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EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

This budget supports projects under the President's European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) which was originally proposed in Warsaw on June 3, 2014. The ERI will continue efforts started in FY 2015 to reassure allies of the U.S. commitment to their security and territorial integrity as members of the NATO Alliance, provide near-term flexibility and responsiveness to the evolving concerns of our allies and partners in Europe, especially Central and Eastern Europe, and help increase the capability and readiness of U.S. allies and partners.

European Reassurance Initiative (ERI)

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2015	FY 2016
Category	Enacted	Request
Increased Presence	423.1	471.4
Additional Bilateral and Multilateral Exercises	40.6	108.4
Improved Infrastructure	196.5	89.1
Enhanced Prepositioning	136.1	57.8
Building Partner Capacity	13.7	62.6
ERI Transfer Fund	175.0	
Total	985.0	789.3

EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE

Through projects funded in support of the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI), DoD seeks to reassure our NATO allies and bolster the security and capacity of our partners. The United States, along with its NATO allies, will continue to take actions that increase the capability, readiness, and responsiveness of NATO forces to address any threat or destabilizing action. With ERI funding, DoD would also seek to help shore up the defenses of NATO members, as well as other non-NATO partners in the region, that feel most threatened by Russia's actions against Ukraine.

The DoD would continue pursuing several lines of effort to accomplish the purposes of this initiative, including: (1) continued increased U.S. military presence in Europe; (2) additional bilateral and multilateral exercises and training with allies and partners; (3) improved infrastructure to allow for greater responsiveness; (4) enhanced prepositioning of U.S. equipment in Europe; and (5) intensified efforts to build partner capacity for newer NATO members and other partners. The ERI would be requested in traditional DoD accounts for execution.

The majority of the initiatives outlined in this book were introduced in the FY 2015 ERI request. This year's request seeks FY 2016 funding to continue activities started in FY 2015 as well expand several previous Army initiatives for which additional funds are required in support of Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE (OAR). Finally, a new Army initiative is offered which seeks to fund rotation of Army aviation assets to theater.

INCREASED PRESENCE

Increasing the presence of U.S. forces in Europe through stepped-up rotations and continued deferral of some previously-planned force reductions or potential force restructuring initiatives. These actions would continue efforts to provide a tangible measure of reassurance to NATO allies and partners and demonstrate through unambiguous actions that the U.S. security commitment to Europe remains unshakable. The Army would continue augmenting presence through the rotation of U.S.-based units from an Armored Brigade Combat Team. The Air Force would continue sustaining its current air superiority force structure in Europe and augmenting NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission. The Navy would continue its expanded presence in the Black and Baltic Seas. The DoD allocated approximately \$471 million in the Components' traditional accounts for these activities.

Army

• Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) Presence (\$257.9 million)

Continues meeting the Combatant Commander's requirement for an armored brigade combat team presence through rotations of Regionally Aligned Force ABCT, a Division headquarters tactical operations center, aviation support and combat support and service support enablers. This initiative includes funding for movement costs, OPTEMPO, training OPTEMPO, forward support costs, fuel, electricity, and soldier sustainment.

• Increased Range Capacities (\$20.7 million)

Supports the necessary training support to enable the reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) of training forces and ensures that adequate life support is provided for expeditionary U.S. forces.

• Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) Rotation (\$21.6 million)

Funds CAB capabilities to support increased USEUCOM assigned missions either by increased rotations or deferring potential aviation restructuring initiatives. This initiative includes funding for aviation lift assets to and from the theater.

Navy

• Navy Black Sea Multinational Exercises (\$5.0 million)

Continues Allied and partner deployments that enable participation in various Black Sea multinational exercises by increasing Allied and partner presence, building partnership capacity, and increasing exercise participation and quality. Additionally, by providing funds for Allied and partner deployments, capital needed by our Allies will be available to make long-term improvements and modernization to their assets. This initiative funds increased U.S. operations with Romania, Bulgarian, and Ukrainian navies, as well as the Georgian Coast Guard and other regional nations that otherwise would not be executed due to insufficient host nation funding.

• Navy Seabreeze Multinational Exercises (\$3.0 million)

Enables participation in Seabreeze, Breeze, and other regional exercises along with an additional 420 flying hours for P-3s participating in the exercises. The increased flying hours will facilitate increased presence in the Black Sea. This initiative funds airlift, rotary aviation, U.S. Navy ships, artillery systems, airborne and mechanized forces, staff augmentation, and exercise enablers in support of several exercises.

Marine Corps

• Marine Corps Black Sea Rotational Force Increased Presence (\$11.4 million)

Continues increased persistent presence to enhance training and exercises with Black Sea, Caucus and Baltic nations, together with greater crisis response capability. This initiative includes funding to increase the size and capabilities of the Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF). The additional Marines would be based at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria and deploy from there to conduct exercises and engagements with Allies and partners with Eastern European nations.

Air Force

• Retain Air Superiority Force Structure (\$125.0 million)

Continues Air Superiority capabilities to support increased USEUCOM assigned missions either by increased rotations or deferring previously planned force reductions.

• Baltic Air Policing (\$4.5 million)

Provides capability, readiness, responsiveness and associated support for air policing missions in the Baltic States. Air assets deployed on the mission maintain a permanent readiness posture to deter against aggressors in the region. These missions demonstrate Air Force's continued commitment to European security and solidarity with other NATO allies. This initiative includes funding for the provision and maintenance of 24/7 air policing capabilities over the three Baltic States and adjacent international airspace.

• Baltic Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (\$0.3 million)

Provides Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities for the Baltic and Eastern European NATO nations. ISR collection capability supports joint combatant forces in operational and training operations. This initiative funds the extension of European Partnership ISR Enterprise (EPIE) capabilities to forward locations to directly support deployed U.S. and coalition forces and provide a conduit to broader U.S. and allied ISR reach back. Furthermore, this initiative funds the planning, coordination, and integration of airspace access and overflight agreements for RPA operations.

• Persistent Mobility Air Force (MAF) Capability (\$2.0 million)

Continues Mobility Air Force (MAF) capabilities deployed to Poland and Estonia, enhancing the bilateral defensive ties in the spirit of the 2008 U.S.-Polish Declaration on Strategic Cooperation, as well as U.S. stated intent to support Estonia announced by the President in September of 2014. The increased cooperation between forces strengthens interoperability as NATO allies. Our MAF presence allows regular joint training exercises in Poland, and will continue to introduce these exercises to Estonia. This initiative funds various Active Duty and Air National guard units to support monthly rotations to Poland and the Baltics, specifically Łask and Ämari Air Bases.

Defense-wide

• Intelligence and Warning (I&W) Capability (\$20.0 million)

Continues dedicated analytic support to provide timely indications and warnings and enhanced exercise planning. Intelligence is a key enabler to U.S. and NATO partners in accurately assessing the increased Russian military activity, enabling the U.S and their allies to respond rapidly to the changing theater security environment and designing tailored partner exercises in Europe. This initiative funds the retention of intelligence capacity that provides shared immediate and mid-range Indications and Warning (I&W) capacity, all-source analysis, and open source information awareness in support of U.S. and NATO operations, exercises, and training in the USEUCOM AOR.

ADDITIONAL BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL EXERCISES AND TRAINING

Additional U.S. forces in Europe enable more extensive U.S. participation in exercises and training activities with NATO and non-NATO partner countries, improving readiness and interoperability as well as highlighting the determination of participants to resist coercive or provocative measures from any source. The DoD proposes continued increased levels of U.S. forces taking part in various European-based exercises. The DoD also seeks funding to enable allies and partners to fully participate and benefit from these exercises. The DoD allocated approximately \$108 million in the Components' traditional accounts for these activities.

Army

• Increased Global Response Force (GRF) and NATO Exercises (\$61.4 million)

Maintains Swift Response, the GRF exercise initiated in the FY 2015 ERI plan, and enhances U.S. participation in seven other exercises. This initiative plays an important role in creating better engagement opportunities by synergizing and incentivizing wider Allied and partner nation participation in Combatant Commander exercises. This will enable newer members to leverage NATO common funding to participate in other exercises and achieve tangible results, creating an expanded pool of Allied forces that meet NATO standards. This initiative funds a Battalion Task Force from the GRF that would conduct Joint Forcible Entry (JFE) operations at the Joint Multinational Training Center (JMTC) in Germany, it adds a JFE component to Saber Junction 16, and it enhances U.S. participation in Trident Juncture, Compact Eagle ARRCade Fusion, Loyal Lance, Trident Joust, and ANAKONDA.

Navy

• Navy BALTOPS Multinational Exercises (\$0.5 million)

Supports continued expansion of exercises with Poland by providing additional funds for travel and transportation of personnel and associated equipment participating in the exercises. This initiative funds support and movement costs associated with deploying forces, aircraft, and equipment to the exercise location, including the deployment of U.S. Navy ships, staff augmentation, and exercise enablers. Training will include Marine Interdiction Operations, Visit Board Search Seizure, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Mine Warfare, Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, helicopter cross-decking, and asymmetric threat defense capabilities.

Marine Corps

• Marine Corps NATO Multinational Exercises (\$3.0 million)

Enables increased Marine Corps participation in NATO multinational exercises. This initiative funds support travel, training, exercise support, and strategic lift, including funding for 1x Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1x Regiment Staff, 2x Infantry Companies, 1x Maritime Prepositioned Force Ship/Enablers, and 1x Marine Logistics group.

• Marine Corps BALTOPS Multinational Exercises (\$0.5 million)

Enables increased Marine Corps participation in Baltic Operations multinational exercises. This initiative funds support and movement costs associated with deploying forces, aircraft, and equipment to the exercise location, including 2x Battalion Staff elements and 2x Infantry Companies.

• Marine Corps Cold Response Multinational Exercises (\$3.2 million)

Supports Marine Corps participation in the Norwegian National Exercise COLD RESPONSE, schedule for March 2016. This initiative funds 1x Marine Expeditionary Brigade/Regiment Staff, 1x Infantry Battalion, 1x Tank Company, 1x Marine Pre-Positioning Ship/Enablers, and 1x Marine Logistics Group.

• Marine Corps Black Sea Rotational Force Exercise and Training (\$6.7 million)

Continues increased persistent presence to enhance training and exercises with Black Sea, Caucus and Baltic nations, together with greater crisis response capability. This initiative includes funding to increase the size and capabilities of the Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF). The additional Marines would be based at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria and deploy from there to conduct exercises and engagements with Allies and partners with Eastern European nations.

Air Force

• Eastern European Countries Exercise Support (\$7.9 million)

Sustains Air Force participation in NATO exercises to strengthen interoperability with U.S. allies. These exercises enhance and display NATO's military capabilities across the Alliance's full mission spectrum. In addition, NATO exercises integrate and improve the military capabilities of Non-NATO participants and support the development/implementation of the military aspects of the European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI) within NATO. This initiative funds a slightly increased level of effort over FY 2015, including funding for Air Force Reserve Component manpower.

• NATO Exercises (\$15.3 million)

Supports air training and exercises in the Baltic States and other Eastern Europe countries. Exercises ensure interoperability with current/potential coalition partners and strengthen interoperability with U.S. allies. In addition, exercises enable the Air Force and other service components to plan and execute full-spectrum operations responding to crises affecting the USEUCOM area of responsibility. This initiative funds support and movement costs associated with deploying forces, aircraft, and equipment to the various exercise locations, including aerial refueling tankers and fighter deployment from the U.S.

Defense-wide

• NATO Exercises and the Chairman's Joint Exercise Program (\$9.9 million)

Supports additional forces to increase the size and scope of NATO exercises. This initiative funds the participation of forces to support the NATO Response Force, including the European Rotation Forces.

IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

A key enabler for training and combat operations is sufficiently robust infrastructure at key locations to support military activities. The DoD would pursue, subject to final agreement with host nations, selective improvements that would expand NATO's flexibility and contingency options and give concrete expressions of support to U.S. allies and partners. The DoD allocated approximately \$89 million in the Components' traditional accounts for these activities. No military construction funding is requested for these initiatives.

Army

• Increase Range Capabilities and Operations, and Upgrade Training Sites (\$70.0 million)

Supports infrastructure improvements to training sites and increases range capabilities and operations at Central and Eastern European military reservation areas. These upgrades to the infrastructure will provide increased training capacity for U.S. forces and increased ability to accommodate U.S. equipment. This initiative funds the improvement of ranges to ensure they comply with applicable NATO or U.S. training standards. This initiative also ensures training areas will permit combined arms maneuver of a scale appropriate for deployed forces.

Air Force

• Improve Support Infrastructure (\$0.7 million)

Strengthens the ability to train with the Polish Air Force by continuing the improvement of a Polish runway project at Łask Air Base to U.S. standards.

• Improve Airfield Infrastructure (\$18.4 million)

This initiative funds a series of airfield infrastructure improvements in Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

ENHANCED PREPOSITIONING

The DoD would also use ERI funds to continue enhancing prepositioning of U.S. equipment in Europe, including added air equipment in Eastern European nations and Army weapons/ammunition storage capabilities. The DoD allocated approximately \$58 million in the Components' traditional accounts for these activities.

Army

• Armored Brigade Combat Brigade Presence (\$40.0 million)

Builds on the work in FY 2015 to continue funding the enhancement of the Army Prepositioned Stocks portion of the BCT presence initiative and enables it to grow to afull brigade equipment set in FY 2016. Enhancing these stockpiles of equipment enables the U.S. to reduce time and transportation costs to provide armored forces for future exercises or contingencies. Funding of this particular initiative speeds implementation of the Army's APS strategy by several years.

Air Force

• Improve Weapons Storage Facilities (\$9.8 million)

Improves accessibility, capacity, and capability by meeting mission requirements including expansion and/or strengthening of munitions storage pads, lightning protection systems for personnel and munitions safety, repair of lighting for security and safety in and around the storage igloos, and minor contingency dorm repairs to sustain deployed personnel. Infrastructure repair projects are necessary to improve responsiveness and bolster strategic bombing and munitions storage capabilities for Northern and Southern Europe.

• Preposition Air Equipment (\$8.0 million)

Funds the placement of equipment near areas of potential conflict or locations where the Department intends to conduct air operations in support of national defense objectives, ensuring the equipment is readily available to forces in the event of a crisis or training/exercise operations. Prepositioning common air equipment allows Air Force Active, Reserve and/or National Guard units to project forces into a conflict faster and decreases response times. It also decreases the strain on scarce airlift capabilities and reduces reliance on relatively slow sealift deliveries.

BUILDING PARTNER CAPACITY

Another important focus in Europe would be efforts to build partner capacity in some of the newer NATO allies and with non-NATO partners such as Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. Providing these countries with the capability and capacity to defend themselves and to enable their participation as full operational partners within NATO is an important complement to other U.S. lines of effort. More formidable defense capabilities will also strengthen deterrence against aggressive actions by Russia or from other sources. The DoD efforts, along with State Department contributions, would focus on filling critical operational gaps, such as border security and air/maritime domain awareness, as well as building stronger institutional oversight of the defense establishments in these countries. The DoD allocated approximately \$63 million in the Components' traditional accounts for these activities.

Army

• Leverage State Partnership Program Relationships to Boost Civil-military Response Options (\$24.3 million)

Supports enhanced participation of State Partners in Military-to-Military (M2M) events and facilitate a higher level and frequency of ally/partner participation with U.S. forces. This initiative funds M2M engagement across the USEUCOM AOR to include exercises, activities supporting operations, seminars, conferences and workshops related to coalition operations.

• Strengthen the Capacity of NATO and NATO Partners (\$8.5 million)

Enables a unified and synchronized effort with the Alliance and with Eastern Allies to sustain NATO interoperability, while enhancing cooperation between Allies and NATO partners as they all face common challenges. This initiative funds enhanced Military-to-Military (M2M) events and facilitates a higher level and frequency of ally/partner participation with U.S. forces in events.

Navy

• Navy Black Sea Information Sharing (\$0.8 million)

Funds open-source research to establish vessel traffic patterns in the Black Sea, the development and dissemination of an enhanced common operational picture and the improvement of partner capacity through a "command post exercise", ultimately strengthening partner capacity within the Black Sea region and the NATO Partnership-for-Peace (PfP) programs for Ukraine and Georgia.

Defense-wide

• Strengthen the Capacity of NATO and NATO Partners (\$5.0 million)

Enables a unified and synchronized effort with the Alliance and with Eastern Allies to sustain NATO interoperability, while enhancing cooperation between Allies and NATO partners as they all face common challenges. This initiative funds enhanced Military-to-Military (M2M) events and facilitates a higher level and frequency of ally/partner participation with U.S. forces in events.

• Increased Partnership Activities in Central and Eastern Europe (\$24.0 million)

Supports increased partnership activities with NATO and other partner nations to build and strengthen regional partner capacity to responsibly manage and conduct counter terrorism and stability operations. This initiative will also enhance the NATO and partner nation counter terrorism training and interoperability with U.S. forces and will improve force effectiveness through increased internal defense operations, surveillance and border security activities. This initiative funds SOF persistent presence actives to train, advise, and assist Allies and conduct defense planning with select countries to counter malign influence in Central and Eastern Europe.

Table 1 – Funding by Military Department

European Reassurance Initiative (ERI)

(Dollars in Millions)

		FY 2015	FY 2016
Component		Enacted	Request
Army		438.9	504.4
Navy		31.0	34.1
Air Force		310.6	191.9
Defense-wide		29.5	58.9
ERI Transfer Fund		175.0	
	Total	985.0	789.3

Table 2 – Funding by Appropriation Title

European Reassurance Initiative (ERI)

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2015	FY 2016
Component	Enacted	Request
Military Personnel	1.5	24.3
Operation and Maintenance	632.9	765.0
Procurement	0.6	
Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation		
Military Construction	175.0	
Revolving and Management Funds		
ERI Transfer Fund	175.0	
Total	985.0	789.3

<u>Table 3 – Funding by Military Department and Category</u>

European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) Categories (Dollars in Millions)	Organization	Project	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
Increased Presence	Army	Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) Presence	225.7	257.9
	Army	Increased Range Capacities and Operation	32.0	20.7
	Army	Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) Rotation		21.6
	Navy	Marine Corps Black Sea Multilateral Engagements	5.6	11.4
	Navy	Navy Black Sea Multinational Exercises	5.0	5.0
	Navy	Navy Seabreeze Multinational Exercises	3.0	3.0
	Air Force	Baltic Air Policing	15.5	4.5
	Air Force	Baltic Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance	4.4	0.3
	Air Force	Persistent MAF Capability	2.0	2.0
	Air Force	Retain Air Superiority Force Structure	110.0	125.0
	Defense-wide	Intelligence and Warning	20.0	20.0
Subtotal Increase Presence			423.1	471.4
Subtotal Increase Presence Additional Bilateral and Multilateral Exercises and Training	Army	Increased Global Response Force Exercises	15.0	61.4
	Navy	Marine Corps BALTOPS Multinational Exercises	1.5	0.5
	Navy	Marine Corps Black Sea Rotational Force	3.3	6.7
	Navy	Marine Corps Cold Response Multinational Exercises	0.8	3.2
	Navy	Marine Corps NATO Multinational Exercises	2.0	3.0
	Navy	Navy BALTOPS Multinational Exercises	0.5	0.5
	Navy	NATO Exercises	13.1	15.3
	Air Force	Eastern European Exercise Support	4.3	7.9
	Defense-wide	NATO Exercises	0.1	9.9
Subtotal Additional bilateral and multilateral Exercises and	Training		40.6	108.4

DoD European Reassurance Initiative (Dollars in Thousands)	Organization	Category	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
Improved Infrastructure	Army	Construct hazardous cargo ramp	5.0	
	Army	Increase range capacity and ops/upgrade training sites	64.5	70.0
	Army	Multi-modal Improvements	17.0	-
	Navy	Navy USEUCOM Information Sharing Initiatives	8.0	
	Navy	Navy Infrastructure Projects	3.1	
	Air Force	Improve Airfield Infrastructure	76.1	18.4
	Air Force	Support Infrastructure Improvements	22.8	0.7
Subtotal Improved Infrastructure			196.5	89.1
Enhanced Prepositioning	Army	Fuel Storage Capacity	15.0	
, ,	Army	Brigade Combat Team Presence	40.0	40.0
	Army	Preposition Infrastructure	19.0	-
	Air Force	Improve Weapons Storage Facilities	44.5	-
	Air Force	Improve Weapons Storage Infrastructure	17.6	9.8
	Air Force	Preposition Air Equipment		8.0
Subtotal Enhanced Prepositioning			136.1	57.8
Subtotal Enhanced Prepositioning Building Partner Capacity	Army	Strengthen the Capacity of NATO and NATO Partners	6.5	8.5
	Army	Leverage State Partnership Program	1.2	24.3
	Navy	Navy Black Sea Information Sharing Initiatives	0.8	0.8
	Navy	Navy Information Sharing with Coalition Partners	0.4	
	Air Force	Leverage State Partnership Program	0.3	
	Defense-wide	Strengthen the Capacity of NATO and NATO Partners		5.0
	Defense-wide	Increased Partnership Activities in Central and Eastern Europe	4.5	24.0
Subtotal Building Partner Capacity	·		13.7	62.6
ERI Transfer Fund	Various	Support to Ukraine and the Baltic States	175.0	
Subtotal ERI Transfer Fund	1	1 - 11	175.0	
Total DoD European Reassurance Initiative			985.0	789.3