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U.S. ARMY EUROPE SOLDIERS TRAIN WITH ILLINOIS GUARD MEMBERS, POLISH FORCES IN 'IMMEDIATE RESPONSE 07'

By Max Blumenfeld

V Corps Civil-Military Affairs division

WEDRZYN TRAINING AREA, Poland -- Nearly 300 U.S. Army Europe Soldiers from various communities in Germany and Italy are now heavily engaged here with Polish troops, members of the Illinois Army National Guard's Task Force 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry and Airmen from the 169th Expeditionary Air Support Squadron of the Illinois Air National Guard in exercise Immediate Response 07.



SPC JERRY WILSON

Deputy exercise director Lt. Col. Sean Mulcahey (left) coordinates with U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Warren L. McCray, a joint terminal attack controller (center), and Polish Capt. Armin Piatkowski for close-air support provided by F-16 fighter jets from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany during the U.S.-Polish exercise Immediate Response 07/Bagram II, at the Wędrzyn Training Area in Poland Sept. 13.

Immediate Response 07 is a USAREUR exercise conducted in conjunction with a Polish-led exercise also under way here called Bagram II.

"The primary objective of this training event is to improve coalition interoperability by building on experiences from working together in Iraq and Afghanistan and previous exercises," said deputy exercise director Lt. Col. Sean Mulcahey of

USAREUR's operations division. Mulcahey is serving here alongside exercise director Brig. Gen. Andrzej Knap of the Polish 2nd Mechanized Corps.

"USAREUR plays a key role in the U.S. European Command theater security cooperation program by participating in numerous multinational and bilateral exercises such as Bagram II," Mulcahey added.

"This training event provides USAREUR Soldiers a unique opportunity to ensure that all our theater forces are able to meet current and emerging security threats. We are at the forefront of building strong coalitions by enhancing interoperability and building long-lasting military relationships with our new and established NATO allies, such as Poland."



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