European Combined Training Conference finds efficiency in economic austerity

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By U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

OBERAMMERGAU, Germany -- The semi-annual Combined Training Conference here this week enables European militaries to plan and synchronize future training and exercise events and featured 230 participants representing 32 European nations.

The CTC is a venue for European countries to coordinate training efforts in a way that maximizes efficiency and resources. Countries can send soldiers or entire units to another country to receive training. Those countries can reimburse each other by hosting other training events or through other means of compensation.

"I can't think of anything more important than mapping out our training and our exercises for the future," said U.S. Army Europe acting commanding general Maj. Gen. James C. Boozer.

At this iteration of the CTC, U.S. Army Europe Command Sgt. Maj. David Davenport is holding an internal seminar for the sergeants major and senior non-commissioned officers in attendance. They are discussing training management and scheduling techniques to maximize resources, conduct after-action reviews and how to capture and implement lessons learned.

"When you think about training, whether it's tactical, operational or strategic, the noncommissioned officer needs to be involved," Boozer said.

A recent example of training exchange facilitated by CTC was exercise Saber Junction at the Joint Multinational Training Command. Saber Junction was attended by 19 nations who participated in the U.S. Army's Decisive Action Training Environment scenario as a multinational coalition.

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