U.S. Army Europe And Africa



1942 - 2022

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U.S. ARMY EUROPE AND AFRICA

Table of Contents



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower poses for a portrait as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe, 1945.

Our Story 8
Snapshot: U.S. Army Europe and Africa 10

World War II 14
Victory Corps Returns 16
Operation Torch 19
Snapshot: American Forces Network 22
Operation Husky 23
Snapshot: Sword of Freedom 27
D-Day 29
Snapshot: Celebrity Soldiers in the European Theater 34
Operation Market Garden 36
Battle of the Bulge 38
Operation Grapeshot 40
Victory in Europe 45
Snapshot: Life After the War 46

The Cold War 50
Berlin Blockade and Airlift 52
North Atlantic Treaty Organization 56
U.S. European Command 58
Southern European Task Force 59
Snapshot: Grafenwoehr Training Area 60
Berlin Crisis 62
REFORGER 66
Snapshot: Cold War Terrorism 70
A United Germany 72

Post-Cold War 76
Desert Storm 78
Snapshot: Support in Africa 84
Balkan Conflict 88
Operation Joint Endeavor 90
NATO Kosovo Force 98
Snapshot: State Partnership Program 100

21st Century and Beyond 104
War on Terror 106
Snapshot: One Team, One Fight 110
Allies and Partners 112
Atlantic Resolve 116
Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine 125
NATO Enhanced Forward Presence 128
Georgia Defense Readiness Program 136
Snapshot: COVID-19 140
DEFENDER-Europe 142
African Lion 148
Security Force Assistance Brigade 150
56th Artillery Command 152
Operation Allies Welcome 154
Support to European Partners and Allies 156
Honoring the Past, Securing the Future 162

Our Story

Over the last 100 years, the United States Army fought to end tyranny, maintain peace, ensure stability, and stood as a symbol of U.S. commitment to Europe and the global community.

Our Organization

On Oct. 1, 2020, the U.S. Army consolidated U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa into one Army Service Component Command. This transformation improved the Army's ability to meet African and European strategic and operational objectives outlined in the National Defense Strategy by consolidating ASCC functions under one four-star headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany. United States Army Europe and Africa forces are strategically positioned across our 104-country area of responsibility to deter aggression and assure our allies and partners of the U.S. commitment to peace and stability in Europe and Africa.

There are approximately 64,000 U.S. Army personnel assigned and deployed throughout Europe and Africa. Only well-postured, modernized, and interoperable strategic land power can deter competitors and defeat adversaries. Our forward presence provides the U.S. military with the strategic access vital to missions in both theaters.

With a balanced mix of both permanent and rotational forces, U.S. Army Europe and Africa is flexible, agile, and well postured to deter potential threats, assure our allies, and quickly respond and win should deterrence fail. The increased responsibilities of overseeing Army operations across two continents are enabled by the Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF) and V Corps.

Headquartered at Fort Knox, Kentucky, with a forward command post in Poznan, Poland, V Corps oversees operations in Europe. V Corps provides command and control of Atlantic Resolve rotational units, and assigned units such as the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, and the 41st Field Artillery Brigade.

Similarly, SETAF-AF, headquartered in Vicenza, Italy, maintains focus on its mission as the nucleus of a joint task force for operations on the African continent. It is responsible for all Army operations and assets in Africa and Italy, including the 173rd Airborne Brigade and Security Force Assistance Brigades (SFABs) deployed to Africa.

Operational and theater enablers such as the 21st and 79th Theater Sustainment Commands, 56th Artillery Command, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, 7th Army Training Command, 2nd Multi-Domain Task Force, 66th and 207th Military Intelligence Brigades, 2nd Theater Signal Brigade, U.S. Army NATO Brigade, Installation Management Command - Europe and Regional Health Command - Europe provide essential skills and services that support our entire force.

Our Mission

United States Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) provides ready, combat-credible land forces to deter, and, if necessary, defeat aggression from any potential adversary in Europe and Africa. To achieve this, USAREUR-AF sets the essential conditions necessary, and is prepared to serve as a Combined Joint Force Land Component Command, to fight and win across the full spectrum of military operations from contingency response to large scale, ground combat operations.

To respond to a crisis, the right forces must get to the right place at the right time. USAREUR-AF sets the theater to ensure the agile flow of forces into and throughout both the African and European theaters to respond to crisis if called upon.

The U.S. stands by its allies and partners as they have stood by us. Because our allies and partners are key to the U.S. Army's overall strength, the command builds and sustains strong relationships, and promotes multinational military interoperability and capacity building.

Our tiered exercise program builds readiness, enhances interoperability, and strengthens relationships by providing a joint, multinational environment to prepare allies and partners to train as they fight.

Training together now builds relationships and provides shared understanding when conflict occurs. We enhance our combined capabilities through the continued emphasis on interoperability, modernization, and building partner capacity. Interoperability is not just about systems and technology; it's about people, processes, and relationships that build stronger teams, foster overmatch, and increase lethality.



From left to right: Polish Armed Forces Brig. Gen. Jarosław Gromadziński, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Adam Lackey, British Army Maj. Ben Parkyn, Romanian Armed Forces Maj. Musat Octavian, and Croatian Army Capt. Dario Biljeskovic, salute during the opening ceremony of the Memory Chamber Museum of General Kuklińskiego with Battle Group Poland at Warsaw, Poland, June 22, 2018.

USAREUR-AF is also responsible for the Georgia Defense Readiness Program - Training, supporting the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence effort with forces in Poland, a constant presence in the NATO-led Kosovo Force mission, and Joint Multinational Training Group - Ukraine training missions. Additionally, USAREUR-AF participates in security cooperation events on both continents each year. Supported by SFABs and National Guard state partners, these enhance our professional relationships and improve overall interoperability with allies and partners.

United States, European, and African defense concerns are inseparable as part of a stable international order. Together, these continents face a growing number of transnational threats, to include armed conflict, violent extremism, global terrorism, illicit trafficking, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and infectious disease.

The close geography and economic ties between Europe and Africa means a regional security issue left unchecked could quickly spread between both continents. USAREUR-AF will remain at the center of the framework for strong deterrence and defense posture on both continents. Our continued presence strengthens the security and stability in the region, provides the physical deterrence necessary to counter threats to U.S. interests, and honors our international commitments.

Snapshot: U.S. Army Europe and Africa

1917: U.S. enters World War I

1941: U.S. enters World War II

1948: The Cold War begins

1949: NATO Treaty signed

1961: Berlin Crisis

1989: Berlin Wall falls

1990: VII Corps deploys for Desert Storm

1991: Balkan Conflict

1999: NATO deploys KFOR

2003: V Corps deploys to Iraq

2013: V Corps deactivates

2014: Atlantic Resolve begins

2020: V Corps reactivates

2020: U.S. Army Europe and Africa consolidation



U.S. Army Soldiers fire a cannon at the Battle of St. Mihiel, 1918.



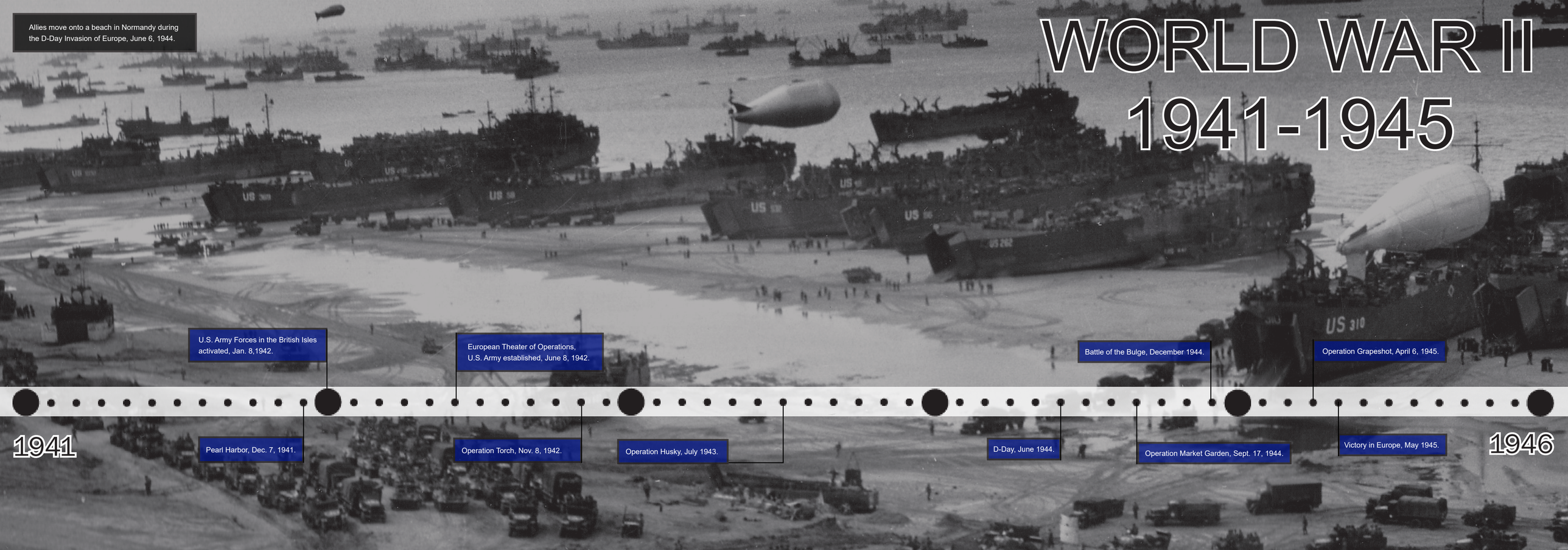
U.S. Army Soldiers in action during the Meuse Argonne Offensive, 1918.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 369th Infantry Regiment who won the Croix de Guerre, a French Armed Forces decoration awarded for gallantry in action, pose for a portrait, 1919.



U.S. Army Soldiers pose with a captured German machine gun, September 1918.



Allies move onto a beach in Normandy during the D-Day Invasion of Europe, June 6, 1944.

WORLD WAR II
1941-1945

1941

1946

- Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.
- U.S. Army Forces in the British Isles activated, Jan. 8,1942.
- Operation Torch, Nov. 8, 1942.
- European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army established, June 8, 1942.
- Operation Husky, July 1943.
- D-Day, June 1944.
- Operation Market Garden, Sept. 17, 1944.
- Battle of the Bulge, December 1944.
- Victory in Europe, May 1945.
- Operation Grapeshot, April 6, 1945.

World War II

On June 8, 1942, the War Department officially established the European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army (ETOUSA)—not to be confused with today's United States European Command. Its mission was to conduct planning for the eventual retaking of Europe and to exercise operational control over U.S. forces. That headquarters had its roots in Europe in January 1942 when American Soldiers opened a command post in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Fittingly, those first arrivals were the advance party of Headquarters, V Corps, which, until 2013 was still the centerpiece of U.S. Army Europe's combat forces. Headquartered in London, ETOUSA was first commanded by Maj. Gen. James E. Chaney, an Army Air Corps officer.

Then-Maj. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower replaced Chaney in late June, but the following month he departed England to assume new duties as the commander-in-chief of Operation Torch, the successful Allied invasion of North Africa. Eisenhower returned in January 1944 and the following month was officially designated as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. He also maintained his leadership of ETOUSA, serving in a dual role until the end of hostilities in Europe in May 1945.

The command grew rapidly. At the end of January 1942 there were 4,000 American service members in the United Kingdom. That number swelled to 55,000 by the time ETOUSA was established in June, and by the end of the year 135,000 Americans were massed in Great Britain to train for the assault on the continent that would take place two years later on the beaches of Normandy. When the invasion was launched June 6, 1944, more than 1.5 million U.S. Army Soldiers were on hand. In addition to overseeing the buildup and training of combat forces, ETOUSA was also responsible for logistics and administrative services—functions that paralleled some of U.S. Army Europe and Africa's functions today. When the war in Europe ended May 8, 1945, the ETOUSA headquarters was located in Versailles, France.

As Eisenhower and his staff began to prepare for the occupation of Germany, the ETOUSA headquarters staff moved to Frankfurt, Germany, and co-located with the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) and the Office of Military Government, United States. ETOUSA was re-designated as U.S. Forces, European Theater (USFET), July 1, 1945, with its headquarters remaining at Frankfurt. At the end of the war, the total U.S. Army strength in Europe was almost 1.9 million: two Army groups (6th and 12th), five field armies (First, Third, Seventh, Ninth, and Fifteenth), 13 corps headquarters, and 62 combat divisions (43 infantry, 16 armor, and three airborne).

Within a year, rapid re-deployments brought the occupation forces down to fewer than 290,000 personnel. Seventh Army headquarters remained in control of the western portion of the American zone, and 3rd Army controlled the eastern portion. In November 1945, the two field army commanders organized district "constabularies" based on cavalry groups, and on May 1, 1946, the zone-wide U.S. Constabulary headquarters was activated at Bamberg, Germany. From then until the early 1950s, the structure of the American occupation forces consisted of the 1st Infantry Division, a separate infantry regiment, and the U.S. Constabulary of 10 cavalry regiments.

On March 15, 1947, USFET was re-designated as European Command and between February and June 1948 the headquarters relocated to Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany, where it remained until 2013.



A silent tribute to a fallen American Soldier erected by French civilians stands in Carentan, France, as a tribute to the Soldier's sacrifice in pursuit of France's freedom from Nazi oppression, June 17,1944.

Victory Corps Returns





Maj. Gen. James E. Chaney, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces in the British Isles, poses for a photo. He was later appointed theater commander of Europe. He oversaw the establishment of European Theater of Operation on June 8, 1942, when he was replaced by General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Just six weeks after Pearl Harbor, more than 4,000 personnel, primarily from 34th Infantry "Red Bull" Division, arrived in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to begin supporting the allies for a second world war. This new arrival of U.S. forces established what would eventually become U.S. Army Europe and Africa.

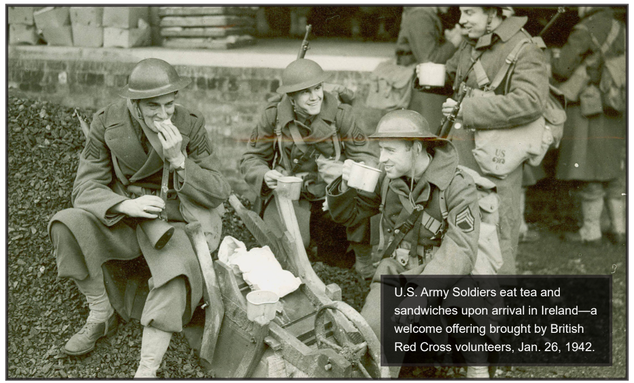
On Jan. 8, 1942, U.S. Army Forces in the British Isles—a precursor to U.S. Army Europe and Africa—was activated in England and commanded by Maj. Gen. James E. Chaney. By Jan. 26, just six weeks after Pearl Harbor, over 4,000 troops from 36th and 45th Infantry Divisions, and 1st Armored Division arrived at Dufferin Quay, Belfast Harbor, Belfast, Northern Ireland as a "striking force". V Corps Elements, including the 34th Infantry Division, arrived as a "static," or holding force. Later, the 36th and 45th were dropped, and the striking force consisted of V Corps troops, the 34th Division, and the 1st Armored Division, under the operational control of the commanding general of the British Troops in Northern Ireland.

As the troops disembarked from Her Majesty's Transport Service Strathaird, a British transport vessel, and the U.S. Army Transport Chateau Thierry, they were greeted by a formal delegation, reporters, photographers, and cheering Belfast citizens. The British Red Cross also welcomed the Americans with tea and sandwiches. This initial deployment was a return to Europe for the "Victory Corps" that earned its nickname on the battlefields of France in World War I.

Later that year, on June 8, the war department officially activated European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army. By June 24, Maj. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower had replaced Chaney as commanding general.



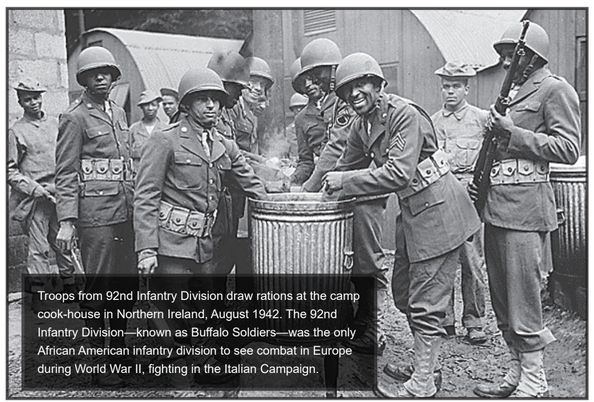
An Army transport moves V Corps troops to Ireland in preparation for combat operations in Europe, January 1942.



U.S. Army Soldiers eat tea and sandwiches upon arrival in Ireland—a welcome offering brought by British Red Cross volunteers, Jan. 26, 1942.



Troops train on marksmanship skills in Ireland to ready themselves for combat in Europe, March 25, 1942.



Troops from 92nd Infantry Division draw rations at the camp cook-house in Northern Ireland, August 1942. The 92nd Infantry Division—known as Buffalo Soldiers—was the only African American infantry division to see combat in Europe during World War II, fighting in the Italian Campaign.



American leadership of the European Theater of Operations, United States Army (ETOUSA) pose for a group photo in 1945. ETOUSA was responsible for directing U.S. Army operations throughout the European theater of war from 1942 to 1945. It commanded Army Ground Forces, U.S. Army Air Forces, and Army Service Forces operations north of Italy and the Mediterranean coast. To the south was North African Theater of Operations, United States Army.

Operation Torch



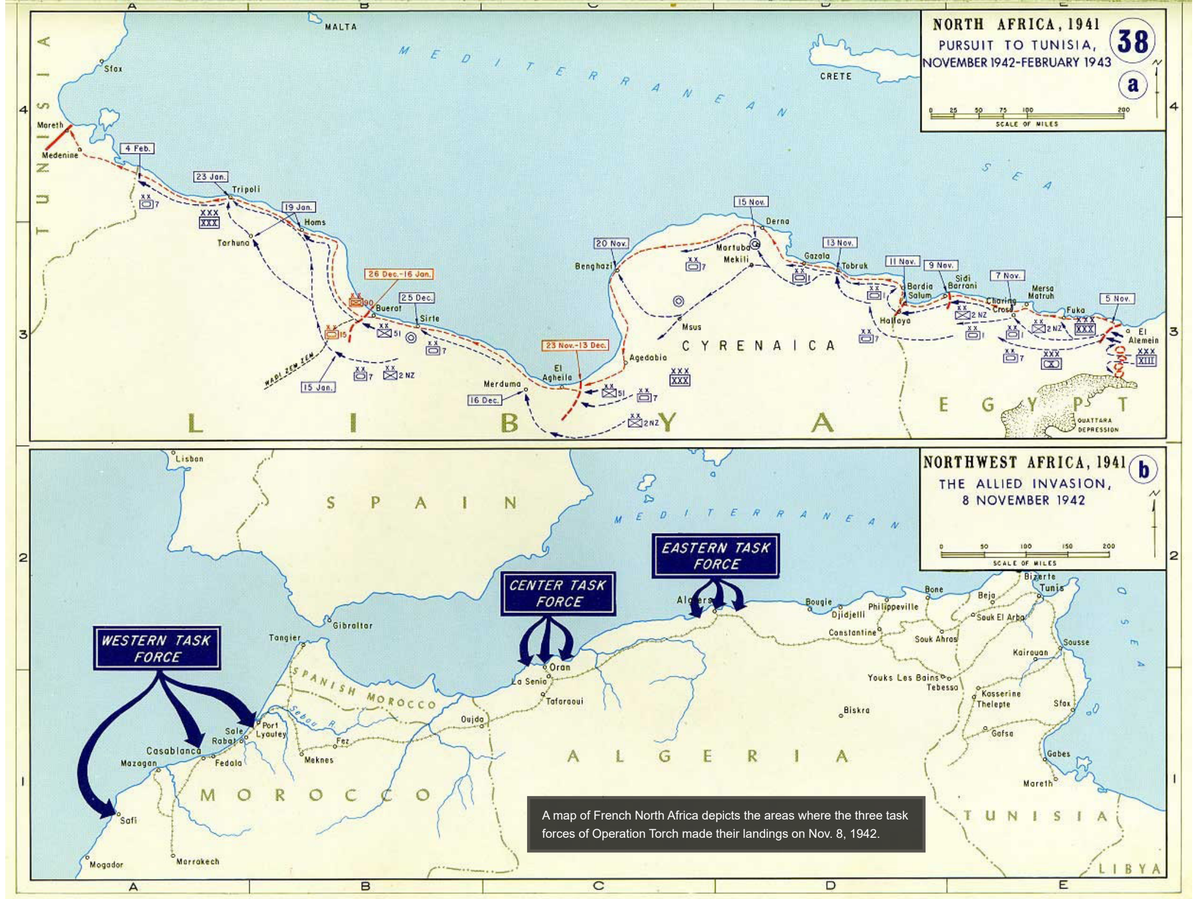
U.S. Army Soldiers unload a 1st Armored Division M7 105mm Howitzer Motor Carriage in Algeria, Nov. 8, 1942.



American forces land at Arzew, Algeria as part of Operation Torch, Nov. 8, 1942.

In July 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered American forces to participate in an unprecedented amphibious invasion of French North Africa as part of an Anglo-American force. Launched on Nov. 8, 1942, Operation Torch aimed to secure key strategic ports and airfields from southern Morocco to mid-Algeria as a means of securing a path to Europe through the Mediterranean. It included the 3rd, 9th, and 34th Infantry Divisions; 2nd Armored Division; elements of 1st Armored Division; 1st Infantry Division; 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment; and 1st Ranger Battalion.

Gen. Eisenhower left his new role as ETOUSA commanding general in England to command forces during the operation. He led the successful Allied campaign before returning to England in January 1944, to serve as both the commanding general of Supreme Headquarters Allied European Forces and ETOUSA.



A map of French North Africa depicts the areas where the three task forces of Operation Torch made their landings on Nov. 8, 1942.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Ranger Battalion sit at a captured gun position, at Arzew, Algeria, Nov. 8, 1942.



A Royal Navy lieutenant commander and officers of 26th Combat Team and 26th Infantry of 1st Infantry Division make final detailed plans a few hours prior to landing operations on the North African Coast, Nov. 8, 1942.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. William Darby, 1st Ranger Battalion commander, right, talks with a member of 34th Infantry Division, 1942. Darby is credited with molding the U.S. Army's newly created Rangers into an elite force during World War II.

Snapshot: American Forces Network

Before it was known as the American Forces Network, the Armed Forces Radio Service provided its first broadcast to U.S. troops from BBC Studios in London on July 4, 1943. The broadcast included five hours of recorded shows, news, and sports for troops stationed in the United Kingdom. By October, the 5th Army Mobile Expeditionary Radio Service began broadcasting in Naples, Italy.

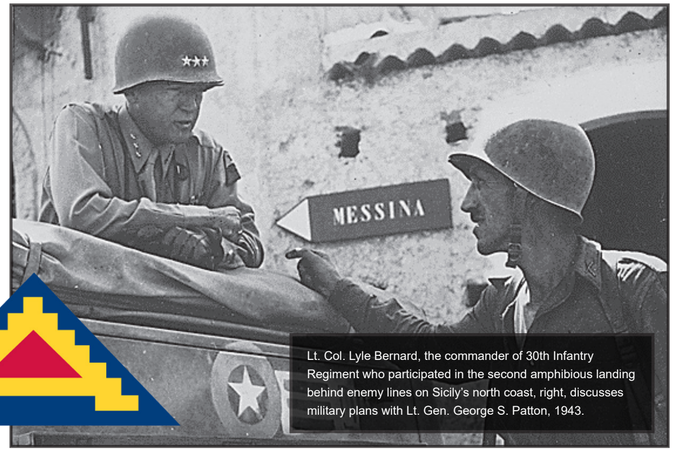


Maj. Tom Lewis, third from the left, poses for a portrait with the first radio staff at the AFRS headquarters, circa 1943. Lewis was a senior advertising agency official before he was commissioned to lead the new network as a U.S. Army Major. Lewis lived in Los Angeles, had scores of Hollywood contacts, and was married to movie star Loretta Young.



U.S. Army Soldiers in Okinawa, Japan, listen to the AFRS broadcast report announcing the Allied victory in Europe, May 1945.

Operation Husky



Lt. Col. Lyle Bernard, the commander of 30th Infantry Regiment who participated in the second amphibious landing behind enemy lines on Sicily's north coast, right, discusses military plans with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, 1943.

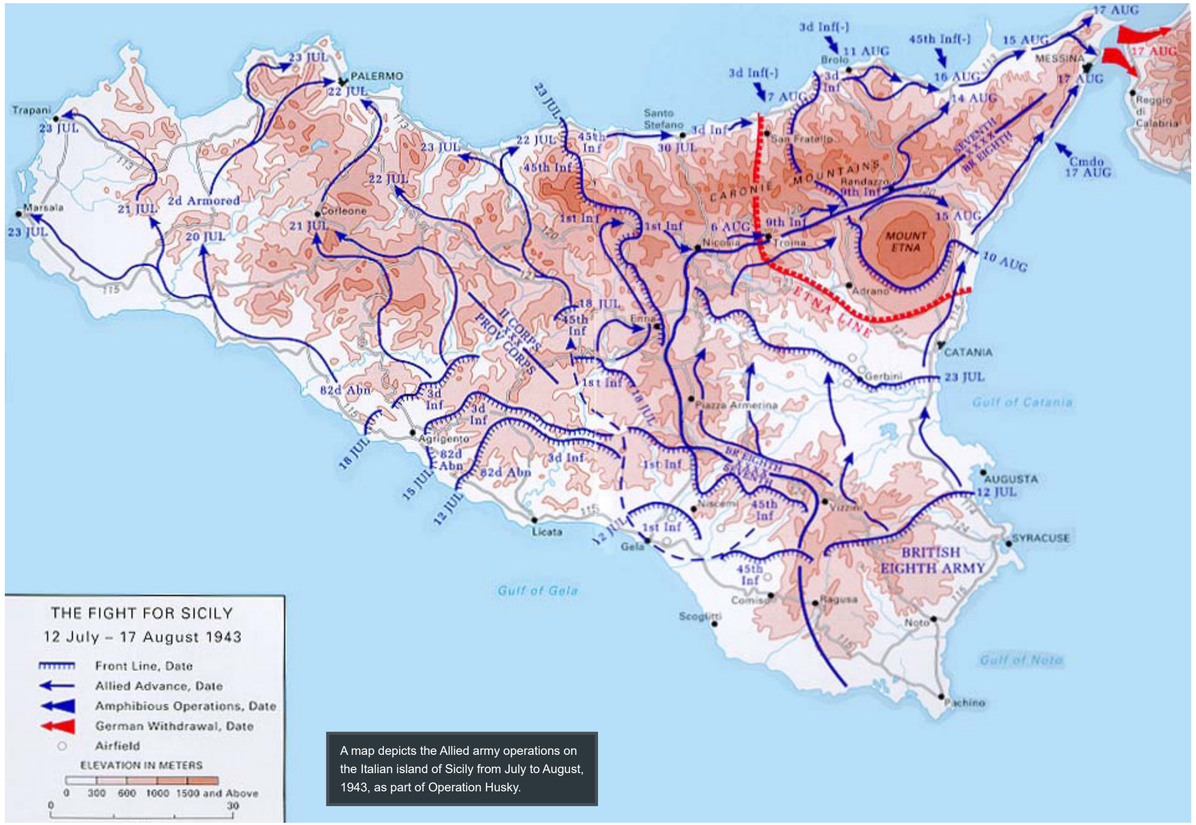
The Allied invasion of Sicily, also known as Operation Husky, was to be the greatest amphibious operation yet attempted. Launched July 9, 1943, it comprised more than 3,200 vessels in the vast armada, of which 1,700 were required to carry American troops and cargo. By the end of the first week of operations, the United States had landed 132,113 men, 25,043 vehicles, and 515 tanks.

On July 10, 1943, U.S. Army I Armored Corps was redesignated as Seventh Army to provide a headquarters for American forces in Operation Husky, commanded by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton.

Seventh Army landed on several beaches in southern Sicily and captured the city of Palermo on July 22, 1943. Along with the British Eighth Army, they captured Messina on Aug. 16 that same year. During the fighting, elements of the Seventh Army killed or captured more than 113,000 enemy soldiers.

The shoulder patch for the Seventh Army was approved June 23. The letter "A" for "Army" is formed by seven steps indicating the numerical designation of the unit. The colors suggest the three basic combat branches which make up a field army: blue for infantry, red for artillery, and yellow for armor and cavalry. Veterans of the Seventh Army wore a tab reading "Seven Steps to Hell" under the patch, but this tab was never officially authorized.

Seventh Army would continue on through southern Europe through the end of the war before being briefly deactivated in 1947. It would be reactivated in 1950, at Stuttgart, Germany.



A map depicts the Allied army operations on the Italian island of Sicily from July to August, 1943, as part of Operation Husky.



A Sherman Tank makes its way onto shore as part of the invasion of Sicily, July 1943.



U.S. Army Soldiers use 81 mm mortars to support Gen. George S. Patton's drive on Palermo, July 1943.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, 82nd Airborne Division commanding general, second from left, and staff, overlook the battlefield near Ribera, Sicily, July 25, 1943.



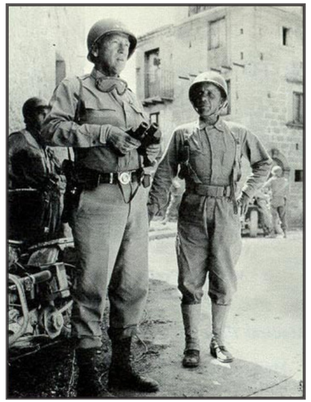
A U.S. Army Soldier gives blood plasma to a wounded Soldier in Sicily, on Aug. 9, 1943.



A U.S. Army Soldier stops to rest at the memorial to an Italian Soldier of World War I, near Brolo, Sicily, Aug. 14, 1943.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 45th Division, 7th Army, march through Caltanissetta, Italy, July 18, 1943.



Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, left, confers with Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., deputy commander of 1st Infantry Division in Sicily, July 18, 1943. Roosevelt, son of the 26th U.S. president, would later receive the Medal of Honor for his actions on D-Day in 1944.

Snapshot: Sword of Freedom

U.S. Army Europe and Africa's distinctive insignia began as the insignia of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF). Designed in 1943 by two British Soldiers, the flaming sword represents liberation, the black background stands for the occupation of Europe, the rainbow represents the Allied nations and hope, and the blue band at the top stands for the anticipated peace. Shortly after the end of the war the black background was replaced with blue to symbolize peace and the liberation of Europe.

It was redesignated for Headquarters, U.S. Forces, European Theater (USFET) on Aug. 2 1945; for European Command on June 23, 1947; and for U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) on Nov. 7, 1952. Today, the insignia is the shoulder sleeve patch for consolidated U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF).





June 8, 1942: European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army (ETOUSA) London, UK

July 1, 1945: United States Forces European Theater (USFET) Frankfurt, Germany

Aug. 1, 1952: U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Heidelberg, Germany

Jun. 18, 2012: USAREUR moves to Wiesbaden, Germany

March 15, 1947: European Command (Not to be confused with USEUCOM) Frankfurt, Germany

Oct.1, 2020: U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF)

Jan. 8, 1942: U.S. Army Forces British Isles (USAFBI) London, UK



Maj. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower poses for a portrait as commanding general of European Theater of Operations, United States Army (ETOUSA), 1942.

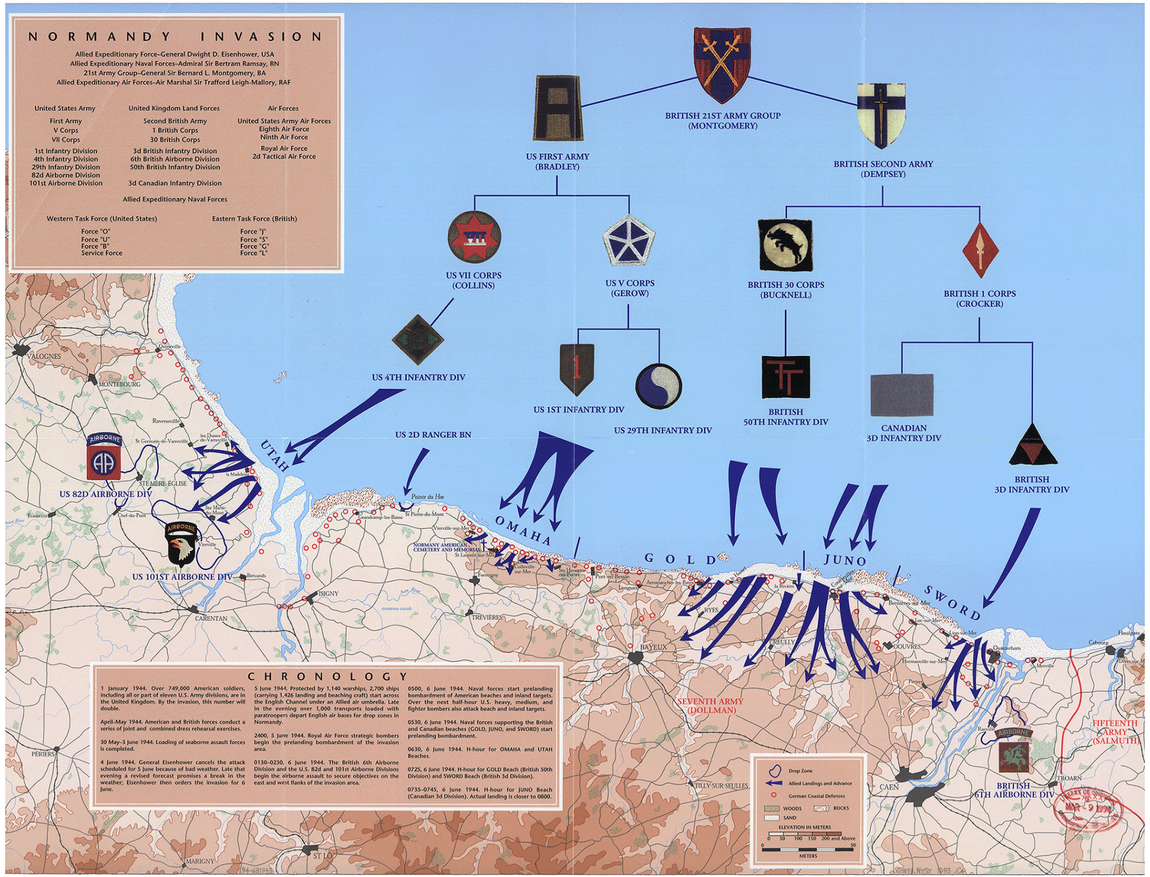
D-Day

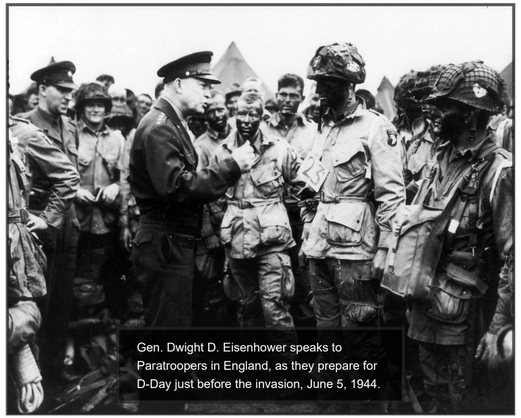


U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Infantry Division, land on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, as one of the first of the Allied landings on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

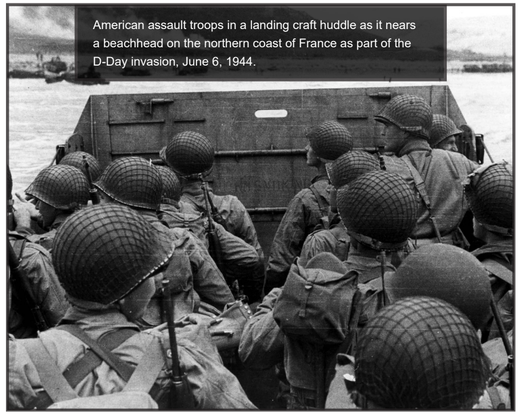
On June 6, 1944, with Allied forces pushing into southern Europe, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, on the beaches of Normandy, France. Commanding general Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower would call the operation a crusade in which “we will accept nothing less than full victory.” More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day’s end, the allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe. V Corps troops from 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions were among the first to make the assault.

Considered the largest invasion in history, the cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the push across Europe on the western front and secure an Allied victory a year later.





Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower speaks to Paratroopers in England, as they prepare for D-Day just before the invasion, June 5, 1944.



American assault troops in a landing craft huddle as it nears a beachhead on the northern coast of France as part of the D-Day invasion, June 6, 1944.



U.S. Army Paratroopers with 101st Airborne Division receive final instructions before embarking for Normandy, France, to begin the largest invasion in history, 1944.



Allied forces relieve U.S. Army Rangers after they overtook the German stronghold at Pointe Du Hoc, France, as part of the D-Day invasion, 1944.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. ~~By it, we shall bring~~ about, In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, the destruction of the German war machine, the ~~elimination~~ ~~overthrow~~ of Nazi tyranny, and the liberation of ~~the~~ oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. ~~You may expect him to~~ fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since ~~their~~ Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. ~~We and our allies~~ have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. ~~We shall do it again~~. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching to Victory!

The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere go with you. ~~You will not fail them.~~

I have full confidence in your courage, ~~hardihood~~ and skill in battle. We ~~can~~, and ~~we~~ will ~~win~~ ~~accept~~ nothing less than full victory!

Good Luck! And ~~may~~ the blessing of Almighty God ~~rest~~ upon ~~us~~ this great and noble undertaking.

Notes in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's hand appear on a draft of his D-Day message intended to inspire Allied Expeditionary Forces ahead of the D-Day invasion, June 5, 1944.

Authority Guidelines Apr Continued Declassification 7/31/72
By ~~GHH~~ ..... NLE DATE 1/24/73
NARS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

A copy of the final letter presented to Allied Expeditionary Forces from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944 ! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned ! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory !

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory !

Good Luck ! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower



A painting titled First Wave at Omaha Beach: The Ordeal of the Blue and Gray by Ken Riley, depicts the first surge of assault troops in Normandy, France, June 6, 1944.



A painting by military artist Joseph Gary Sheahan of the Allied invasion of France captures a scene on Utah Beach, Normandy, France on June 6, 1944.



The successful Allied landings at Normandy on June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the end for the German occupation of France. Artist Joseph Gary Sheahan paints the chaos and uncertainty of the first moments of landings on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, from his perspective from one of the supporting warships, 1944.

~~TOP SECRET~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

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INCOMING MESSAGE

SHAEF CP — SHAEF 83/06
Filed 060800B June — TOR 060930B June

URGENT

FROM : SHAEF COMMAND POST, PERSONAL FROM GENERAL EISENHOWER
TO : AGWAR-TO GENERAL MARSHALL FOR HIS EYES ONLY; SHAEF FOR INFORMATION
REF NO : 90016, 6 June 1944

Local time is now 8 in the morning.

I have as yet no information concerning the actual landings nor of our progress through beach obstacles. Commnique will not be issued until we have word that leading ground troops are actually ashore.

All preliminary reports are satisfactory. Airborne formations apparently landed in good order with losses out of approximately 1250 airplanes participating about 30. Preliminary bombings by air went off as scheduled. Navy reports sweeping some mines, but so far as is known channels are clear and operation proceeding as planned. In early morning hours reaction from shore batteries was sufficiently light that some of the naval spotting planes have returned awaiting call.

The weather yesterday which was original date selected was impossible all along the target coast. Today conditions are vastly improved both by sea and air and we have the prospect of at least reasonably favorable weather for the next several days.

Yesterday, I visited British troops about to embark and last night saw a great portion of a United States airborne division just prior to its takeoff. The enthusiasm, toughness and obvious fitness of every single man were high and the light of battle was in their eyes.

I will keep you informed.

DISTRIBUTION:
1. SUPREME COMMANDER
2. CHIEF OF STAFF
3. SGS
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174

Supreme Allied Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower transmits a report on the D-Day operations to Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall in Washington, D.C. at 8 a.m., on June 6, 1944.

Snapshot: Celebrity Soldiers in the European Theater



Pfc. Mickey Rooney imitates Hollywood actors for an audience of Infantrymen of 44th Division in Kist, Germany, April 13, 1945.



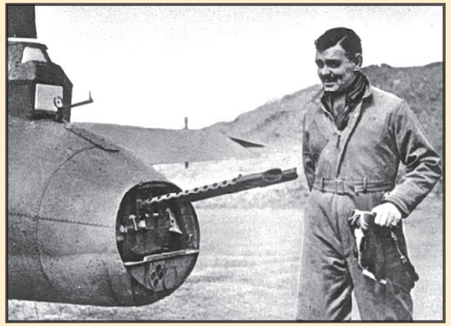
Pvt. Elvis Presley poses in front of a tank at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Grafenwoehr, Germany, 1958. “The King” participated in NATO exercise Winter Shield while serving with 3rd Armored Division.

Lt. Gen. Valin, Chief of Staff, French Air Force, awards the Croix De Guerre to Col. Jimmy Stewart for exceptional services in the liberation, 1944.





Sgt. Daniel Inouye pulls security as a 442nd Regimental Combat Team squad Leader in France, 1944. Inouye would later earn a battlefield commision to first lieutenant, and eventually command his unit as a captain. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during WWII, which was later upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2000. After the war, Inouye served as U.S. Senator representing Hawaii.



Clark Gable poses next to an VIII Bomber Command, U.S. Army Air Force Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress in England, 1943. Gable served as an aerial gunner during WWII.

Cpl. Mel Brooks poses for a portrait somewhere in Europe, 1944. Before he was a renowned actor and comedian, Brooks served as a combat engineer with 1104th Engineer Combat Battalion, 78th Infantry Division, during the Battle of the Bulge.





Charles Durning poses for a portrait somewhere in Europe, 1944. The actor served as a rifleman with 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division, and was one of the first Soldiers to land at Omaha Beach on D-Day.

1st Lt. Harry S. Truman poses for a portrait, 1918. Before he was President, Truman served as a captain commanding Battery D, 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division, in France during WWI. After the war, he served in the Army Reserve attaining the rank of colonel. In 1948, President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, desegregating the armed forces.



Operation Market Garden



Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, artillery commander of the 101st Airborne Division, gives glider pilots last minute instructions before they takeoff for Operation Market Garden, England, Sept. 18, 1944. Cargo Gliders delivered Soldiers, artillery, jeeps, trailers, bulldozers, medical equipment, and all classes of supply to the battlefield.

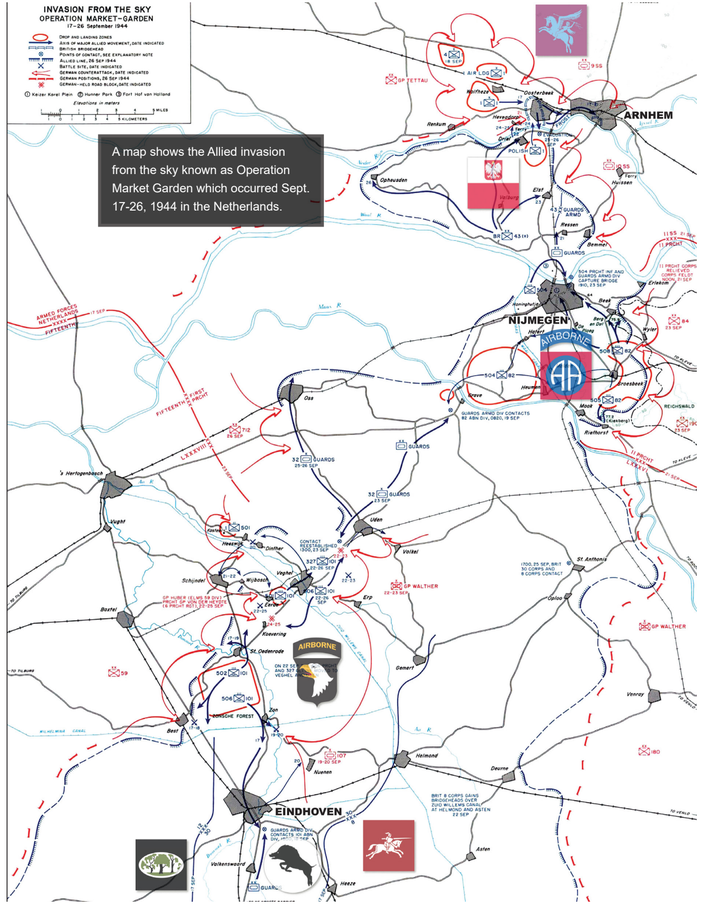


U.S. Army Paratroopers descend from Combat Gliders into pastures near Grave, Netherlands while livestock graze among gliders that landed earlier, September 1944.

With Paris liberated in August 1945, Allied forces continued their drive across the western front, setting their sights on securing the Rhine River as a way to break into Germany. To get there, they would need to first get through the Netherlands.

On Sept. 17, 1944, the allies launched the largest airborne operation in history. Operation Market Garden was a two-pronged air and ground assault composed of British and Polish Forces, along with U.S. 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley called the operation “one of the most imaginative of the war.” However, despite initial successes, the operation ultimately failed. Bridges blown by German forces along the single access road leading to Arnhem, caused critical delays. This allowed the Germans to surround and destroy the British 1st Airborne Division.



A map shows the Allied invasion from the sky known as Operation Market Garden which occurred Sept. 17-26, 1944 in the Netherlands.

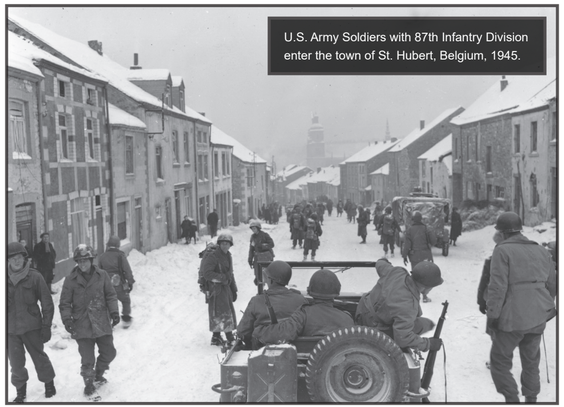


Waves of Allied Paratroopers prepare to land in the Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden, September 1944.

U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division troops survey the wreckage of a glider that landed behind German lines in the Netherlands, September 1944.



Battle of the Bulge



U.S. Army Soldiers with 87th Infantry Division enter the town of St. Hubert, Belgium, 1945.



A U.S. Army Soldier patrols a snow-covered trench during the Battle of the Bulge, Nov. 9, 1944.

In late 1944, with winter fast approaching, U.S. troops continued their assault on the western front into the Ardennes—a region of dense forest spread out between Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. Then, on Dec. 16, the German Army launched a counteroffensive that was intended to cut through the Allied forces as a last-ditch effort to quell the invasion. The battle that ensued became known as the Battle of the Bulge and would last until Jan. 25, 1945.

Adolf Hitler sent a quarter of a million troops into an 85-mile stretch of the Allied front in the dead of winter. More than 76,000 American Soldiers were killed, wounded or captured.

Despite this, U.S. troops and their allies were ultimately able to hold their ground through the assault and outlast their foes, who burned the last of their resources during the campaign.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 290th Infantry Regiment fight in fresh snowfall near Amonines, Belgium, Jan. 4, 1945.

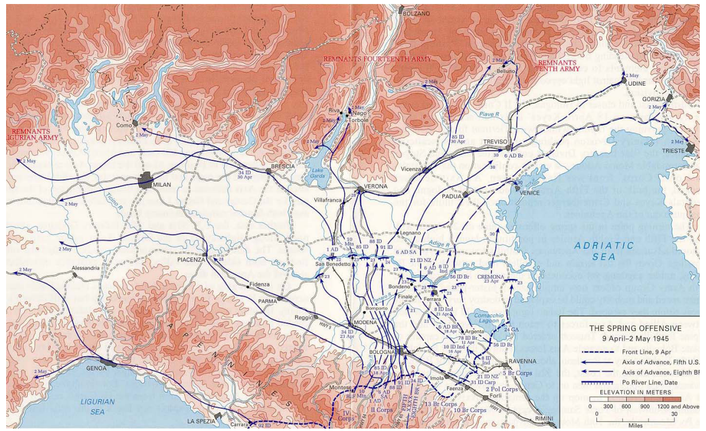


Troops of 101st Airborne Division watch C-47's drop supplies in Bastogne, Belgium, Dec. 26, 1944.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 347th Infantry Regiment get "chow" before they head-out for La Roche, Belgium, Jan. 13, 1945.

Operation Grapeshot



A map depicts Operation Grapeshot, also known as the Spring offensive, April 9 - May 2, 1945, in Italy. It was the final Allied attack during the Italian Campaign in the final stages of World War II.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 92nd Infantry Division pursue the retreating Germans through the Po Valley, a large geographical feature in Italy, April 1945.

On April 6, 1945, the allies sought to put an end to what little Axis-control remained left in Italy, which remained largely in the northern Apennines. Operation Grapeshot, also known as the Spring Offensive, was the final Allied attack made during the campaign through Italy.

Since 1942, the allies attempted to enter central Europe through Italy, and after their forces softened Axis forces from the west, they made their final push.

Axis powers set up three lines of defense around the Po Valley. The Allied 15th Group Army—which was composed of British Eighth Army and U.S. Fifth Army—carried out a swift attack to force the remaining Axis forces into retreat.

At the time of the operation, U.S. Fifth Army was initially commanded by Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark until he was promoted to commanding general of 15th Army Group. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott Jr. would replace Clark as commanding general of Fifth Army.

Spearheading the offensive was the 442nd and 92nd Infantry Regiments: two segregated units made up of Japanese and African American Soldiers.



Ernie Pyle, a war correspondent, left, speaks with Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr, commanding general of U.S. Army Sixth Corps, in front of Corps Headquarters at Nettuno, Italy, March 26, 1944.



U.S. Army nurses, newly arrived from the U.S., line the rail of their vessel as it pulls into port of Greenock, Scotland, in European Theater of Operations, Aug. 15, 1944.



Two U.S. Army Soldiers pose with shells painted with taunts addressed to German leader Adolf Hitler, March 10, 1945.



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. William Robertson and Russian Army Lt. Alexander Sylvashko, embrace as they meet during patrols, at the American headquarters on the east bank of Germany's Mulde River, April 25, 1944. The encounter coined "the handshake that ended the war" symbolized the historic meeting of the American and Soviet armies near Torgau, Germany, which cut Hitler's forces in half, putting the end of the war in sight.

Victory in Europe



American forces celebrate Germany's unconditional surrender alongside civilians at Piccadilly Circus, London, May 8, 1945.

On May 8, 1945, Victory in Europe was declared. By this time, ETOUSA had two-million troops on the continent. Unlike the American Expeditionary Forces from WWI, the U.S. continued to keep troops in Europe as a way to promote peace and stability for their allies.



This photo shows the Headquarters of United States European Command in Frankfurt, Germany.

Snapshot: Life After the War

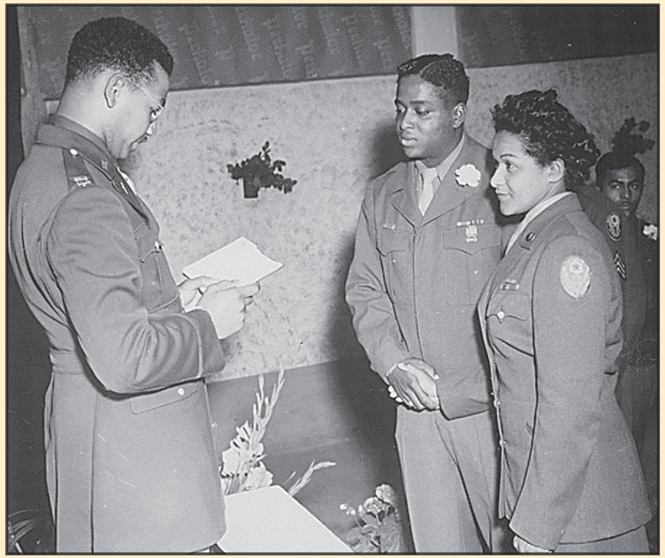


Happy veterans head for the harbor of Le Havre, France, May 25, 1945. After the allies secured the French harbor of Le Havre, the Americans began encircling the city with camps used as staging areas for new and departing troops.

On July 1, 1945, ETOUSA was redesignated U.S. Forces European Theater (USFET), and established its headquarters in Frankfurt. As veterans of the war went home, fresh Soldiers were stationed in Europe to help rebuild Western Germany. On Feb. 15, 1946, when it became clear there would be no further enemy resistance in Germany, the U.S. Constabulary was activated at Bamberg, Germany. Two months later, the first U.S. Army families arrived in Europe. By fall 1946, six American high schools opened in Germany. This would be a precursor to Department of Defense Education Activity. In less than a year, USFET's strength dropped to less than 290,000, which included Third Army and its three infantry divisions, cavalry regiment, and five separate infantry regiments; and the Constabulary with its three brigades of three cavalry regiments each.



Three U.S. Army Soldiers from 3rd Constabulary Regiment consult a map prior to conducting a patrol in Germany, July 5, 1946.



A U.S. Army Chaplain reads the benediction at the marriage of two ETOUSA Soldiers, on Aug. 19, 1945.



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, right, welcomes U.S. President Harry S. Truman, left, to Europe for the Potsdam Conference, July 17, 1945. The conference was the last of the World War II meetings held by the "Big Three" heads of state: Russian Premier Joseph Stalin, United Kingdom Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee, and U.S. President Truman. The conference led to agreements on the German economy, punishment for war crimes, borders, and reparations.

COLD WAR
1947-1989



Berliners watch a U.S. Air Force C-54 Skymaster land at Tempelhof airport, 1948. The planes were nicknamed the Rosinenbomber, or “Candy Bomber,” by children in Berlin since its crews would drop candy. The Berlin Blockade was one of the first major international crises of the Cold War. Western Allied transport aircraft regularly dropped supplies by airlift to West Berlin after the Soviet Union blocked the railway, road, and canal access to the sectors of Berlin under Western control.

1947

Berlin Blockade and Airlift, June 1948.

NATO established, April 1949.

Seventh Army is reactivated at Stuttgart, Germany, Nov. 24, 1950.

U.S. Army NATO established by General Order #46, Dec. 20, 1950.

U.S. European Command established, Aug. 1, 1952.

SETAF activated in Italy, Oct. 25, 1955.

Berlin Crisis, Jun. 4, 1961.

Berlin Wall erected, Aug. 13, 1961.

U.S. and NATO allies hold their largest exercise in Europe, REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany) from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, 1969.

Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen survives a terrorist attack in Heidelberg, Sept. 15, 1981.

The first M1A1 Abrams tanks arrive for trials at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, 1984.

Berlin Wall falls November 1989.

1990

The Cold War

The Cold War was a period of heightened tensions between the superpowers, the Soviet Union and its satellite nations, and the leading western democracies. These tensions began in 1946 when U.S. foreign policy directly opposed the spread of communism. U.S. policy and way-of-life threatened the Soviet Union's strategic aspirations of global expansion.

The Berlin Blockade began June 24, 1948, when the Soviet Union blocked the Western allies' railway and road access to the sectors of Berlin under Allied control. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, in charge of the U.S. Occupation Zone in Germany, gave the order for the Berlin Airlift to aid citizens of the beleaguered city.

Headquartered out of Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the allies supplied almost 9,000 tons per day of supplies to Berlin until the blockade was lifted May 12, 1949. Between 1948 to 1950, the outbreak of hostilities in Korea contributed to heightened East-West tensions in Europe.

The Seventh Army was re-activated at Stuttgart in late November 1950, the V and VII Corps headquarters were organized, and four divisions were moved back to Europe from the U.S. The first to arrive was 4th Infantry Division in May 1951, followed by 2nd Armored Division and 43rd and 28th Infantry Divisions during summer and fall of 1951. A new joint U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) was established Aug. 1, 1952. On that day, the Army headquarters at Heidelberg became Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR).

When Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announced in June 1961, that the Soviet Union was planning to conclude a peace treaty with the East German government, 3,000 East German refugees began to flow into West Berlin.

In August 1961, the Soviets closed the border crossing points and began to construct the Berlin Wall, isolating the three western sectors of the city from East Germany and the Soviet sector. In response, the U.S. deployed additional forces to Europe. USAREUR's strength reached an all-time high of 277,342 in June 1962, as the crisis deepened.

Several changes to headquarters' locations and force strength occurred in the 1960s. In order to continue support to NATO, forces flowed in to Germany as part of an annual exercise known as Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) starting in 1969. The Vietnam Conflict further affected the number of forces in Europe in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Through these fluctuations, planning and exercises maintained USAREUR's ability to deter a communist attack. Additionally, complete divisional equipment sets were pre-positioned in facilities close to strategic locations to expedited the arrival of reinforcing divisions from the Army's active and reserve forces. These units rehearsed their roles annually during REFORGER, which also included forces from NATO countries.

By the late 1980's the Soviet Union's political and economic viability was starting to unravel, making the East Bloc's economic model untenable. In 1989, East Germany collapsed, paving the way for free elections, and market-driven economies in areas formerly under communism.

Complete divisional sets of equipment were pre-positioned in climate-controlled facilities close to airfields and ports to expedite the arrival of reinforcing divisions from the Army's active and reserve forces. These units rehearsed their roles in annual REFORGER exercises, which also included forces from all members of the NATO alliance.



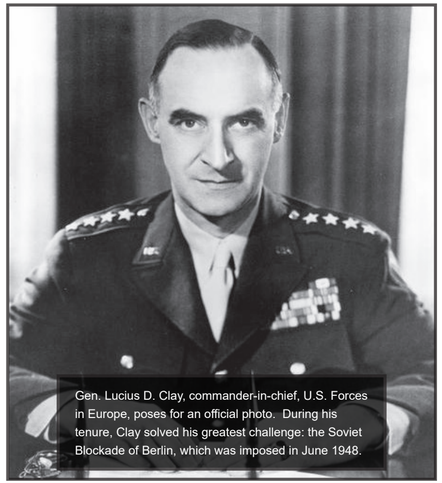
A U.S. Army M60A3 main battle tank with 68th Armor Regiment fires a round during REFORGER '85, Germany, Jan. 28, 1985.

Berlin Blockade and Airlift

On June 24, 1948, the Soviet Union attempted to control all of Berlin by cutting surface traffic to or from the Allied zones. U.S. and British forces responded with the Berlin Airlift, code-named “Operation Vittles,” flying food, fuel, and other supplies to the population of Berlin from airfields at Wiesbaden and Rhein-Main, Germany. The Soviets lifted the blockade on May 12,1949, though airlift missions continued until that September.



A map shows Berlin divided into sectors, each under the control of a different nation, 1949.


Gen. Lucius D. Clay, commander-in-chief, U.S. Forces in Europe, poses for an official photo. During his tenure, Clay solved his greatest challenge: the Soviet Blockade of Berlin, which was imposed in June 1948.

June 5, 1947: U.S. Secretary of State Gen. George C. Marshall announces the Marshall Plan, a comprehensive program to help rebuild postwar Europe.

May 12, 1949: Berlin Blockade Lifted.

June 24, 1948: Berlin Blockade.

1947

1950



U.S. Army Air Force Douglas C-54 Skymasters at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, March 1949.



The first American C-47 planes downloaded supplies at West Berlin's Tempelhof airport, Berlin, Germany, June 26, 1948, to help shuttle supplies to the citizens of Berlin cutoff by the Soviet blockade.



Service members unload planes at Tempelhof Airport, Berlin, Germany, 1948.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

On April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established. The original members include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States. Article V of the treaty lays out the principle of collective defense: the very heart of NATO. Collective defense means that an attack against one NATO ally is considered an attack against all.



Flanked by the President Harry S. Truman and Vice President Alben Barkley, Secretary of State Dean Acheson signs the North Atlantic Treaty, April 4, 1949. The North Atlantic Treaty, also referred to as the Washington Treaty, is the treaty that forms the legal basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

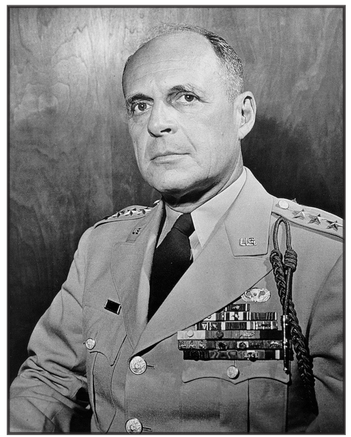


An aerial view of vehicles with 2nd Armored Division, passing through Stuttgart, Germany, in a display of constabulary strength, shows the ravages of war, May 17, 1950.

U.S. European Command

On Aug. 1, 1952, U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) was established at Frankfurt, and European Command was renamed U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR). By the end of 1952, the buildup of U.S. forces reached 252,000.

Since its founding, USEUCOM has participated in or provided support to more than 200 named operations varying from humanitarian and natural disaster relief efforts to peacekeeping, anti-terrorism, and force protection operations across Europe. During the Cold War, USEUCOM focused on preserving peace in Europe. Since then, it has deployed forces to support more than 95 contingency, non-combatant evacuation operations, and humanitarian operations.

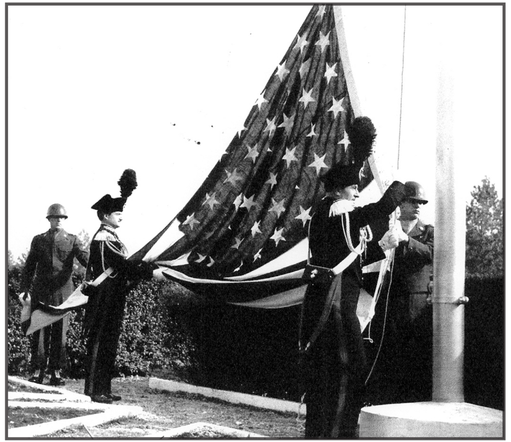


Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway poses as first commanding general of USEUCOM, 1952. Ridgway also led the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Husky.

USEUCOM Establishment ceremony in Frankfurt, Germany, Aug. 1, 1952.



Southern European Task Force



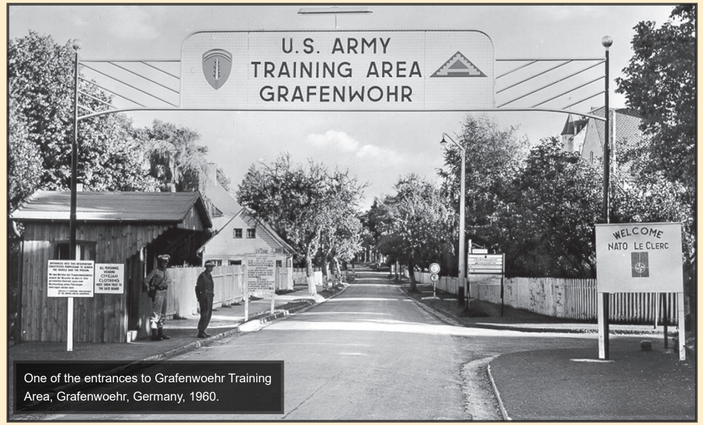
An honor guard raises the American flag during the activation of the Southern European Task Force (SETAF) in Italy, Oct. 25, 1955.

U.S. Army Southern European Task Force (SETAF) was formally activated during a ceremony Oct. 25, 1955. The headquarters, commanded by Maj. Gen. John Michaelis, was temporarily established at Camp Darby, Italy, with units stationed in Vicenza and Verona. Shortly after activation, SETAF moved its headquarters to Verona.

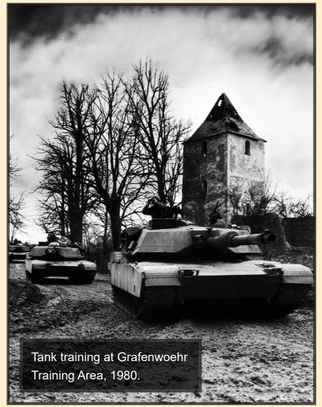
By 1959, an agreement brought significant changes to SETAF, to include assigning Italian Army personnel to the SETAF general staff to assist with unique bi-national responsibilities.

SETAF headquarters moved again in 1965 to Caserma Carlo Ederle, Vicenza. SETAF's mission and geographical area of responsibility increased in 1972 when the command enlarged its signal support unit and took control of two Army Artillery Groups in Greece and Turkey. With the assignment of 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne Battalion Combat Team) in 1973, SETAF accepted the missions of maintaining and deploying the battalion on its own or as part of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force.

Snapshot:
Grafenwoehr Training Area



One of the entrances to Grafenwoehr Training Area, Grafenwoehr, Germany, 1960.



Tank training at Grafenwoehr Training Area, 1980.

More than 100 years ago, the German Third Bavarian Corps headquartered in Nuremberg set out to develop a technologically-advanced training site that could allow large numbers of troops to perform maneuvers. After months of surveying, they set their sights on the region of Grafenwoehr.

In 1908, German Troops and civilians celebrated the completion of Truppenübungsplatz Grafenwöhr: Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA). A massive military complex that rivaled the size of its neighboring city, GTA was outfitted with barracks, a casino, and a rail system.

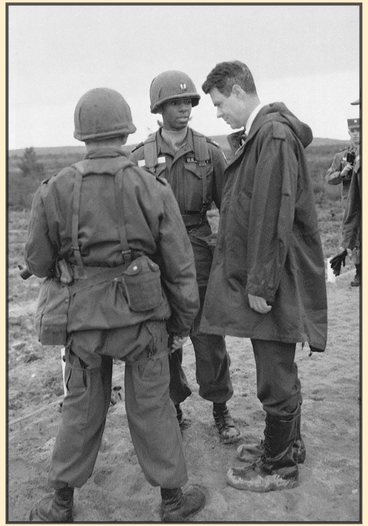
Over the next thirty-seven years, GTA would be a crown jewel to German military training operations. Hitler's forces would perfect the infamous Blitzkrieg strategy at GTA before it was used on enemies.

In early April 1945, U.S. Soldiers from the Third Army captured GTA. Within a year, U.S. forces stationed in West Germany began using the site.

For nearly 50 years, every unit assigned to support operations in Europe trained at GTA. During the Cold War, forces in Europe were a quarter-million strong, and training these Soldiers was a continuous process.

When the Berlin Wall fell, Grafenwoehr Training Area stood as the centerpiece of European Theater Security and Cooperation, allowing leaders to develop and strengthen relationships with friends and partners in the region through multinational training.

Today, the Grafenwoehr Training Area is the U.S. Army's largest and most sophisticated permanent training area in Europe. Its live-fire and maneuver ranges support U.S., NATO and partner-nation live-fire qualifications from small arms to tanks, artillery, aerial gunnery and close air support.



Secretary of the Army Cyrus R. Vance, visits troops at Grafenwoehr Training Area, April 1963



Bavarian 3rd Field Artillery Regiment Band marches through the Grafenwoehr Training Area, 1910.



A M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, assigned to 41st Field Artillery Brigade, launches a M28A2 Reduced Range Practice Rocket at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Oct. 28, 2020.

Berlin Crisis

In August 1961, East Germans, backed by the Soviet Union began building a barrier between West and East Berlin - known as the Berlin Wall - to stave off the looming economic crisis of a mass defections westward. The Wall became the physical demarcation of the 'Iron Curtin' between Eastern Block and Western Europe.

Soviet and American tanks briefly faced-off during the crisis at a crossing point known as Checkpoint Charlie. The tensions were quelled by negotiations between Washington and Moscow, but the physical and ideological barrier continued to divide the city and Germany until 1989.

Mounting economic woes in the Eastern Bloc spurred internal and external calls to open the border. On Nov. 9, 1989, after a beckoning news broadcast announced "the gates in the Wall stand wide open", crowds of East Germans gathered and demanded guards let them through to the West, where Western Berlin citizens awaited with flowers and champagne. The two formerly divided Berlin people joined together celebrating in the streets and atop the Wall. Live breaking newscasts around the globe proclaimed it the night the Wall fell.



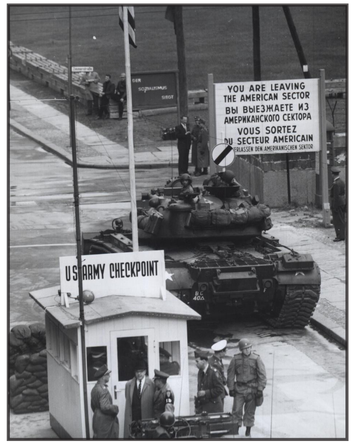
U.S. Army Soldiers stare across the border at Friedrichstrasse crossing, Berlin, August 1961.



Soldiers from U.S. Army Berlin Command face-off against police from East Germany, during one of several standoffs at Checkpoint Charlie, 1961. The checkpoint was the best-known Berlin Wall crossing point between East and West Berlin during the Cold War.

U.S. Army troops escort an American car past the communist police lines at Friedrichstrasse as a demonstration of the right to access East Berlin, Oct. 26, 1961.





U.S. Army tanks were brought up to Friedrichstrasse on Oct. 25, 1961, after two U.S. Army buses were refused entry into East Berlin for a sightseeing tour.

Soldiers from U.S. Army Berlin Command face off against police from the former East Germany during one of several standoffs at Checkpoint Charlie, 1961.





West Berliners gather to welcome a 1,500-Soldier U.S. Army convoy as it rolls past, 1961. The troops joined the 11,000-man garrison already in the long-suffering city.



President John F. Kennedy inspects an American honor guard shortly before his departure from Berlin during his visit, Oct. 26, 1963.

REFORGER

From 1969 to 1993, U.S. and NATO allies held their largest exercise in Europe, known as Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER). The exercise was held annually as a demonstration of the U.S. commitment to Europe's defense and a demonstration of NATO's ability to marshal forces to defend against conflict.



U.S. Army Europe leaders welcome the first troops arriving in Germany for exercise REFORGER I at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, Jan. 6, 1969.



The advance party for exercise REFORGER I arrives at Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany, Jan. 6, 1969.



A member of the 157th Armor operates an M-60 tank during the REFORGER training exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany, July 8, 1978.



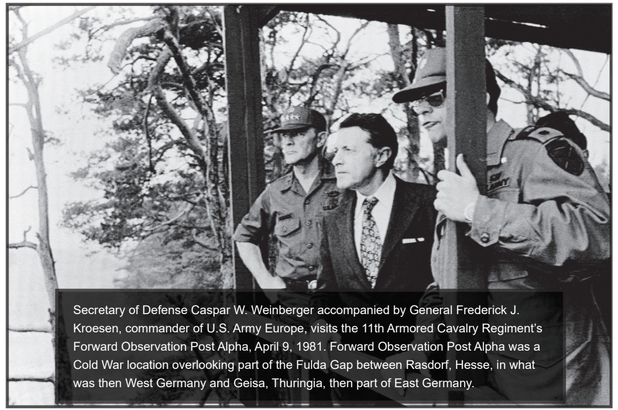
Troops with 82nd Airborne Division pepper the sky as they drop from a C-141 Starlifter aircraft during exercise REFORGER, 1982.



A convoy of M113 Armored Personnel Carriers move through the town of Stockhausen, Germany, during exercise REFORGER, Sept. 28, 1983.



Workers survey the line of M1 Abrams main battle tanks as they arrive by rail at a Prepositioning of Materiel configured in Unit Sets (POMUS) site for cleaning, restoration, and storage at the conclusion of exercise SPEARPOINT '84, a phase of exercise REFORGER, Aug. 15, 1984.



Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger accompanied by General Frederick J. Kroesen, commander of U.S. Army Europe, visits the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Forward Observation Post Alpha, April 9, 1981. Forward Observation Post Alpha was a Cold War location overlooking part of the Fulda Gap between Rasdorf, Hesse, in what was then West Germany and Geisa, Thuringia, then part of East Germany.



A heavy artillery unit sets up encampments in the Bavarian town of Doltsch, in what was then West Germany, as part of exercise REFORGER, Jan. 1, 1986.

Snapshot: Cold War Terrorism

Between the 1970s and 1990s, the Red Army Faction (RAF), a far-left terrorist organization also known as the Baader-Meinhof gang, were linked to a string of attacks across western Europe. RAF members targeted government officials, civilians—and U.S. service members stationed in Allied European countries.

The first attack on U.S. forces happened on May 11, 1972, when a chain of bomb blasts at V Corps headquarters in Frankfurt killed a U.S. Soldier and wounded thirteen people. Less than two weeks later, RAF members would drive two cars with stolen license plates onto Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, and set off fifty-pound bombs, killing three Soldiers and wounding five others.

On June 25, 1979, Gen. Alexander Haig, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, survived an assassination attempt in Mons, Belgium, when his car narrowly missed a mine placed on a bridge. However, Haig wouldn't be the only senior leader targeted by the RAF.

On Sept. 17, 1981, USAREUR commanding general Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen and his wife survived a terrorist attack after their vehicle took a direct hit from a rocket propelled grenade while en route to USAREUR Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany.

Attacks on U.S. Service members continued for several more years. RAF claimed responsibility for attacks until 1993. The organization finally disbanded in 1998.



Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen poses for a portrait as the 25th commanding general of USAREUR, 1979. In 1981, Kroesen and his wife survived a terrorist attack after their vehicle took a direct hit from a rocket propelled grenade in Heidelberg, Germany.

May 12, 1972: The German radical left-wing Red Army Faction, also known as the Baader-Meinhof Gang, detonates a bomb at a U.S. Army barracks in Frankfurt, killing one and wounding 13.

May 24, 1972: Red Army Faction terrorists drive two cars with stolen license plates onto Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg and set off 50-pound bombs in the vehicles, killing three troops and wounding five others.

Jan. 4, 1977: Red Army Faction terrorists bomb Soldier barracks at Giessen, Germany. This was a failed attack, resulting in several RAF member deaths.

June 25, 1979: Gen. Alexander Haig, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, survives an assassination attempt in Mons, Belgium, when his car narrowly misses detonating a mine hidden on a bridge.

Sept. 15, 1981: USAREUR commander Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen and his wife are attacked by terrorists in Heidelberg, Germany.

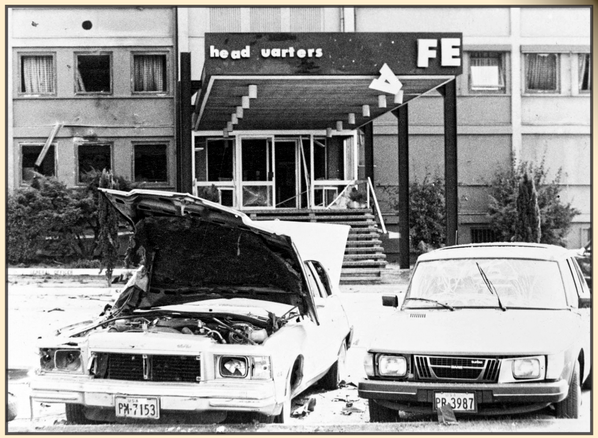
Aug. 8, 1985: Red Army Faction terrorist Birgit Hogefeld lures Spc. Edward Pimental out of a night club in Wiesbaden, Germany. He is shot to death for his identification card, which RAF members use to enter Rhein-Main Air Base the next day to plant a bomb that kills a U.S. airman and a U.S. civilian employee and wounds 23 others.

Nov. 24, 1985: A bombing outside a U.S. military shopping complex in Frankfurt wounds 34 people.

April 5, 1986: Two Soldiers are killed and 79 service members injured by a bomb at a Berlin nightclub.

The Terrace Club behind V Corps headquarters in Frankfurt after it was bombed by members of the terrorists Red Army Faction, in May 1972. In 1982, there were 68 terrorist threats against U.S. Soldiers in Germany.





The entrance to the U.S. Air Force Europe Headquarters building in Ramstein, Germany, after it was bombed by the Red Army terrorist group, on Aug. 31, 1981.

A United Germany

On Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, allowing free travel between East and West Germany for the first time since 1961, and leading to the formal reunification of Germany the following October.

Mounting economic woes in the Eastern Bloc spurred internal and external calls to open the border. After a beckoning news broadcast announced “the gates in the Wall stand wide open”, crowds of East Germans gathered and demanded guards let them through to the West, where Western Berlin citizens awaited with flowers and champagne. The two formerly divided Berlin people joined together celebrating in the streets and atop the Wall. Live breaking newscasts around the globe proclaimed it the night the Wall fell.

With the fall of the wall came the fall of the Soviet Union; the U.S. and its allies had outlasted their communist rival in the east.



People gather near an open section between East and West Germany on Nov. 9, 1989, after mass protests led citizens on both sides to break through the Berlin Wall. The destruction of the physical separation between the two sides of Germany set the stage for the reunification of the country 11 months later.

Germans joined hands on top of the Berlin Wall near the Brandenburg Gate in the days before citizens on both sides used sledgehammers and chisels to break through the physical and symbolic division.



An M1A1 Abrams main battle from 1st Armored Division advances east through northern Kuwait on Feb. 28, 1991, shortly before a cease-fire was declared. Desert Storm marked the first time the M1 was used in combat, and its performance exceeded all expectations.

POST-COLD WAR 1990-2000

1990

2000

Iraq invades Kuwait, August 1990.

VII Corps Elements deploy, November 1990.

"100 Hours War", liberation of Kuwait, February 1991.

SETAF deploys to Iraq for Operation Provide Comfort, March 1991.

VII Corps deactivated, April 15, 1992.

Balkan region descends into brutal ethnic war, June 25, 1991.

USAREUR sends personnel to Zagreb, Croatia, October 1992.

State partnership program begins, 1993.

Joint Task Force Support Hope, July 1994.

Dayton Peace Accords signed, Dec. 14, 1995.

Joint Task Force Guardian Assistance deploys to Rwanda, November 1996.

U.S. Army Europe deploys Task Force Hawk to Albania in support of NATO, March 24, 1999.

NATO deploys Kosovo Force, June 12, 1999.

Post-Cold War

The dramatic events of the late 1980s—the collapse of the Berlin Wall, German reunification, and the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union—changed USAREUR again. Intermediate nuclear weapons were withdrawn, chemical weapons were moved out of Europe, and units began to depart the European continent while others were deactivated.

However, the absence of the Soviet Union destabilized much of Eastern Europe and ethno-political conflict began to ensue in the Balkan Region. USAREUR deployed units for humanitarian and peacekeeping support.

Meanwhile, in August 1990, Iraqi forces began their assault on Kuwait. In response, USAREUR units deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of Desert Shield, the buildup of U.S. and coalition forces. Then, in February 1991, VII Corps, 3rd Armored Division, and 1st infantry Division deployed for Operation Desert Storm, the combat phase of the Gulf War.

After the war ended, about 70,000 Soldiers and their families re-stationed to the U.S. and the command shrank from 213,000 Soldiers in 1990 to 122,000 in 1992. Still, many units remained to provide logistical support to the region. Kurdish refugees began to leave their homes in Northern Iraq, and U.S. Forces, including 12th Combat Aviation Brigade and 18th Military Police Brigade, deployed as part of a humanitarian intervention: Operation Provide Comfort.

Humanitarian operations became a prime USAREUR mission in the years after the Gulf War in Europe and Africa which included: disaster relief, rescue and recovery, peacekeeping, and non-combatant evacuations. Between 1990 and 1993 the command supported 42 deployments:

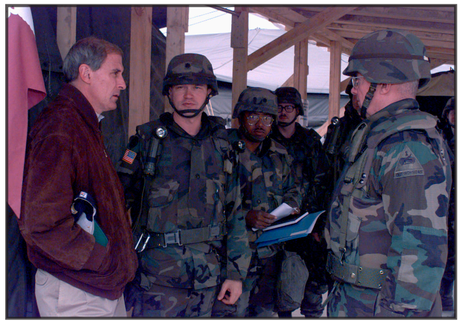
In July 1994, SETAF's 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, deployed to Entebbe, Uganda, as the core staff of Joint Task Force Support Hope, to prevent a humanitarian crisis caused by the civil war in Rwanda.

In 1995, SETAF troops deployed as NATO's Implementation Forces (IFOR), tasked to oversee the implementation of the agreement that ended four years of ethnic and political conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The one-year mission was named Operation Joint Endeavor. Operation Joint Endeavor marked the first commitment of forces in NATO's history, and the first time since World War II that U.S. and Russian Soldiers shared a common mission.

Post-Cold War regional conflicts led to additional humanitarian crises in the Kosovo region. NATO deployed its Kosovo Force (NATO KFOR) as a peacekeeping mission to ensure safety and freedom of movement in the region.



U.S. Army armored vehicles with 1st Armored Division, VII Corps, advance on Iraqi positions during Operation Desert Storm, 1991.



Indiana Senator Dan Coats visits with U.S. Army Soldiers at Camp Bedrock, Bosnia and Herzegovina during Operation Joint Endeavor, April 13, 1996.



U.S. Army aviation mechanics conduct maintenance on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, while deployed to Albania in support of Task Force Hawk, May 5, 1999.

Desert Storm

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The first deployments from USAREUR to Saudi Arabia included the 45th Medical Company and advance elements of the 12th Aviation Brigade.

VII Corps Headquarters, 3rd Armored Division, and 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment also deployed from Germany to the Middle East to take part in the February 1991 ground attack that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

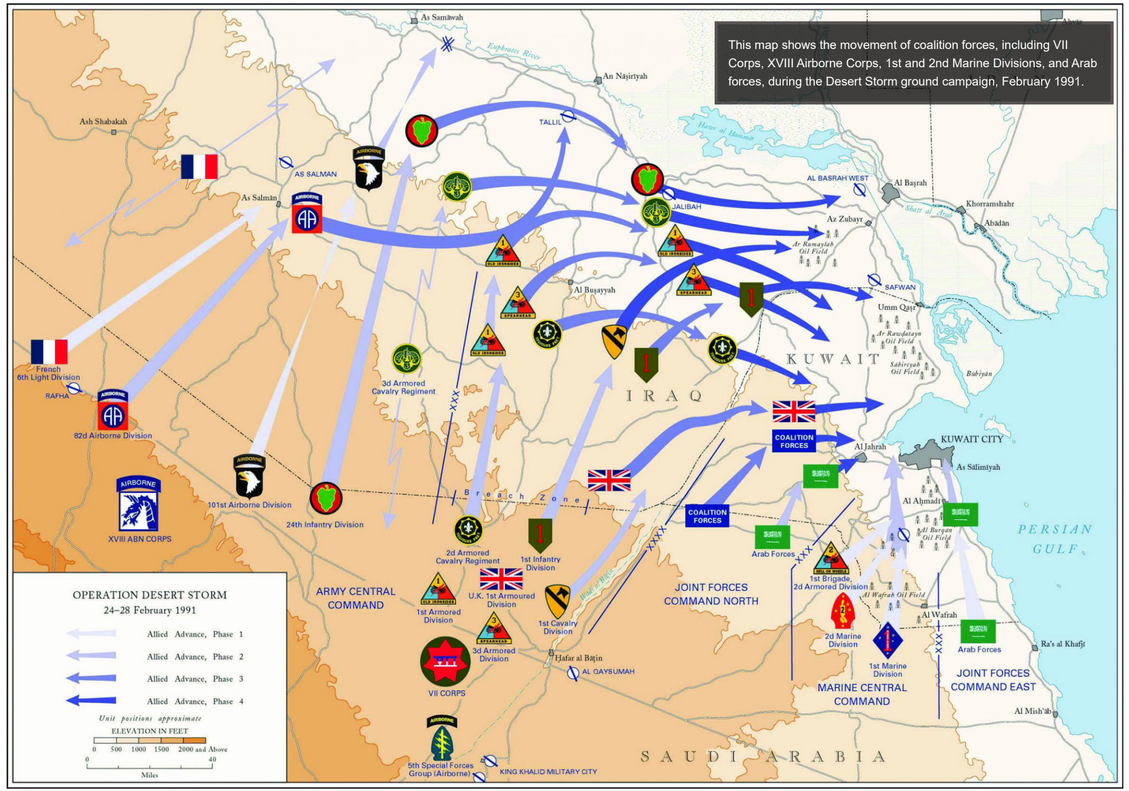
The command eventually deployed more than 75,000 personnel; 1,200 tanks; 1,700 armored combat vehicles; more than 650 pieces of artillery; and more than 325 aircraft. When the war ended, many USAREUR Soldiers remained to complete the logistical cleanup; others were deployed to northern Iraq or Turkey to aid refugees. Upon return to Europe, many also found that their units were in the process of either relocating to the U.S. or deactivating.



A U.S. Army M1A1 Abrams tank with 3rd Armored Division makes its way into Iraq, February 1991.



A U.S. Army Soldier with VII Corps mans an M-60 machine gun from a bunker during Operation Desert Storm, Feb. 11, 1991.



This map shows the movement of coalition forces, including VII Corps, XVIII Airborne Corps, 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions, and Arab forces, during the Desert Storm ground campaign, February 1991.



A portable satellite dish dominates the VII Corps command and control ramp area in the desert in Saudi Arabia, Feb. 11, 1991. A number of technological innovations in communications and navigation, namely Global Positioning System, were first used in Desert Storm.

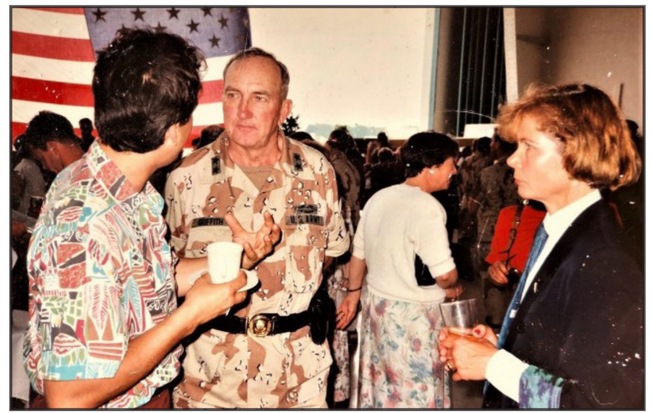


U.S. Army Soldiers with 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment pose for a photo in Saudi Arabia, 1990.



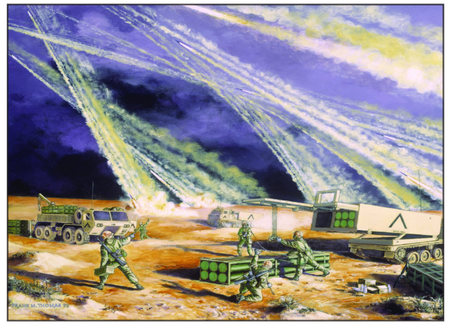
A U.S. Army Soldier disembarks from a UH-60A Black Hawk helicopter during Operation Desert Shield, Dec. 1, 1990.

Maj. Gen. Ronald H. Griffith, 1st Armored Division commanding general, chats with Frauke Davis, chief of government relations, during an event celebrating the homecoming of Soldiers to Ansbach, Germany, May 8, 1991.



A U.S. Army Soldier hosts a special radio show during Desert Storm from Nürnberg, Germany, 1991.





In Steel Rain, by Frank M. Thomas, the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Battalion, assigned to VII Corps Artillery, fires its Multiple-Launch Rocket Systems against Iraqi targets.

Deployed from Germany in late 1990, the U.S. Army's VII Corps provided the decisive blow against Iraqi ground forces in Operation Desert Storm. In Marion Acevedo's 1991 watercolor on paper, The Cavalry Advances, M3 Bradleys from a VII Corps cavalry unit pass by destroyed Iraqi armored vehicles.





A 3rd Armored Division artillery column makes its way inside Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, 1991.



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, Commander of the Joint Task Force supporting Operation Provide Comfort, greets Kurdish citizens at Isikveren, Turkey, June 6, 1991.

Snapshot: Support in Africa

In July 1994, SETAF deployed to Entebbe, Uganda, as the core staff of Joint Task Force Support Hope. A total of 2,100 U. S. military personnel, including SETAF's 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, deployed to the region to help prevent a humanitarian crisis resulting from three overlapping large-scale refugee movements caused by the civil war in Rwanda and a coup attempt in Burundi.

In November 1996, portions of the SETAF-led Joint Task Force Guardian Assistance deployed to Uganda and Rwanda. In March 1997, a SETAF-led JTF headquarters deployed to Brazzaville, Congo, in preparation for the potential evacuation of non-combatants from Zaire. The JTF redeployed in April 1997 upon a peaceful government transition in Zaire.

Operation Support Hope sign, March 8, 1994.





Local children look through the window of a vehicle as an American Soldier smiles in Zaire, Aug.11, 1994.



U.S. Army Soldiers rest at the Kibumba refugee camp, Zaire, Aug. 8, 1994.

A U.S. Army Soldier prepares airdrop relief pallets for refugees of the Rwandan Civil War at Daenner Kaserne, Kaiserslautern, Germany, 1994.





Pallets of relief supplies sit on the ramp at Entebbe International Airport, Uganda, awaiting airlift into Goma, Zaire, Aug. 6, 1994. American flags fly over tents used by U.S. military personnel supporting the humanitarian relief effort for the refugees of the Rwandan Civil War.

Balkan Conflict

From 1990 to 1995, USAREUR conducted humanitarian operations throughout the Balkan region. In October 1992, USAREUR sent the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital and personnel from the 7th Medical Command to Zagreb, Bosnia, to provide medical support for Former-Yugoslavia United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) casualties. From 1993-1995, USAREUR's 5th Quartermaster Company, in conjunction with U.S. Air Force-Europe, delivered humanitarian aid to the region.

In the Former-Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, now North Macedonia the command formed Task Force Able Sentry with a headquarters near the capital, Skopje, in 1993. These forces, along with personnel from 26 other countries, were originally part of UNPROFOR, which in 1995 became the U.N. Preventative Deployment force, deterring the spread of armed conflict. U.S. Soldiers departed Camp Able Sentry in 2002, but it remained as a contractor-operated logistics base until August 2004, when all U.S. personnel departed and NATO assumed control of the camp.

After the Dayton Peace Accords of November 1995,that essentially ended the ethnic and political conflict in the Bosnia and Herzegovina region, USAREUR's 1st Armored Division began deploying forces to the area.

The division, along with many reserve component support troops, formed Task Force Eagle as part of the NATO-led Implementation Force (also known as Operation Joint Endeavor) with the mission to implement and monitor the military aspects of the Dayton accords, enforce the cease-fire, supervise the marking of boundaries, and the zone of separation between the former warring factions, and enforce the withdrawal of the combatants, and the movement of heavy weapons to storage sites. It was the first time a NATO-sponsored force had deployed operationally outside the NATO boundaries.

IFOR was succeeded in December 1996 by a smaller, NATO-led Stabilization Force (Operation Joint Guard) whose mission was to deter renewed hostilities. On June 20, 1998, the mission was renamed Operation Joint Forge, and USAREUR continued to serve as the Army Service Component Command, providing oversight for the mission. On Nov. 24, 2004, Task Force Eagle was officially disestablished and closed its base in Tuzla, with European Union forces assuming responsibility for the mission. In early 1999, in response to growing ethnic tensions in Kosovo and military and paramilitary forces in daily conflict, resulting in more than 1,500 Kosovar-Albanian deaths and 400,000 refugees, USAREUR's 1st Infantry Division formed Task Force Falcon.

On June 9, 1999, after an inconclusive air campaign, Task Force Falcon deployed forces in the largest combined air-rail-sea-road movement since Operation Desert Storm. The force entered Kosovo, June 12, 1999, as part of Operation Joint Guardian, a NATO-led peacekeeping force with a UN mandate to separate warring factions, oversee the withdrawal of Serb forces, and interdict the flow of arms to insurgents.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William L. Nash 1st Armored Division, Commander Task Force Eagle, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley case the Division Colors during the Change of Command Ceremony, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nov. 10, 1996.

Operation Joint Endeavor

On Dec. 31, 1995, the Task Force Eagle makes its entrance from Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina across the Sava River Bridge, a 620-meter span built by USAREUR engineer units that was the longest assault float bridge in military history. Some 20,000 vehicles crossed the bridge before it was disassembled in April 1996. USAREUR remained engaged with TF Eagle until the mission passed to the EU in November 2004.



Gen. George A. Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, second from the left, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, center, and Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Eagle commanding general, meet with U.S. Army Soldiers at Camp McGovern, Bosnia and Herzegovina, during Operation Joint Guard, March 7, 1997.



A U.S. Army Soldier mans his bunker at Task Force Eagle Base, Tuzla Air Base, in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, Jan. 8, 1996.



Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, greets members from the local community, while visiting Kaposvar, Hungary, Jan. 1, 1996.

1992

October 1992: USAREUR sends personnel to Zagreb, Croatia.

December 20, 1995: Task Force Eagle deploys to Bosnia and Herzegovina. SETAF deploys units in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

April 1996: SETAF deploys to Dubrovnik, Croatia.

1997



U.S. Army Soldiers with Task Force Eagle Engineer Brigade unload TNT from a rucksack near checkpoint 130 during Operation Joint Endeavor, April 18, 1996.



A confiscated Serbian Army Armored Personnel Carrier explodes, Oct. 19, 1996.



U.S. Army Soldiers stand guard at the main gate of Camp Dobol, Bosnia and Herzegovina, during Operation Joint Endeavor, Nov. 30, 1996.



Two U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters fly over Air Force and Army air traffic controllers deployed to Rinas Airport in Tirana, Albania, from bases in the U.S. and Europe to coordinate all military aircraft traffic at the airport in support of Joint Task Force Shining Hope and Task Force Hawk, 1999.

U.S. Army Gen. William W. Crouch, Commander-in-Chief United States Army Europe, Seventh Army and Commander NATO Implementation Force presents the first NATO medals for IFOR participation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the U.S. Soldiers who took part in Operation Joint Endeavor, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nov. 10, 1996.



A U.S. Army M1A1 Abrams tank from the 1st Armored Division is one of the first vehicles to cross the newly constructed pontoon bridge over the Sava River. The bridge links Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina and was completed in support of Operation Joint Endeavor, 1996.





A U.S. Army Soldier mans his bunker at Task Force Eagle Base, Tuzla Air Base, in participation of Operation Joint Endeavor, Jan. 8, 1996.



The Bos Gradiska Bridge in Bosnia and Herzegovina under construction, during Operation Joint Endeavor April 7, 1996.



U.S. President William Jefferson Clinton greets troops during his visit to Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jan. 13, 1996.



Two U.S. Army Soldiers talk with Brig. Gen. Stanley F. Cherrie, right, Assistant Deputy Commander-Maneuver, Task Force Eagle, during his visit to the remote signal site Hill 425 in Bosnia and Herzegovina during Operation Joint Endeavor, June 3, 1996.



A U.S. Army Soldier provides an Operation Joint Endeavor update briefing to troops at Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Feb. 9, 1996.



Hungarian Defense Forces Soldiers work to separate a section of the Sava River Bridge during Operation Joint Endeavor, Aug. 18, 1996.



Gen. William Crouch, Commander-In-Chief of USAREUR, left, and Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, commanding general of Task Force Eagle, talk outside of the Division Tactical Operation Center on Tuzla Air Base in Bosnia and Herzegovina during Operation Joint Endeavor, June 12, 1996.

NATO Kosovo Force

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244, which activated a NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) to promote stability in the province of Kosovo, was adopted on June 10, 1999. Shortly thereafter, the first elements of NATO KFOR, entered Kosovo. USAREUR's Task Force Falcon deployed as the main element of KFOR's Multinational Brigade-East, and by June 20, the withdrawal of Serbian forces was complete. KFOR was initially composed of about 50,000 troops from NATO-member and non-NATO countries, under a unified command and control structure. The improved security environment enabled NATO to reduce KFOR troop levels over the next twenty years.

Today, NATO KFOR continues its mission in maintaining a safe and secure environment as mandated by UNSCR 1244. It involves coordination between the UN, European Union, and other international actors, to support the development of a stable and peaceful Kosovo.



U.S. Army Gen. Montgomery Meigs, commanding general of USAREUR, center, meets with British Army Soldiers at Task Force Viking, a Norwegian-British outpost in the 2-6 Infantry Regiment sector of Kosovo, March 26, 2001.



A U.S. Army Soldier readys a tactical satellite communications terminal antenna near the town of Domorovce, Kosovo, August 2000.



A U.S. Army Soldier with NATO KFOR, Nov. 6, 2020.



Soldiers with the Iowa Army National Guard prepare to conduct training at Camp Marechal de Lattre De Tassigny in Kosovo on Dec. 16, 2020.

A U.S. Army Soldier with the Washington Army National Guard, gazes out of a UH-60 Black Hawk during a dynamic hoist lift at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on Jan. 2, 2021.





U.S. Army Soldiers conduct fire phobia training in preperation for KFOR 27, at the Hohenfels Training Area, Hohenfels, Germany, on Feb. 24, 2020.

Snapshot: State Partnership Program

The State Partnership Program (SPP) has been successfully building relationships for over 25 years and now includes 85 partnerships with 93 nations around the globe.

The SPP evolved from a 1991 USEUCOM decision to set up the Joint Contact Team Program in the Baltic Region with Reserve component Soldiers and Airmen. A subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal paired U.S. states with three nations emerging from the former Soviet Bloc and the SPP was born, becoming a key U.S. security cooperation tool, facilitating cooperation across all aspects of international civil-military affairs and encouraging people-to-people ties at the state level.

This cost-effective program is administered by the National Guard Bureau, guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and executed by the state adjutants general in support of combatant commanders and U.S. Chief of Mission security cooperation objectives and Department of Defense policy goals.

Through SPP, the National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency and corollary engagements spanning military, government, economic and social spheres.



A U.S. Army Soldier with the Pennsylvania National Guard, works with combat engineers with the Ghanaian Army at the Coker-Appiah Engineer Training School in Accra, Ghana, May 17, 2012.



U.S. Army Pfc. Thomas Collier, with the Vermont National Guard watches and directs Pfc. Antoine Benjamin Baye Ndong, with the Senegalese Armed Forces, as he operates an excavator at Camp Moussa Diom, Bargny, Senegal, Feb. 17, 2015.



Estonian Air Force pilot goes over the flight instruments of a UH-60 Black hawk helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Edgewood, Md., June 18, 2012.



Serbian Special Forces demonstrate movement in an urban environment for U.S. Army Soldiers with the Ohio National Guard during Exercise Platinum Wolf on South Base, Serbia, June 13, 2017.

21ST CENTURY AND BEYOND



U.S. Army Soldiers with 503rd Infantry Regiment, keep watch during Operation Destined Strike, Chowkay Valley, Kunar Province, Afghanistan Aug. 22, 2007.

2000

September 11 attacks, 2001.

1st Armored Division deploys to Iraq, April 9, 2003.

V Corps forces capture Saddam Hussein, Dec. 14, 2003.

SETAF and 173rd Airborne Brigade deploys in support of Operation Enduring Freedom , February 2005.

U.S. Africa Command established, Oct. 1, 2007.

10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command activated, Oct. 17, 2011.

U.S. Army Africa leads Joint Force Command-United Assistance to combat ebola in West Africa, December 2013.

V Corps deactivated, Sept. 15, 2013.

USAREUR begins Atlantic Resolve rotations, April 2014.

Georgia Defense Readiness Program established, May 1, 2018.

Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine established, July 2015.

NATO Enhanced Forward Presence established, July 2016.

USAREUR-AF supports Operation allies Refuge, August 2021.

DEFENDER-Europe 20 begins, February 2020.

V Corps reactivated, Aug. 14, 2020.

U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa commands consolidate, Oct. 1, 2020.

V Corps HQ (Forward) Established in Poznan, Poland, Nov. 20, 2020.

2022

21st Century and Beyond

Following the September 2001 terrorist attacks, USAREUR became a logistics hub for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2003, USAREUR deployed V Corps elements, 1st Armored Division, 1st Infantry Division, and SETAF's 173rd Airborne Brigade in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers with 173rd Airborne Brigade conducted a parachute assault into Northern Iraq. About 1,000 Paratroopers jumped into Bashur Airfield in a historical and critical mission called Operation Northern Delay. Staff Sgt. Sal Giunta became the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since Vietnam for his actions in Afghanistan with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

By February 2005, both SETAF and the 173rd Airborne Brigade were deployed to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of Combined Joint Task Force-76.

In May 2007, the 173rd—now designated as an Airborne Brigade Combat Team (ABCT)—deployed to Afghanistan in support of NATO's International Security Assistance Force. The brigade redeployed in the summer of 2008.

In July 2008, SETAF provided command and control for Exercise Immediate Response in the Republic of Georgia.

Between 2006 and 2013, many changes came to USAREUR's command structure. 1st Infantry Division moved to Fort Riley, Kansas, in 2006, and 1st Armored Division moved to Fort Bliss, Texas, in 2011. In 2008, SETAF was named the Army Service Component Command to a new combatant command that was established at Stuttgart a year before. It would eventually be re-designated U.S. Army Africa (USARAF). V Corps was deactivated in 2013.

Meanwhile, from December 2013 to mid-September 2014, the Ebola virus swept through Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, killing thousands and threatening to spread throughout western Africa and beyond. The President of the United States, ordered the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to establish Joint Force Command - United Assistance as part of a unified-action approach to combat the growing Ebola threat. Formed with a core of USARAF Soldiers, Joint Force Command - United Assistance reached a combined strength of 686 personnel before transferring responsibility to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on Oct. 25, 2014.

In April 2014, the DoD's Atlantic Resolve began, and USAREUR has led land-forces efforts ever since. These multinational training and security cooperation activities—taking place in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary—improve interoperability, strengthen relationships, and trust among Allied armies, contribute to regional stability, and demonstrate U.S. commitment to NATO.

USAREUR's relationship with its ally and partner countries continued to grow, with the establishment of Joint Multinational Training Group - Ukraine (JMTG-U) and the Georgia Defense Readiness Program - Training (GDRP-T). The U.S. also served as a framework nation to NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup Poland—with USAREUR overseeing the the U.S. Army component.

In February 2020, USAREUR was at the center of Exercise DEFENDER-Europe 20: the largest deployment of U.S. troops to Europe in over 25 years. However, within a month, Europe saw its first wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The



A U.S. Army Paratrooper assigned to 173rd Airborne Brigade fires a .50 caliber machine gun during a combined arms live-fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Aug. 21, 2019.

command's priorities shifted as it came to the aid of its allies and its own community of U.S. citizens stationed in Europe. The size and scope of DEFENDER-Europe 20 was significantly modified due to the pandemic. The exercise continued through July under conditions designed to mitigate the spread of the virus.

In October 2020, the U.S. Army announced the consolidation of U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa into a new command: U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF). This new command is now the Army Service Component Command for both USEUCOM and USAFRICOM. U.S. Army Africa was re-designated as the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF). The consolidation allows the headquarters to focus on tasks at the strategic-level, while a newly-reactivated V Corps and re-designated SETAF-AF, focus on readiness and interoperability with allies and partners at the operational and tactical levels. With a rotational forward headquarters in Poznan, Poland, V Corps is integral to the planning and synchronization of operations in Europe. SETAF-AF is responsible for all Army operations and assets in Africa and Italy, and maintains direct coordination with USAFRICOM.

War on Terror

Operation Iraqi Freedom:

In October 2002, 12th Aviation Brigade was deployed to Kuwait in anticipation of war with Iraq. With the addition of an attack battalion from 1st Cavalry Division, the 12th Aviation Brigade conducted patrols along the Kuwait-Iraq border until the beginning of the ground war in March. When the invasion began, these units were the first non-Special Operations helicopters to cross the border during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade continued to operate in Iraq until early 2004.

In March 2003, about 1,000 Paratroopers with SETAF's 173rd Airborne Brigade jumped into Bashur Airfield in a historical and critical mission called Operation Northern Delay. That same year, V Corps elements, 1st Infantry Division, and 1st Armored Division also deployed. V Corps established operations at Forward Operating Base Danger, a forward installation centered on the presidential palace of Saddam Hussein, the former dictator of Iraq, until 2004, when it was handed-off to 1st Infantry Division. On Dec. 13, 2003, Soldiers assigned to 4th Infantry Division, V Corps, would participate in the capture of Hussein near Tikrit, during Operation Red Dawn.

Operation Enduring Freedom:

The 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's first contributions to the War on Terror were a joint effort with the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. UH-60 Blackhawks participated in the fleet's Maritime Interdiction Operations, launching from the decks of U.S. Navy ships to conduct aerial surveillance of ships and to carry boarding parties during raids on suspect vessels. On Aug. 11, 2003, NATO took the lead of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, to enable the Afghan government to provide effective security across the country and develop new Afghan security forces. At its height, ISAF was one of the largest coalitions in history, with a force of more than 130,000 troops from fifty-one ally and partner nations—to include support from 173rd Airborne Brigade.



Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commanding general of V Corps, left, visits Col. Dana J.H. Pittard, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqubah, Iraq, Nov. 13, 2004.



Col. Randall Dragon, commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, gives a U.S. Army Soldier a congratulatory handshake during a Combat Infantry Badge ceremony in Tikrit, Iraq, Aug. 29, 2004.



A U.S. Army Soldier with 1st Armored Division, makes his way down the road as a canal burns in Tahwilla, Iraq on July 30, 2008.



Command Sgt. Maj. John Sparks, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, left, talks with CFLCC's senior intelligence officer, Maj. Gen. James Marks, center, and Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, right, CFLCC commanding general, March 2003.



A U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, assigned to 158th Aviation Regiment's Task Force Ready, scans the terrain over Iraq during a mission, 2008.



U.S. Army Paratroopers with 173rd Airborne Brigade prepare to board a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III during Operation Iraqi Freedom, March 26, 2003. Nearly 1,000 "Sky Soldiers" with 173rd Airborne Brigade parachuted from C-17s into the Kurdish-controlled area of northern Iraq. This was the first combat insertion of Paratroopers using a C-17.



Paratroopers with 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, fire an M777A2 cannon during a firing demonstration for ISAF Joint Command, July 12, 2012.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team salute while “Taps” is played during a memorial ceremony for six fallen Soldiers from 978th Military Police Company at Forward Operating Base Airborne in Afghanistan’s Wardak province, July 14, 2012.

A U.S. Army Soldier with Combined Task Force Dragoon, inspects an area of land for hostile forces Aug. 12, 2013 around Forward Operating Base Zangabad, Afghanistan.





U.S. Army Soldiers from 91st Cavalry Regiment, patrol outside of Forward Operating Base Keating in Nuristan province, Afghanistan, March 1, 2008.

Snapshot: One Team, One Fight

During the first two decades of the 21st century, saw major changes to USAREUR's command structure. On July 6, 2006, 1st Infantry Division, which had been headquartered in Germany since the end of WWII, cased its colors at Würzburg, Germany, before reestablishing its headquarters at Fort Riley, Kansas.

On Oct. 1, 2007, U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) established headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, as a new combatant command to oversee the African theater. A year later, SETAF was named the new Army Service Component Command to USAFRICOM and was eventually re-designated as U.S. Army Africa (USARAF).

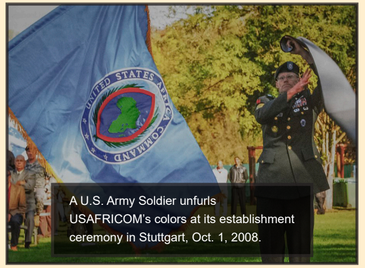
On March 13, 2011, after its return from a year-long deployment to Iraq, 1st Armored Division cased its colors at Wiesbaden and moved its headquarters to Fort Bliss, Texas.

That same year, 10th Air and Missile Defense Command (10th AAMDC) was activated. Headquartered at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Kaiserslautern, Germany, 10th AAMDC is USAREUR's executive agent for all theater air and missile defense operations and force management.

On June 12, 2013, V Corps deactivated during a ceremony in Wiesbaden, Germany, after nearly a century of service—predominately in Europe. It was reactivated in 2020.



SETAF Soldiers make their last jump, Aviano, Italy, Aug. 26, 2008.



A U.S. Army Soldier unfurls USAFRICOM's colors at its establishment ceremony in Stuttgart, Oct. 1, 2008.



1st Armored Division cases its colors in Wiesbaden, March 13, 2011.



V Corps leadership places a Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer on its colors during the unit's deactivation ceremony in Wiesbaden, Germany, June 2013.



1st Infantry Division cases their colors in Würzburg, Germany, July 6, 2006.



U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville, left, and Lt. Gen. John Kolasheskis, commanding general of V Corps, right, unfurl the V Corps colors in Krakow, Poland, Aug. 4, 2020.



1st Infantry Division cases its colors at Wuerzburg and moves to Ft. Riley July 6, 2006.



U.S. Africa Command Established, Oct. 1, 2008.

SETAF joins USAFRICOM, Dec. 9, 2008.

SETAF conducts final airborne operation, Aug. 26, 2008.



1AD cases its colors at Wiesbaden and moves to Ft. Bliss, March 13, 2011.



V Corps deactivates, June 2013.

10th AAMDC activates Oct. 17, 2011.

SETAF re-designated U.S. Army Africa/SETAF, Jan. 2012.

2006

2014

V Corps Forward established, Nov. 20, 2020.

2nd SFAB deployed to Africa to support USARAF, October 2020.

V Corps reactivates, Aug. 4, 2020.

4th SFAB deployed to Europe to support USAREUR-AF, October 2021.

2nd Multi-Domain Task Force activated, Sep. 16, 2021.

56th Artillery Command reactivated, Nov. 8, 2021.

2020

2022

Allies and Partners

Over the last century, the U.S. greatly expanded its network of ally and partner countries—especially in Europe and Africa. The greatest evolution of international cooperation came from the ashes of WWII, with the creation of NATO. In 1949, twelve countries became the original members of the Alliance. Now, more than seventy years later, thirty countries are NATO members. Many additional nations are identified as NATO partners.

Today, USAREUR-AF supports the Alliance and its partnerships through a number a missions inlcuding: by leading the U.S. effort's as a Framework Nation to NATO Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroup Poland; by enabling the NATO KFOR peacekeeping mission; by providing resources needed to train and enhance interoperability with fellow ally and Partner nations through operations like Atlantic Resolve; and by executing exercises like DEFENDER-Europe. USAREUR-AF mentors, advises, and trains forces through the Joint Multinational Training Group - Ukraine (JMTG-U) and the Georgia Defense Readiness Program - Training (GDRP-T).

The command has strengthened relationships through the State Partnership Program (SPP). Established in 1993, SPP pairs a U.S. state's National Guard with the armed forces or equivalent of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship. Over 25 years later, the SPP has fostered seventy-eight partnerships with eighty-four nations around the globe.

USAREUR-AF engages with local, host-nation communities through assets like the U.S. Army Europe and Africa Band & Chorus, which performs in dozens of events around the area of operations every year.

USAREUR-AF remains postured to respond to humanitarian crises as demonstrated during the 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West-Africa, and the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Georgian Member of Parliament Akaki Minashvili meets with Lt. Col. Otto Fiala and Lt. Col. Lawrence Tubbs, members of USEUCOM's Joint Assessment Team, Gori, Georgia, Aug. 25, 2008.



Soldiers with U.S. Army NATO Brigade work to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, at an event in Landstuhl, Germany, Feb. 5, 2018.



Soldiers with the U.S. Army Europe rock band put on an icebreaker performance for Polish nationals ahead of Operation DEFENDER-Europe 20 in Suwalki, Poland, March 2, 2020.



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 173rd Airborne Brigade and Afghan National Police assemble at the Airfield at Forward Operations Base Blessing, Afghanistan on Oct. 22, 2007.



NATO Treaty signed, April 1949.

U.S. Army NATO Brigade Established, Dec. 1949.

REFORGER I, Jan. 1969.

Berlin Wall Falls, Nov. 1989.

State Partnership Program established, 1993.

Operation Joint Endeavor begins, Dec. 1995.

KFOR deploys, 1999.

NATO International Security Assistance Force, 2007.

Atlantic Resolve begins, 2014.

Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine established, 2014.

NATO Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland established, 2016.

DEFENDER-Europe 20 begins, Feb. 2020.

Georgia Defense Response Program established, May 2018.



Decontamination workers with the Tubmanburg Ebola Treatment Unit in Monrovia, Liberia, help patients coming out of the “hot zone,” Sept. 26, 2014. They only work 45 minutes to one hour in the hot zone at a time.



Brig. Gen Daniel Ziankahn Jr., Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, left; Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, USARAF commanding general, center; and Command Sgt. Maj Jeffery Stizel, USARAF Command Sergeant Major, bond with engineers working on the Tubmanburg Ebola Treatment Unit, Oct. 15, 2014.

Maj. Gen Darryl A. Williams, USARAF commanding general and Commander of Joint Forces Command - Operation United Assistance Assistance, left, speaks with Liberian Minister of National Defense Hon. Brownie Samukai, during a tour of a rural village in Liberia Oct. 20, 2014.





A U.S. Marine, left, and U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, right, board a U.S. Osprey after surveying a site for the Ebola Treatment Unit in Barclayville, Liberia, Oct. 11, 2014.

Atlantic Resolve

Since April 2014, the U.S. Army has led the DoD's Atlantic Resolve land efforts by rotating units based in the U.S. to Europe. Approximately 6,000 regionally-allocated Soldiers participate in nine-month Atlantic Resolve rotations. There are four types of U.S. Army Atlantic Resolve rotations – armored, aviation, sustainment task force and division headquarters. Rotational units conduct bilateral, joint, and multinational training events across more than a dozen countries. Atlantic Resolve is funded by the European Deterrence Initiative, which enables the U.S. to enhance deterrence, increase readiness, and support NATO.



A U.S. Army Soldier, with 1st Infantry Division applies camouflage in preparation for movement to the field for the culminating force on force exercise during Combined Resolve XII at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany Aug. 15, 2019.



A U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter flight instructor with 101st Airborne Division, looks out of a window in his helicopter while flying over Germany, Aug. 27, 2020.



An infantryman with 3rd Infantry Division, engages targets with his M240B Machine Gun while conducting battle drills at Pabrade Training Area, Lithuania, Dec. 2, 2015.

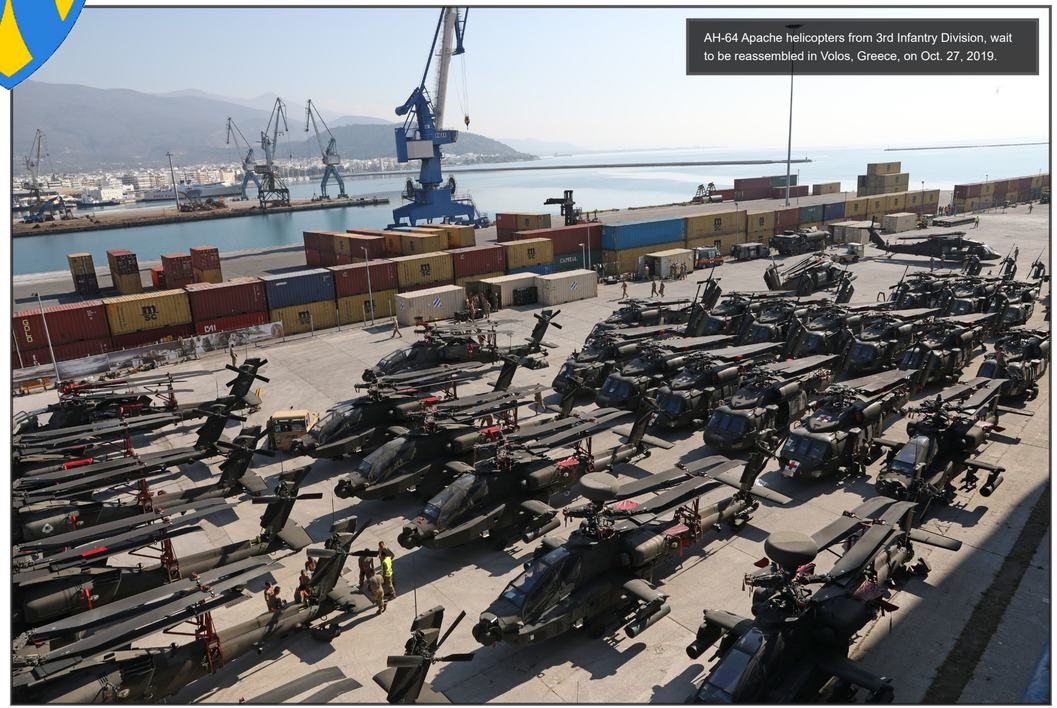


Paratroopers with the Lithuanian Land Forces and 173rd Airborne Brigade parachute into General Silvestras Zukauskas Training Area in Pabrade, Lithuania, during an airborne assault on Nov. 14, 2015.



U.S. Army and Polish Land Forces, ceremoniously break ground signaling the official start of Resolute Castle 20 at Karliki, Poland, Aug. 13, 2020.

Atlantic Resolve is enabled by USAREUR-AF's 21st Theater Sustainment Command. Headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany, 21st TSC executes mission command of operational sustainment across the European theater; conducts Reception, Staging, Onward movement and integration rotational units; sets the Atlantic Resolve joint operation area; executes theater opening, theater distribution, and theater sustainment in support of USEUCOM and NATO operations; and, as directed, executes joint security and support to USAFRICOM operations.



AH-64 Apache helicopters from 3rd Infantry Division, wait to be reassembled in Volos, Greece, on Oct. 27, 2019.



U.S. Army Soldiers from 1st Infantry Division conduct port operations in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in preparation for their redeployment from the nine month Atlantic Resolve rotation, Oct. 15, 2019.



A team of U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Infantry Division, trains at Grafenwöhr, Germany, July 26, 2019.



U.S. Army Soliders with 3rd Infantry Division, fire an M1A2 Main Battle Tank at Tapa Army Base, Estonia, Nov. 13, 2015.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 3rd Infantry Division fire a an M1A2 during a field training exercise in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve at Novo Selo Training Center, Bulgaria, Nov. 17, 2015.



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 3rd Infantry Division, participate in their semi-annual tank platoon live-fire exercise in Smardan, Romania on Aug. 25, 2020.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team train to clear a town alongside Hungarian Armed Forces during Hawk Strike in Hungary on March 3, 2020.



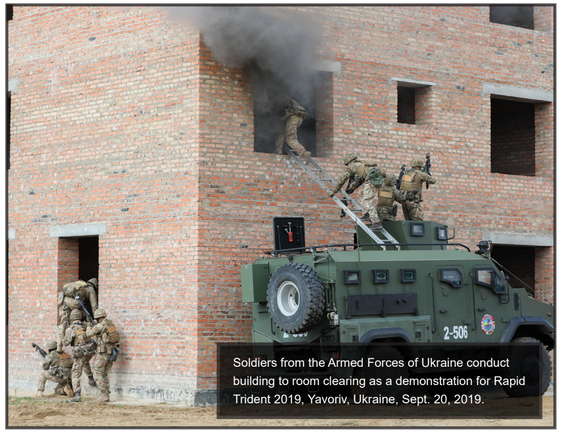
U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Cavalry Division, line up vehicles as they prepare for a live-fire exercise in preparation for Combined Resolve XIII in Grafenwoehr, Germany, Jan. 16, 2020.

Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine

The Joint Multinational Training Group - Ukraine (JMTG-U) mission is to train, equip, and mentor the Ukrainian armed forces. Established in July 2015, 7th Army Training Command (7th ATC) oversees the JMTG-U mission at the Yavoriv Combat Training Center, where assigned units use a “train-the-trainer” approach, enabling Ukrainians to take the lead in training their rotational brigades.



Armed Forces of Ukraine’s 10th Mountain Assault Brigade conduct a defense live-fire exercise as part of their company field training at Combat Training Center-Yavoriv, Ukraine, Sept. 13, 2019.



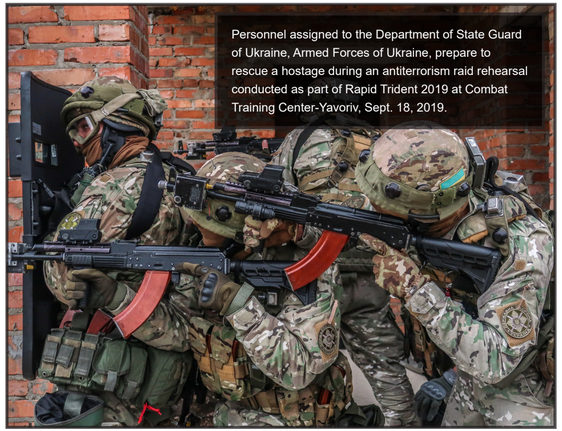
Soldiers from the Armed Forces of Ukraine conduct building to room clearing as a demonstration for Rapid Trident 2019, Yavoriv, Ukraine, Sept. 20, 2019.



Soldiers from the Armed Forces of Ukraine conduct building to room clearing as a demonstration for Rapid Trident 2019, Yavoriv, Ukraine, Sept. 20, 2019.



Armed Forces of Ukraine Soldiers from the special police force traverse a corner during a fire team movement and room clearing demonstration as part of Rapid Trident 2019, near Yavoriv, Ukraine, Sept. 20, 2019.



Personnel assigned to the Department of State Guard of Ukraine, Armed Forces of Ukraine, prepare to rescue a hostage during an antiterrorism raid rehearsal conducted as part of Rapid Trident 2019 at Combat Training Center-Yavoriv, Sept. 18, 2019.



Helicopters with the Armed Forces of Ukraine provide aerial support during a wet gap crossing demonstration as part of Rapid Trident 2019, near Yavoriv, Ukraine, Sept. 20, 2019.

NATO Enhanced Forward Presence

NATO enhanced its forward presence in the eastern part of the Alliance, with four multinational battalion-size battlegroups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, on a rotational basis. The U.S. serves as the framework nation for Battle Group Poland.

These battlegroups, led by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and the United States are robust, multinational, combat-ready forces. They demonstrate the strength of the transatlantic bond and make clear that an attack on one ally would be considered an attack on the whole Alliance.



A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment stands on top of a Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle during the alert, marshal and deploy phase of Bull Run 12 in Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, June 21, 2020.



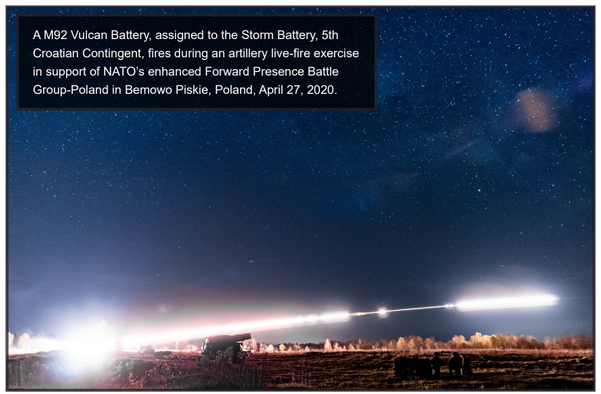
A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment rides in a Stryker infantry carrier vehicle during Bull Run 12 in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, June 21, 2020.



A U.S. Army Soldier, assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment, wields an XM2010 sniper rifle during an assault course in support of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group-Poland in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, April 24, 2020.



British Army Soldiers, assigned to the Legion Troop, C Squadron, also known as the Light Dragoons, conduct a reconnaissance exercise utilizing a U.S. Army Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle-Javelin, assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment, during NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group-Poland mission in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, May 6, 2020.



A M92 Vulcan Battery, assigned to the Storm Battery, 5th Croatian Contingent, fires during an artillery live-fire exercise in support of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group-Poland in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, April 27, 2020.



A medical evacuation Stryker, assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment, stands by during an artillery live-fire exercise in support of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group-Poland in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, April 27, 2020.



U.S. and Romanian Army Soldiers, assigned to the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland, shoot air defense weapons during exercise Oerlikon in Bemowo Piskie, Aug. 28, 2020.



Senior noncommissioned officers from the United Kingdom, Romania, Croatia and the United States, deployed in support of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland, pose for a photo showcasing their combined resolve at the conclusion of the battle group's first ever patching ceremony in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, March 6, 2020.



U.S. Army Sgt. Juan Gonzalez, an infantryman assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment, launches a Puma unmanned aerial vehicle during a live-fire exercise at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, June 2, 2020.



British troops joined U.S. CH-47 Chinook crews for a mission during Dragoon Ready 20 at Hohenfels Training area on Nov. 6, 2019.



A U.S. Army Soldier with 2nd Cavalry Regiment, walks across the finish line during a 12-mile ruck march as part of the testing phase for the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Expert Soldier Badge in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, April 3, 2020.



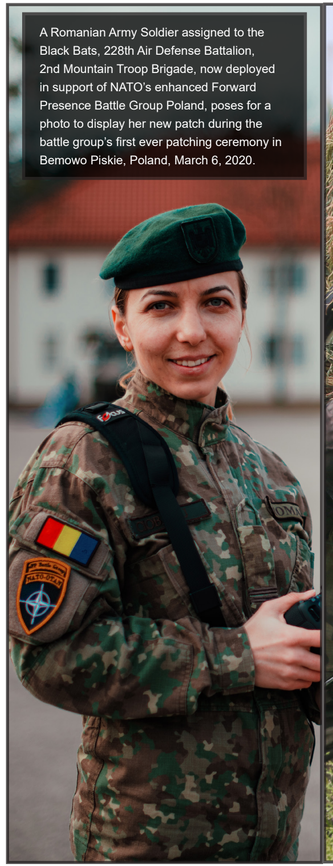
A U.S. Army Soldier with 2nd Cavalry Regiment, secures a simulated casualty as part of the testing phase for the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Expert Soldier Badge in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, April 1, 2020.



A U.S. Army Soldier with 2nd Cavalry Regiment, assembles a M18 Claymore training mine as part of the training phase for the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Expert Soldier Badge in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, March 24, 2020.



A U.S. Army Soldier with 2nd Cavalry Regiment, operates a M2 .50 caliber machine gun as part of preliminary training for the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Expert Soldier Badge in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, March 19, 2020.



A Romanian Army Soldier assigned to the Black Bats, 228th Air Defense Battalion, 2nd Mountain Troop Brigade, now deployed in support of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland, poses for a photo to display her new patch during the battle group's first ever patching ceremony in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, March 6, 2020.



A Polish Land Forces Soldier pulls security during Bull Run 12 near Jaglowo, Poland, June 22, 2020.



A British Soldier, assigned to the Balaklava Troop, C Squadron, also known as the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, holds a security posture while conducting a final attack evaluation during a course designed to instill the fundamentals of leadership at the tactical level in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, March 12, 2020.



A Croatian Army Soldier, assigned to the Storm Battery, 5th Croatian Contingent, applies camouflage face paint as part of the training phase for the Expert Infantryman Badge and the Expert Soldier Badge in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, March 25, 2020.



U.S. Army Soldiers, assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment, conduct door breach demolition qualification training in support of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group-Poland in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, May 14, 2020.

Georgia Defense Readiness Program

Established on May 1, 2018, the Georgian Defense Readiness Program - Training (GDRP-T) is a bilateral U.S.-Georgian training program designed to train Georgian battalions. The Georgian Armed Forces maintains a high-level of training for its international missions and the GDRP-T mission complements Georgia's interoperability as well as strengthens the country's territorial defense capabilities. As USAREUR-AF's premier training command, 7th ATC resources training readiness for all of USAREUR-AF's assigned and allocated forces throughout the USEUCOM area of operations.



A Georgian Defense Force Soldier fires an RPG-7 on an RPG range during Agile Spirit 19, at the Vaziani Training Area, on Aug. 5, 2019.



A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 173rd Airborne Brigade, describes the airborne operation underneath the flags for participating Noble Partner 20 nations' France, Georgia, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States, at Vaziani Training Area, Georgia, Sept. 1, 2020.



A U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopter, with 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, flies over Georgian Armed Forces T-72 tanks and a U.S. Stryker mobile gun system, assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment, at the conclusion of the Noble Partner 18 combined arms live-fire exercise in Vaziani, Georgia, Aug. 15, 2018.



A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 1st Cavalry Division fires an M240B machine gun during a multinational company combined arms live-fire event in support of the Georgia Defense Readiness Program at the Vaziani Training Area in Georgia, Dec. 5, 2018.



A 2nd Cavalry Regiment Stryker mobile gun system provides fire support during the Noble Partner 18 combined arms live-fire exercise in Vaziani, Georgia, Aug. 5, 2018.



Georgia National Guardsmen detonate a demolition charge to clear a wire obstacle at a live demolition training range during Noble Partner 20, Sept. 14, 2020.

Snapshot: COVID-19

Committed to ensuring the health and safety of our Soldiers, Civilians, host nation communities, and allies and partners, USAREUR-AF adapted its day to day activities as the number of COVID-19 cases around the world began to rise in 2020. This meant overcoming the challenge of maintaining readiness while adhering to coronavirus mitigation procedures. Some large-scale exercises and operations, like DEFENDER-Europe 20, were modified in size and scope, but the command still maintained its ability to rapidly and effectively deploy and sustain combat credible forces across the theater.

As part of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's Humanitarian Assistance Program, USAREUR-AF also delivered medical supplies and equipment to communities and countries that were most affected by COVID-19, such as the Lombardy Region of Italy.

Once a vaccine became available to DoD personnel in Europe, USAREUR-AF played a key role in its distribution and administration, helping to vaccinate over 90% of the Army community.



A U.S. Army Soldier tests COVID-19 samples as part of a preventative measure during Phase II of DEFENDER-Europe 20, Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, July 15, 2020.



Medical Personnel assigned to the Acute Respiratory Clinic at Hohenfels Training Area, Hohenfels, Germany, shown wearing their Personal Protective Equipment at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe, April 6, 2020.



A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 30th Medical Brigade, tests incoming Soldiers for COVID-19 as part of a preventative measure during Phase II of DEFENDER-Europe 20, Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, July 15, 2020.



U.S. Army Garrison Italy American and Italian leadership stand together and observe a moment of silence for the lives lost in Italy due to the coronavirus on Caserma Ederle in Vincenza, Italy, March 31, 2020. This event was part of a nation-wide observance for the more than 10,000 Italians who lost their lives to the pandemic.

DEFENDER-Europe

DEFENDER-Europe is an annual deployment exercise to build strategic readiness in support of the U.S. National Defense Strategy and NATO deterrence objectives. Announced as the largest deployment of U.S.-based forces to Europe in more than 25 years, the first iteration of the exercise in 2020 was modified in size and scope in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



U.S. Army Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division line up to meet U.S. and Polish dignitaries during a troop engagement at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, in support of DEFENDER-Europe 20, March 11, 2020.



U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, with 7th Mission Support Command, check vehicles once they arrive at Fallingbostel, a former British Army base, 30 miles outside of Bergen-Hohne, Germany, in preparation for DEFENDER-Europe 20 on Feb. 8, 2020.



A U.S. Army Apache Helicopter with 3rd Infantry Division, participates in aerial gunnery at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, April 29, 2020.



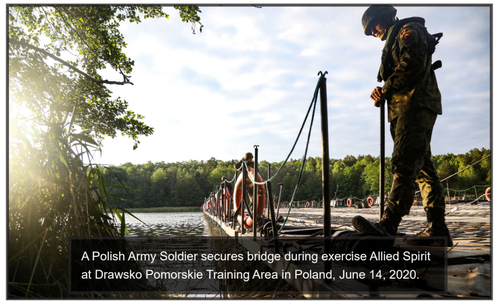
A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to 598th Transportation Brigade, guides an M1A1 Abrams off of the ARC Endurance and onto the port of Bremerhaven, Germany, officially moving the first piece of U.S. shipped equipment that will be used in Defender Europe, Feb. 20th, 2020.



Polish Army Soldiers cross a river in a Rosomak Armored Personnel Carrier at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, June 10, 2020.



U.S. Army Soldiers dismount a Swimming Self-Propelled Carrier PTS to move towards an objective at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, June 13, 2020.



A Polish Army Soldier secures bridge during exercise Allied Spirit at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in Poland, June 14, 2020.



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 6th Cavalry Regiment provide support by fire during exercise Allied Spirit at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in Poland, June 10, 2020.



Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, right; Brig Gen. Christopher Norrie, commanding general of 7th ATC, center; and Brig. Gen. Brett G. Sylvia, commanding general of1st Cavalry Division Forward, converse during exercise Allied Spirit at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, June 16, 2020.



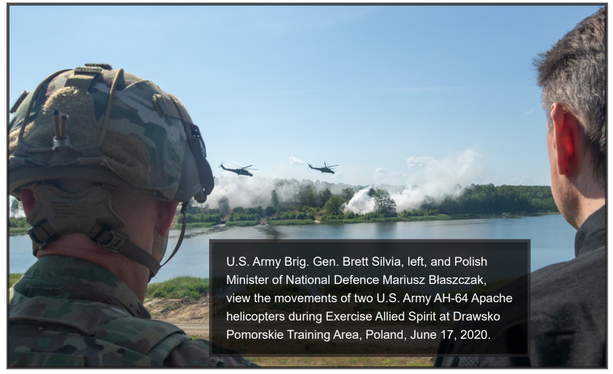
U.S. Army Soldiers with 6th Cavalry Regiment cross a river to reach an objective during exercise Allied Spirit at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in Poland, June 10, 2020.



A U.S. Army Soldier observes a combined arms live-fire exercise at the Bucierz Range as part of Phase II of DEFENDER-Europe 20, Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, Aug. 10, 2020.



Polish Land Forces and U.S. Army tanks are staged at the Bucierz Range in preparation of Phase II of DEFENDER-Europe 20, at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, Aug. 11, 2020.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Brett Silvia, left, and Polish Minister of National Defence Mariusz Błaszczak, view the movements of two U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopters during Exercise Allied Spirit at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, June 17, 2020.

Snapshot: U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa Commands Consolidate

On Oct. 1, 2020, the U.S. Army consolidated U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa into a new command: U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF). This new command is the Army Service Component Command for both USEUCOM and U.S. Africa Command. U.S. Army Africa was re-designated as the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa (SETAF-AF). The consolidation allows the headquarters to focus on tasks at the strategic-level, while the reactivated V Corps and re-designated SETAF-AF focus on readiness and interoperability with allies and partners at the operational and tactical levels. With a rotational forward headquarters in Poznan, Poland, V Corps plans and synchronizes operations in Europe, while SETAF-AF focuses on all Army operations and assets in Africa and Italy, and maintains direct coordination with USAFRICOM.



African Lion

African Lion is USAFRICOM's premier, joint multinational exercise in Morocco, with related activities in Tunisia, Senegal, and Italy.

In 2021, African Lion was linked to the DEFENDER-Europe exercise series to counter malign activity in North Africa and Southern Europe, and increase interoperability with international partners. U.S. Army's SETAF-AF established a combined joint task force headquarters, integrating USAFRICOM components and international partners to solve a complex, trans-regional crisis. Almost 4,000 U.S. service members joined more than 4,000 troops from Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Brazil, and other ally and Partner countries—making it one of USAFRICOM's largest exercises to date.



Royal Moroccan Armed Forces practice fast rope insertion training during Exercise African Lion 21 in Tifnit, Morocco, June 14, 2021.



Military planners gather in Agadir, Morocco, Oct. 28, 2021, to conduct initial coordination for African Lion 22.





U.S. Soldiers, assigned to Utah National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and Royal Moroccan Army Soldiers pose for a group photo after exchanging jump wings at Training Camp Tifnit, Morocco, during Exercise African Lion 21, June 8, 2021.



A U.S Army Paratrooper assigned to Utah National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) prepares for a joint jump with Paratroopers assigned to the Royal Moroccan Army during Exercise African Lion 21 at Ben Guerir Air Base, Morocco, June 10, 2021.



U.S Army Paratroopers assigned to Utah National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and Royal Moroccan Army Paratroopers prepare for a joint jump during Exercise African Lion at Ben Guerir Air Base, Morocco, June 10, 2021.

Security Force Assistance Brigade

U.S. Army Security Assistance Brigades (SFABs) are specialized units that conduct training, advising, assisting, enabling and accompanying operations with allied and partner nations. SFAB Soldiers are highly trained and among the top tactical leaders in the Army. Their work strengthens our allies and partners while supporting each combatant command. They also improve Army readiness by reducing the demand for brigade combat teams to conduct security force assistance operations in each region.

In February 2020, the Department of Defense directed the deployment of elements of 1st SFAB to Africa, from Fort Benning, Ga. This marked the first time an SFAB was allocated to U.S. Africa Command and the first-ever employment of an SFAB on the continent. Later that year, 2nd SFAB, from Fort Bragg, N.C., sent Advisors to conduct support for U.S. Army Africa. As of 2022, Advisors with 2nd SFAB have operated out of Somalia, Djibouti, Tunisia and Senegal.

In October 2021, the U.S. Army announced the deployment of 4th SFAB from Fort Carson, Co., to Europe in support of USAREUR-AF to support and assist U.S. allied and partner nation militaries in the European theater. Today, the 4th SFAB rotations establish sustainable partnerships with Georgian, Latvian, North Macedonian, Polish and Romanian land forces.



A U.S. Army Advisor with 4th SFAB conducts Military Operations on Urban Terrain training for Soldiers with Army of North Macedonia at Jane Sandanski Military Barracks Stip, North Macedonia, December 2021.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lincoln, an Advisor with 2nd SFAB, conducts preliminary marksmanship instruction with Soldiers from the Djiboutian Battalion d'Intervention Rapide, Djibouti, Feb. 9, 2021.



U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Yagmur Saylak, a logistics Advisor with 1st SFAB, teaches a group of Senegalese Soldiers how to complete a vehicle inspection form, March 5, 2020, in Dakar, Senegal.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Rangel, a medical Advisor 2nd SFAB, teaches a class on tactical combat casualty care in Djibouti, Feb. 9, 2021.



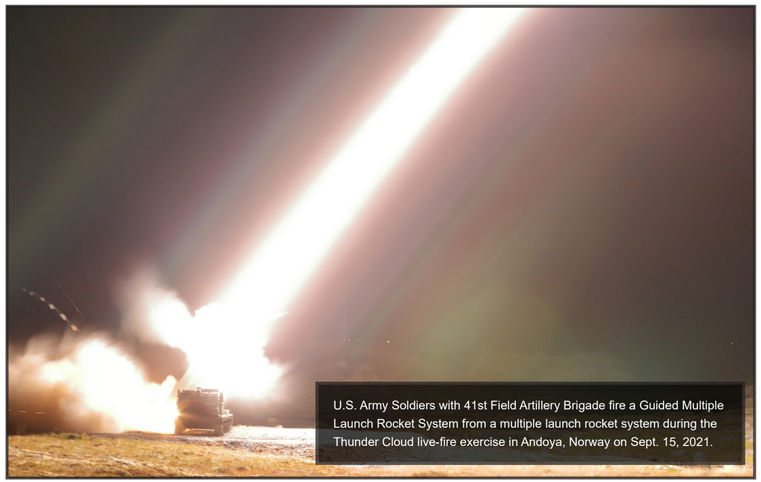
A U.S. Army Advisor with 4th SFAB coaches a Georgian Defense Force Soldier through a scenario training exercise in Georgia, March 2022.

56th Artillery Command

In April 2021, USAREUR-AF announced that it would receive two new units in the coming months: a Multi-Domain Task Force and Theater Fires Command. A Theater Fires Command improves readiness and multinational interoperability by the integration of joint and multinational fires in theater operations and exercises. Multi-domain operations are a U.S. Army operational-level military concept designed to achieve U.S. strategic objectives as outlined in the National Defense Strategy.

As a part of a joint force, a Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) provides additional capabilities for the U.S. Army in preventing conflict, shaping the security environment, and if necessary, prevailing in large-scale ground combat operations. In September 2021, USAREUR-AF activated 2nd MDTF, which comprised of field artillery; composite air and missile defense; intelligence, cyberspace, electronic warfare and space; aviation and a brigade support element.

The 56th Artillery Command conducted a reactivation ceremony on Allen Field, Lucius D. Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden, Germany, Nov. 8, 2021. The unit takes its lineage from the 56th Field Artillery Command, which last served on active duty in Europe from 1986 to 1991 as the Theater's Pershing Missile Headquarters. It deactivated in June 1991 following the signing of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Today, headquartered in Mainz-Kastel, Germany, it coordinates the employment of multi-domain fires and effects in support of USAREUR-AF and a Combined Joint Force Land Component Command.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 41st Field Artillery Brigade fire a Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System from a multiple launch rocket system during the Thunder Cloud live-fire exercise in Andoya, Norway on Sept. 15, 2021.



56th Artillery Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Walls and Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Maranian, commanding general, 56th Artillery Command, uncase the unit's colors during the unit's reactivation ceremony at Allen Field on Clay Kaserne, Nov. 8, 2021.



Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Maranian, commanding general, 56th Artillery Command, gives his remarks during the unit's reactivation ceremony on Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden, Germany, Nov. 8, 2021.



Gen. Christopher Cavoli, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, passes the unit color to Col. Jonathan Byrom, commander of 2nd Multi Domain Task Force, during the 2nd MDTF activation ceremony on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany, Sept. 16, 2021.

Operation Allies Welcome

In August 2021, the President ordered support to the State Department's effort to withdraw American citizens and at-risk Afghans in advance of the August 31 deadline for withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. Evacuees were transported to bases throughout Europe to receive initial screening and care before onward movement to the United States. USAREUR-AF and subordinated commands quickly planned and executed theater-wide support to Operations Allies Refuge—later Operations Allies Welcome. That support, included providing temporary lodging, food, medical screening and treatment and more, while housed at numerous locations including Rhein Ordnance Barracks, Kaiserslautern, Germany.



A U.S. Army Soldier with 21st TSC inspects cots at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Aug. 21, 2021. The 21st Theater Sustainment Command supported the Department of State in the transportation, housing, and sustainment of U.S. citizens, Special Immigrant Visa applicants, and other at-risk Afghans who were evacuated from Afghanistan.



A U.S. Army Soldier with 18th Military Police Brigade provides a helping hand in support of Operation Allies Refuge at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Sept. 2, 2021.



U.S. Army Pfc. Jesus Moreno with 16th Sustainment Brigade, prepares a bed at the Deployment Processing Center on Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Kaiserslautern, Germany Aug. 20, 2021.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 30th Medical Brigade prepare the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine for administration to Afghan evacuees at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Kaiserslautern, Germany, Sept. 18, 2021.

Support to European Partners and Allies

As part of our commitment to upholding the principles of the rules-based international order and to the security of our NATO allies, the U.S. maintains significant combat-capable forces in Europe. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, at the U.S. President's direction and following Secretary Lloyd J. Austin's recommendation, the Department of Defense repositioned certain Europe-based units further east, forward deployed additional U.S.-based units to Europe, and maintained the heightened state of readiness of response forces to meet these commitments. These troops were forward-deployed to deter aggression and if deterrence failed, stand shoulder to shoulder with our allies to defend every inch of NATO territory.



Elements with U.S. Army XVIII Airborne Corps arrive at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Wiesbaden, Germany, Feb. 4, 2022. These are the first of 2,000 Soldiers to arrive in Europe following the Pentagon's announcement of additional forces moving from the U.S. to Europe in support of NATO allies and partners.



A U.S. Army AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter, assigned to 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, prepares for takeoff at Katterbach Army Airfield, Germany, Feb. 15, 2022. Elements of the 12 CAB departed Germany for Lithuania and Latvia to conduct training with NATO allies.



A U.S. Army Soldier with 2nd Cavalry Regiment instructs a Romanian Soldier during a combined arms live fire training exercise at Smardan Training Area, Romania, March 4, 2022.



Polish Soldiers with 21st Rifle Brigade and U.S. Paratroopers with 82nd Airborne Division wait to load a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a multinational training event in Nowa Deba, Poland, Feb. 25, 2022.



Vehicles with 2nd Cavalry Regiment stop after crossing the Latvian border during a tactical road march from Germany that spanned more than 900 miles, as part of Exercise Saber Strike 22, Feb. 26, 2022. Conducted under the command and control of V Corps, the march incorporated more than 150 vehicles and 700 personnel, demonstrating interoperability between the U.S., Latvia, and NATO allies and partners.



U.S. Army Paratroopers with 173rd Airborne Brigade during Exercise Saber Strike 22 at Camp Adazi, Latvia, March 7, 2022.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Robert Burke, deputy commanding general of support, V Corps; left; and Sgt. Maj. Mike Lamkins, operations sergeant major, V Corps; right, unfurls their unit colors during an uncasing ceremony at Barton Barracks, Ansbach, Germany, April 5, 2021. Under U.S. Army Europe and Africa, V Corps retains command and control for all rotational and assigned U.S. Army units in the European Theater and currently has operational control of 1st Infantry Division; 2nd Cavalry Regiment; 12th Combat Aviation Brigade; 41st Field Artillery Brigade; 4th Security Forces Assistance Brigade; and 5-4 Air Defense Artillery Brigade.



U.S. Soldiers with 3rd Infantry Division, conduct range estimation and target detection at Grafenwoehr Training area, Germany, March 23, 2022.

Honoring the Past, Securing the Future

With a history that dates back eight decades, USAREUR-AF regularly pays tribute to the Soldiers, Civilians, and allies who helped make the command into what it is today. Annually, USAREUR-AF commemorates the anniversaries of events like D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, Operation Market Garden, and many others. The command does this to honor the veterans of the “Greatest Generation” and their family members; showcase the relationship between the U.S. and its allies and partners; highlight the historical contributions made by units across the U.S. Army; and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. In this way, USAREUR-AF demonstrates we truly are “Stronger Together.”



U.S Army Paratroopers and a French Paratrooper stand for a group photo after jumping into La Fiere drop zone near Saint-Mere-Eglise, France, June 9, 2019. Over 950 Paratroopers from seven countries participated in a commemorative airborne operation in honor of the 75th anniversary of D-Day.



Right to left: Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper; Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe; and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Scott Howell, commanding general of Joint Special Operations Command, talk to retired Maj. Gen. John Raaen, a WWII veteran with 5th Ranger Battalion, after a ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day at Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, June 5, 2019.



Maj. Gen. Peter B. Andrysiak, Deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, and Marja Verloop, Chargé d’Affaires of U.S. Embassy The Hague, present a wreath in honor of the allies who died during Operation Market Garden at the Waal Crossing Memorial in Nijmegen, Netherlands, Sept. 20, 2021.



U.S. Army Paratroopers with 82nd Airborne Division participate in remembrance ceremonies commemorating the 77th anniversary of Operation Market Garden at Groesbeek, Netherlands, on Sept. 17, 2021.

U.S. Army Paratroopers assigned to 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) learn about Operation Torch (WWII) at the North African American Cemetery in Tunis, Tunisia, March 3, 2022.





U.S. Army Sgt. Peter Wallis, with Installation Management Command – Europe, presents a cake to Meri Mion, April 28, 2021. Mion, 89, of Vicenza, was the guest of honor at a midday event, 77 years after American troops fighting near Vicenza ate the cake made for her thirteenth birthday.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 101st Airborne Division stand outside of Bastogne barracks, Belgium, Dec. 14, 2019.



U.S. Soldiers with 75th Ranger Regiment scale the cliffs like Rangers did during D-DAY at Pointe du Hoc, Normandy, France, June 5, 2019.



Stronger Together!