Unified Endeavor features 3 weeks of intense training, multinational decision-making

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By U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

Capt. Jon Patten, Battle Captain for the operation center, talks to a German soldier and learns some new German words during a break at Exercise Unified Endeavor in the Grafenwoehr Training Area at the U.S. Army Europe's Joint Multinational Training Command in Germany. Photo by Richard Bumgardner.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – After three weeks of intense training, mission-rehearsing and multinational decision-making, Exercise Unified Endeavor 12-2 came to a close at the Joint Multinational Simulations Center here Apr. 6.

Unified Endeavor brought more than 1900 multinational Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and contractors from 27 countries together at eight locations spanning across the globe to participate in or to support the multi-tiered command and control exercise.

"It’s unprecedented as far as its level of complexity for a training environment,” said exercise co-director Maj. Gen Frederick Rudesheim, from Joint and Coalition Warfighting Center. "It allowed us to use a single environment, a single scenario, and join together essentially four echelons of training environment all together.”

For only the second time, and this being the most ambitious, all the major headquarter structures that are going into Afghanistan were being trained at the same time allowing an unprecedented ability to weave exercise scenarios throughout national and international leadership.

"The exercise has gone extremely well. There has been a lot of team-building that has occurred here...and that’s probably one of the most important things here,” Rudesheim said. "It's intangible but it is extremely important. It is meeting up and training with those that you are going to be operating with in theater.”
Most of these U.S. and multinational forces will see each other again in a few months, although next time it will be on the ground in Afghanistan as they assume their leadership roles as the International Security Assistance Force, the ISAF Joint Command and Regional Command-South of this international security effort.

For more exercise action, visit the Unified Endeavor slideshow and visit our Flickr page.

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