 2015 timeline for transferring operational control for our alliance” from U.S. to Republic of Korea control, he added. “Together we’ll ensure that our alliance remains fully prepared for our mission.”

Obama said the free trade agreement signed by the United States and the Republic of Korea two years ago has increased overall bilateral trade, which he said supports good jobs in both countries. Both sides are exploring ways to continue expanding their “extraordinary economic ties,” he said.

Obama is in the Republic of Korea for his fourth visit and as part of his commitment to “rebalancing” U.S. relations with the Asia-Pacific region. He has already visited Japan on this weeklong tour of the region and will head next for Malaysia and the Philippines.

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## **7. European Airlift Wing Supports Military Training in Baltics (04-25-2014)**

Washington — The Strategic Airlift Capability Heavy Airlift Wing carried out several airlift missions with its Boeing C-17 cargo jets to support the U.S. Army soldiers moving to Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia for training with their armed forces.

The airlift missions were requested by the United States, which is a member nation of the multinational Strategic Airlift Capability program. The SAC, established in 2008, uses three C-17s to provide its 12 partner nations with heavy airlift. The partners are NATO members Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and the United States and NATO Partnership for Peace nations Finland and Sweden.

According to Royal Netherlands Air Force Colonel Frank Rombouts, the wing commander, the support provided to the training activities on a short notice was a clear demonstration of the wing’s ability to serve the airlift needs of its member nations in all situations.

The wing can provide airlift capability to support European Union, NATO or United Nations operations, Rombouts said. “This time the missions were requested by a SAC nation willing to show support to other program member nations and allies in the NATO context, and we were there to answer the call.”

The mission involved moving U.S. Army cargo from Aviano Air Base, Italy, to the four nations. Paratroopers from the U.S. Army’s 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Vicenza, Italy, are carrying out training exercises with the four host militaries, the first in a series of expanded U.S. land-force activities in the region over the next several months, U.S. European Command said in an April 22 news release.

The Heavy Airlift Wing has supported a variety of military and peacekeeping operations, including the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, NATO operations in Libya and peacekeeping operations in Mali. Significant humanitarian operations have included earthquake relief in Haiti and flood relief in Pakistan, both in 2010.

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## **8. Afghan soldiers improve patrolling techniques (04-25-2014)**

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan (April 25, 2014) – Marines with Task Force Belleau Wood advised Afghan National Army soldiers with 4th Tolai, 6th Kandak, 4th Brigade, 215th Corps, on patrolling techniques during a training exercise aboard Camp Shorabak, Afghanistan, April 19.

Approximately 100 soldiers with the 4th Tolai were recently assigned as a security detail for Afghanistan's presidential elections. Now, these soldiers will combine forces with TFBW and assist with perimeter patrols in the area surrounding Camps Leatherneck, Bastion and Shorabak in the near future.

"I am very happy with today's training," said Sgt. Maj. Abdullah Safi, sergeant major of 4th Tolai, 6th Kandak. "I am happy because (ANA soldiers) will be properly trained for any situation. This training is very important for the soldiers. If we have an operation in the near future, I am very confident in my soldiers' skill to be successful."

Each day, Marines with TFBW patrol the surrounding perimeter of Camp Leatherneck to ensure it is clear of hazards.

The training exercise was designed to ensure the efficiency of the soldiers before they begin conducting perimeter patrols with Marines within the next couple of weeks.

"We can benefit from learning from each other," said Sgt. Maj. Reginald Robinson, TFBW sergeant major. "We train the Tolai to take that footprint where we were guarding on the perimeter and let them lead the way with only minimal advising from Marines, so when the coalition forces depart they will be able to fully run the show."

During the training exercise, the soldiers practiced hand signals, conducted classes on patrolling techniques and conducted a simulated security patrol.

They will continue to train to enhance their skills for future patrols throughout Helmand province.

"We are ready for anything and ready for wherever we will need to go in Afghanistan," said Safi. "In the future, as far as their training is concerned, they will be one of the best units in Afghanistan. They are preparing themselves and training to be great soldiers. If there is one thing I have learned, it's that you cannot have a good life without working hard for it."

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## 9. Additional Texts & Transcripts

### [State's Gottemoeller on Nonproliferation Treaty Review](#) (04-29-2014)

"The United States is committed to working constructively ... as we prepare for next year's important Review Conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty..."

### [U.S. Envoy on Security Challenges in OSCE Area, Ukraine](#) (04-29-2014)

"Russia must stop destabilizing Ukraine, start respecting its OSCE commitments, and join other participating States in contributing to a solution to the on..."

### [Secretary Hagel's Phone Call with Russian Minister of Defense](#) (04-28-2014)

The U.S. Department of Defense releases a summary of Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's phone call with Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu.

### [White House Briefing on New Russian Sanctions](#) (04-28-2014)

Senior administration officials conduct a briefing to explain the newly imposed sanctions on Russia that are in response to Russia's continued actions in ...

### [Ambassador Power at U.N. Debate on Security Sector Reform](#) (04-28-2014)

"We all know that basic security is a fundamental civic need," Ambassador Power says at a U.N. Security Council debate on security sector reform. "Without ...

### [Obama on Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance, Threat from North Korea](#) (04-26-2014)

In Seoul, Republic of Korea, President Obama makes remarks on the Republic of Korea-U.S. alliance and the threat from North Korea.

### [G7 Leaders Statement on Ukraine](#) (04-25-2014)

The leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, the president of the European Council and the president of the...

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