

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL DAVID ALLVIN
DIRECTOR OF POLICY, STRATEGY, PARTNERING AND CAPABILITIES**

U.S. FORCES EUROPE

July 13, 2016

I would first like to thank Chairman Hartzler, Ranking Member Speier and the other Members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am pleased to represent the men and women of our armed services and civilian personnel of the United States European Command. On behalf of the US European Command, thank you for your unwavering support.

I am privileged to discuss the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) — which marks a major turning point in the USEUCOM's prioritization of activities in the European Theater. The United States seeks to maintain its role as a secure, stabilizing presence in the theater, in light of Russia's provocative actions and destabilizing interventions— ERI provides the funding to help us accomplish that goal.

We have carefully devised a strategy to address this Russian threat, and assert our commitment to NATO Allies. However, strategy alone will not impede Russian hostility. Through continued Congressional support of the ERI, we will continue to implement strategy by resourcing capabilities deterrent activities and increasing responsiveness.

Over the last few years, the European Security environment has drastically evolved. Since the beginning of Russia's occupation of Crimea in 2014, our largest area for concern is Russian military activity to the east and north. Russia is increasingly aggressive in Eastern Europe and is militarizing the Arctic. Russia employs multiple types of warfare—conventional, irregular, and asymmetric—to induce regional instability. Russia's its malign intervention causes political and economic disruption along its border with Eastern Europe/in many places/etc.

Since 2014, U.S. forces have taken measures to assure our NATO Allies and partners by communicating our commitment to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. Under the ERI in previous fiscal years, we have accomplished a great deal to assure our NATO Allies and partners.

Through your support, we have increased the U.S. military presence in Europe; conducted bilateral and multilateral exercises; improved U.S. and allied military infrastructure in Europe; prepositioned more U.S. equipment in Europe; and intensified efforts to build the capacity and interoperability of NATO Allies and partners.

We recently completed Exercise ANAKONDA 2016, a multinational training exercise in Poland integrating over 31,000 forces from across 24 nations including NATO Allies and our partners. This exercise supported our assurance effort by demonstrating collaborative

capabilities to deploy, mass, and sustain combined land, sea, air, and Special Operations Forces combat power. Nearly simultaneously, we conducted a U.S. Army Europe-led airborne crisis response exercise that focused on exercising the U.S. Global Response Force to conduct rapid, efficient and effective joint forcible entry operations alongside allied airborne forces in Europe. Exercise Swift Response demonstrated U.S. and our NATO Allies' ability to respond to a crisis scenario from staging bases in both Europe and the United States. On the sea, a U.S. Navy-led exercise, BALTOPS is the premier maritime exercise in the Baltic Sea region and one of the largest exercises in northern Europe. Held from June 3-19, 2016, the exercise demonstrated interoperability between U.S., NATO Allies, and partners and assured nations of NATO's commitment to the security and stability of the Baltic Sea region. The exercise concentrated on maritime interdiction, anti-subsurface warfare, amphibious operations, and air defense in a joint environment.

Fiscal Year 2016's ERI has had a substantial impact on the assurance of our NATO Allies through these bilateral and multilateral exercises. However, there are large gaps in our capability to deter Russian aggression. The FY 2017 ERI request includes five lines of effort (discussed below) that address those gaps. The execution of these events shows that ERI is not solely operating in the context of a US bilateral effort, but serves as an impetus for NATO coordination and cooperation.

In this past weekend's NATO summit, member nations announced they would continue these efforts to deter Russia and assure partnership capacity and committed to reestablishing a credible deterrent along NATO's eastern flank by implementing the Readiness Action Plan, fully sourcing an enhanced forward land presence in Poland and the Baltics, making discernable progress on the allied defense investment pledge, and committing to improve allied preparations to resist armed attacks, as well as other initiatives.

The FY 2017 European Reassurance Initiative will continue to provide assurance measures to our NATO Allies and partners, and provide the funding to continue reversing over twenty-five years of atrophy in our combat capabilities in theater. Additionally, FY 2017 ERI will continue building credible deterrence. Both assurance and deterrence is addressed through five lines of effort. I would like to expand upon these lines of effort, and explain how they fit into our theater strategy.

Our first line of effort is to increase our presence in theater. USEUCOM intends to increase the presence of forces in the air, sea, and on land with a heel-to-toe approach, which continuously maintains forces on the ground without gaps between rotations. This will include a mix of permanently deployed and rotational forces with the capability to effectively deter adversaries. ERI ensures that all U.S. military services will augment their presence and enhance deterrence in Europe through stepped-up rotations and, potentially, deferring previously planned force reductions in Europe. In FY 2017, the Army will augment presence through the rotation of U.S.-based units from an Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), the Air Force will sustain its current Mobility Air Force (MAF) capability, add new intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities in Europe, and source theater security packages that provide 5th Generation capabilities, and Navy and Marine forces will maintain a presence in the Black Sea, Nordic and Baltic regions.

Secondly, our FY17 request continues additional bilateral and multilateral exercises/training with NATO Allies and partners. Through these activities, we assure our NATO Allies and partners that we are willing, committed, and ready. Additionally, these exercises address the challenges and threats emerging in Europe by demonstrating interoperability and responsiveness.

Our third line of effort sets the stage for a strong, prepared force through enhanced prepositioning of U.S. equipment. Preparedness-to-defeat is a key point of the ERI deterrence message. Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS) increases responsiveness and options for deterrence in Europe. Prepositioning of U.S. equipment will allow EUCOM-based forces to respond more rapidly to potential contingencies that appear in the EUCOM area of responsibility (AOR). Additionally, APS will also decrease force deployment times for U.S.-based units because stocks are already in place. With Russia expanding its military capabilities and technologies, Europe needs to have a ready, responsive ability to deter.

Our fourth line of effort, improved infrastructure, supports our increase in exercises, forces, and prepositioned equipment. This infrastructure is not solely new military construction, but includes improvements to existing structures, such as training centers and airfields. These improvements to infrastructure will provide flexibility and enhance readiness in our AOR.

Our fifth line of effort is to intensify efforts to build partner capacity with NATO Allies and partners. Russia continues to exert and bolster instability in neighboring countries and are

creating detrimental economic and social impact through their malign influence. We seek to counter these activities by strengthening partners' ability to react when a crisis occurs.

Through these five lines of effort, we will not only strengthen existing relationships with NATO members and other partners, but we will also show our strength and deter future Russian provocations. The sum of all ERI lines of effort is greater than the five individual parts, when considering that increased rotational presence allows us to sustain more frequent allied and partner exercises and therefore build interoperability more rapidly. Similarly, improving infrastructure builds national capacity in addition to increasing U.S. and NATO readiness.

Again, I thank you for your support. Through the European Reassurance Initiative, you have amplified our nation's commitment to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty—one of the cornerstones of Europe's security and stability.