
News Release

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EUCOM Commander participates in Northern European Chiefs of Defense Conference

RIGA, Latvia – General Phil Breedlove, Commander, U.S. European Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, participated with 10 Allied and partner nations in the Northern European Chiefs of Defense Conference in Riga, Latvia, Mar. 30-31.

The event was co-hosted with Latvia's Chief of Defense, Lt. Gen. Raimonds Graube. The goal of the conference was to facilitate bilateral defense communication and cooperation amongst Northern European countries regarding the emerging security challenges faced in the region.

“We discussed the security situation here in Europe,” said Gen. Breedlove. “We had candid and very productive discussions regarding the concerns and challenges we continue to face here in Europe, and we discussed how we can both strengthen the Alliance and our cooperation between our militaries.”

During the conference Gen. Breedlove provided an update to Allies and partners on the future Army presence and U.S. commitment to Europe. “We will maintain persistent, heel-to-toe presence of an armored brigade combat team (ABCT) with modernized equipment here in the European theater,” Breedlove said. “This is designed to reassure our Allies and Partners, to deter our potential adversaries, and to help ensure that we are prepared to fight and win if we have to.”

Participants of the conference included U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia Nancy Pettit, senior leaders and senior enlisted leaders from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden. Theater adjutant generals from EUCOM's State Partnership Program and their senior enlisted leaders also participated in conference.

The full transcript of Gen. Breedlove's press statement is available at:
<http://www.eucom.mil/media-library/article/35187/remarks-from-the-northern-europe-chiefs-of-defense-conference-in-riga-latvia>

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