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USAREUR commanding general spotlights transformation at AUSA

Story by Spc. Fabian Ortega, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Oct. 8, 2008) -- U.S. Army Europe's commanding general spotlighted the Army's on-going transformation in Europe during a breakfast meeting at the annual Association of the United States Army annual convention here Oct. 8.

Gen. Carter F. Ham, addressing the First Region and European Department AUSA members, said the moves occurring throughout the Army and the European region will change the face of USAREUR. Some units will inactivate, others will stand up.

"Next summer V Corps will stand down," Ham said. "It's hard to think about U.S. Army Europe without V Corps, but it's indicative of the amount of change that we're undertaking in Europe."

V Corps' inactivation is only one part of the transformation process, Ham explained.

"There is a tremendous change underway inside the United States Army Europe," he continued. "For a long time there were two separate commands, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army. In '96 those were merged, but really merged in name only. Now we are in the process of merging those headquarters in a real and substantive manner."



Spc. Fabian Ortega
Gen. Carter F. Ham, U.S. Army Europe commanding general, discusses USAREUR transformation during a breakfast meeting during the annual Association of the U.S. Army convention in Washington, D.C., Oct. 8.

USAREUR and 7th Army will become a single headquarters for the first time since World War II, he said. The new combined headquarters will be deployable, expeditionary, and operational.

As USAREUR and 7th Army transitions to its expeditionary end state, its emphasis on building partnerships in the region has not changed, Ham said. With the increasing number of multinational operations, it would be very rare for the U.S. Army to participate in any operation that is exclusively conducted by U.S. forces.

“Operations now are conducted with partners from other nations and U.S. Army Europe is leading that change,” said Ham.

With training centers in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, Germany, and the creation of Joint Task Force-East, in Romania and Bulgaria, joint training with multinational forces is in full stride, he said.

U.S. and partner nations benefit from training and serving together, Ham said.

The general said other nations’ armies look to the U.S. Army and its Soldiers as the standard to achieve. Additionally, as they become better trained, more allied nations will assume “an increasing share of NATO and other out-of-sector missions,” Ham said.

“When you look at the non-U.S. participants in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, about 80 percent of the nations who are contributing forces come from Europe,” Ham said.



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