

USAREUR to celebrate 68th birthday

By U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

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HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Across Europe, in Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Army Europe will celebrate its 68th birthday June 8.

USAREUR traces its roots back to January 1942 as American Soldiers opened a command post in Belfast, Northern Ireland in anticipation of combat in World War II. Those first arrivals were the advance party of Headquarters V Corps, the centerpiece of USAREUR combat forces.

The date on which USAREUR celebrates its anniversary today goes back to the War Department establishment of the European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army, or ETOUSA, on June 8, 1942. ETOUSA's mission was to conduct planning for the retaking of Europe and exercise operational control over U.S. forces.

Today USAREUR Soldiers are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan and supporting a wide range of missions from the Atlantic to Central Asia. On average, a quarter to a third of USAREUR's Soldiers are deployed across the globe at any given time. USAREUR continues to strengthen alliances and build partner capacity through theater security cooperation activities with its 51 allied and partner nations across Europe.

To read a complete history of USAREUR, visit our [history](#) page.