



**Embassy of the United States of America**

**Research Unit, Public Diplomacy Section**

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**NATO**

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**FACT SHEET: Operation Atlantic Resolve - March 2015 (U.S. Command, March 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

As part of both the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and the 2015 Defense Appropriations Act, the European Reassurance Initiative will provide \$1 billion in funding to enable the DoD to continue its efforts to reassure our NATO allies and bolster the security and capacity of our partners in the region.

This initiative will enable DoD to:

- Continue conducting military exercises and training on land, in the air and at sea, while sustaining a rotational presence across Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve;
- As we have done in Poland, deploy detachments of U.S. planners to augment the capability of our Allies to design and host a broad range of training opportunities;
- Increase the responsiveness of U.S. forces to reinforce NATO by exploring initiatives such as prepositioning of equipment and enhancing reception facilities in Europe;
- Increase participation by the U.S. Navy in NATO naval force deployments, including more persistent deployments to the Black and Baltic seas;
- Build the capacity of close partners such as Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine to enhance interoperability to work alongside the United States and NATO forces, as well as provide for their own defense.

Ultimately, the European Reassurance Initiative allows us to continue to take the necessary actions to increase the readiness and responsiveness not only of the U.S. military forces in Europe, but also of our NATO allies and partners to address any threat and help deter further destabilizing activities in the region.

### DoD Efforts to Date

#### Land

- **3rd Infantry Division:** (Mar.15 –Jun. 15) Approximately 200 Soldiers from 3ID’s 1st Brigade will assume responsibility from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment for the U.S. Army’s OAR land forces training mission in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. On March 9, 110 vehicles were offloaded in Riga, Latvia, to be shipped to the Baltic states with the remaining equipment awaiting offload in Bremerhaven, Germany. Approximately 120 pieces of equipment will be left behind after 3ID rotates and be relocated to Germany to support the planned expansion of U.S. Army Europe’s “European Activity Set” from a heavy battalion to a heavy brigadesized equipment 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.
- **Exercise Allied Spirit I:** (Hohenfels, Germany, Jan. 13-31) More than 1,600 participants from Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, United Kingdom and the U.S. participated in Exercise Allied Spirit I, which enhanced NATO interoperability at brigade and battalion levels and tested secure communications amongst Alliance members. The exercise, which

took place at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, showcased the world class facility and highlighted its capabilities, allowing allies and partners to connect – personally, professionally and tactically – to create stronger, more capable forces.

- **2nd Cavalry Regiment** (Jan. 14-Mar. 31) -- Approximately 550 Soldiers and 75 Stryker vehicles from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment are training with our allies in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in support of OAR. 2CR will conduct a variety of training events alongside Soldiers from NATO and partner nations. Many of these training events will focus on individual and team tasks that will culminate in joint platoon level-events, such as live fires. This is the first Stryker unit to deploy to the Baltic nations and Poland in support of OAR and it is the second brigade-sized element from U.S. Army Europe to support the mission. The 2 CR training rotation will continue through the end of March.
- **Exercise Platinum Lion 15:** (Jan. 12 – Jan. 26) Exercise Platinum Lion allowed the Black Sea Rotational Force to join together with partner and allied forces in the region to build partner nation capacity, enhance interoperability and increase the overall effectiveness between them. Platinum Lion 15 included U.S. Marines and Sailors as well as Soldiers from Bulgaria, Serbia, and Romania. At more than 300 participants, Platinum Lion 15 is the largest exercise to take place in Novo Selo Training Area.
- **U.S. Marines/Moldovan Armed Forces Joint Anti-Armor Workshop:** (Balti, Moldova, Dec. 8-12) Approximately 20 U.S. Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force based in Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania, and members of the Moldovan Armed Forces participated in a joint anti-armor workshop in Balti designed to increase the understanding of each country’s capabilities and reinforce the strong bond between our military forces. Focus was upon defensive procedures, weapons familiarization, tactics of employment, and practical application scenarios culminating with a live-fire range.
- **12th Combat Aviation Brigade Emergency Deployment Training:** (Clay Kaserne, Germany, Dec. 8) U.S. Army Europe and NATO aviators took part in an emergency deployment readiness exercise in Wiesbaden, Germany. The exercise, led by USAREUR's 12<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade included pilots from allied and partner nations, including Sweden, Romania, Hungary and the Netherlands. The exercise emphasized the 12th CAB's ability to deploy within hours upon notification in response to crises or contingencies.

### **Special Operations Forces (SOF)**

- **Medical Assistance Team:** (Western Ukraine, Nov-Dec 14) 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 will focus 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.

### **Air**

- **Theater Security Package Deployment to Spangdahlem Air Base:** (Feb. 10, 2015) Twelve A-10 aircraft, 300 Airmen and support equipment from the 354th Fighter Squadron, 355<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **Flying Training Deployment with Poland and Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Łask Air Base, Poland, 1-26 Dec) Two C-130 aircraft and approximately 50 personnel from the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, participated in an offstation training event aimed at maintaining readiness and reassuring NATO allies and regional partners.
- **Ämari F-16 Exercise:** (Ämari, Estonia, Nov. 13-14) Two F-16s from the 555th Fighter Squadron from Aviano Air Base, Italy, participated in bilateral training with the Estonian Air Force including range training with Estonian Joint Terminal Attack Controllers focusing on maintaining joint readiness while building interoperability capabilities.
- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Powidz Air Base, Poland, Oct. 15-31) Two C-130J aircraft and accompanying Airmen from the 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, Peoria, Illinois, conducted bilateral off-station training at this forward operating location. The Airmen are training to increase interoperability and readiness with their Polish counterparts.

## Sea

- **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 (F 111), Feb. 12. The engagements are a series of at-sea scenarios designed to enhance maritime capabilities among participating nations and typically include 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.
- **USS Ross (DDG 71):** (Black Sea, Nov. 4-13) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) conducted a bilateral engagement in the Black Sea with the Romanian navy. The bilateral engagement was aimed at improving maritime readiness and capability, and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to promote peace and stability with our allies and partners in the Black Sea region.

- **USS Cole (DDG 67):** (Black Sea, Oct. 16) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer conducted a NATO Underway Engagement with the Turkish navy Barbaros-class frigate TCG Salihreis (F 246), Oct. 16. The engagements are a series of at-sea scenarios designed to enhance maritime capabilities among participating nations and typically include fleet maneuvers, daylight landing qualifications, division tactics and communication exercises, such as a publication exercise. Cole arrived in Constanta, Romania, Oct. 21 for a port visit and departed Oct. 23. 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 Mount Whitney (LCC 20):** (Black Sea, Oct. 11) The U.S. 6th Fleet command and control ship entered the Black Sea Oct. 11, to promote peace and stability in the region. The flagship's presence in the region serves to reaffirm the United States' dedication and commitment towards strengthening the partnerships and joint operational capabilities amongst U.S., NATO and regional Black Sea partners. Mount Whitney arrived in Constanta, Romania, for a scheduled port visit and participated in sporting events at the Constantin Bratescu School as part of a community relations project, Oct. 20. Mount Whitney Sailors installed new soccer nets for the school and played soccer and basketball games with the children. Mount Whitney departed Romania Oct. 23.

### Support to Ukraine

**Train and Equip Ukraine's National Guard:** U.S. Army Europe soldiers will provide training to Ukrainian National Guard security forces this year as part of a U.S. State Department initiative in order to assist Ukraine in strengthening its law enforcement capabilities, conduct internal defense, and maintaining rule of law. The training, scheduled to begin in spring, comes at the request of the Ukrainian government as they work to reform their police forces and establish their newly formed National Guard.

- 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.
- 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.
- We're still in the planning stages of determining which units will provide training and how many personnel will be required to train four maneuver companies and one tactical level headquarters unit of Ukraine National Guard forces to standard.

**Additional \$46 million in Security Assistance:** As part of the Sept. 18 White House announcement, an additional \$25 million has been allocated to the Ukrainian Armed Forces through the Presidential Drawdown authority; and an additional \$21 million will support to the State Border Guard through Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) funds. This will include

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 have initiated a process to work 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, the U.S. has 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.

**FUTURE OF NATO: "Wales to Warsaw: NATO and the Current State of Transatlantic Security" by Douglas Lute, US Ambassador to NATO . (Stanford University, April 7, 2015) [VIDEO]**



VIDEO: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqdVoIR\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqdVoIR_0)

NATO is reassessing its fundamental relationship with Russia and focusing on new threats not imagined at its inception in the wake of World War II, a key U.S. diplomat told Stanford students and faculty.

Douglas Lute, America's ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, said Washington and Moscow found a way to collaborate since the collapse of the Soviet Union. But that has changed under President Vladimir Putin, he said.

"It's clear today that we don't have the partnership with Russia that we had for two decades," Lute said. "NATO does not wish to be an enemy of Russia, but Russia has to understand that it will defend its 27 allies."

He warned Russia that the tactics being used in Crimea "don't play on NATO territory; these allies will be defended as the treaty demands."

Lute's talk on Tuesday capped his two-day visit at Stanford. He spent the day before lecturing in the International Policy Studies course "America's War in Afghanistan: Multiple Actors and Divergent Strategies" taught by Karl Eikenberry. Eikenberry, a former ambassador to Afghanistan, is now a consulting professor at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and an affiliate of several of the institute's centers.

Ambassador Lute spoke to the class about the White House and National Security Council perspective on the war in Afghanistan, drawing on his experience in both the Bush and Obama administrations.

During his talk on Tuesday, Lute said that as NATO celebrates its 66<sup>th</sup> year, it is transitioning to an alliance that must now face "hybrid warfare," such as cyber attacks and unconventional forces.

That will call for a Special Forces-type base in Europe that can defend the 28 nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance from hybrid assaults, he said.

"A cyber attack on a NATO ally could rise to the level of requiring a mutual defense response," he said.

Lute's talk was sponsored by the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, The Europe Center, the Center for International Security and Cooperation, and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

(Source: Stanford University, <http://fsi.stanford.edu/news/stanford-key-diplomat-describes-changing-face-nato>)



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