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DoD Efforts to Reassure Allies/Demonstrate Commitment

Key Points:

- The United States has taken many steps to reassure our NATO allies and demonstrate our commitment to collective defense, in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine and Russia's buildup of military forces.
- Immediate Defense Department efforts were unilateral and capitalized on existing missions, such as our aviation deployments to Poland and deploying additional planes to the Baltics in support of NATO air policing.
- As the crisis continues, DoD, along with U.S. European Command, is fully engaged in maintaining its persistent presence in Eastern Europe, commitment to NATO allies and partners, and planning for additional assurance measures.
- The United States has further expanded DoD efforts by increasing rotations of ground and naval forces to complement our increased aviation presence.
- We look forward to commitments by our allies, to ensure a coordinated and continuous additional land, air, and sea presence in the region from now through the end of the year. These efforts serve to demonstrate NATO's continued commitment to European security.

Efforts to Date:

- **Special Operations Exercises and Training Events:** Approximately 200 U.S. Special Operations forces (SOF) and support personnel began an eight-part series of annual, multinational and bilateral special operations exercises and training events, being conducted from May through June.
 - Annual exercises include Exercise Spring Storm 14 (Estonia, May 6-25), Exercise Flaming Sword 14 (Lithuania and Latvia, May 18-30, with eight NATO nations participating) and Exercise Namejs 14 (Latvia, May 19-25).
 - At the request of the host nations, Special Operations Command Europe has added a series of Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) events in five countries across the Baltics and Eastern Europe. The events will provide U.S. SOF with valuable opportunities to hone language skills, gain vital understanding of the environment and culture in which their partners operate, and sharpen tactical skills.
 - These JCET events are the first in a series of expanded U.S. special operations training activities in Eastern Europe and the Baltic region, in support of developing a persistent rotational SOF presence in the region.
- **Exercise Platinum Lynx 14-5:** (Romania, May 5-16) Approximately 75 U.S. Marines are conducting squad- to infantry-level training events designed to help familiarity and interoperability between the U.S. and Romania.

- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Augmentation:** (Łask Air Base, Poland, May 1) The United States deployed 6 F-16s and Airmen from the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem AB, Germany to replace assets from the 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy. Rotations of military aircraft and Airmen through the Aviation Detachment began in late 2012 but were augmented in March as a deliberate effort to reassure NATO allies of commitment and solidarity to collective defense and enable a persistent presence in the region
- **Exercise Platinum Eagle 14:** (Romania, April 25 - May 24) Approximately 75 U.S. Marines are conducting a two-part multilateral exercise with their counterparts from Romania, Bulgaria, Armenia (in the first part, 14-1) and Macedonia (in the second part, 14-2) to build partner nation capacity, reinforce relationships in a joint training environment and increase interoperability of allied/partner forces.
- **USS Taylor:** Entered the Black Sea April 22 and continues to participate in exercises and operations to improve interoperability, increase readiness and enhance relationships in the region. She is currently conducting a scheduled port visit in Batumi, Georgia, which includes hosting ship tours and a reception for local officials. The crew will also conduct training with the Georgia Coast Guard.
- **Land Forces Assurance Exercises:** U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) deployed company-sized contingents of U.S. paratroopers to Poland (April 23), Latvia (April 24), Lithuania (April 26) and Estonia (April 28) to begin expanded land force training to demonstrate our commitment to NATO and our collective defense responsibilities, and to reinforce the security of our allies.
 - These land training exercises, which come at the request of the host nations, help foster interoperability through small unit and leader training.
 - Training rotations are scheduled to take place for the next few months and beyond. These are in addition to previously scheduled multinational land force military exercises in the region such as Combined Resolve II, Saber Strike, Rapid Trident, and Saber Guardian; they are aimed at assuring regional allies of the United States' unwavering commitment to NATO.
- **Exercise Summer Shield 14:** (Latvia, April 7-18) Approximately 100 U.S. Marines trained as part of the Black Sea Rotational Force, with Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Exercise Summer Shield 14 was a combined staff planning exercise and combined arms live fire maneuver event.
- **USS Donald Cook:** Conducted operations in the Black Sea April 10-24 to reassure our allies of US' commitment to the region. This included conducting a port visit in Constanta, Romania, and exercises at sea with the Romanian navy and the USS Taylor, to improve interoperability, increase readiness and enhance relationships in the region.
- **U.S./Ukraine Bilateral Defense Consultations:** (Kyiv, April 1) Senior DoD leaders met with their Ukrainian counterparts to discuss defense-related issues.
- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Powidz Air Base, Poland, March 31 - April 12) Three C-130s and ~100 airmen trained with Polish airmen for the regularly scheduled Aviation Detachment rotation.

- **Requests for Military Assistance:** (March 28-29) The United States delivered ~25,000 cases (~300,000 meals) of Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs) to the Ukrainian military.
- **Exercise Saber Guardian 14:** (Bulgaria, March 21 - April 4) Approximately 550 U.S. service members, with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. Exercise Saber Guardian 14 was a U.S. Army Europe and Bulgarian Land Forces-led combined Joint Task Force and brigade command post exercise /computer-assisted exercise.
 - This exercise was designed to strengthen international agency and military partnering, foster trust and improve interoperability between NATO and partner nations involved in foreign humanitarian assistance operations with U.S. forces.
- **USS Truxtun:** (Black Sea, March 7- 21) USS Truxtun entered the Black Sea through the Turkish Straits to conduct port calls in Constanta, Romania and conduct a passing exercise (PASSEX) with Romanian and Bulgarian naval forces. She extended her stay in the Black Sea to conduct a port visit in Varna, Bulgaria, hold an onboard maritime planning conference with Bulgarian and Romanian officers, and conduct a second PASSEX.
- **Air-to-Air Refueling Missions in support of NATO:** The United States agreed to fly refueling missions to support NATO airborne early warning (AWACs) aircraft flights over Eastern Europe.
 - This mission began March 16 and – as of May 1 – two KC-135s, forward-based out of RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, have conducted 56 missions.
- **NATO Baltic Air Policing:** On March 6, the United States deployed an additional six F-15Cs to augment the four F-15Cs already in Lithuania filling a NATO peacetime requirement to have quick-reaction interceptor aircraft "ramp-ready" for a four-month period. The U.S. rotation began in January. Poland took over the Baltic Air Policing task on May 1 with augmentation from the United Kingdom, Denmark and France. Polish and British aircraft will operate from Šiauliai Air Base in Lithuania, Danish aircraft from Ämari Air Base in Estonia, and French aircraft from Malbork Air Base in Poland.

Near-Term

- **Request for Equipment:** The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine has requested a variety of equipment, and the National Security Council approved for delivery ~\$6M worth of medical equipment and other enablers. Examples include: individual first aid kits, ventilators, defibrillators, oxygen concentrators, radios, and water purification units. Upon signature from the Ministry of Defense and implementation by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the U.S. Army will begin requisition or procurement actions. All procurement actions are governed by the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement.
- **Joint U.S.-Ukraine Humanitarian Assistance Table Top Exercise:** Ukraine requested U.S. officials travel to Kyiv to help plan a humanitarian assistance exercise. DoD officials discussed the request at the April 1 Bilateral Defense Consultations.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve II:** (Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, May 12-31) Approximately 1,200 U.S. service members, with Georgia, Lithuania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Austria, Slovenia, Albania, Romania, France, Croatia, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Kosovo. Exercise Combined Resolve II is a U.S. Army Europe-led NATO Response Force

(NRF) training rotation at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany.

- The NRF is a multinational force made up of land, air, and maritime assets, which helps to maintain NATO's readiness and combat-effectiveness.
- **Exercise Flaming Sword 14:** (Lithuania and Latvia, May 18-30) Approximately 140 U.S. Special Operations Command Europe units and six European partners will participate in a multinational exercise to enhance Baltic Region and allied special operations forces interoperability.
- **Exercise BALTOPS 14:** (Baltic Sea, June 6-21) Approximately 1,300 U.S. service members, with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, NATO, Poland and Sweden. This year is the 42nd iteration of the U.S. Navy Europe-led exercise in the Baltic Sea, and will exercise allied and partner maritime niche capabilities while enhancing coordination and cooperation among Baltic Sea countries.
- **Exercise Saber Strike 14:** (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, June 9-20) Approximately 580 U.S. service members, with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, United Kingdom, Lithuania, Latvia and Norway. Exercise Saber Strike 14 is a U.S. Army Europe-led, company-level live-fire field training exercise and multi-national brigade command post exercise and computed assisted exercise, designed to help sustain U.S. & Baltic interoperability.
- **Exercise Agile Spirit 14:** (Georgia, June 9-21) Approximately 320 U.S. Marines, with Georgia. Exercise Agile Spirit is an annual Marine Forces Europe-led bilateral exercise with Georgia. It focuses on counterinsurgency and peacekeeping operations.
- **Exercise Rapid Trident 14:** (Ukraine, July 14-25) Approximately 200 U.S. soldiers, along with several partner nations. Rapid Trident is an annual Ukrainian-led, U.S. Army Europe-supported situational training exercise and battalion field training exercise designed to train a U.S.-Ukrainian combined battalion headquarters with a peace support operations scenario. Final planning conference set for early June.

Midterm

- **Exercise Sea Breeze 14:** (Black Sea, August 4-16) U.S. forces, along with Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. This annual event, in its 17th iteration, is co-hosted by U.S. and Ukrainian navies, and aims to improve maritime security in the Black Sea through increased interoperability and cooperation among regional Allies and partners.
- **Exercise Saber Junction 14:** (Germany, August 13 - September 27) Approximately 2,500 U.S. forces, along with NATO, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine. This U.S. Army Europe-led training event's objective is to train brigades to manage the complexities of 21st century threats, to include a noncombatant evacuation operation response computer exercise.