

Chapter 1 : United States Army Europe - Wikipedia

The military of the United States is deployed in more than countries around the world, with approximately , of its active-duty personnel serving outside the United States and its territories.

Mark Hertling is a national security, intelligence and terrorism analyst for CNN. He served for 37 years in the Army, including three years in combat, and retired as commanding general of US Army Europe and 7th Army. He is the author of "Growing Physician Leaders. I was a new tank lieutenant starting my career with a three-year assignment in US Army Europe. There were , US soldiers on the continent, and our job was patrolling the border fences between West Germany and the Warsaw Pact nations and defending Europe from Soviet aggression. Today the Soviet Union is no more, and the United States has only about a 10th of the permanent fighting force in Europe that it had 42 years ago. Still, the mission of defending against aggression remains a priority -- as is being made clear this weekend by the arrival of the first rotating US brigade in Poland. This is not something that was recently planned. This is, in effect, the final act of a massive, decade-plus transformation of US force presence in Europe. The Berlin Wall comes down In the middle of my second tour in Europe -- November -- I was a major and on "border duty" with a cavalry squadron near the West German-Czechoslovakian border. After months of political upheaval, we heard on the radio of the decision to allow unchecked civilian traffic between East and West. Read More Soon, we were without an official mission US Army Europe would stabilize, but there were still two armored divisions about 20, soldiers, with lots of tanks and related combat power and a corps headquarters. Start of a long war Forward to I had just been assigned to the Pentagon when a plane hit the building. We were at the start of what we did not yet know would be a long war. A number drove the goal: In , I left the Pentagon and joined the 1st Armored Division, a unit based in Europe but that had deployed to conduct the attack on Baghdad. The Army in Europe was in the early throes of transformation to the force designed by Bell, and my job was to train the remaining force, engage and train allied armies, and transform a training center that had been there since Will be lucky for Vladimir Putin? At a Land Combat Exposition in Washington in September , Bell outlined the design of the new force to the rest of the Army and to the press in Washington. Since Bell was dual-hatted as commander of NATO Allied Forces Central Europe, he was concerned the force he was ordered to build would not have the number of soldiers needed to contribute both to NATO missions and engage with and help train new Eastern European armies. The idea was to rotate, rather than permanently assign, a brigade from the United States through two facilities in Eastern Europe; part of the brigade would be in Romania and the other part in Bulgaria. That rotational brigade -- a force of about 4, soldiers with 90 tanks, Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, 18 howitzers, other tracked vehicles, more than trucks and Humvees -- would come to Europe for about nine months, leaving their families and homes in the United States, and at the end of the rotation they would immediately be replaced by another rotational brigade. They would be temporarily "stationed" within chosen countries, and from there would travel to and conduct training with myriad European allies. This would supplement the end-state European force of 24,, and the brigade would show the nations who were our NATO partners and our non-NATO allies that we were still defending the alliances. The transformation efforts were not done in a vacuum. But while often delayed, the transformation continued. In , Bell and I moved to other jobs: We both watched from afar as the transformation of Europe continued. We both wondered whether a rotational brigade would ever deploy to JTF-East. It was a dream job. The command was in its final stages of transformation; the number of soldiers assigned would be closer to 33, rather than the 24, foreseen during the Bush administration; our units were still training for and participating in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan; and we were actively engaging with the armies of 51 countries on the European continent. We were still uncertain about whether or not we would see a rotational brigade return to Europe when we opened the new headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, and then put the last US Abrams tank on a boat back to the United States. Both those actions marked the end of transformation. There were still no indicators the Army and Department of Defense would place an end-to-end rotational brigade in Europe. Now part of something called the European Reassurance Initiative, the brigade is scheduled to train and engage with armies from Romania,

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Bulgaria, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland during its nine-month deployment. While long in the planning stage, the physical presence of this small force is welcomed by all the NATO countries as it reassures them of continued US support of the alliance. One soldier once told me "when tanks are on the ground, America means business."

Chapter 2 : U.S. Military Needs More Troops in Europe in Case of War with Russia, U.S. Army Chief Warns

The Army is considering larger deployments to Europe in the coming years to test its ability to handle more than a brigade's worth of troops and equipment, which would be needed should a crisis.

This article is over 1 year old American soldiers during a welcome ceremony at the Polish-German border in Olszyna, Poland. About 1, of a promised 4, troops arrived in Poland at the start of the week, and a formal ceremony to welcome them is to be held on Saturday. Some people waved and held up American flags as the troops, tanks and heavy armoured vehicles crossed into south-western Poland from Germany, according to Associated Press. But their arrival was not universally applauded. These actions threaten our interests, our security. Especially as it concerns a third party building up its military presence near our borders. Trump, in remarks during the election campaign and since, has sown seeds of doubt over the deployments by suggesting he would rather work with than confront Putin. Mattis, in rhetoric at odds with the president-elect, said the west should recognise the reality that Putin was trying to break Nato. In response, the US and its Nato allies have been steadily increasing air patrols and training exercises in eastern Europe. The move was billed as an attempt to reassure eastern European states who have been calling for the permanent deployment of US troops in the belief that Russia would be less likely to encroach on territory where US troops are present. Peter Cook, the Pentagon press spokesman, said: The US plans to rotate the troops every nine months, so it can argue they are not in breach of the Russian treaty, but effectively there will be a permanent presence. Deployment was originally scheduled for later in the month but a decision was made last month to bring it forward, possibly a move by Barack Obama before he leaves office to try to lock the president-elect into the strategy. The troops from the Third Armor Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, based in Fort Carson, Colorado, along with hundreds of armoured vehicles and tanks, were moved from the US to Germany last week for transit by rail and road to Poland and elsewhere in eastern Europe. The US is sending 87 tanks, and armoured vehicles. Poland map As well as being stationed in Poland, the US troops will fan out across other eastern European states, including Estonia, Bulgaria and Romania. The UK is also contributing to the buildup of Nato forces in eastern Europe. Few at Nato seriously believe that war with Russia is likely but there have been dangerous developments, with escalation on both sides, including a buildup of Russian troops. Russia alarmed Poland and other eastern European states by moving nuclear-capable Iskander-M missiles to its naval base at Kaliningrad in the autumn. At the time Nato regarded the move as a response to its own deployments.

Chapter 3 : Atlantic Resolve

United States Army Europe (USAREUR), formally United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, is an Army Service Component Command of the United States. blog.quintoapp.com is responsible for directing US Army operations throughout the United States European Command Area of Responsibility.

History[edit] World War II[edit] This section includes a list of references , but its sources remain unclear because it has insufficient inline citations. Please help to improve this section by introducing more precise citations. Army operations in parts of Europe from to The term "theater of operations" was defined in the US Army field manuals as "the land and sea areas to be invaded or defended, including areas necessary for administrative activities incident to the military operations". In accordance with the experience of World War I, it was usually conceived of as a large land mass over which continuous operations would take place and was divided into two chief areas-the combat zone, or the area of active fighting, and the Communications Zone , or area required for administration of the theater. As the armies advanced, both these zones and the areas into which they were divided would shift forward to new geographic areas of control. General George Patton was redesignated on 10 July During the fighting, the elements of the Seventh Army killed or captured over , enemy soldiers. General Alexander Patch was assigned as commander and the Army began planning for the invasion of southern France. In March , Lt. Seventh Army then assaulted the German forces in the Vosges Mountains, broke into the Alsatian Plain, and reached the Rhine River after capturing the city of Strasbourg. During the Battle of the Bulge, the Seventh Army extended its flanks to take over much of the Third Army area which allowed the Third to relieve surrounded U. Along with the First French Army , the Seventh went on the offensive in February and eliminated the enemy pocket in the Colmar area. In less than nine months of continuous fighting, the Seventh had advanced over 1, miles and for varying times had commanded 24 American and Allied Divisions, including the 36th, 42nd, 44th, 45th, 63rd, 70th, rd, and th. At the end of the war, the total U. Army strength in Europe was 2. Within a year rapid redeployments had brought the occupation forces down to fewer than , personnel, and many of the larger formations had departed or been inactivated. Seventh Army headquarters remained in control of the western portion of the American zone, and Third Army controlled the eastern portion. In November , the two field army commanders organized district "constabularies" based on cavalry groups, and on 1 May , the zone-wide U. Constabulary headquarters was activated at Bamberg. From then until the early s, the structure of the American occupation forces consisted of the 1st Infantry Division, a separate infantry regiment, and the U. Constabulary of 10 cavalry regiments. Seventh Army was inactivated in March , in Germany, reactivated for a short time at Atlanta, Georgia, and assigned to the Regular Army with headquarters at Vaihingen, Germany, in November Cold War[edit] This section includes a list of references , but its sources remain unclear because it has insufficient inline citations. As noted, on 15 November , U. USAREUR was a nonoperational organization that provides the ground and service commander with the command functions required for administrative and logistical support. To it were assigned all ground and service units in the command except those assigned to the Office of Military Government, United States ; to the Office of the Commander in Chief of European Command; to U. Air Forces Europe ; to the U. Navy, Germany; and to a few exempted War Department agencies. Handy was redesignated Commander-in-Chief, U. Ridgway as commander and Gen. Handy as deputy commander Gen. Handy wore two hats for a while. Even though Allied forces in the city were outnumbered 50â€™1, General Lucius D. Headquartered out of Wiesbaden Army Airfield , the Allies supplied almost 9, tons per day of supplies to the beleaguered city until the blockade was lifted on 12 May From to , the Cold War began to warm, and the outbreak of hostilities in Korea heightened East-West tensions in Europe. Seventh Army was reactivated at Stuttgart in late November Army division sized units in the U. Constabulary, were assigned to the Seventh Army. Army divisions were alerted to move to the U. Occupation Zone of Germany these divisions were known as the augmentation force to the U. A main concern was possible Soviet attempts to "take advantage" due to their numerical superiority in Germany during the Korean War. The first augmentation division to arrive overseas in Germany was the 4th Infantry Division in May , followed by the

2nd Armored Division and the 43rd and 28th Infantry Divisions during summer and fall of 1953. In 1953, the Korean War Armistice was signed, and tensions began to ease in Europe. New equipment fielded at the time included the M48 tank, the M59 armored personnel carrier, and tactical nuclear weapons. As the situation quickly stabilized, all U.S. Although the Korean War "open East-West conflict" had ended, political tensions remained high in Europe. East Germany [the DDR] was considered by many countries over the years to be nothing more than the Soviet Zone of Occupation; this changed in 1949 with the UN recognition of both Germanies. Berlin posed an additional problem; it was surrounded by East Germany, but Great Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union all occupied sectors in the city. In the early years, travel between the sectors was unrestricted. At the time Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev announced in June that the Soviet Union was planning to conclude a peace treaty with the East German government, 3,000 East German refugees flowed daily into Berlin. Suddenly on the night of 12 August 1961, the Soviets closed the border crossing points and began to construct the Berlin Wall, isolating the three western sectors of the city both from East Germany and the Soviet sector, or East Berlin. In response, the United States deployed an additional armored cavalry regiment to Europe, along with additional support units. The command dispatched a reinforced infantry battle group to Berlin to strengthen the existing garrison. The crisis cooled in Berlin from 1961 to 1962, and augmenting forces returned to the United States. Army Europe and Seventh Army. The communications zone headquarters moved from Orleans, France, to Worms, Germany, and later to Kaiserslautern, where as 21st Theater Support Command it remains today. MA3 near Giessen in West Germany. The first Redeployment of Forces from Germany took place in 1962, with the removal of about 28,000 military personnel from Germany. In 1963, efforts to streamline the headquarters resulted in the termination of the U.S. During the 1960s, force protection concerns grew as Palestinian groups brazenly conducted terror operations in Europe, such as the kidnapping of Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics, and the Red Army Faction and the Red Brigades targeted U.S. Army post in Giessen. Kroesen and his wife as they were driving through Heidelberg the automobile trunk lid deflected the RPG-7 anti-tank projectile. And in a bombing at a Berlin disco frequented by service members killed two Soldiers. With increased combat and support components in place, the command undertook a wide-ranging modernization in the decade of the 1960s. Changes of the 1960s [edit] This section includes a list of references, but its sources remain unclear because it has insufficient inline citations. Intermediate nuclear weapons of the 56th Field Artillery Command were withdrawn, chemical weapons were moved out of Europe, and units began to depart the European continent while others were inactivated. Then Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. These were quickly followed by intelligence specialists, chemical warfare experts, logistical personnel, many individual replacements, and finally almost the entire VII Corps. The command eventually deployed more than 75,000 personnel plus 1,000 tanks, 1,000 armored combat vehicles, more than 1,000 pieces of artillery, and more than 1,000 aircraft. Upon their return to Europe, many also found that their units were in the process of either relocating to the Continental United States or inactivating. The command shrank from 1990 to 1991, in VII Corps was inactivated. The command was engaged in humanitarian support operations, to include disaster relief and rescue and recovery, peacekeeping and non-combatant evacuations. Between 1991 and the command supported 42 deployments, which involved a total of 95,000 personnel. Air Forces in Europe, delivered humanitarian aid to the region. Army organization Task Force Sabre, with the task to protect U.S. They were relieved in June by the U.S. Soldiers left Camp Able Sentry in 1995, but it remained as a contractor operated logistics base until Aug. One major barrier to the deployment of the 1st Armored Division was the bridge over the Sava River, which was destroyed during the four-year civil war. Construction of the longest assault float bridge in military history, 1,000 meters long, ribbon float pontoon bridge between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina began on 22 Dec.. Despite melting snow that flooded the river and later, freezing temperatures, the bridge was completed on 31 Dec and the first M1A1 Abrams tank crossed the bridge at 10 a.m. The division, along with many reserve component support troops, formed Task Force Eagle as part of the NATO-led Implementation Force IFOR also known as Operation Joint Endeavor with the mission to implement and monitor the military aspects of the agreement, 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 to their barracks and the movement of heavy weapons to storage sites. IFOR was succeeded in Dec. On 24 November 1995, Task Force Eagle officially

disestablished and closed its base in Tuzla, with European Union forces assuming responsibility for the Bosnia mission. In early , in response to growing ethnic tensions in Kosovo and military and paramilitary forces in daily conflict resulting in the more than 1, Kosovar Albanian deaths and , refugees, USAREUR formed Task Force Falcon, with the 1st Infantry Division as the core element. On 9 June , after an inconclusive air campaign, Task Force Falcon deployed forces in the largest combined air-rail-sea-road movement since Operation Desert Storm, entering Kosovo on 12 June , 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. On 17 February , the Kosovo Assembly declared Kosovo independent. The majority of U. Soldiers come from U. Army National Guard units, with a different state taking over the lead for each rotation of approximately nine months. However, the campaign in Iraq in did. The headquarters of V Corps was deployed to Iraq , as did rd Airborne Brigade , and after the campaign, 1st Armored Division followed for occupation duties. With parts of 1st Infantry Division also deployed in Iraq, and others on peacekeeping duties in the Balkans , Seventh Army was virtually stripped of combat formations. The return of rd Brigade, V Corps and 1st Armored Division in early was followed by the deployment of the rest of 1st Infantry Division for occupation duties. V Corps began a rotational deployment in in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Seventh Army, having been merged with US Army Europe since , remained merged, as was confirmed with the release of unit designations for the modular force in mid . Since that time it was decided that V Corps would deactivate after a final deployment to Afghanistan which is ongoing. Decisions that took effect in stated that the official designation would be Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, United States Army Europe.

Chapter 4 : Where are U.S. active-duty troops deployed?

2, tanks and other US military equipment as well as 4, troops, arrived at the port in Bremerhaven. The new forces will first be moved to Poland, before they are deployed across Eastern Europe as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

The Pentagon announced plans to deploy a tank brigade in Europe in February. Instead, the United States occupies Europe. Not that long ago, Pentagon officials announced plans to deploy 4, troops, tanks and Bradley armored vehicles, self-propelled howitzers and 1, pieces of other wheeled vehicles and trucks in Eastern Europe. American people and equipment will be present in each of these countries, Gen. Word of the day: And do it the old fashion way, like our fore-fathers did it and succeed long before us, because what lies ahead of us will require all the help we can get. Secondly, who is the aggressor? No other country has started so many bloody conflicts all over the world. There is also a very nice American tradition to betray allies, should something go contrary to plans. The Americans prefer to bomb someone and see what happens. They will not die for Europe. The main concern is the Russian-German alliance that targets Asia. Yet, it is possible to end this initiative by bribing politicians and spreading adequate propaganda. Thirdly, if the threat of the Russian aggression is as serious as it is painted, why not increase the military presence immediately? Is the Russian aggression an imaginary threat? Why send tanks to Europe if a nuclear conflict could destroy them in minutes? The occupation is based on principles of the Roman Empire: What if a country of Eastern Europe decides to re-engage with Russia despite the Transatlantic Pact and sanctions? That would be a reason to use American military garrisons. Nobody will dare to utter a word, because US troops in Europe will soon outnumber all European troops combined. With the help of US troops, Poland, Bulgaria and others of the ilk will have the honor to die first in the much-talked about nuclear war. Russia has no territorial or other claims to Europe. However, moving troops to its borders without a good reason for it is a very dangerous game. Russia will not repeat the experience of The USA never sends its troops to places where it smells war – it evacuates them from such places instead. They do not want to mess with North Korea, – Eduard Limonov, writer and political activist told Pravda. The Americans have a plethora of their own problems: Instead, they spend enormous money on other countries. This will stop soon. The Americans will return to their North America, and their interference in global affairs will decrease.

Chapter 5 : Eisenhower assumes command of U.S. troops in Europe - HISTORY

At the same time, a large portion of the American troops in Germany are engaged in the U.S. military's efforts outside Europe and simply base operations in the nation.

Chapter 6 : Should the US permanently station troops in Europe? New US Army Europe chief weighs in

Retired Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling says the idea of rotating a brigade to Eastern Europe, while long in the planning stages, is needed at this time to make clear the United States defends its alliances.

Chapter 7 : Chart: U.S. Military Personnel Deployments by Country

In , the U.S. had more than 62, troops in Europe, according to calculations by the Pew Research Center – down from a quarter-million in the s.

Chapter 8 : More US troops in Europe -- a timely move - CNN

U.S. Military Personnel Deployments by Country k active troops overseas in countries. The Chart of the Week is a weekly Visual Capitalist feature on Fridays.. There was no shortage of cuts proposed in Trump's budget for , which was released earlier this week.

Chapter 9 : First U.S. troops arrive in France - HISTORY

Poland's leaders hold a formal welcome ceremony Saturday in Zagan for the biggest US troop deployment to Europe in decades.