



DLA Distribution Europe strengthens partnership with US EUCOM through combined military exercise support

By Emily Blubaugh, DLA Distribution Public Affairs

As DLA Distribution's largest distribution facility on the European continent and a forward deployed Theater Distribution Platform, DLA Distribution Europe, located in Gernersheim, Germany, has established a strong partnership with the U.S. European Command. This

partnership is strengthened by DLA Distribution Europe's participation in supporting national military exercises hosted by EUCOM, which aim to promote military interoperability by training our Nation's allies and allowing them to test their skills.

In 2010 alone, DLA Distribution Europe provided support to six such exercises, and is awaiting

requisitions for assistance to an additional three. The exercises, taking place in the EUCOM theater, aim to draw together a geographically dispersed network of allies, and DLA Distribution Europe's contributions often enable the success of these missions. Providing subsistence materials, consisting of gratuitous health and welfare items, as well as barrier materials to assist in

the construction of the exercise sites, the organization is enabling a positive relationship with the combatant command by providing the needed supplies for participating Warfighters.

DLA Distribution Europe support to EUCOM military exercise fosters collaboration to combat terrorism, intelligence capacity building, and strengthens an already close relationship between EUCOM and DLA, which was founded upon building a stronger logistics support network throughout the AOR.



DLA Distribution Europe provided setup support to exercise Sabre Strike by supplying items such as Meals, Ready to Eat, bottled water, concertina wire and fence posts. The organization's support of national military exercises like Sabre Strike, hosted by the United States European Command, is strengthening the existing partnership between DLA and the combatant command.

To date, DLA Distribution Europe has successfully filled requisitions for exercises Baltops 10 (Latvia), Sea Breeze 10 (Ukraine), Rapid Trident 10 (Ukraine), and Medcur 10 (Montenegro). All requirements received by the distribution center to date have consisted of subsistence items and bottled water.

“Although DLA Distribution Europe’s level of participation in each exercise may vary, the organization is always prepared to support any requirements for our allies as they arise. Although, these requisitions can come on short notice, posing a challenge when requiring country clearances, we strive to provide the timeliest support, as needed,” said United States Army Lt. Col. Steven Keller, DLA Distribution Europe commander.

Currently, DLA Distribution Europe is filling requisitions for multiple EUCOM-sponsored exercises in theater. Those exercises include Saber Strike II (Latvia) and Jackal Stone 10 (Poland).

Special forces multinational exercise Jackal Stone 10, conducted in the host nations of Poland and Lithuania, promotes cooperation and enhances interoperability amongst the participating special operations forces representing seven countries: USA, Ukraine, Croatia, Romania, Latvia, Poland and Lithuania. DLA Distribution Europe received and fulfilled requirements to move materiel, primarily subsistence, to

locations in Lithuania as well as Stuttgart Army Airfield.

Currently underway, DLA Distribution Europe met initial support requirements for exercise Sabre Strike 11 in Latvia, which promotes interoperability of Baltic and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. Providing Meals, Ready to Eat, bottled water, concertina wire, and fence posts, the organization aided in supporting the training of over 2,000 troops.

The organization is currently awaiting requirements for exercises Frukus 10 (United Kingdom), North Coast 10 (North Sea), and Combined Endeavor (Romania).

“Just as our partners in EUCOM rely on DLA Distribution Europe to supply the required items in support of their exercises, we rely on those Warfighters worldwide who test their skills during military exercises held throughout the year in all corners of the globe. It’s an honor to be able to support such an important mission,” said Keller.

The primary purpose of EUCOM is to conduct military operations, international military partnering, and interagency partnering to enhance transatlantic security and defend the United States forward. DLA Distribution Europe’s Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point, which handles the rapid segregation, sorting, and consolidation of shipments and delivery to customers within the EUCOM AOR, has provided

the means for the distribution center to establish a higher-level of support to the combatant command.

Additionally, this relationship was reinforced by a performance-based agreement, signed at the command’s headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany on Sept. 17 by DLA Director United States Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson. Going beyond basic exercise support, the signature of the agreement, originally signed in 2005, maintains that DLA be written into EUCOM concepts of operations plans.

As an integral part of the Defense Logistics Agency’s worldwide network of 25 distribution centers, DLA Distribution Europe provides initial surge capability during the transition to war phase, seamless joint theater distribution, and innovative support of DLA and Service managed materiel to all four service component Warfighters serving throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Strategically positioned near the Rhine River and Ramstein Air Base in central Europe, its distribution facilities take advantage of readily available air, road, rail, and barge modes of transportation, as well as enabling its critical Theater break-bulk mission. Current commodities distributed by DLA Distribution Europe are repair parts, barrier and construction material, clothing and textiles, packaged POL, operational rations, and humanitarian relief support. Additionally, DLA Distribution supports DLA Aviation, through its retrograde program for ozone depleting substances.