

U.S. Army Europe leaders gather for eighth monthly Warfighter Forum

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By **U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs**

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Senior leaders from across U.S. Army Europe gathered here to share best practices and lessons learned during USAREUR's eighth monthly Warfighter Forum, Feb. 21.

An initiative of USAREUR commanding general Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, the monthly discussion is part of his continuing focus on communications, cross-talk and "two-level-down" leader development. Changes occurring across the Army and across the U.S. Army in Europe were foremost in the minds of the forum's participants.

"A primary responsibility of senior leaders is to manage transition," noted Hertling.

More than 40 leaders met at the USAREUR headquarters building here, including USAREUR deputy commanding general Maj. Gen. James Boozer and Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Davenport, the new USAREUR command sergeant major. Approximately 50 more USAREUR leaders joined in the event via video teleconference from across the European theater.

Topics at the forum included discussions led by the commander of the U.S. NATO Brigade, Col. B. J. Constantine, on his unit's DUI/DWI after-action review process; the commander of the 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Col. Stephen Maranian, on how his unit publicly communicates its story and the Army story; the commander of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, Col. Jay Voorhees, on Army aviation transformation; the commander of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Col. Dave Carstens, on strategic planning lessons learned; and the commander of the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Col. Pat Matlock, on how units successfully transition in Afghanistan from counterinsurgency to security force assistance.

Several other leaders in the group presented discussions on additional topics. The commander of the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, Col. James Zellmer, led discussion on the European Foundry intelligence training program; Sgt. Maj. Hoyt Williams of the USAREUR Command Surgeon's office presented discussion on Army MOS 68W (health care specialist) recertification; USAREUR personnel officer (G1) Larry Gottardi outlined the new, more rigorous, Army retention policy; Landstuhl Regional Medical Center commander Col. (P) Jeffrey Clark discussed his Soldiers' goal-setting prosperity plan; Warrior Transition Battalion-Europe commander Lt. Col. Mike Richardson gave a presentation on the new Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES); and the commander of Europe Regional Medical Command, Col. Bill Bachand, discussed the negative effect of failed appointments.

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