

Artikel aus [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil), und „[www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)“

[https://www.army.mil/article/180295/media\\_advisory\\_us\\_military\\_equipment\\_to\\_arrive\\_in\\_germany](https://www.army.mil/article/180295/media_advisory_us_military_equipment_to_arrive_in_germany)

4. Januar 2017

BREMERHAVEN, Germany -- Tanks, trucks and other equipment are scheduled to arrive in Europe Jan. 6 through 9, beginning a nine-month rotation of U.S. Army forces supporting Atlantic Resolve.

The arrival of troops and equipment from 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colorado, marks the beginning of the continuous presence of an ABCT and back-to-back rotations of U.S. troops and equipment in Europe.

After the equipment arrives at Bremerhaven, Germany, it will move by rail, commercial line haul and military convoy to Poland consolidating near Drawsko Pomorskie and Zagan training areas. The personnel and equipment will later be relocated throughout the region for training and exercises with European allies.

Media are invited to attend the offload and movement of equipment on Jan. 8 at 2:30 p.m. which will include a question and answer period with U.S. military leaders. Because of time considerations, we will be unable to conduct one-on-one interviews.

Media with questions or who are interested in covering this event must RSVP by 5 p.m. on Jan. 6 to the 21st Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs Office by email to [donald.e.peters.mil@mail.mil](mailto:donald.e.peters.mil@mail.mil). When responding, please provide full name, organization, citizenship, place of birth, date of birth and passport number in order to coordinate gate access. You must RSVP and bring passport and press credentials to gain access to the port facility.

Note: Times are subject to change. In the event that offload times change, you will be provided an updated meeting time via email.

---

The 21st Theater Sustainment Command is US Army in Europe's lead organization for all sustainment activities including logistics support, transportation, combat sustainment, human resources, medical, finance, contracting and other areas in the field of sustainment. The 21st TSC also serves as the responsible headquarters for USAREUR's Military Police and Engineer brigades, providing combat engineers and military police to partnership training and other operations in support of USAREUR, US Africa Command and US Central Command.

Headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany, with units throughout the USAREUR Area of Operations, the 21st TSC is truly positioned to be USAREUR's key enabler, where it is needed, when it is needed. "First in Support." Visit our web page at: <http://www.eur.army.mil/21TSC> or visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/21stTSC>

Readiness celebrated in Estonia with first ERI projects completion ceremony

By Sgt. 1st Class Crista Mary Mack, U.S. Army Europe December 19, 2016

TAPA, Estonia -- Although a state of readiness is a never ending pursuit, completed projects finished ahead of time and within budget are definitely a cause for celebration.

So said U.S. Army Europe Deputy Commanding General for Army National Guard Maj. Gen. John Gronski at Tapa Training Area at an official ribbon cutting ceremony Dec 15, where completion of 27 new readiness enhancing projects managed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe were commemorated.

"This is a continued effort to build readiness and continue to defend the liberty and freedom we hold so dear as allies and partners," Gronski said. "The work that we've done here is a symbol of the strength and the resolve of the alliance. These facilities are for our allies and NATO partners to use."

This is the first of many ERI projects being completed, according to Col. John Baker, chief engineer for U.S. Army Europe. Baker explained how these projects are part of over 400 construction projects that USAREUR oversees within ERI. "The construction program that we have ... is spread across 6 different countries all the way across the Black Sea area Bulgaria and Romania," he said.

Gronski was joined by ceremony co-hosts U.S. Ambassador to Estonia James Melville, Jr., and Estonian Defence Forces Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Indrek Sirel. The three ceremonially cut a ribbon to celebrate the completion of the projects and the continued friendship of the nations.

The projects consisted of a combination of sustainment, restoration and modernization, including maintenance and storage facilities, rail head loading and staging areas, range road improvements, various ranges from sniper to rifle, and much more.

"These 27 completed projects represent a very real symbol of the United States' commitment to the NATO alliance and to the safety of Europe as resolute," said Gronski.

"The result of these completed projects will allow the alliance enhanced freedom of movement, storage and maintenance of equipment, maneuver of equipment and will provide the ability to deter aggression, defend this region and our national interests," he said.

The facilities will also enable nine-month rotation forces in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Melville remarked on the strength of the alliance between the two countries as a major factor while marking the official completion of infrastructure improvement projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The commitment of the United States and NATO goes back 70 plus years. It takes different forms at different times, and the U.S. and Estonia are using our alliance to

enhance our forward presence," he said. "We recognize the hard work of the many men and women, Estonians and Americans contributed to these 27 projects and our steadfast commitment to NATO and the alliance."

"Everything we do on each side of the Transatlantic Alliance, it costs effort and time and treasure, and it proves to all of us how important it is to fulfill the promises we made to each other," he said.

In addition to providing a better opportunity for forces to train, and enhancement of capabilities to security, Sirel added, in the end it is the tactical level troops that will enjoy the training areas and good working conditions that come from the facilities, not just for Estonian and U.S. Forces but for other allied nations.

"Next spring British and French troops will come to train here," Sirel said. "We will provide for our troops and allied troops when they arrive, as part of the military life while continuing to do military construction within the base."

US, Estonian leaders to mark completion of European Reassurance Initiative projects, Dec. 15

By U.S. Army Europe December 7, 2016

TALLINN, Estonia - U.S. and Estonian military and diplomatic leaders will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for European Reassurance Initiative infrastructure and construction projects at Tapa Military Base, Dec. 15 at 1 p.m.

The 27 completed projects will support U.S. and NATO heel-to-toe rotations beginning in February 2017. U.S. Army Europe's Engineer Division, in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Defense and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, planned and designed the infrastructure and construction projects totaling \$11.2 million to enhance the U.S. Army's ability to conduct training operations with NATO allies. The projects, built by SKE International GmbH and Bauschmidt, will be used by the 3rd and 4th infantry divisions for Operation Atlantic Resolve training activities starting in early 2017.

Range improvement projects such as rifle qualification and sniper courses, machine gun ranges and a shoot house are among the highlights. Other completed projects include: a railhead and marshalling area; European Activity Set maintenance bays, vehicle storage facilities, wash racks and motor pool; security improvements; and a fuel point renovation.

The following dignitaries are scheduled to speak: Estonian Minister of Defense Permanent Secretary, Mr Jonatan Vseviov, U.S. Ambassador to Estonia James D. Melville Jr. and U.S. Army Europe Deputy Commanding General for National Guard Maj. Gen. John Gronski.

A press gaggle will be offered immediately following the ceremony. Pull aside one-on-one interviews will be facilitated as time permits but must be requested along with the registration requirements below.

Media interested in covering the event must register via email with Lt. Col. Steven Lamb, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs, [usarmyeurope.contact@mail.mil](mailto:usarmyeurope.contact@mail.mil), no later than noon, Dec. 13, 2016. Full identification of each individual, the organization you represent and a copy of either their passport or press credentials are required for registration. No RSVPs will be accepted after noon, Dec. 13, and no media will be permitted in the venue without registering.

Registered media will meet public affairs representatives at the front gate of the Tapa Army Base, Loode 35; Tapa, Estonia at noon to take a shuttle bus to the ceremony and subsequent tour of ERI projects.

Public Affairs contacts on site are Brian Temple +49 (0)162-234-1926 and Jennifer Aldridge +49 (0)162-276-7601.

## US Army Europe to increase presence across Eastern Europe

By U.S. Army Europe November 4, 2016

WIESBADEN, Germany -- As U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced in Brussels last week, U.S. Army Europe is preparing for an increased presence across the European theater to contribute to and strengthen the alliance's deterrence and defense. Yesterday, the U.S. Department of the Army announced the first rotational units to deploy in support of those efforts.

"Everything we're about to do -- everything we've been planning here at U.S. Army Europe for these rotational units -- comes from the alliance's decisions at the Wales and Warsaw summits," said Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, U.S. Army Europe commander. "These activities are the embodiment of the United States' commitment to deterring aggression and defending our European allies and partners."

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, from Fort Carson, Colorado, will arrive in Europe in January. Their arrival will mark the beginning of the heel-to-toe rotation of U.S.-based armored brigades to Europe; in other words, the continuous presence of an armored brigade combat team and back-to-back rotations of U.S. troops and equipment.

The full set of 3/4 ABCT equipment will arrive at the port in Bremerhaven, Germany, in January and then move by rail, commercial line haul and military convoy to Poland where the brigade will consolidate before distributing units across seven countries from Estonia to Bulgaria beginning in February. Over the course of their nine-month rotation, 3/4 ABCT will routinely move units across the region to participate in training events and exercises.

The armored brigade will initially consolidate in western Poland, centered on the training areas at Drawsko Pomorskie and Zagan. Following this initial consolidation, the brigade will establish itself at various operating locations through the region. The brigade headquarters; brigade engineering and support battalions; 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment; and 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, will operate from existing Polish military installations in Zagan, Swietoszow, Skwierzyzna, and Boleslawiec.

From the consolidation sites in Poland, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, will move to the Baltic nations and remain positioned there until NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence, or eFP, battle groups are in place and then will rotate throughout Europe to participate in exercises as requested. The 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, will support Operation Atlantic Resolve activities primarily in Bulgaria and Romania. The 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, will move to the Grafenwöhr Training Area, Germany, where it will conduct training and maintenance to build and sustain readiness.

As part of the expansion of the rotational U.S. presence, the Army will continue to invest in the training and mission command capabilities at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, and Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, Romania, to support a persistent and continuous armored presence in the Black Sea region.

In addition to the rotational armored brigade, the Army will provide a rotational combat aviation brigade to the European theater to support Operation Atlantic Resolve and other joint and multinational efforts. By the end of March, the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Drum, New York, will arrive in Europe for a nine-month rotation. The brigade will be headquartered in Illesheim, Germany, and will forward deploy aircraft in Latvia, Romania, and Poland to enhance the alliance's ability to deter aggression.

Armored and aviation brigade rotations are scheduled into the foreseeable future, though specific units have not yet been identified. Their presence enhances the deterrence capabilities available to the U.S. Army Europe and U.S. European Command commanders to respond to potential crises and assist in the defense of our allies and partners in the European community.

To oversee these rotational forces, the 4th Infantry Division headquarters, which has been the regionally aligned division headquarters for Europe since 2015, will continue to be the tactical headquarters for all U.S. land forces conducting activities in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Based in Baumholder, Germany, the 4th ID Mission Command Element is the forward deployed headquarters element that provides U.S. Army Europe a division-level command and control capability.

"The 4th Infantry Division Mission Command Element is integral to Army Europe's ability to conduct Operation Atlantic Resolve missions," Hodges said. "They're a small element -- less than 100 Soldiers -- but they make a huge impact in the theater by controlling so many moving parts."

It is important to note the expansion of rotational forces is separate and distinct from NATO's eFP battle groups. Both will contribute to the alliance's deterrence and defense capabilities, but the rotational armored and aviation forces will remain under U.S. command. The rotational forces will focus on strengthening capabilities and sustaining readiness through bilateral and multinational training and exercises. The United States, as the framework nation for the Poland-based NATO eFP unit, will deploy 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilseck, Germany, to Orzysz, Poland, in April 2017.

Starting in September 2016, the Army began assembling additional Army Prepositioned Stocks for storage in Europe. The additional APS set will consist of

equipment and ammunition required to support armored division-sized force. These capabilities reduce deployment timelines, improve our deterrence capabilities and provide additional combat power to U.S. European Command for use in contingency operations. The equipment can also be drawn for use in training and exercises.

While some of this APS equipment was previously used by rotating brigade combat teams in Europe, the majority of additional APS equipment is being sourced from across the Army. Equipment will be stored at facilities in Eyselshoven, Netherlands; Zutendaal, Belgium; and Miesau and Dülmen, Germany.

Back-to-back rotations to Europe could stress the Army's armored BCTs

(Michelle Tan, Army Times, February 11, 2016)

The Army's armored brigade combat teams could soon begin back-to-back rotations in Europe as the Pentagon looks to boost the region's defense against Russia. The military's 2017 budget request, released Tuesday, calls for \$3.4 billion for the European Reassurance Initiative. The request quadruples previous funding levels and signals a new recognition that the former Cold War foe is once again a major global rival.

If approved, the Army will begin what it calls "heel-to-toe" — or continuous — rotations of an armored BCT into Europe. The move would come just five years after budget cuts forced the Army to shut down the two heavy brigades stationed in Europe and bring home all its tanks and other heavy vehicles. It also adds an additional overseas requirement for the Army's already busy armored brigade combat teams.

The active Army only has nine ABCTs, and they already are tasked with nine-month rotations to Kuwait and South Korea. Officials are still trying to determine if the ABCT sent to Europe will deploy for nine months or if they might do shorter rotations, said Maj. Gen. Walter Piatt, director of operations, readiness and mobilization in the Army G-3 (operations).

"It could be nine months or it could change year to year," he said, adding that the Army wants to give Forces Command, which is tasked with providing trained and ready units for deployment, flexibility as it works out the way ahead. The also Army is looking at how to get the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which is currently dedicated to the Army's ongoing Network Integration Evaluation at Fort Bliss, Texas, back into the mix, Piatt said. The Army would then fill the demand at NIE on a rotational basis as well, he said. The service also is looking at the feasibility of using Army National Guard armored brigade combat teams for some rotations, Piatt said.

"This is going to be a challenge for the Army to do, to sustain readiness and every increasing, emerging demand as well," he said. In its recently released report, the National Commission on the Future of the Army went even further, recommending the Army permanently station an armored BCT in Europe because of the "changing security environment in Europe" and the region's "value as a stationing location for potential contingencies in the Middle East."

"There's no excess capacity in the Regular Army to meet an unforeseen contingency," retired Gen. Carter Ham, the commission's chairman, testified Thursday on Capitol Hill. Stationing an ABCT in Germany eases some of the demand on the brigades because it takes at least three brigades — one deployed, one just coming home, and one preparing to go — to sustain a rotation, he said. It also would have a strong effect in deterring Russia and assuring NATO allies, Ham said. For now, the Army has been filling the need for an armored BCT with regionally-allocated forces. That mission currently falls to 1st BCT, 3rd Infantry Division, of Fort Stewart, Georgia, which has been sending soldiers to Europe for short-term rotations. In between their rotations, soldiers from 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 173rd Airborne BCT, the two remaining BCTs in Europe, fill in until the 3rd Infantry soldiers return for their next cycle.

In addition to the brigade, the Army has regionally allocated the 4th Infantry Division headquarters and several enabler units to Europe. An additional 30,000 soldiers are permanently stationed in Europe, which is about 10,000 fewer than in 2012. To meet the high demand, the Army needs "predictability" so it can properly plan for and prepare its deploying units, Piatt said. "That puts a huge demand on FORSCOM to provide trained and ready forces," Piatt said. It also requires the Army to transition to a new readiness model, known as the Sustainable Readiness Model. This would replace the Army Force Generation Model, or ARFORGEN, which the service developed and executed during the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. ARFORGEN progressively resets and trains units for possible deployments, a model that worked at the time because the Army was focused on rotating in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan on nine- to 12-month deployments.

ARFORGEN doesn't work as well anymore as the Army's missions have evolved, and the service regularly sends soldiers on short-term missions or new missions in new locations around the world. Under the Sustainable Readiness Model, units are given the equipment they need and are required to maintain it as they go. Units don't focus on being ready to deploy at one specific time. Instead, they are always in some state of readiness, able to deploy when needed.

Over the past two years, the United States has increased military activities in Eastern and Central Europe to reassure its allies and partners in the face of Russian aggression. The Army, for its part, launched Operation Atlantic Resolve in April 2014. The ongoing series of exercises and engagements began in the three Baltic States and Poland as a way for the U.S. to demonstrate its commitment to NATO after the Russian occupation of Crimea. It has since expanded to more than half a dozen countries. In addition to increasing the ABCT rotations, the budget request for Europe also pays for more Guard and Reserve rotations into the region for training exercises and additional equipment, including (Abram M1; MSG) tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

The additional equipment, or the Army Prepositioned Stock, will be a "brigade set plus enablers," Piatt said. "We know we have to have it there, and it has to be modern equipment, too," he said. This set will be only used in case of a contingency. It will be the second armored brigade's worth of equipment in the region; the first set, known as the European Activity Set, is in place for use by regionally aligned units rotating into Europe from the United States.

The European Activity Set has about 12,000 pieces of equipment. About 250 of those are heavy, tracked vehicles, including the M1A2 Abrams tank, the Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and howitzers.

The budget request highlights "the commitment to our European allies and the NATO alliance, and how we're trying to reestablish and commit our forces there," Piatt said. "Our presence, our assurance means something."

<http://www.stripes.com/news/army-tanks-personnel-set-for-move-to-northwestern-germany-1.419194#.WC1on3Q4NYA.facebook>

Army tanks, personnel set for move to northwestern Germany

USAREUR will move into Tower Barracks, a former British facility in the northwestern German town of Duermen, to store tanks and other combat equipment flowing into Europe as part of a Pentagon plan to position more firepower on the Continent.

John Vandiver/Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Army Europe will occupy a base in northwestern Germany to store tanks and other combat-ready equipment, which is flowing into Europe as part of a Pentagon plan to position more firepower on the continent.

In October, USAREUR will move into the Tower Barracks facility in Duermen, where for years a small British unit was stationed. With the United Kingdom's plan to vacate the post this year, USAREUR requested access to the facility from the German government, which obliged.

"The site at Duermen is well suited to meet our immediate equipment storage needs, with large warehouses, a fully functioning railhead and well maintained equipment maintenance shops," said Don Wrenn, a USAREUR spokesman.

Since Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in 2014, U.S. European Command has sought ways to enhance its presence around Europe, launching more large-scale training exercises and positioning rotational forces along NATO's eastern flank. Now, EUCOM is moving toward a posture more oriented toward deterrence, and USAREUR's plans for a brigade's worth of combat ready gear is a linchpin to that push.

USAREUR is still working out the details on the source for the tanks and other equipment, which could be brought into Europe from the U.S. or could be drawn from stocks already in Germany. The plan is for USAREUR to have one brigade's worth of heavy gear available for training and an additional set of tanks and heavy gear maintained at a high level for rapid deployment in a crisis.

USAREUR plans to use former equipment storage depots in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium to store the influx of combat gear. Duermen is about 40 miles north of the German industrial city of Dortmund and hundreds of miles from other U.S. military posts in Germany, which are concentrated in the country's southern sections.

The moves are part of the military's \$3.4 billion European Reassurance Initiative, which also will fund the rotation of a heavy Army brigade to Europe on a "heel-to-toe" year round basis.

The full-time presence of a heavy brigade, set to start in 2017, means USAREUR will have three brigades on the continent at all times. The 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy, and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment out of Vilseck, Germany, are the only remaining brigades permanently stationed in Europe.

The headquarters for the rotational brigade will be based out of Poland, with its battalions likely to be spread out in different parts of Europe.

As USAREUR prepares for more tanks and artillery, staffing will likely be needed to ensure the equipment is ready for use, but workforce numbers haven't been finalized.

"At this time it is too early to speculate what workforce will be needed at the facility," Wrenn said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com