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FIGHTING WITH FIRES

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Lt. Gen. John S. Kolasheski



Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond S. Harris

A MESSAGE FROM V6 AND V7

Victory Team,

We both wanted to take the opportunity to tell each and every one of you that we greatly appreciate the work you all are doing in Europe and Kentucky. You are making a strategic level, positive impact that continues to be appreciated by our Army, the joint force, our allies and our partners.

Thanks to all who made last month’s European Rocket Artillery Summit a success. The summit was the first step in our HIMARS initiative. The initiative was developed in close coordination with our allies and is a tailored operational framework that focuses on building alliance lethality while meeting the specific needs of each participating nation. These efforts are directly contributing to enhancing the combat capability and interoperability of NATO and the Corps.

We know that you will carry that momentum into the next couple months as we tackle Defender 23. Defender involves approximately 9,000 U.S. troops and about 17,000 troops from allied and partner nations. It’s designed to demonstrate our ability to rapidly deploy combat-credible troops and equipment to assure our allies and deter aggressors. It’s a time to hone our strengths and shore up any gaps to ensure if deterrence fails, we are prepared to fight and win.

In the midst of Defender, we will observe Memorial Day. For many, Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start to summer and is celebrated by pulling

out the grills and enjoying time outside with family and friends. While you safely celebrate, please remember the reason for the holiday. Memorial Day is a day for us to honor the men and women that gave their lives in defense of our nation. Keep them and their families in mind as you spend the day with your families, friends and battle buddies.

We wish you a safe and meaningful Memorial Day.

It Will Be Done.
Victory.

RAYMOND S. HARRIS
Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
V Corps Command Sergeant Major

JOHN S. KOLASHESKI
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
V Corps Commanding



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UNIT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FORWARD DEPLOYED: 4TH SFAB TRAINS TO ADVISE, ASSIST AND LEAD

U.S. Army story by Sgt. James Liker
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

POZNAN, Poland--The 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade out of Fort Carson, Colorado, has been forward deployed throughout the European Theater since October 2021.

The 4th SFAB consists of specialized units with the core mission to conduct training, advising, assisting, enabling and accompanying operations with allied and partner nations.

Under the operational control of V Corps, and in coordination with U.S. Army Europe & Africa, the 4th SFAB currently has Advisors in eight European countries: Poland, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Georgia, North Macedonia and Albania.

“We have Advisors in Europe from the Baltics to the Black Sea integrating with our NATO Allies and Partner Nations,” said Maj. Jaymon Bell, forward support element officer in charge, 4th SFAB. “We are here to provide shared understanding and help build joint capability and capacity between the nations armed forces.”

The 4th SFAB’s joint capabilities are shown in multinational exercises such as Defender Europe, Allied Spirit, Dynamic Front, and Combined Resolve.

“The SFAB helps to maintain the U.S. Army’s direct link to our NATO Allies and Partner Nations by having boots on ground serving within their formations,” said Bell. “This helps to maintain our commitment to strengthening the alliance and builds readiness within our formation.”

Sgt. 1st. Class Martin Hill, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 4th SFAB, works closely with 3rd Brigade of the Georgian Defense Force in Kutaisi, Georgia.

“We build relationships by living with our partners and training with them on their schedules,” said Hill. “We try to identify how we can partner better during the exercises and training events.”



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Angelo Mejia, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The SFAB provides subject matter experts in various military occupational specialties to help with training, advising and assisting.

Hill added, “We provide SMEs in different fields from communications to engineers and maneuver experts, to help build repour and proficiency and advancement in these areas for the partner unit.”

The assistance doesn’t stop with weapon systems or training exercises in the field. The 4th SFAB attended a joint public affairs workshop in March.

“We held a joint social media information session with public affairs professionals from the Polish 18th Mechanized Division in Warsaw, Poland,” said Bell. “The session was focused on how the U.S. Army PAO’s create and share content on multiple Social Media platforms.”

“The relationship with the Polish 18th Mechanized Division dates back to the fall of 2022,” said Bell. “The relationship between the 18th Mech. Div. and the 4th SFAB continues to strengthen the alliance

and professionally develop our Advisors.”

The 4th SFAB has been training and assisting in weapons, range safety, and the development of the Georgian Defense Forces noncommissioned officer ranks. For example, in 2019, Georgia received multiple weapon systems to include the M2, M249, M240 and MK 19’s, which required new equipment training from Advisors.

“An impactful mission for me was my first employment to Georgia in 2021 helping [the Georgia Defense Force] transition from soviet era weapons to the new U.S. arsenal,” said Hill. “Training them in new techniques and operations of the equipment and seeing how much they want to learn and master the equipment; it shows the commitment and resolve they had to start a new chapter in their military’s history.”

Through their continuous presence, the Advisor teams demonstrate the U.S. Army’s commitment to the collective defense of Europe and American resolve to deter continued Russian aggression against our allies and partner nations.



EUROPEAN ROCKET ARTILLERY SUMMIT LAUNCHES ALLIED INITIATIVE

U.S. Army story by Sgt. Maj. Michael Pintagro
V Corps

TORUN, Poland – Senior leaders from V Corps, partner U.S. formations and allied services launched into the pathbreaking European High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Initiative April 17-19 at the Polish Artillery School.

The European Rocket Artillery Summit marked the first major milestone of the HIMARS Initiative and introduced key leaders, staff members and technical experts to relevant concepts as well as doctrinal, organizational, training and logistical considerations.

The summit featured remarks from senior leaders, panel discussions led by relevant subject matter experts, static displays and a modest handful of social activities. Panelists discussed topics spanning from employment of long-range rocket artillery in large scale conflict, effective targeting and achievement of improved accuracy through precision technology to systems management, operational processes and integration.

“Building lethality and expanded combat

capability with NATO allies and partners is a critical requirement for V Corps,” said Lt. Gen. John S. Kolasheski, the Corps commanding general and summit host. “HIMARS and other rocket artillery systems help us achieve this. So, we’re trying to push through the friction and challenges that diminish our interoperability, integration and ability to achieve these outcomes. The European HIMARS Initiative provides forums – starting with this summit – to gather and work through those challenges.”

“This event is critical,” added Lt. Gen. Wieslaw Kukula, commanding general of the Polish Territorial Defence Forces. “It is the next step along the road to implementation of the HIMARS system. It marks a new way of thinking, how we create a shared mental picture. We are very close from a mental and a human point of view. This summit will only strengthen those bonds.”

Lt. Gen. Tomasz Piotrowski, operational commander of the Polish armed forces, likewise emphasized the human dimension of the summit and enduring partnership among participating leaders and services. He described the summit as an ideal forum for

“very fruitful discussions” that reinforced “good relations between us as friends and allies. It was a perfect opportunity to share our perspectives, thoughts and concerns. I think that strengthened our relationships.”

Maj. Gen. Greg Anderson, commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division and a key leader in partner training efforts across NATO’s eastern flank, emphasized the team-building as well as the human dimension of the initiative.

The summit, he said, “means a lot to both the division and our allies and teammates. We’re training each other – iron sharpens iron. Our allies are sharpening us as we sharpen them. In terms of fires, we’re bringing all the components of the fires architecture together – intelligence, logistics, mission command, fires lethality – this summit is asking, how do you stitch all that together so divisions and corps can fight next to each other?”

From a tactical and operational standpoint, the summit and broader HIMARS initiative aim to boost allied lethality and capability on the battlefield.

Col. Wil Hsu, commander of the 41st Field

Artillery Brigade, summarized the main advantages of the HIMARS platform. Its superior reach, he noted, “adds depth for the commander to reach targets that are really far out.” Its improved mobility, moreover, allows artillery to “travel very quickly and move all around” more challenging “cross-country terrain.” Its portability, lastly, permits air transit, “so the HIMARS can go on C130s and C17s and be transported around the European theater and make a big impact.”

Integration across human, procedural and technical domains, a principle embodied most concretely in the “Interoperability Laboratory” – widely known as the “ILAB” throughout Corps and allied formations – figured prominently in summit discussions. Col. John Hosey, the Corps Security Cooperation director and foremost ILAB authority, participated energetically in a panel devoted to the topic and demonstrated facility capabilities during the summit.

“Interoperability is a critical topic to the alliance, because being effective results in a more credible collective defense of Europe,” Hosey said. “Each nation can have differences in the way they create their networks, but if it is built to the NATO standard we can federate and communicate on a daily basis. The tempo has increased by allies and partners in wanting the ability to share a common operating picture, which facilitates decision dominance, basically allowing leaders to detect, decide and deliver at speed.”

Allies expressed an equally forceful commitment to integration across domains and a similarly optimistic view of ongoing

efforts.

“I think we’ve brought interoperability to the next level,” said Maj. Gen. Christian-Daniel Dan, deputy chief of Romanian Land Forces. “It’s just amazing. It’s fantastic.” We need to align “our way of thinking,” in terms of “people, processes, procedure... Technology means a lot and we have to ensure working as a team we are able to make it happen.”

Hsu directly and forcefully articulated the implications of successful integration for shared NATO endeavors and the destiny of the alliance.

The basis for NATO, he said, “is 31 nations coming together for a common defense. And what makes that possible is interoperability – 31 nations coming together, able to communicate, whether it be using artillery systems, command and control systems, intelligence, logistics, whatever the system is. If we’re able to communicate together, work together, then we can fight together, and most importantly, have the ability to win.”

The HIMARS initiative, a tailored operational, activity and investment framework for ongoing rocket artillery endeavors, aims to boost NATO capability and interoperability. The initiative, developed in close coordination with allies, focuses on specific needs of participating countries. A scalable, flexible approach that maximizes versatility and initiative, aims for greater lethality, integration, precision and artillery expertise.

The initiative’s next steps include additional

leader engagements and planning and synchronization forums as well as aggressive training and mentorship efforts, punctuated by a HIMARS apprenticeship program. The apprenticeship program will match allied personnel with specialized U.S. Soldiers and formations to inculcate knowledge of systems, capabilities and procedures.

The V Corps commander outlined the way ahead.

The second phase of the HIMARS initiative, Kolasheski noted, “is a series of operations and logistics summits, where we bring in a community of interest – those who have HIMARS and those scheduled to get HIMARS through the foreign military sales process.” The third phase, he continued, “is an apprenticeship program, where we take those same countries and their Soldiers and we embed them in comparable U.S. Army units. We take their officers and noncommissioned officers and embed them into our HIMARS or MLRS battalions, where they get an opportunity to learn what it takes to effectively man, train, maintain and sustain the system.”

The final phase involves additional new equipment training as allied units prepare to acquire their own systems. “This training is part of a program manager-delivered program of instruction,” Kolasheski said.

“We’re very excited about this initiative,” the V Corps commanding general added. “We see this as the underpinning of an expanded ability to fight with joint fires in support of large-scale combat operations.”

V CORPS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

AROUND THE CORPS

- **May is Asian American/ Pacific Islander Heritage Month**
- **May 3:** Poland's Constitution Day
- **May 4:** Latvia's Independence Restoration Day
- **May 14:** Mother's Day
- **May 26-29:** Memorial Day DONSA

POZNAN

- **Every Tues. 7:30 p.m:** Watercolors Class, Bldg. 45, 1st floor, Rec Room or TV Room
- **Every Wed. 7 p.m:** Bible study at building 45, 1st floor day room
- **Every Tues. & Thurs. 4 p.m:** Volleyball

FORT KNOX

- **Every Tues. 3 p.m.:** ACFT at Battalion
- **Every Wed. 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m:** Mid-Week Bible study at Cavalry Chapel
- **May 4-5-** M4/M17 PMI
- **May 8-11-** M4/M17 Range
- **May 12-** Check Rides
- **May 15-19:** Combatives

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

"The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry."
 - President Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Daniel K. Inouye 1st Japanese American elected to Congress.

1843

May 7: Japanese immigrants started coming to the United States.



6 out of 100 Soldiers are Asian American or Pacific Islander



Herbert Choy 1st Asian American federal court judge.

1869

May 10: the Transcontinental Railroad was finalized.



*1 PERSON= 10



John Liu Fugh 1st Asian American to reach general.

1942

April 1: the War Department activated the 1st Filipino Battalion.

53,433

Asian Americans serve in the Active Duty Military



Gen. Eric Shinseki 1st Asian American Chief of Staff.

8,793

Pacific Islanders serve in the Active Duty Military



Tammy Duckworth 1st Thai Congress woman.

1948

July 26: Harry S. Truman signed this executive order banning segregation in the Armed Forces.

Out of 3,534 Medals Of Honor awarded, 33 were awarded to Asian American or Pacific Islander service members.



The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was an all Nisei (American born sons of Japanese immigrants) regiment who fought in World War II.



~ 14,000 Soldiers



9,486



21



8