

# **FACT SHEET:**

## **Posture Updates in Support of Allies in Europe**

As part of our commitment to upholding the principles of the rules-based international order and to the security of our NATO Allies, the United States maintains significant combat-capable forces in Europe. These forward-deployed forces help to deter aggression and if deterrence fails, stand shoulder to shoulder with our Allies to maintain security and stability in Europe. Secretary Austin has ordered additional temporary forces to Europe. These new deployments will build on the earlier force posture movements to and within Europe, as well as decision to heighten the state of readiness of U.S. response forces. No U.S. forces deployed in Europe are going to fight in Ukraine. These are also not permanent moves. They respond to current conditions. We will adjust our posture as those conditions evolve, and we will continue to consult closely with NATO Allies to ensure an appropriate collective posture of deterrence and defense. We welcome the announcements by other Allies of their willingness to deploy additional contributions to enhance NATO's posture and readiness.

### **New Deployments of U.S. Forces to Europe**

On March 5th, Secretary Austin ordered the deployment from the United States of an additional approximately 500 U.S. military personnel to locations across Europe. These forces will augment and provide additional support to existing U.S. forces in the European theater, which are trained and equipped for a variety of missions to reinforce U.S. European Command posture on NATO's Eastern Flank.

These forces are comprised of:

- KC-135 refueling aircraft with approximately 150 personnel, which will deploy to Spangdahlem, Germany to provide additional aerial refueling support to USEUCOM.
- An Air Support Operations Center (ASOC) with approximately 40 personnel to deploy to Poland and Romania, to provide additional command and control to support USEUCOM flight operations.
- An Ordnance Company and a Maintenance Company with approximately 300 personnel to Germany, to provide additional logistics support to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division already deployed there.

With these additional deployments, the United States will have approximately 100,000 military personnel either permanently stationed or deployed to Europe and its waters. This represents our longstanding commitment to European security. We will continue to work closely with our European Allies on these deployments, and we appreciate their support.

## **Recent Deployment of U.S. Forces to Europe**

### **Stryker Squadron Repositioned from Germany to Romania**

As a part of our broader effort to demonstrate our commitment to our NATO Allies and deter Russian aggression, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the United States repositioned a Stryker squadron of approximately 1,000 U.S. service members already in the European theater to Romania. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, a mounted unit based in Vilseck, Germany, sent a combined arms force equipped with wheeled armored fighting vehicles to deter aggression and enhance our defensive capabilities in Romania during this period of elevated risk.

### **Multi-Mission Assure and Deter Forces Deployed to Poland and Germany**

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Department of Defense deployed approximately 1,700 service members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division – built around the components of an Infantry Brigade Combat Team and key enablers deployed to Germany. The XVIII<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps moved a Joint-Task Force capable headquarters to Germany.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Defense ordered an additional 3,000 Soldiers from the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps, including the remainder of the Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, with enablers, to Poland, completing the deployment of the Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

### **Stryker Troops to Bulgaria and Hungary to Conduct Training Missions**

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Austin, in conjunction with the government of Bulgaria, announced a U.S. Army Stryker troop of approximately 125 soldiers will take part in a training mission in Bulgaria.

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Army Europe-Africa, in conjunction with the government of Hungary, announced a U.S. Army Stryker troop of approximately 125 soldiers will take part in a training mission in Hungary.

### **Additional Army Command and Control Headquarters to Poland**

On Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, in order to provide effective command and control of U.S. forces in Poland, the Department of Defense deployed the remainder of both the V Corps and 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters and the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Artillery Headquarters, totaling approximately 1,300 soldiers to join their forward command posts already in Poland.

### **Movement of U.S. Forces Currently Stationed in Europe**

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Secretary Austin ordered the additional movement of U.S. forces currently stationed in Europe to continue our support for NATO Allies and the defense of the Eastern Flank. These forces – comprised of aviation elements and ground forces – will move within the EUCOM Area of Operations to NATO's northeastern and southeastern flanks.

These forces are comprised of:

- An infantry battalion task force of approximately 800 personnel, from Italy to the Baltic region.
- Movement of up to eight CONUS-based F-35A Joint Strike Fighters to operating locations along NATO's Eastern Flank.
- A battalion of attack aviation – 20 AH-64 helicopters – from Germany to the Baltic region.
- An attack aviation task force – 12 AH-64 helicopters – will move from Greece to Poland.

### **Armored Brigade Combat Team and a Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) Company Deployed to Germany**

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, in response to Russia's renewed aggression against Ukraine, the United States deployed an Armored Brigade Combat Team and Heavy Equipment Transportation (HET) Company totaling approximately 4,000 U.S. soldiers to Germany. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and 96<sup>th</sup> Heavy Equipment Transportation Company drew prepositioned stocks of tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and trucks already in Germany to equip the combined arms force.

### **High-Mobility Rocket Artillery Battalion Deployed to Germany**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, a High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Battalion of approximately 240 personnel, was also ordered to Germany on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Department identified this capability as part of the U.S. contribution to the NATO Response Force (NRF) placed on heightened readiness back on January 24<sup>th</sup>. They will be prepared to support the NATO Response Force if and when needed.

As of Mar. 8, 2022