

# 2018 European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) Fact Sheet



## U.S. European Command Public Affairs Office

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## General Curtis Scaparrotti, Commander, USEUCOM:

“This year's budget builds on previous ERI investments that enhance our deterrence posture and improve the readiness and responsiveness of forces in Europe. As we continue to address the dynamic security environment in Europe, ERI funding increases our capabilities to deter and defend against Russian aggression. Additionally, these significant investments will further galvanize U.S. support to the collective defense of our NATO Allies, as well as bolster the security and capacity of our U.S. partners.”

## Overview:

- ERI funding enhances U.S. deterrence posture in Europe by improving the readiness and responsiveness of U.S. forces
- ERI funding is necessary in order to deter aggression, assure Allies, and build the capacity of our partners
- The security and territorial integrity of our NATO Allies and partners warrants our increase in rotational presence and robust training with our partners that build their capability, while increasing the Alliance's joint and combined interoperability
- The 2018 ERI budget request is \$4.8 billion, \$1.4 billion more than 2017
- One major new focus area in the 2018 ERI budget request is to begin prepositioning Air Force equipment and airfield infrastructure improvements to support current ops, exercises, and activities as well as enable a rapid response to contingencies
- ERI funding facilitates USEUCOM's capability as a warfighting command that is ready with assets, equipment and experience to address regional aggression that has shaped the current European security environment
- Increases responsiveness and readiness by pre-positioning assets and equipment and improving infrastructure to support our day-to-day activities, while enhancing our ability to provide a rapid response against threats made by aggressive regional actors
- The relationships built over the last 70 years provide the U.S. with strategic access to respond to threats against our NATO Allies
- ERI funds several bilateral and multilateral exercises, events. Enhanced interoperability increases our and our Allies' readiness
- ERI partially funds Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR) which demonstrates the U.S. ability to fulfill treaty commitments to NATO to respond to threats against Allies (Article 5). Following Russia's illegal invasion into Ukraine in 2014, the U.S. authorized ERI at \$985 million in 2015, \$789 million in 2016, and \$3.4 billion in 2017
- Nearly 7,000 U.S. service members deploy, on average, under ERI funding. There is no increase to permanent basing of personnel

## Five Elements of our U.S. European Command's Plan to implement ERI (FY 2018 Request):

- **Increased Presence (\$1,732.7M):** The U.S. proposes a more robust rotational U.S. presence throughout Europe for defense and deterrence
- **Exercises and Training (\$217.7M):** An increase in training improves the readiness and interoperability of Alliance and partner forces
- **Enhanced Prepositioning (\$2,221.8M):** Strategic placement of assets will allow EUCOM to more efficiently conduct day-to-day activities, while also supporting the rapid deployment of forces into theater, if required
- **Improved Infrastructure (\$337.8M):** ERI facilitates infrastructure improvements expanding readiness and aligning U.S. actions, priorities
- **Build Partnership Capacity (\$267.3M):** Improved operations with Allies and partners strengthening their ability to defend themselves

## Current Service-specific ERI-funded Requests (numbers are approximate):

**EUCOM-WIDE (\$153M):** Support to NATO and multinational exercises, and USEUCOM's Joint Exercise Program; U.S. participation in NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP); U.S. participation in NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force exercises; Funding for Multi-National Information Sharing capability.

**AIR FORCE (\$1B):** Increased ISR Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination (PED) activities with Allies; Continue support of missions such as NATO Air Policing and Theater Security Packages; Enhanced prepositioning of contingency air operations equipment; Improvements to airfield infrastructure and prepositioning of air operations equipment and enablers in NATO ally countries.

**ARMY (\$3.2B):** Enhanced prepositioning of additional APS “unit sets” equipment; Continue rotational Armored Brigade Combat Team and Combat Aviation Brigade Presence; Continue enhanced interoperability exercises and deterrence exercises; Increased Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability; Integrated Air and Missile Defense enhancements.

**MARINE CORPS (\$37M):** Increased rotational presence throughout the theater; Increased prepositioning of assets.

**NAVY (\$116M):** Increased theater anti-submarine warfare support and prepositioning of anti-submarine warfare equipment; Increased surface mine-countermeasure assets; Planning and design for infrastructure improvements in NATO ally countries (related to theater anti-submarine warfare and joint reception, staging onward movement and integration (JRSOI)).