



7 April 2005



Update on the Impacts of Global Rebasing on United States Army Forces in Europe

1. In August of last year, I wrote to you concerning what our Nation's plan to reorganize and reposition our forward-deployed military force would mean, in broad terms, for the Army in Europe. In that Bell Sends (#25-04), I promised to keep you posted. It's time now to refine the picture a bit, and give you a clearer understanding of the future.

2. BLUF: The United States Army in Europe will reduce from its current force of 62,000 Soldiers, spread over 13 main operating locations across Europe, to approximately 24,000 Soldiers concentrated among four Joint Main Operating Base (JMOB) locations. These concentration locations include the following:

- **Wiesbaden Area**—We expect this to be the future home of the combined USAREUR and Task Force 5 headquarters, our warfighting deployable command post capability, and some of our theater-enabling commands. We will relocate from our current Headquarters complex in Heidelberg's Campbell Barracks, while continuing to support the NATO Allied Land Component Headquarters Heidelberg on Campbell Barracks.
- **Grafenwöhr Area**—Here the Expeditionary Training Command will be joined by a Stryker Brigade, the modularized multifunction aviation brigade, and additional theater-enabling commands.
- **Kaiserslautern Area**—This will constitute our major service and sustainment hub where theater logistics and medical support will be concentrated.
- **Vicenza Area**—This will be the home of the modularized and expanded 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team and a deployable command post of Task Force 5.

3. We expect our individual installations / casernes to decrease from 236 to 88 across Europe. The remaining footprint will provide us with a modern, 21st Century stationing, training, power-projection, and sustainment capacity for fully transformed, knowledge-based, flattened, and joint-capable Army forces in Europe. Our 24,000 Soldier force will be stationed with families on modern, full-service bases. Achieving this footprint over the next 5 to 10 years will require some significant rebasing and restationing actions. Among them—

- We hope to begin moving the 1st Infantry Division back to CONUS as early as 2006, and the 1st Armored Division back to CONUS starting about 2 years later. These moves and the dates for them have not yet been approved, and if they are approved we will make early announcements. These returns will obviously be associated with the ability of CONUS installations to receive them, and requirements to support the Global War on Terrorism. Other Corps and USAREUR units will relocate to CONUS, merge, or inactivate to meet our needs for the future.

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- We are already beginning to execute aggressive construction programs across our future JMOBs to ensure that high-quality, modern facilities are available for our Soldiers and our families who will be stationed in Europe.
- We are working with our Italian partners to procure sufficient space to station the full Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Over time, our Soldier population could increase by more than 1,000 in the Vicenza area.
- We are also working to establish a rotational force (without families) presence in Eastern Europe. Our vision calls for up to brigade-size rotations of various types of forces (Heavy, Stryker, Airborne). We expect to have this rotational force fully operational in the 2008 timeframe. A small deployable command post similar to the one we will have in Vicenza will provide command and control of this force.
- We will continue to provide support to both USEUCOM and SHAPE headquarters.

4. Associated with these actions will be a significant number of unit mergers, relocations, redeployments, and inactivations, some of which have already been announced. If your unit is identified to be a part of any of these, there are resources available to help you start with your planning. The USAREUR Homepage has a link to an online copy of the [Commander's Checklist for Restructuring and Rebasing](#). This document is the product of a thorough and coordinated effort by the USAREUR staff to cover the full range of activities relating to notifications, operations, training, logistics, public affairs, resource management, and many others. Use this tool, and you'll be ahead of the game.

5. As our plans become more concrete, I will continue to keep you posted. Thank you for the great work you do every day in support of your Nation, both in the Global War on Terrorism and in helping bring our vision of the future to reality. Your leadership, sacrifice, and commitment make it possible for USAREUR to continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere!



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Commanding

