

## U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

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### Transitioning 7<sup>th</sup> ARCOM Highlighted During Guardian Shield 08

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**RAMSTEIN, Germany** -- U.S. forces in an austere forward location in a partner nation are the victims of an attack using a chemical, biological or radiological device. What does the U.S. military do?

This is the scenario key United States Army Europe leaders, Department of State personnel, and representatives from several U.S. partner nations grappled with during Guardian Shield 2008, held at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Sept. 8 to 11.

The exercise wrapped up on the seventh anniversary of the worst terrorist attack the U.S. has ever experienced — a fact exercise planners and participants emphasized.

“Following 9/11 the threat of an attack on the U.S. or its forward-deployed forces became a reality. Preparedness by USAREUR and Seventh Army, together with our fellow services and our host nation partners, is indispensable if we are to protect our forces, installations, and families,” said exercise director Maj. Gen. Paul Patrick, USAREUR deputy chief of staff for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs. “This is a unique and groundbreaking foreign consequence management exercise. No other U.S. military organizations are doing what EUCOM (U.S. European Command) and USAREUR are doing in regards to foreign consequence management training.”

Guardian Shield is an annual exercise, designed to evaluate and improve how USAREUR trains for and reacts to a CBRN — chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear — attack. Past exercises featured scenarios set on permanently established U.S. installations.

Planners say this year’s exercise is unique this because the focus shifted to a more austere location in a partner nation and to the role the 7th Army Reserve Command, soon to be the 7<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Command, will play in any initial U.S. military reaction to an incident in the European theater.

“Our job is to assess the situation and use our expertise to either directly provide support or provide coordination between the U.S. military and various agencies and (nongovernmental organizations) so they can provide support,” said Col. Steve Allen, 7th ARCOM deputy commander. “The 7<sup>th</sup> CSC will provide USAREUR and EUCOM with the ability to immediately assess an incident and then work with the affected nation to provide support via civil affairs teams and other mechanisms.”

The 7<sup>th</sup> ARCOM has already performed one part of its new mission. Brig. Gen. Jon Miller, 7th ARCOM commanding general and deputy CG of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Stading, 7<sup>th</sup> ARCOM command sergeant major, just returned from Georgia where they led a joint U.S. military team sent to assess the needs of the Georgian people after the conflict with Russia.

“Given that 7<sup>th</sup> ARCOM, soon to be 7<sup>th</sup> CSC, will soon take on the foreign consequence management mission, it’s no wonder ... (there is) such a high emphasis on the unit during Guardian Shield,” said Maj Gen. Paul Patrick. “It’s a good, relevant, and important mission for Seventh Army’s Reserve component to take on.”



Cutline: Mr. Fred Hudson, Lead exercise facilitator for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, DTRA, discusses training focus areas with Military and Department of State leaders during Guardian Shield 2008 at Ramstein Air Base on 11 Sep 2008. In the front row from right to left, Brig. Gen. William Uhle, Vice Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Force, Maj Gen. Paul Patrick, USAREUR deputy chief of staff for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, and Lt. Gen. (retired) Robert Chelberg, Senior mentor for the exercise.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin P. Bell



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