

Black Sea Rotational Force Origins

- In April 2003, the newly appointed EUCOM Commander and Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), Marine General James L. Jones, testified before Congress the need for America's military forces to move East and beyond the static Cold War basing strategy.
- General Jones stated that "Our new bases should have a transformational footprint, be geographically placed in areas where presence yields the highest return on investment, be able to both contract and expand as required and should...take advantage of our developing ability to rotationally base our forces."
- General Jones' commitment and Congressional support of this eastward initiative led to the initial appropriation of \$120 million to begin infrastructure projects in Romania and Bulgaria.
- In 2008, the first official rotational forces deployed under the U.S. Army Europe's (USAREUR) Joint Task Force East (JTF-E). While the initial planned Army deployment of a Brigade did not materialize due the lack of forces available in Europe, the Army did manage to deploy a battalion-sized unit for a four-month period.
- The following year marked the Army's last JTF-E deployment to the region as the NATO-ISAF mission drew heavily on USAREUR available forces and EUCOM tasked MARFOREUR to provide a rotational force beginning in 2010.

Black Sea Rotational Force Key Points

- Demonstrates the U.S. commitment and maintains strategic access across the Caucasus and Black Sea regions through theater security cooperation and security force assistance.
- Provides a robust U.S. engagement plan while minimizing costs—the best "bang for the buck" in Europe.
- Utilizes the U.S. Permanent Forward Operating Site (PFOS) at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield in Romania as its staging base.
- Focuses on partner engagements that prepare and train these regional partners for NATO and other out-of-area operations.
- In 2012, the Black Sea Rotational Force supported EUCOM crisis response requirements through its capabilities to conduct non-combat evacuation control center actions and support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
- Execute 85 % of Marine Forces Europe's Theater Security Cooperation engagements
- Pre-deployment training venues have incorporated lessons learned from previous deployments
- Security Cooperation Plans and activities greatly enhance the Black Sea Rotational Force's ability to build partner capacity, promote goodwill through crisis response operations, and increase Allied and partner nation capacity to provide for their own security, strengthen regional partnerships and enhance stability.

Black Sea Rotational Force Facts

2010:

- 120 Marines for 3 months
- (1) KC-130 for 2 weeks
- 12 Countries engaged
- 23 Mil-to-Mil events
- 4 Seminars
- 5 Community Relations (COMREL) events

2011:

- 181 Marines for 5 months
- (2) KC-130 (organic)
- 13 Countries engaged
- 57 Mil-to-Mil events
- 5 Seminars
- 7 COMREL events
- 2 Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises

2012:

- 360 Marines for 6 months
- (2) KC-130 (organic)
- 20 Countries engaged
- 89 Mil-to-Mil events
- 3 Seminars
- 3 COMREL events
- 3 Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises

2013:

- 289 Marines for 6 months
- 21 Countries engaged
- 78 Mil-to-Mil events
- 4 Seminars
- 5 COMREL events
- 2 Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises