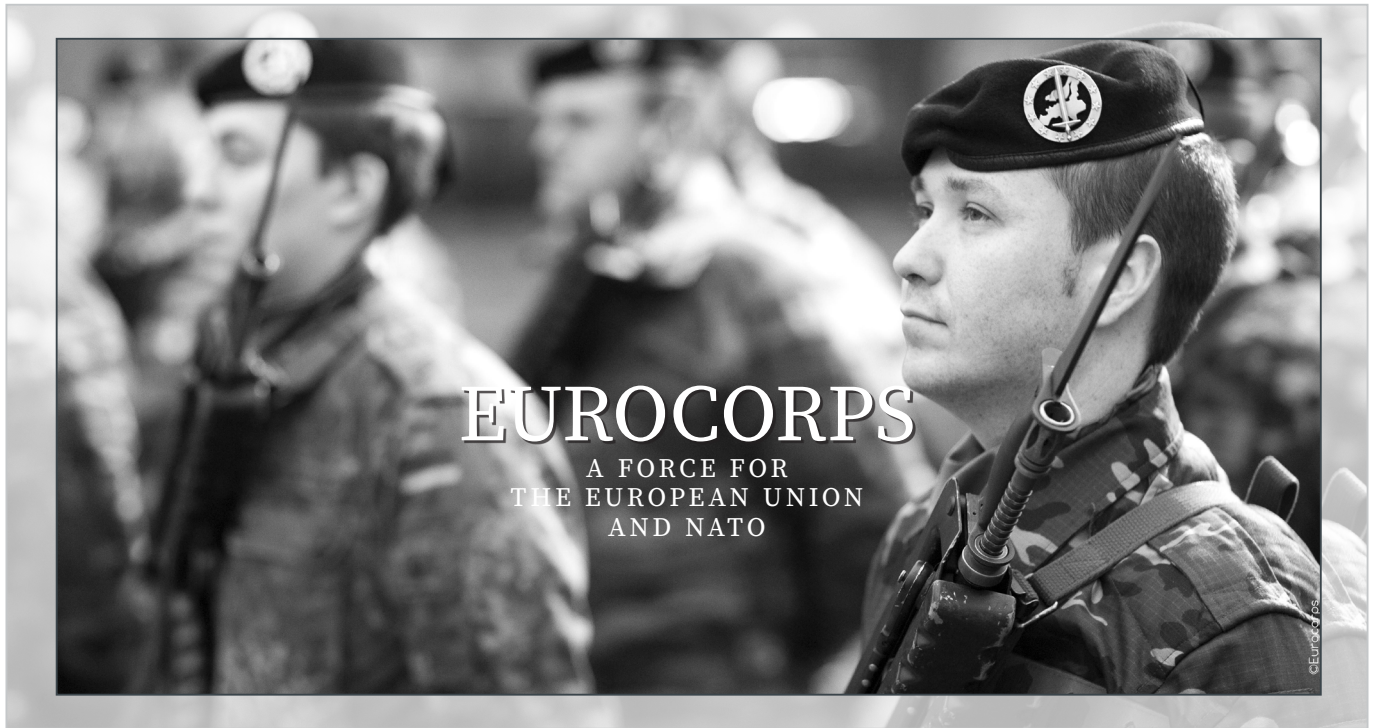


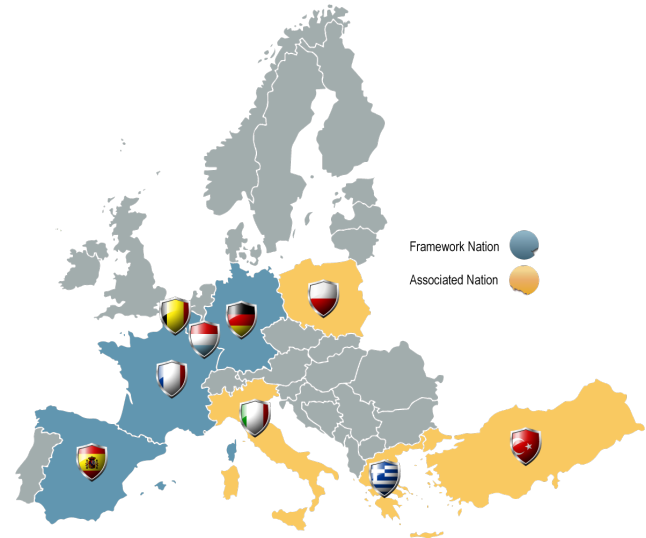


HAND OVER-TAKE OVER **NATO RESPONSE FORCE 2020**



8 JANUARY 2020

HANDOVER TAKEOVER NATO RESPONSE FORCE 2020



Five Framework Nations: Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Spain
Five Associated Nations: Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania and Turkey

Eurocorps is a multinational, rapidly deployable corps headquarters with around 1,100 soldiers from 10 nations. Originally created in 1992 as a result of the Elysee Treaty and an initiative of the French president Francois Mitterrand and the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the heart of Europe, it is adapted to the needs of modern warfare on a regular basis.

Since its creation, Eurocorps has been for over 25 years a symbol of European integration and multinational cooperation.

Eurocorps soldiers had the opportunity to display their professionalism and skills throughout the whole world during NATO- and EU-led missions.

The commitment for NRF 2020 is the third NRF-Engagement in Eurocorps history. With the events on the Crimea and in the Ukraine the security environment has changed. The NATO member states took this fact into account during the NATO Summit in 2016, when they significantly increased the requirements. After more than two decades NATO faced new threats, which need a faster response time and much more flexibility than ever before in NATO's history.

The soldiers of the Eurocorps have been preparing for this special task for one and a half years within the framework of an extremely challenging exercise cycle. During this period they impressively demonstrated their outstanding knowledge and skills. The competences and flexibility acquired during the European Union missions were particularly valuable. The four-week certification exercise in Stavanger, Norway, which Eurocorps completed with an excellent result, provided proof of this.

For the Eurocorps soldiers, 2020 will be a year of NRF readiness, in which they will stand strong for the security and freedom of our nations.

EUROCORPS



With the treaty of Strasbourg signed in 2009, Eurocorps has gained its full legal competence and significantly increased its responsibilities in the field of financial and equipment management. This provides Eurocorps with a unique status.

With the SACEUR agreement signed with NATO in 1993 and the signature of a Letter of intent with the EU in January 2016, Eurocorps is linked with both NATO's and the European Union's command structures. But Eurocorps still keeps its autonomy and is available for both organizations after a decision of the framework nations taken by the Common Committee (decisive body of Eurocorps).

On the operational side, Eurocorps members are able to fulfill missions ranging from the level of an advisory/training mission up to that of collective defense - the so called Article 5 operations - in a high intensity conflict.

A Force for the European Union and NATO

Since its creation in 1992 Eurocorps participated to nearly all major military operations and missions within the last 25 years. Complemented by missions for the European Union in Africa Eurocorps became one of the most experienced headquarters in Europe and an important contribution to the European Defense.

Eurocorps had the opportunity to demonstrate this capability in several missions and operations:

- 1998 Stabilization force in Bosnia-Herzegovina under NATO command (SFOR)
- 2000 Command of the NATO mission in Kosovo (KFOR)
- 2004 Command of the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF)
- 2006 NATO Response Force (standby)
- 2010 NATO Response Force (standby)
- 2012 Deployment to the NATO headquarters in Afghanistan (ISAF)
- 2015 Command of the European Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali)
- 2016 EU Battle Group Force HQ (standby)
- 2016 Command of the European Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM RCA)
- 2017 EU Battle Group Force HQ (standby)
- 2017 Command of the European Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM RCA)
- 2020 NATO Response Force (standby)

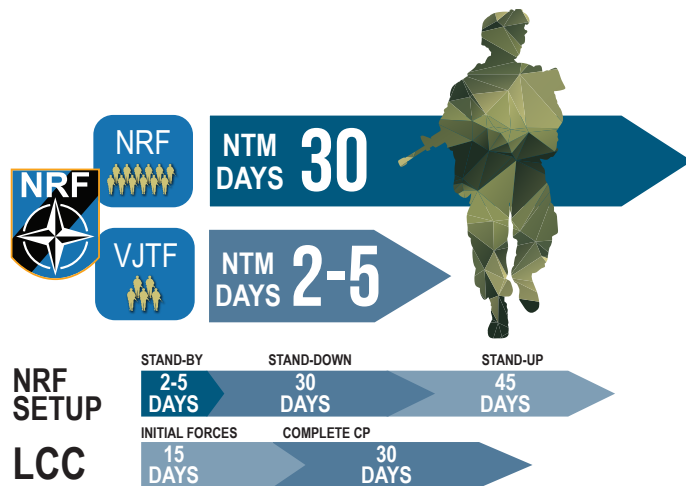


HANDOVER TAKEOVER NATO RESPONSE FORCE 2020



Lieutenant General Laurent Kolodziej
Commanding General EUROCORPS

Lieutenant General J.T. Thomson
Commander NATO Allied Land Command



NATO has significantly shortened response times in order to be able to respond effectively to threats to the Alliance. For normal NRF units, the response time is 30 days. The **Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF)** must be ready to deploy within 2-5 days.

Over the past 30 years, the image of NATO, and the NRF in particular, has changed significantly. The collapse of the Warsaw Pact in 1990 marked the beginning of an era of disarmament and a peace dividend. This was interrupted for the first time by the massive occurrence of terrorism with the attacks in New York (9/11). The mission in Afghanistan within Art. 5 NATO Treaty followed with the primary goal of fighting international terrorism and closing retreat areas. **As a result, the nations adapted their armed forces to the requirements of stabilization operations and moved away from classic national and alliance defense.** This was accompanied by significant troop reductions and the partial abandonment of capabilities that were not directly required in the stabilization operations.

The annexation of the Crimea and parts of the Ukraine added by cyber and hybrid warfare of Russia were game-changers. In particular, the nations on NATO's eastern flank, such as Poland and the Baltic States, developed a significantly increased need for security. The NATO member states took this into account as part of NATO-SUMMIT 2016. Not only it was decided to set up the multinational Enhanced Forward Presence Battalions and implement them within the shortest possible time, but also the NATO Response Force's warning and response times were significantly shortened by setting up a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The same applies to the Land Component Command which the Eurocorps will provide in 2020.

FUTURE



Following the decisions of the Common Committee in November 2020, the Eurocorps will not only maintain its duality for NATO and the European Union, but will also expand it. While the year 2020 will be marked by the NRF's commitment, Eurocorps soldiers will support and lead a total of four rotations of the European Training Missions in Mali and the Central African Republic in 2021/22. As early as 2024, Eurocorps will again be deployed within NATO at the level of a Multi-corps Headquarters. **This makes Eurocorps the first visible proof that European Defense and NATO complement each other perfectly.**

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