



DEFENDER-Europe 21 Fact Sheet

www.EuropeAfrica.army.mil/DefenderEurope

What is DEFENDER-Europe 21:

DEFENDER-Europe is an annual large-scale U.S. Army-led, multinational, joint exercise designed to build readiness and interoperability between U.S., NATO and partner militaries. This year's exercise:

- Focuses on building operational readiness and interoperability with a greater number of NATO allies and partners over a wider area of operations
- Is defensive in nature and focused on responding to crisis if necessary
- Demonstrates that the U.S. commitment to NATO is iron clad
- Integrates approximately 28,000 multinational forces from 26 nations to conduct nearly simultaneous operations across more than 30 training areas in 12 countries.
- Includes strict COVID prevention and mitigation measures, such as pre-deployment COVID testing and quarantining.
- Has significant involvement of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy.
- Utilizes key ground and maritime routes bridging Europe, Asia and Africa
- Exercises new high-end capabilities such the new U.S. Army Security Force Assistance Brigades, air and missile defense assets and the recently reactivated V Corps
- Demonstrates our ability to serve as a strategic security partner in the western Balkans and Black Sea regions while sustaining our abilities in northern Europe, the Caucasus, Ukraine and Africa.

Timeline of DEFENDER-Europe 21:

- March - equipment and personnel from the United States will begin moving to Europe.
- April - Army Prepositioned Stocks will be drawn from sites in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands; then moved to various training areas via convoy, rail, line haul or barge. This phase of the exercise will demonstrate U.S. Army Europe and Africa's ability to maintain a deterrent posture in northern Europe while concurrently shifting forces to other areas of the theater.
- May - The bulk of activities will occur with training events across more than 30 training areas in 12 countries and encompassing several linked and associated exercises:
 - Immediate Response - more than 5,000 troops from 11 countries will spread out across 31 training areas to conduct live fires. A Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore operation will also occur.
 - Saber Guardian - more than 13,000 service members from 19 countries will conduct live fires and air and missile defense operations, plus a large scale medical evacuation.
 - Swift Response – will include airborne operations in Estonia, Bulgaria and Romania involving more than 7,000 troops from 11 countries.
 - African Lion - nearly 5,000 military personnel train on medical readiness, perform large-scale live-fire exercises and conduct air, maritime and forward command post training exercises.
 - Steadfast Defender - a new series of NATO exercises focused on the transatlantic reinforcement of Europe and demonstrates NATO's capability to respond rapidly to the full spectrum of threats.
- June - a Command Post Exercise involving approximately 2,000 personnel to demonstrate the headquarters' ability to command multinational land forces in a joint and combined training environment while maintaining real-world operations across 104 countries on two continents. DEFENDER-Europe 21 will conclude with the redeployment of U.S.-based forces and equipment. U.S. service members will clear the training areas, return prepositioned stocks, move to ports and return to home stations – fulfilling the U.S. military's commitment to the NATO agreements.

Quick Facts about DEFENDER-Europe 21:

- 28,000 total participants
- 2,100 National Guard Soldiers from 5 U.S. states participating:
 1. Alabama
 2. Florida
 3. Ohio
 4. Tennessee
 5. West Virginia
- 1,000 pieces of equipment being drawn from Army Preposition Stock sites in 3 countries:
 1. Germany
 2. Italy
 3. Netherlands
- 800 Army Reserve participants
- 31 Training areas conducting near-simultaneous live fires in 12 countries:
 1. Albania
 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina
 3. Bulgaria
 4. Croatia
 5. Estonia
 6. Germany
 7. Greece
 8. Hungary
 9. Italy
 10. Kosovo
 11. Lithuania
 12. North Macedonia
 13. Romania
 14. Slovakia
 15. Slovenia
 16. Spain
 17. Turkey
 18. Ukraine
 19. United Kingdom
 20. United States
- 26 countries participating in exercise activities:
 1. Albania
 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina
 3. Bulgaria
 4. Canada
 5. Croatia
 6. Estonia
 7. Georgia
 8. Germany
 9. Greece
 10. Hungary
 11. Italy
 12. Kosovo
 13. Latvia
 14. Lithuania
 15. Moldova
 16. Montenegro
 17. The Netherlands
 18. North Macedonia
 19. Poland
 20. Romania
 21. Slovenia
 22. Spain
 23. Turkey
 24. Ukraine
 25. United Kingdom
 26. United States
- 16 nations hosting exercise related activities:
 1. Albania
 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina
 3. Bulgaria
 4. Croatia
 5. Estonia
 6. Germany
 7. Greece
 8. Hungary
 9. Italy
 10. Kosovo
 11. Lithuania
 12. Montenegro
 13. Netherlands
 14. North Macedonia
 15. Romania
 16. Slovenia
- 12 country's airports receiving equipment and personnel from the U.S.:
 1. Albania
 2. Bulgaria
 3. Croatia
 4. Estonia
 5. Germany
 6. Greece
 7. Hungary
 8. Italy
 9. Lithuania
 10. North Macedonia
 11. Romania
 12. Slovenia
- 5 countries' ports used to send/receive more than 1,200 pieces of equipment to/from the U.S.:
 1. Albania
 2. Croatia
 3. Germany
 4. Greece
 5. Slovenia
- 5 logistics centers established in:
 1. Albania
 2. Croatia
 3. Greece
 4. Montenegro
 5. Slovenia
- 1 Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore operation in Albania
- 1 Hospital exercise, including a joint theater medical evacuation in Hungary