



21 August 2004



IMPACTS OF GLOBAL REBASING ON UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN EUROPE

1. We are an Army at war. On 16 August 2004 our President announced that our forward-stationed military force will be reorganized and positioned to respond to the less predictable threats our Nation faces in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). This plan will be executed over the next 10 years and will involve the return of 60,000 to 70,000 military personnel worldwide to CONUS. Simultaneously, the Army will rebalance its force structure while creating modular brigade combat teams to provide more agile and tailorable forces that are highly deployable worldwide. Together, these rebasing and restructuring efforts will provide us with a lean and lethal fighting force properly sized and stationed to meet our Nation's security needs. The following is an overview of what we expect USAREUR to look like in 10 years.
2. The Army's permanently stationed presence in Europe today includes approximately 62,000 Soldiers, with 240 installations among 14 major USAREUR community areas. We expect to reduce these numbers by approximately two thirds over the next 10 years. Our remaining communities will have ready access to advanced training facilities, high-capacity power-projection infrastructure, modernized well-being infrastructure and services, and state-of-the-art communications.
3. Concurrent with rebasing, we will establish joint-task-force (JTF)-capable headquarters in theater. USAREUR and V Corps headquarters will merge to become a single headquarters, called USAREUR & Task Force 5 (UR&TF5), performing Army Service Component Command functions for EUCOM, while providing a deployable warfighting headquarters capable of JTF operations for Combatant Commanders. We will also establish one or two additional small, light, and mobile JTF-capable headquarters ready for contingencies around the globe.
4. Our USAREUR and V Corps' enabling brigades and battalions (referred to in Army jargon as "echelon above division" units) will be similarly merged and streamlined into Army units of action (UAs). These UAs will provide the correct mix of rapidly deployable, early-entry enablers for joint operations. UR&TF5 will have UAs for aviation, engineer, signal, military police, military intelligence, combat service support, medical, artillery, and others.

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5. Our two divisions (1st Infantry and 1st Armored) and several echelon-above-division units will return to CONUS. We desire to station a Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Grafenwöhr, provided we reach agreements with our allies. The 173d Airborne Brigade will grow in size and be sourced with a third battalion and brigade enablers. Operationally, units such as the Army's new modular brigades will rotate from CONUS into forward operating sites (FOSs) in the territories of our new NATO partners to the east. All our units will train and exercise throughout the EUCOM AOR.

6. It's important for all of us to understand that this plan may change based on the global security situation, new GWOT requirements, and negotiations with our allies and friends. Regardless, execution will be thorough and deliberate. Due to the Army's ongoing rebalancing efforts, some units may inactivate or return to CONUS in the relative near term, but only after proper notification to the units and deliberate consultations with the affected host nations. There will be no surprises. If your unit is affected, you and your family will have time to properly prepare. USAREUR and IMA-E will work together to ensure you will be cared for throughout the process, and your return to CONUS will be smooth and successful.

7. Some believe that units in Afghanistan or Iraq will redeploy to CONUS directly from operations. That will not happen. If a deployed unit is designated for return to CONUS, it will fully redeploy, reintegrate, and reconstitute at its European home base first. No family will be left to move themselves back to CONUS.

8. Our transformation will require a thorough, intense, and coordinated effort among all affected organizations and units. Open communication and synchronization will be key to our success. For that reason, I have established a dedicated Global Rebasing and Restructuring (GR2) Division within the USAREUR battle staff. This agency will manage the transformation effort and provide a single clearinghouse for information, requirements, plans, and orders. The chain of command will feed information from GR2 to our Soldiers and families so you have the right information. We will keep you informed and strive to stop rumors before they start.

9. I want to thank each of you for everything you have done for your Nation. I will keep you posted. Our Army has consistently answered our Nation's call, moved rapidly to the fight, and emerged victorious. The announced restructuring plans will posture us for the future, with the right joint warfighting capabilities stationed at the right locations so we can continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere!



B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding



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