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THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF
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BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

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I. INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Representative Skelton, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the posture of the United States European Command (EUCOM). On behalf of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Department of Defense Civil Servants of EUCOM, and their family members, I want to express our gratitude for your continued support.

This year's hearing marks the third time that I have testified before the Committee as the EUCOM Commander. During my initial appearance I articulated the critical importance of U.S. leadership and engagement as a means to achieve our overarching national security objectives. My experiences over the past two years have reaffirmed the intrinsic value of these principles as we build on the successes of time tested alliances, recognize the benefits of an expanded sphere of influence, and develop new relationships that will bring about greater stability in the world. EUCOM, in concert with the other geographically focused Combatant Commands, is a visible means by which the United States demonstrates its global commitment. At EUCOM, we continually assess our capabilities to ensure that we can prevent conflict and defeat aggression in a complex theater that includes 91 countries, 46 million square miles, 28 percent of the earth's oceans (enclosure 1), and several areas of regional conflict. Our current theater posture directly reflects the wise investments in our security dictated by the realities of 20th Century; however, the 21st Century has presented us all with a markedly different set of challenges which must be addressed.

During subsequent appearances before this committee, I provided my views on the compelling need to transform the command and discussed the scope of this transformation. In September 2004, the President outlined the planned changes to both forces and facilities in the EUCOM Theater. The challenge before us now is to begin to resource and execute this transformation.

With the support of Congress, we have taken initial steps to transform the theater. Our tasks remain to complete the realignment of forces, to divest ourselves of unnecessary facilities, and to establish a more appropriate infrastructure which will allow us to be more responsive throughout the EUCOM area of responsibility (AOR), all while providing a high level of quality of life for our service members and their families. We need your continued support to achieve these objectives.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) remains our most important strategic partnership. The extended period of peace and prosperity in Europe is the result of our engagement in the Alliance. The United States is a direct beneficiary of this stability. The economic, social, and security ties between the United States and the countries of Europe are long-standing and firmly rooted in shared ideals. Just as our presence in Europe since the end of the Second World War helped create the conditions for security, prosperity and multinational cooperation to flourish, it is my firm belief that a transformed U.S. military posture in an expanded NATO alliance can broaden this sphere of stability beyond the borders of "Western Europe." It is a strategic imperative that the United States remain engaged in Europe and maintains its influential role within the NATO framework. We will share in the developing benefits of a transformed alliance that has the political will and sustainable expeditionary military capability to act beyond the traditional boundaries of its member states.

Our history of bringing stability to areas plagued by ethnic and cultural conflict has prepared us to extend our focus to the east and south. Checking the spread of radical fundamentalism in the largely ungoverned spaces in Northern and Central Africa will require patience and sustained effort. Our goal is to assist nations of the region in building and sustaining effective and responsive governments and to develop security structures responsive to emerging democratic governments. Our success depends on maintaining relevant, focused, and complementary security cooperation, tailored to the social, economic, and military realities in both Europe and Africa.

As we work together to improve our capabilities and to advance U.S. policy objectives, we must also recognize that today's complex security environment requires a greater degree of coordination within the U.S. government and with our allies. EUCOM's plan to promote cooperative security relationships, enhance the capacity of foreign partners, and expand cohesion within the interagency team is consistent with the four core pillars (Building Partnerships to Defeat Terrorist Extremism, Defending the Homeland In-Depth, Shaping the Choices of Countries at Strategic Crossroads, Preventing the Acquisition or Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction by Hostile State or Non-State Actors) of the Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review. We must leverage the full spectrum of diplomatic, economic, and military options to advance our national interests and improve our ability to prevent conflict and enhance post-conflict stability.

II. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

As we shift our focus east and south we must continue to adjust the capabilities of our force to enhance our strategic effectiveness, to retain our historical leadership role in NATO to build a reformed and deployable Alliance, and nurture developing relationships. The Global War on Terrorism (GWOT); increasing Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) requirements; instability in Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Caucasus, as well as NATO's expansion and transformation, all shape the direction of EUCOM's ongoing transformation to succeed in not only our traditional mission but also to meet the challenges of irregular, cataclysmic or disruptive threats to our security and freedom.

The new security menace is transnational and characterized by enemies without territory, borders, or fixed bases. Threats include the export and franchising of terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, narco-trafficking, uncontrolled refugee flow, illegal immigration and piracy on the seas. Many of these threats are nurtured in under-governed regions where terrorists and extremist organizations seek new havens from which to recruit and to operate. We are evolving our strategic posture to reflect the new security reality. EUCOM's greatest contribution to security and stability lies as much in preventing conflict as it does in prevailing on the battlefield. This is accomplished through influence, forward presence and engaged leadership. It is sustained only through our enduring and visible presence and commitment in the theater.

Our 21st century center of gravity reflects the continuing importance of the Greater Middle East, the Caucasus, the Levant, and the "ungoverned" regions of North and West Africa. As a result of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, transnational extremists are increasingly denied their former sanctuaries. Subsequently, they are more reliant on leveraging and franchising indigenous and affiliated terrorist groups worldwide. Further, transnational extremists have demonstrated an interest in exploiting areas where nations are already struggling with resource scarcity, weak national institutions, poverty and inexperienced militaries. These regions are defined by endemic imbalances in the distribution of wealth, staggering health problems, fragile political systems, regressive social systems and disenfranchised youth susceptible to the lure of extremism. They contain equal potential for either positive growth, or catastrophic failure.

Europe

The end of the Cold War rapidly and fundamentally altered the landscape of Europe, creating opportunities for new relationships, new partnerships, and new capabilities for confronting new security challenges. We have witnessed an eastward shift in the center of gravity, along with the emergence of an invigorated European Union and a corresponding European Security Defense Policy. All are key developments that influence the scope, direction, and pace of changes to the forward presence of the United States.

The countries of Eastern Europe have emerged from decades of communist domination with a refreshing enthusiasm for the value of full participation in the global community where human rights, the rule of law, and free and open societies can flourish. Their hard won freedoms have provided a unique appreciation of the threat posed by terrorism and extremism on a global scale and their recent participation in our global military operations is reflective of their becoming some of our most stalwart and reliable allies. Many of these nations have already made important contributions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their continued willingness and desire to develop the military capabilities necessary to be fully integrated into NATO is key to preventing Eastern Europe from becoming either a safe haven or transit route to terrorist groups. Collectively, they are important to the forward defense of the U.S. homeland.

NATO's recent expansion has moved the Alliance's influence eastward to match the shifting center of gravity, and underscores the need for EUCOM to change its directional emphasis. EUCOM's forward presence in Eastern Europe increases security cooperation engagement and bolsters NATO's newest members' military capabilities, paving the way for significantly developed future contributions to NATO. Although EUCOM will maintain an important presence in Western Europe, an eastward expansion will concurrently develop our constructive influence with the newer NATO members and allow the United States and our Alliance partners to achieve the goals of the 2002 Prague Summit.

Balkans

The fragmentation of Yugoslavia has produced a multi-faceted and extraordinarily challenging security environment. Certain regions within the Balkans are rife with crime and corruption which exacerbate unresolved, simmering ethnic tensions, as a result of the uneven progression of the establishment of democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Kosovo. Social reforms and reconciliation efforts are taking root unevenly and remain susceptible to ethnic violence and armed conflict.

On the one hand, the military success in Bosnia and Herzegovina has enabled NATO to successfully conclude the Stabilization Force Mission and has allowed the European Union to start a new and distinct mission. There is, however, a continued requirement for U.S. leadership and participation in the NATO mission in Bosnia. Ethnic violence has been halted and re-integration is underway; however, Bosnia faces long-term difficulties associated with narcotics trafficking and the hunt for war criminals. Bosnia's commitment to stability and infrastructure maturity means that our continued presence in Bosnia, even on a reduced but sustained basis, will be necessary.

The situation in Kosovo is more complex and lasting peace remains elusive. Due to the impact of the Balkans on Europe as a whole, the United States must remain committed to the region until political stability is achieved. The near-term goal for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro is gradual integration into the Partnership for Peace Program, conditional on improvement of their cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Albania, Macedonia and Croatia continue to work toward NATO membership.

Caucasus

Although the Caucasus is torn by ethnic conflict and is also plagued with corruption and crime, some parts of the region have made remarkable progress toward democracy and sound governance in the last year. The Caucasus is increasingly important to our interests. Its air corridor has become a crucial lifeline between coalition forces in Afghanistan and our bases in Europe. Caspian oil, carried through the Caucasus, may constitute as much as 25 percent of the world's growth in oil production over the next five years, while Caspian hydrocarbons will diversify Europe's sources of energy. This region is a geographical pivot point in the spread of democracy and free market economies to the states of Central and Southwest Asia.

Russia/Ukraine

As NATO and the European Union continue to assess new members, we must prevent a new line of demarcation from being created on the continent. We seek a Europe that is "whole and free" and which includes Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova as partners for peace and security. We must ensure that they continue their integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures and become full and vital contributors to regional security. EUCOM's military cooperation programs with Russia focus on increasing dialogue with senior Russian commanders and staffs and enhancing the NATO interoperability of Russian units to increase their ability to participate in cooperative operations. The annual French-Russian-United Kingdom-United States (FRUKUS) Joint Task Force exercise, which will be conducted at sea this summer, is an example of this progress. Ukraine is currently a regular contributor to coalition operations. We are working hard to assist Ukraine in meeting the ambitious defense reform goals outlined in its Defense Bulletin 2015 and in enhancing its ability to join future military coalitions through the development of a fully NATO-interoperable Joint Rapid Reaction Force. As Mr. Victor Yushchenko, the newly elected President of Ukraine tackles problems of corruption and accountable governance, it is our hope that democratic and institutional reform will foster continued Euro-Atlantic integration.

Africa

The United States faces strategic options and competition in Africa. According to the 2004 report of the UN Organization for Industrial Development, "Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region of the world where, for the last 20 years, extreme poverty hasn't stopped gaining ground." Continued poverty is but one of the many effects of years of tragic violence and instability in certain regions of Africa.

Violence from numerous crises has created areas of lawlessness that transcend state borders and cause instability. High population growth rates, poor land management, desertification and agricultural disruptions caused by economic shifts, internal conflicts, and refugee influxes are making it increasingly difficult for several countries to feed themselves. This is especially true in Chad, where drought and refugees from the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan have created a humanitarian catastrophe. In many areas of Central Africa, such as the vast interior of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the northern sections of Chad, there is very little military or police presence, and often no central government influence. These

problems, aggravated by difficult terrain and a lack of infrastructure, have allowed smuggling and conflict to flourish.

Fragile democracies are having to combat serious challenges to include security concerns, social pressures, teachings of radical fundamentalism, disease, and criminality that imperil the future hopes for the people of Africa. Again, the broad expanses of ungoverned or poorly governed regions, as well as the proximity and ease of movement to population centers in Europe, are increasingly attractive to transnational terrorists interested in exploiting the region for recruiting, logistics, and safe-havens. The breeding grounds of terrorism and illicit activity on the continent of Africa require our attention at both the national and regional security level.

III. U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND STRATEGY

In a world of uncertainty and unpredictability, EUCOM must have the agility to rapidly respond to a range of threats that were largely unforeseen just a few years ago. Geographically, EUCOM is ideally positioned to disrupt and prevent terrorists from using their lines of communication and methods of resourcing that are crucial to their operations and sustainment.

The ability to rapidly project military power during times of crises or contingencies is the central premise for the forward stationing of forces, and determines their necessary size and capabilities. The presence of such forces either forward based or rotational, and the military capabilities they possess, are powerful instruments of national influence. Forward forces serve to strengthen U.S. diplomacy and foreign policy; signal U.S. commitment to the security of friends and allies; demonstrate the resolve of the United States to meet its commitments; and bolster regional security through theater security cooperation programs. In addition to maintaining our traditional lines of communication and access, we seek access to new facilities and routine freedom of transit to the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Levant, and Africa in order to advance U.S. national interests.

EUCOM's ability to pursue, engage, and win decisively on the modern battlefield requires a highly responsive force which is properly equipped, well trained, and maintained at a high state of readiness. It must be agile, deployable, and sustainable. The investment in these capabilities will allow forces to operate flexibly across a broader portion of our area of responsibility and provide a significant advantage in addressing a volatile world situation.

Strategic Theater Transformation

EUCOM's Strategic Theater Transformation plan is a component of the Department of Defense Global Posture Strategy announced in August 2004. Our objective is to increase strategic effectiveness through the realignment of bases and the improvement of access and force capabilities. In no way should the change in our posture be interpreted as a reduced commitment to the region. It is, rather, a shift to better methods of promoting our interests in today's international security environment.

In previous testimony before this committee, I outlined the eight assumptions (enclosure 2) upon which the EUCOM transformation plan is based. The need to transform is a result of the successful integration of former Warsaw Pact nations into an overall European security framework, recognizes our growing strategic interests, and addresses the new operational requirements of the Global War on Terrorism. These developments have mandated the most significant changes to the U.S. force posture in Europe since EUCOM's founding.

Certain elements of the EUCOM Transformation plan, including force levels, training, access to facilities and protocols to assure freedom of action for our forward forces, continue to be negotiated with host nations. Further, EUCOM's transformation is being synchronized with the efforts of the other combatant commands, the Services, NATO, and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process in the United States. Simultaneous Service transformations will impact unit capability and availability. For example, the modularization of the U.S. Army will change the size, equipment sets, and capabilities of units stationed in Europe and on rotation to the Command. Prepositioned stocks must be transformed to fit the units that might draw them either in a planned rotation or in a crisis.

EUCOM's success hinges on maintaining critical assets and capabilities as both a supported and a supporting combatant command, including mobility; power projection platforms; bases for our operations; Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I); alliances and coalition partners; and theater-based and rotational forces. We will capitalize on our long history of employing expeditionary and rotational forces. Naval Carrier Strike Groups, Expeditionary Strike Groups, and the entire range of Marine Corps forces available to the command are by their very nature rotational. The Air Force has adopted a similar model with the Air Expeditionary Force and the Army's emerging Eastern European Task Force will also use an expeditionary construct which incorporates rotational forces.

Our evaluation of joint, theater, and global infrastructure requirements resulted in a proposed network of four types of facilities: Main Operating Bases (MOB), Forward Operating Sites (FOS); Cooperative Security Locations (CSL); and Prepositioned Sites (PS) (defined in enclosure 3). We will preserve our critical capabilities by maintaining select installations which support the rapid deployment and sustainment of expeditionary forces. In addition, a new family of FOSs and CSLs established throughout the AOR will provide essential facilities and equipment for expeditionary forces near areas of interest, crisis, or conflict and avoid saturation at key nodes along lines of communication.

The combination of installations and prepositioned war reserve material provides the scalability and agility needed for EUCOM to support a global strategy. En Route Infrastructure and Prepositioned Sites enable the movement, equipping, and engagement of rotational forces and provide the ability to rapidly project equipment to crisis areas and sustain military power. EUCOM's En Route Infrastructure in the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, and Italy has played a critical role in our ability to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism and provides logistical support to forces participating in Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.

Theater Investment Needs

EUCOM is working closely with our component commands to obtain Service investments to support our theater requirements, most notably military construction (MILCON). A listing of EUCOM's MILCON projects, to include other theater investment needs, is provided at enclosure 4. We are eliminating unneeded facilities and investing resources in infrastructure that supports expeditionary forces arrayed throughout the European and African theaters. U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) is continuing to recapitalize critical base infrastructure at their enduring facilities, including Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Aviano, Incirlik, Lajes, Lakenheath and Mildenhall. Simultaneously, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) continues work on previously funded recapitalization programs in Rota and Sigonella. U.S. Army Europe's (USAREUR) major focus remains the completion of the Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr (EBG) project; expansion of facilities and infrastructure at Vicenza, Italy to support the Southern European Task Force and the modularization of the 173rd Airborne Brigade; and the establishment of forward operating sites in Eastern Europe for the Eastern European Task Force.

Military Construction - Family Housing

Continuing to provide adequate housing for our service members and their families is critical to ensuring combat readiness and quality of life. Presently, 58 percent of our families live in inadequate housing. This is the direct result of drastic reductions in MILCON funding between 1991 and 1999 and the significant refurbishment and maintenance backlog that resulted.

EUCOM and the Services have an aggressive plan to address this situation by way of Build-to-Lease initiatives, renovations, and new construction at our enduring facilities. Significant Family Housing MILCON investments are included in the President's budget request for fiscal year 2006. USAREUR is requesting \$133.1 million in MILCON funds to fully renovate more than 900 family housing units at enduring communities in Stuttgart, Garmisch, Wiesbaden, Ansbach, and Vilseck. USAFE requests \$229.4 million for improvements to over 800 family housing units at Incirlik, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Lajes, Moron, and Lakenheath. NAVEUR continues to improve its housing inventory through Build-to-Lease projects. With greater fidelity in our transformation plan, EUCOM has been able to more precisely refine its long term basing strategy and the infrastructure needed to support our plan.

Quality of Life Programs

Quality people are the bedrock of EUCOM's warfighting effectiveness. Of all our military assets, there are none more important than our troops and their families. The quality of our force is key to achieving our theater goals and is the direct result of our strong and sustained commitment to Quality of Life (QoL) issues. The Global War on Terrorism has called for tremendous sacrifices by our servicemembers and placed a considerable burden on their families. Our ability to support them during this period of extended deployments is inextricably linked to these QoL programs.

In our QoL strategy we recognize that our forces deserve fair compensation, good places to live, quality educational opportunities, meaningful work, challenging off-duty opportunities and access to quality health care. This command is committed to supporting all members of the EUCOM team (Active Duty, Reserves, DoD Civilians, DoD Contractors, Retirees and Family Members) with a standard of living comparable to their counterparts in continental United States (CONUS). Through a series of initiatives we continue to seek ways to enhance the educational opportunities for our family members and to improve spousal career development opportunities. At the same time, we remain dedicated to an excellent

education system. EUCOM is grateful for the support that Congress provides in investing in our children's future. These schools, which educate nearly 48,000 of our children, need and deserve your continued support and funding to maintain high educational standards.

We urge Congress to favorably consider the EUCOM QoL construction projects in the President's budget: the three Grafenwoehr and Vilseck barracks projects (\$53.6 million); housing projects throughout EUCOM (\$362.5 million); a Consolidated Community Center at Incirlik (\$5.8 million); a Family Support Center at Aviano (\$4 million); an elementary school at Vilseck (\$2.3 million); and room additions for Department of Defense Dependant Schools at Landstuhl (\$5.6 million) and Rota (\$7.9 million). We also ask your support in safeguarding the recent accomplishments in Quality of Life and base infrastructure that have enabled our forces to maintain a high state of readiness. These investments are invaluable resources that affirm our commitment to our fighting men and women, aptly recognize our most precious asset, and contribute to the future viability of the high quality force our mission demands.

U.S. Army Europe

The most ambitious and challenging aspect of EUCOM's transformation involves the realignment of forces and bases for U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR). The goal is to establish a more agile strategically positioned land force that has a greater capability to shape the security environment and to respond to crises throughout the theater. As we tailor the existing force structure, the combination of permanent forces in the AOR and rotational forces from CONUS will satisfy the full spectrum of operational requirements. Our objective is to complete this transformation by September 2010.

The transformed USAREUR will consist of two echelons of command. USAREUR and V Corps headquarters will merge into a single headquarters, to be called USAREUR & Task Force 5, which will include appropriate Intelligence, Communications and Logistics capabilities. It will function as the higher echelon and will include the capability to deploy and operate two standing Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters simultaneously. The second echelon will be comprised of modular Brigade Combat Teams and tactical enabler units such as Combat Engineers and Aviation. This construct will significantly enhance EUCOM's deployable warfighting capabilities and our ability to carry out the Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) requirements. The primary combat forces will include a fully structured Airborne Infantry Brigade Combat Team

stationed in Italy, a STRYKER Brigade stationed in Germany, a rotational Brigade deployed in Eastern Europe, two AH64D Longbow Attack Helicopter Battalions, and a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Rocket Battalion stationed in Germany.

USAREUR will return approximately two-thirds of the Army's current inventory of 239 installations, located in 16 major communities, to host nations. In Germany, 14 major Army communities will be reduced to four. The consolidation of our bases will occur on a timeline that is linked to the re-deployment of approximately 60 percent of our 62,000 Soldiers to CONUS and the transformation of remaining forces. We seek to minimize the need for units to relocate more than once while ensuring continuity of Soldier and family support.

The cornerstone of USAREUR's transformation is the deployment of a STRYKER Brigade Combat Team to the EUCOM AOR. This unit, which will be stationed at the Vilseck facilities of the Grafenwoehr MOB to take advantage of the world class facilities and infrastructure of the Army's Joint and Combined Expeditionary Training Center, will likely achieve full operational capability in Europe by the end of fiscal year 2007.

Efficient Basing Grafenwoehr (EBG) is another key component of USAREUR's transformation plans. We will use these new facilities to station a brigade sized equivalent of our deployable, combat enabler units (including Artillery, Engineer, Military Police, Signal and Logistic units) adjacent to the Army's best training area in Europe. This project has received over 50 percent of its funding to date. The barracks are our highest priority and must be completed as soon as possible to allow consolidation of the Soldiers. Family housing is being provided through build-to-lease arrangements. The required community support, maintenance and operations facilities to complete the initiative are included in the Department's Future Years Defense Plan.

As you have seen during your visits, Grafenwoehr is strategically located in southeastern Germany and enjoys a superb deployment infrastructure. Grafenwoehr also serves as a gateway to Eastern Europe for both training with Allies and to conduct land deployments into potential crises areas farther east and south. USAREUR will consolidate its aviation assets into a Multi-Function Aviation Brigade located in the Ansbach/Illesheim area. These are our best rotary wing training facilities and their proximity to Grafenwoehr Training Area will enable combined arms training with the STRYKER Brigade and other units.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade will expand to a full modular Airborne Brigade Combat Team and remain in Italy. This expansion will provide greater capability for rapid deployment and forced entry operations and enhance the brigade's ability to sustain itself during joint and coalition operations. We plan to begin converting the 173rd when it returns from combat operations in Afghanistan. The Brigade will remain in close proximity to Aviano Airbase, its primary deployment center. USAREUR has plans to expand the facilities and infrastructure in the Vicenza area, including the U.S. Army facilities at Dal Molin Airfield, to accommodate the growth associated with this restructuring.

Another major element of USAREUR's transformation will be the addition of a rotational brigade combat team to form the Eastern European Task Force (EETAF). Operating out of Forward Operating Sites (FOS) in Eastern Europe, this force will conduct Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) exercises, to include Joint/Combined training activities. Operating from FOSs will improve regional security, improve joint and combined logistics capabilities, enhance integration with our NATO allies, and dramatically decrease deployment timelines of expeditionary forces to areas of contention before they become areas of crises. The Initial Operational Capability of the Eastern European Task Force will be provided by using a battalion from the Europe-Based STRYKER Brigade after its arrival. The next sequence would commence with Brigade-sized units rotating from CONUS.

Our expeditionary posture will be characterized not only by the types of forces we will forward-deploy, but also by the way we organize our command and control structure. As we reorganize units, return forces to CONUS and co-locate our remaining units at the enduring locations in Europe, the stability and effectiveness of our command and control structure is vitally important. USAREUR Headquarters must be able to execute Title 10 and force provider responsibilities while achieving our transformation objectives. At the same time, V Corps must remain prepared to reassume a major role in U.S. combat operations as it did in Iraq. For those reasons, the consolidation of USAREUR and V Corps will be the last major step in transforming Army forces in Europe.

USAREUR will begin to return heavy forces to CONUS at approximately the same time the STRYKER Brigade is deployed in Germany. EUCOM is recommending that elements of the 1st Infantry Division begin returning to CONUS, followed by the re-deployment of the 1st Armored Division in the out years. The merger of USAREUR Headquarters and V Corps is expected to follow the return of the

two heavy divisions to CONUS. EUCOM is working within DoD to ensure these movements are coordinated with the BRAC process. We are also committed to informing Congress about our progress and requirements as these and other planned movements within the theater are executed. These major force structure changes have been coordinated to meet our anticipated requirements to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism.

U.S. Air Forces Europe

Aggressive streamlining has postured U.S. Air Forces Europe (USAFE) with the appropriate permanent force structure to conduct future operations as an integral part of EUCOM. USAFE continues to orient its existing forces to increase responsiveness and enhance force projection as it supports the changed strategic environment.

Even with its in-theater responsibilities, USAFE maintains an expeditionary mindset. As an inherently expeditionary force, USAFE assets are postured to deploy and deliver specific combat capability to any combatant command in any theater. Currently, USAFE has four of its ten flying squadrons conducting operations in support of U.S. Central Command. The USAFE Basing Strategy maintains theater presence while adjusting operating sites and locations to better support current and future missions. USAFE Main Operating Bases (MOB) provide visible presence and form the baseline for our strategic power projection capability, while Forward Operating Sites (FOS) and Cooperative Security Locations (CSL) enable expeditionary operations and extend our reach.

USAFE continues to invest in developing the capability of current main operating bases. For example, Ramstein Air Base and Spangdahlem Air Base are being developed to replace the capability lost with the closure of Rhein Main Air Base. At the same time, USAFE will close 41 of 203 current sites in theater, including Sembach Air Base, and Bitburg Air Base. USAFE has a graduated plan for the remaining closures to be completed and is also reviewing potential sites to locate permanent combat forces farther south and east in order to deal with the challenges of the future. Safeguarding freedom of action to deploy our aircraft during contingency and crisis operations is a key consideration in the relocation of forces.

Additionally, rotational forces are part of USAFE's future plans. Forward-basing rotational forces allows daily interaction with partner nations. The "face of America" offers immense contributions toward theater security cooperation. This methodology has worked well, as the many

exercises and visits conducted under the Partnership for Peace program contributed to the rapid entry of 10 new nations into NATO since the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. The use of rotational forces to augment permanently stationed forces will allow a comprehensive and successful cooperation program.

The use of CSLs throughout the theater is a critical part of the basing plan. In addition to their operational benefit, they are also critical to conducting Theater Security Cooperation. USAFE intends to improve critical CSLs during the conduct of deployments and engagement events. Such a strategy minimizes up front costs, provides investment commensurate with capability derived from the site and allows plans to be adjusted as relations develop. These facilities will take advantage of local or contracted support where possible, thereby permitting the use of smaller force packages to meet a variety of contingencies.

USAFE has established a warfighting headquarters which directly supports EUCOM's Standing Joint Force Headquarters and provides theater planning, sustainment and execution of ongoing operations. We have also started the process of expeditionary support planning at a multitude of forward operating and support locations in the AOR based on projected threat analysis. Accordingly, analysis is underway to identify locations where USAFE can strategically locate and secure prepositioned assets to rapidly meet emerging threats. These new expeditionary combat support planning processes ensure readiness to project airpower where and when needed.

U.S. Naval Forces Europe

NAVEUR is realigning its infrastructure to support operations to the south and east in a transformed EUCOM. The result will be a more effective, efficient, and focused naval force which provides increased flexibility and reduces reliance on host nation approval. This force will be more responsive to surge, more efficient to sustain, and better able to reconstitute rapidly.

NAVEUR's transformation is supported by the U.S. Navy's Fleet Response Plan. This plan prepares forces to deploy earlier in their work-up cycle, if needed, and allows them to stay in a ready posture longer after completing scheduled deployments. This scalable, global force will more effectively satisfy EUCOM's operational, exercise and security cooperation requirements.

The Fleet Response Plan was successfully demonstrated during Exercise MAJESTIC EAGLE/SUMMER PULSEX 2004. The Secretary of Defense directed the execution of Global Carrier Strike Group Operations and Pulse Deployments to

the EUCOM, CENTCOM, U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Southern Command AORs during June and July of 2004, with four of the seven Carrier Strike Groups deploying to the EUCOM AOR. This successful effort clearly demonstrated the maritime force capability available in a national emergency.

NAVEUR will play a key role in maritime security to advance EUCOM's security cooperation objectives in the increasingly important west coast of Africa. With the discovery of large oil reserves in the Gulf of Guinea there is tremendous economic potential for the region that has heretofore been absent. The energy potential is, in a sense, a double-edged sword: While it provides economic development value for the region, it is also a lightning rod for conflict that simmers below the surface of an ethnically and culturally diverse region. NAVEUR is working to coordinate deployments of primarily Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard assets to support Gulf of Guinea maritime forces as they address crises that can undermine future growth. Our presence and security cooperative measures can help mitigate instability, assist fragile democracies to confront threats, and provide the basis for real progress and economic prosperity in the region.

In addition, for minimal investment by the United States and other developed countries, a multinational network of radars to monitor surface ship and air traffic in the Gulf of Guinea would establish the operational foundation for multinational cooperation and regional solutions to inherently regional threats. Such an investment would not only enable our friends to avoid falling prey to terrorists and organized criminals who will eventually threaten U.S. interests, but would also contribute to the President's homeland security concept of extending maritime domain awareness to remote regions. Nigeria's recent purchase of fifteen US-built patrol boats demonstrates a commitment to increasing maritime security. Such commitments should be supported and developed in ways that produce mutual benefits.

The infrastructure at NAVEUR bases sustains the combat readiness of permanent, rotational and surge naval forces, as well as that of other service component forces transiting, temporarily assigned, or permanently stationed at NAVEUR bases. Bases at Rota, Spain, Sigonella, Italy and Souda Bay, Greece are strategically located across the Mediterranean to provide flexible and highly capable logistic support. NAVEUR is leveraging more than a decade of investment in these bases to ensure they are optimally structured for the future. Upgrades to Souda Bay facilities are complete. Improvements to our bases in Naples and Sigonella are well underway, while La Maddalena and Rota have just begun their long-range recapitalization.