Multinational, multiservice planning at the core of exercise Saber Strike 2012

June 19, 2012
By Capt. Robert Sperling, Pennsylvania Air National Guard Public Affairs

TAPA, Estonia - Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers and Airmen of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and Air National Guard set up workstations in preparation for simulation exercises with the Estonian Army here as part of exercise Saber Strike 2012. Servicemembers from Great Britain and Canada, and active duty Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe's Joint Multinational Training Command, will take part in the simulations. Saber Strike is a multinational, multiservice, multinational training event involving more than 2,000 personnel from USAREUR's 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 21st Theater Sustainment Command; the Pennsylvania Guard; the 4th U.S. Marine Division; the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard; the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuania armed forces; and contingents from Canada, Finland, France and the U.K. (Photo by Capt. Rob Sperling)

TAPA, Estonia - Representatives from Estonia, the United States, Canada, and Great Britain have gathered at the Tapa Training facility to build, design and execute an exercise pushing the limits and raising the capabilities of the participating nations' leadership through war game simulation as part of Saber Strike 2012.

Working cooperatively with allied partners, the Estonian forces are exercising a combat action scenario in a fictitious country that is undergoing civil unrest and facing an invasion by neighboring foreign forces sympathetic to the civil unrest. This exercise provides an opportunity for U.S. and allied forces to work hand-in-hand with each other to enhance everyone's overall ability to work together in a combat environment.

"I have been working with the Estonians since November," said Lt. Col. Adam Schlang, Exercise Planner, Joint Multinational Training and Simulation Center. "Throughout the entire process the Estonians have been very proactive, forward leaning, and willing to demonstrate their capabilities from planning and development through execution of this exercise."

This exercise focuses on the command and control, planning and coordination aspects of military operations, specifically the coordination and reporting activities of forces in the field through the various higher headquarters elements.
The international partnerships and relationships developed throughout Saber Strike 2012 will continue to grow and develop as the plans and established coordination channels are tested during week two of the command post portion of this exercise.

Week two of Saber Strike 2012 will feature the execution of the plans that have been in coordination since the initial planning conference in November to test the Estonian brigade's ability to coordinate and execute the developed plans cooperatively in a multinational environment.

Saber Strike 2012 is a multinational, tactical field training and command post exercise that involves more than 2,000 personnel from the U.S. Army's 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, the 4th U.S. Marine Division, the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard, Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian armed forces, with contingents from Canada, Finland, France and the U.K. The exercise, led by U.S. Army Europe, is designed to enhance joint and combined interoperability between the U.S. and partner nations, and will help prepare participants to operate successfully in a joint, multinational, interagency, integrated environment.

For more photos, visit the Saber Strike set in the USAREUR Flickr photostream

About us: U.S. Army Europe is uniquely positioned to advance American strategic interests across Eurasia and has unparalleled capability to prevent conflict, shape the environment and, if necessary, win decisively. The relationships we build during more than 1000 theater security cooperation events in more than 40 countries each year lead directly to support for multinational contingency operations around the world, strengthen regional partnerships, and enhance global security.