



U.S. European Command

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OPERATION ATLANTIC RESOLVE (2014)

- 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

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Land

- **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 12th 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.
- **Platinum Wolf 15:** (South Base, Serbia, Nov. 17-28) This exercise was again hosted by Serbia and included members from Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, and U.S. The focus was on nonlethal systems training, peacekeeping operations, formations and patrolling techniques, patrol bases, recon patrols, convoy operations and security and vehicle and entry control points. The efforts in enhancing training and readiness during this exercise were to foster greater interoperability with each other while promoting peace and prosperity in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions of Eastern Europe.
- **Exercise Rubicon:** (Cincu, Romania, Nov. 13-21) Nearly 100 American paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment and the Romanian 6th Special Forces paratroopers took part in a week-long combined situational training exercise starting at Campia Turzii with an airborne operation into field training at Cincu. The first part of the training included American and Romanian paratroopers qualifying on their own and familiarizing with each other's weapon systems, including assigned weapons as well as live-firing anti-tank weapons and mortars. Following range training, multiple allied airborne and air assault missions are scheduled with the combined teams conducting ambushes and raids in a field environment against a U.S.-Romanian team playing the opposing force.
- **Naval Infantry Intro to Communications:** (Constanta, Romania, Nov. 10-14) Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force and 24 Romanian Land Forces officers conducted classroom training and hands on interaction with field communications from each country. The engagement took place in Constanta, Romania, and allowed the Marines and Romanian officers to learn more about each countries field radio equipment as well as the need for effective communication during a battle or reacting to a threat.
- **Exercise Phoenix Resolve:** (Babadag, Romania, Nov. 3-22) Brigade Special Troops Battalion had approximately 200 paratroopers at Babadag, Romania, for Exercise Phoenix Resolve, where they conducted consolidated skills training (engineer, weapons density, etc) with

Romanian troops as well as a combined airborne operation. This exercise and Rubicon are built on the successful Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise the brigade executed last month, deploying a reconnaissance troop from Grafenwoehr on 24-hours notice into Câmpia Turzii, Romania. That exercise was a validation of the Grafenwoehr-based 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment's ability to rapidly deploy as the Army Contingency Response Force in Europe.

- **Platinum Lynx 15.3:** (Foscani, Romania, Nov. 2-7) Marines and Sailors from the Black Sea Rotational Force and Romanian 300th Mechanized Infantry Battalion conducted patrolling and live-fire ranges at the Foscani training area in Romania. Simulated enemy contact played out as Romanian soldiers and Marines role played antagonists progressing through danger areas, different flanks and past mock improvised explosive devices. The exercise concluded with combat lifesaver classes, call for fire and personnel searching as well as sporting events to foster lasting friendships and bonds.
- **Combined Resolve III:** (Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, Germany, Oct.-Nov.) The U.S. Army's European Rotational Force participated in a major exercise alongside NATO allies and partner-nation forces at the Army's Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Areas in southeastern Germany. The exercise included more than 4,000 participants from Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the U.S. The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division (Ironhorse), stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, is the brigade combat team designated as the Army's regionally-aligned force for the U.S. European Command. The exercise was designed to provide the Ironhorse Brigade with multinational training and partnership opportunities that will enhance the flexibility, agility and ability to better operate alongside NATO allies and partners in Europe. CRIII also used the Army's European Activity Set, a group of combat equipment and vehicles pre-positioned at the Grafenwoehr Training Area to outfit and support rotational forces when they arrive in Europe. The set included the most updated versions of the Army's M1A2 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles.
- **New Land Forces Rotation:** As part of the next bilateral land force rotation, elements of the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division have deployed to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland with tanks, mechanized vehicles, and other heavy military equipment. Transfer of mission ceremonies occurred as followed: Oct. 8 – Tapa Military Base, Estonia and Rukla Military Base, Lithuania; 13 Oct - Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland; and Oct. 14 - Ādaži Military Base, Latvia. This rotation replaces U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Airborne Brigade, which has been training with Polish and Baltic forces since April 23, 2014. The units from 1st Cavalry Division are in the Baltics and Poland to continue the U.S. Army's land force assurance training and to enhance multinational interoperability, strengthen relationships, and demonstrate the United States' commitment to NATO Allies.
- **Exercise Strike Back 14:** (Koren Training Area, Bulgaria, Oct. 6-17) More than 100 Black Sea Rotational Force personnel participated in this exercise alongside the 31st Battalion Battle Group of the Bulgarian Armed Forces at the Koren Training Area, Bulgaria. The Marines improved interoperability with Bulgarian forces by playing a major role in the 31st BBG's NATO proficiency certification which it earned at the end of the exercise. The BSRF Marines also gained valuable experience working side-by-side with Bulgarian forces. The proficiency certification event was viewed by several key leaders including the U.S. Ambassador, members

of the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense, and several national news sources. The exercise helped assure NATO allies of U.S. commitment to regional security.

- **Platinum Lynx 14.6:** (Miercurea Ciuc, Romania, Sept. 29 - 3 Oct.) U.S. Marines and Sailors from Black Sea Rotational Force participated in Platinum Lynx 14.6 in the Carpathian Mountains in Miercurea Ciuc, Romania. Service members trained with the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade from the Romanian Land Forces in rappelling, rock climbing, a live-fire range and survival skills in order to sustain readiness in any location. The exercise concluded with a 15-kilometer troop movement in high-elevation terrain to a final ascension point of 1,790 meters deep into the Carpathian Mountains.
- **Exercise Rapid Trident 14:** (Yavoriv, Ukraine, Sept. 16-26) This exercise improved interoperability between U.S., NATO members and Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations while promoting regional stability and security; strengthening international military partnering; and fostering trust. Forces from 15 countries – Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the U.S., as well as representatives from NATO – participated in the exercise. Overall, RT14 consisted of a multi-national field training exercise with a focus on interoperability among U.S. and NATO/PfP forces members while supporting Ukraine’s Annual National Program designed to achieve Ukrainian Land Forces’ interoperability with NATO and to support its NATO Operational Capabilities Concept Evaluation and Feedback Program.
- **CINCU-14 Combined Live-Fire Exercise:** (Cincu, Romania, Sept. 15-26) U.S. Marines and Sailors from the Black Sea Rotational Force participated in a military-to-military live-fire exercise alongside land and air forces of the Romanian military at Cincu, Romania. The exercise included a weapons exchange and familiarization, simulated defensive exercise, highland games competition, and a combined live-fire exercise utilizing close-air support, artillery, and armored vehicles. The exercise was designed to build partner nation capacity and increase interoperability with allied forces
- **Exercise Saber Junction 14/Exercise Steadfast Javelin II:** (Grafenwohr and Hohenfels Training Areas, Germany, Aug. 13 - Sept. 17) Approximately 2,500 U.S. forces, along with NATO, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Serbia & Ukraine. This U.S. Army Europe/ NATO-led training event’s objective is to train brigades to manage the complexities of 21st century threats, to include a non-combatant evacuation operation response computer exercise. The third phase of the exercise will include an Airfield Seizure in Latvia, using 14 C-130s and seven C-17s from USAFE, the Air National Guard and TRANSCOM.
- **Exercise Combined Endeavor 14:** (Grafenwohr, Germany, Aug. 28 – Sept. 12) Command, control, communications and computer (C4) systems exercise which prepares the U.S., North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Partnership for Peace (PfP) and international forces for multinational operations. CE14 prepared military coalition forces to deploy in support of multinational crisis response operations through collaborative planning, training, testing and integration of fielded military C4 systems. The exercise developed interoperable tactics, techniques, procedures, and validated standards in a coalition network environment.
- **Exercise Platinum Lion 14-2:** (July 28 – Aug. 14) Exercise Platinum Lion allows 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 14-2 includes U.S. Marines and Sailors from 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, as well as Soldiers from Bulgaria, Romania,

Azerbaijan, and the United Kingdom. At more than 600 participants, Platinum Lion 14-1 & 14-2 is the largest exercise to take place in Novo Selo Training Area.

- **BSRF Non-Lethal Systems Training:** (July 12-15) U.S. Marines from the Black Sea Rotational Force participated in a military-to-military engagement with 60 participants from Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and was used to further familiarize Bosnian, and Bulgarian forces with USMC Non-Lethal Systems (NLS). Also, a key component of this cooperation was to set conditions for the development of an NLS instructor cadre.
- **Exercise Platinum Wolf:** (Serbia, June 26 – July 15) First iteration of this exercise was hosted by Serbia and included members from Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, and U.S. The focus was on nonlethal systems training, peacekeeping operations, formations and patrolling techniques, patrol bases, recon patrols, convoy operations and security and vehicle and entry control points. The efforts in enhancing training and readiness during this exercise were to foster greater interoperability with each other while promoting peace and prosperity in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions of Eastern Europe.
- **Exercise Agile Spirit 14:** (Georgia, June 9-21) Approximately 320 U.S. Marines, with Georgia. Exercise Agile Spirit 14 was an annual Marine Forces Europe-led bilateral exercise with Georgia. It focused on counterinsurgency and peacekeeping operations.
- **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 was a U.S. Army Europe-led, company-level live-fire field training exercise, multi-national brigade command post exercise, and computer-assisted exercise, designed to help sustain U.S. & Baltic interoperability.
- **Exercise Flaming Sword 14:** (Lithuania, May 12 – June 2) Approximately 140 U.S. Special Operations Command Europe personnel and seven European partners (Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden) participated in a multinational exercise to enhance Baltic Region and allied special operations forces interoperability.
- **Exercise Combined Resolve II:** (Hohenfels and Grafenwöhr Training Areas, Germany, May 15-30) Approximately 1,200 U.S. service members, with Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. Exercise Combined Resolve II was a U.S. Army Europe-led NATO Response Force (NRF) training rotation at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany. The exercise focused on maintaining and enhancing interoperability during unified land operations in a decisive action training environment. 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 Rochambeau:** (France, May 11-25) Approximately 300 U.S. Soldiers participated in a computer-assisted Command Post Exercise, to maintain NATO Response Force Land Component Command readiness.
- **UAS Training:** (Latvia, May 7 – July) A Michigan Army National Guard Unmanned Aircraft System platoon trained with Latvian military forces as both groups hone UAS operational skills. [Shadow 200 RQ-7B TUAV]. The 30-member platoon, part of the Michigan National Guard 126th Cavalry Regiment located near Grand Rapids. The Michigan National Guard and

Latvian military forces have formed a family-like bond over the past 22 years of partnering through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program.

- **Exercise Platinum Lynx 14-5:** (Romania, May 5-16) Approximately 75 U.S. Marines conducted squad- to infantry-level training events designed to help familiarity and interoperability between the U.S. and Romania.
- **Exercise Platinum Eagle 14:** (Romania, April 29 - May 24) Approximately 75 U.S. Marines conducted 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.
- **Initial Land Forces Assurance Measures:** U.S. Army Europe's 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) deployed company-sized contingents (150 per country) 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. These land training exercises came at the request of the host nations to help foster interoperability through small unit and leader training.
- **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.
- **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. The exercise 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.

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Special Operations Forces (SOF)

- **Medical Assistance Team:** (Western Ukraine, Nov. 21) A medical team from Special Operations Command Europe has 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 close to 600 Ukrainian Ministry of Defense personnel (military) to develop a pool of individuals who are capable of conducting basic battlefield medical care.
- **Exercise Jackal Stone 14:** (Germany/The Netherlands, Sept. 8-21) A U.S. Special Operations Command Europe-led exercise designed to enhance joint combined interoperability with allies and partners in Europe. Approximately 1,500 special operations forces from 10 nations (to include Netherlands, Czech Republic, Finland, Great Britain, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia and the U.S.) participated. The exercise objective was to provide special operations forces the opportunity to train together and build mutual respect, while sharing doctrinal and training concepts and various tactics, techniques and procedures.

- **Other Exercises and Training Events:** Approximately 200 U.S. Special Operations forces (SOF) and support personnel conducted an eight-part series of annual, multinational and bilateral special operations exercises and training events from May through June.
 - Annual exercises included Exercise Spring Storm 14 (Estonia, May 5-23), Exercise Flaming Sword 14 (Lithuania, May 12 – June 2, with seven other NATO nations participating) and Exercise Namejs 14 (Latvia, May 17-30).
 - At the request of the host nations, Special Operations Command Europe added a series of Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) events across the Baltics and Eastern Europe. The events 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 were 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.

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Air

- **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.
- **Flying Training Deployment with Poland and Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Łask Air Base, Poland, Sept. 4 - Oct. 8) Seven F-16s from the 510th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy, are participating in this bilateral training to enhance interoperability, maintain joint readiness and reassure our NATO allies and regional partners.
- **Air-to-Air Refueling Missions in support of NATO:** The United States agreed to fly refueling missions to support NATO E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system (AWACs) aircraft flights over Eastern Europe.
 - This mission began March 16 and – as of Nov. 21 – three KC-135s, forward-based out of RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, conducted 144 missions.
- **Flying Training Deployment with Bulgaria:** (Graf Ignatievo Air Base, Bulgaria, Aug. 18 - Sept. 1) Twelve F-15s from the 493rd Fighter Squadron at RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom, participated in this bilateral training event which enhanced interoperability, maintained joint readiness and reassured our NATO allies and regional partners.
- **Exercise Ample Strike:** (Náměšť Air Base, Czech Republic, Sept. 8-12) 11 NATO nations, five F-16s from the 510th Fighter Squadron from Aviano Air Base, Italy, and five Joint

Terminal Attack Controllers from the 2nd Air Support Operations Squadron stationed in Wilseck, Germany, participated in this NATO-led JTAC exercise.

- **Bilateral Training in Bulgaria:** (Plovdiv, Bulgaria, July 13-26) Three C-130J aircraft and a support team from the 86th Airlift Wing were sent forward to conduct bilateral, total force training with the Bulgarian military. The training included air drop training with Bulgarian and U.S. Soldiers of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.
- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Powidz Air Base, Poland, July 1 - Aug. 31) Three C-130J aircraft and accompanying team of Airmen from the 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, conducted bilateral off-station training at this forward operating location. The Airmen trained to increase interoperability and readiness with Polish allies and the U.S. Army 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.
- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Rotation:** (Łask Air Base, Poland, June 2-18) 18 F-16s and ~300 Airmen from the 480th Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany trained with Polish Airmen in the latest training exercise designed to strengthen the interoperability of NATO Allies. In addition, multiple USAFE units also participated in Exercise BALTOPS 14 and Exercise Eagle Talon, a Polish national air exercise designed to increase interoperability with air-to-air and air-to-surface training.
- **Exercise Adriatic Strike:** (Postojna Range, Slovenia, June 2-6) Four 31st Fighter Wing F-16s at Aviano AB, Italy, at the invitation of Slovenian government, participated in this multilateral exercise to enhance Joint Terminal Attack Control interoperability with the Slovenian, Austrian, Belgian, Czech, Montenegrin, French, Croatian, Latvian, and Hungarian militaries.
- **Exercise Thracian Star:** (Graf Ignatievo Air Force Base, Bulgaria, May 23 – June 5) Eight F-16s from the 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, and KC-135s from the 134th Air Refueling Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard, participated in this exercise to enhance interoperability with the Bulgarian, Hellenic, and Romanian Air Forces and to bolster readiness to conduct combined air operations
- **Icelandic Air Policing:** (Keflavik Air Station, Iceland, 15 May-5 Jun) Four F-15Cs from the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, UK, at the invitation of the government of Iceland, supported the NATO Iceland Air Surveillance mission, reinforcing our commitment to the security and sovereignty of our allies. Our participation in air policing with other NATO nations helps ensure a safe and stable future for Iceland while preserving the integrity of NATO's borders and NATO security.
- **USAF Aviation Detachment (AVDET) Augmentation:** (Łask Air Base, Poland, May 1) The U.S. deployed six 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.
- **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.
- **NATO Baltic Air Policing:** The U.S. more than doubled the number of aircraft allocated to this mission. 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.

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Sea

- **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.
- **USS Ross (DDG 71):** (Black Sea, Sept. 3-12) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer conducted a series of engagements designed to promote peace and stability in the region, which included participating in Sea Breeze 2014 with several nations. Her presence in the Black Sea served to demonstrate the United States' commitment to strengthening the collective security of NATO allies and regional partners while also working alongside them to enhance interoperability and improve regional security.
- **Exercise Sea Breeze 14:** (Black Sea, Sept. 8-10) Approximately 280 U.S. service members and forces from Ukraine, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and 2 NATO ships participated in the 17th iteration of this multinational maritime exercise. Co-hosted by U.S. and Ukrainian navies, the aim of the exercise was to improve maritime security in the Black Sea through increased interoperability and cooperation among regional Allies and partners.

- **Exercise Northern Coasts 14:** (Baltic Sea, Aug. 29-Sept. 12) Sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 8 based at Naval Station Rota, Spain, and Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, based at Naval Air Station Sigonella, participated in German-led, Finnish-hosted multinational maritime exercise, consisting of separate explosive ordnance disposal, special and maritime operations. The exercise included underwater mine-countermeasure, counter-improvised explosive device, and anti-submarine warfare events designed to improve interoperability between U.S., Allied and partner units.
- **USS Vella Gulf (CG 72):** (Black Sea, Aug. 6-26) The Ticonderoga-class cruiser entered the Black Sea Aug. 6 and conducted a series of engagements to promote peace and stability in the region until she departed on Aug. 26.. She also operated in the Black Sea in May and July, working with NATO allies towards mutual goals, demonstrating the United States' commitment to strengthening and improving interoperability in the region. The U.S. Navy routinely operates ships in the Black Sea consistent with the Montreux Convention and international law.
- **Marine Corps Prepositioning Program-Norway:** (Trøndelag, Norway, Aug. 11-19) U.S. Marines, in coordination with their Norwegian counterparts, conducted a pre-planned Single Ship Movement and offloaded military equipment from a Maritime Prepositioning Force ship in the Trøndelag region of Norway. This equipment will significantly enhance the readiness of the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program-Norway by placing approximately 350 containers of gear and nearly 400 pieces of heavy rolling stock into the storage caves. This offload was the first time a newly constructed pier in the region was tested, providing an opportunity for Marines and their Norwegian counterparts to work an offload while increasing the operational readiness of the program significantly.
- **Exercise BALTOPS 14:** (Baltic Sea, June 6-21) Approximately 1,300 U.S. service members, with Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, NATO, Poland and Sweden. This year was the 42nd iteration of the U.S. Navy Europe-led exercise in the Baltic Sea, and exercised allied and partner maritime niche capabilities while enhancing coordination and cooperation among Baltic Sea countries.
- **USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79):** The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer completed BALTOPS 2014, an annual, multinational (13 countries) exercise to enhance maritime capabilities, interoperability and support regional stability. During the ship's two-month deployment, she also conducted Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) engagements in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.
- **USS Taylor (FFG 50):** (Black Sea, April/May) The guided-missile frigate conducted operations in the Black Sea in April and May, reassuring our allies of the U.S. commitment to the region. The ship conducted a PASSEX with the Turkish Navy, made port visits in Constanta, Romania, and Batumi, Georgia, and participated in bilateral training with the Georgia Coast Guard.
- **USS Donald Cook (DDG 75):** (Black Sea, April) The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer conducted operations in the Black Sea April to reassure our allies of the U.S. commitment to the region. The ship made a port visit to Constanta, Romania, and participated in exercises at sea with the Romanian navy and USS Taylor, in order to improve interoperability, increase readiness and enhance relationships in the region. The ship also made port calls in Constanta, Romania, and Haifa, Israel.

- **USS Truxtun (DDG 103):** (Black Sea, March) The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer conducted operations in the Black Sea in March to reassure our allies of the U.S. commitment to the region. Truxtun made port calls in Constanta, Romania, and Haifa, Israel; and participated in a passing exercise (PASSEX) with Romanian and Bulgarian naval forces. The ship extended in the Black Sea to conduct an additional port visit in Varna, Bulgaria; to host an onboard maritime planning conference with Bulgarian and Romanian officers; and participate in a second PASSEX.

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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.

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