

European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) Fact Sheet



U.S. European Command Public Affairs Office

Phone: #49 (0)-711-680-6868/6818/8010, DSN: 314-430-6868/6818/8010

Email: eucom.media@mail.mil

Introduction:

- On June 3, 2014, in Warsaw, Poland, President of the United States Barack Obama proposed the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) as a means to assure our NATO Allies and partners of the U.S.'s commitment to the security and territorial integrity of NATO. Since then, the authorized budget has increased to \$3.42 billion for 2017.
- ERI funds enable Operation Atlantic Resolve, which ensures U.S. European Command has ready a persistent rotational presence of American air, land and sea forces in the region, especially in Central and Eastern Europe as a show of support to our Allies and in response to Russia's actions in the Ukraine.
- ERI demonstrates a strong U.S. commitment to the territorial integrity of our Allies and maintain a Europe that is whole, free, prosperous, and at peace.

Five Elements of our U.S. European Command's Plan to implement ERI:

- We have increased rotational presence of air, ground and sea forces throughout Europe
- We have increased and added bilateral and multilateral exercises and training events with U.S. allies and partners in Europe
- We have improved infrastructure to allow for greater responsiveness across Europe
- We have enhanced prepositioning of U.S. equipment across Europe
- We have intensified our efforts to build partner capacity for newer NATO members and partners

Overview:

- The collective sum of all ERI is greater than just these five elements. Increasing one element, multiplies across the others, e.g. When increasing rotational presence, the frequency of training with Allies leads to greater interoperability.
- The 2017 budget expands the scope of 28 joint and multi-national exercises, which annually trains more than 18,000 U.S. personnel alongside 45,000 NATO Allies and Partnership for Peace personnel across 40 countries.
- Through ERI, we have built a joint persistent rotational presence of U.S. air, land and sea presence in the region, especially in Central and Eastern Europe as a show of support to our Allies and in response to Russia's actions in the Ukraine.
- The first rotational presence began with the arrival of personnel and gear from the Third Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) of the 4th Infantry Division from Fort Carson, Colorado, to the port of Bremerhaven, Germany. This gear will be transported to Poland where the ABCT will forward deploy to seven Eastern European nations.
- ERI funding allows U.S. military services to augment their presence and provide deterrence measures against adversaries within the region through stepped-up rotations and potential deferral of previously planned force reductions.
- An increased rotational presence in Central and Eastern Europe is in line with international commitments and agreements, and a visible sign of commitment to collective defense.
- Increased U.S. participation in bilateral & multilateral exercises and training events with Allies and partners will expand these events in both scope and scale.
- Enhanced prepositioning of U.S. equipment increases responsiveness and readiness by prepositioning ammunition, fuel, and equipment and by improving infrastructure to provide a rapid response against threats made by aggressive regional actors.
- Upgrades to infrastructure will provide near-term flexibility and responsiveness to evolving concerns of Allies and partners
- Intensified efforts to build partner capacity with newer NATO members and partners enables full participation as operational partners responding to regional crises.

Current service-specific ERI-funded operations:

ARMY: An Army Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) rotation consists of approximately 4,000 soldiers, organized in seven battalions: three combined arms, one cavalry (reconnaissance), one artillery, one engineer and one brigade support battalion. An ABCT includes 90 Abrams tanks, 90 Bradley Infantry fighting vehicles, and 112 supporting vehicles. There is now a continuous rotational presence in Europe. ERI funds the deployment to and from Europe, training, fuel, and sustainment costs while deployed. We will also see the deployment of a Combat Aviation Brigade.

AIR FORCE: Retention of air superiority presence; various construction projects in Europe and exercises in the Baltic States.

NAVY: Support the increased participation of Allied and partner nation's Navies in multinational exercises. Improve infrastructure to support P8-A operations.

MARINE CORPS: A Special-Purpose Marine-Air Ground Task Force, the Black Sea Rotation Force, deployed in the Black Sea, Balkans and Caucus regions of Eastern Europe to participate in security cooperation, strengthen partner military capacity, enhance regional stability and provide crisis response.