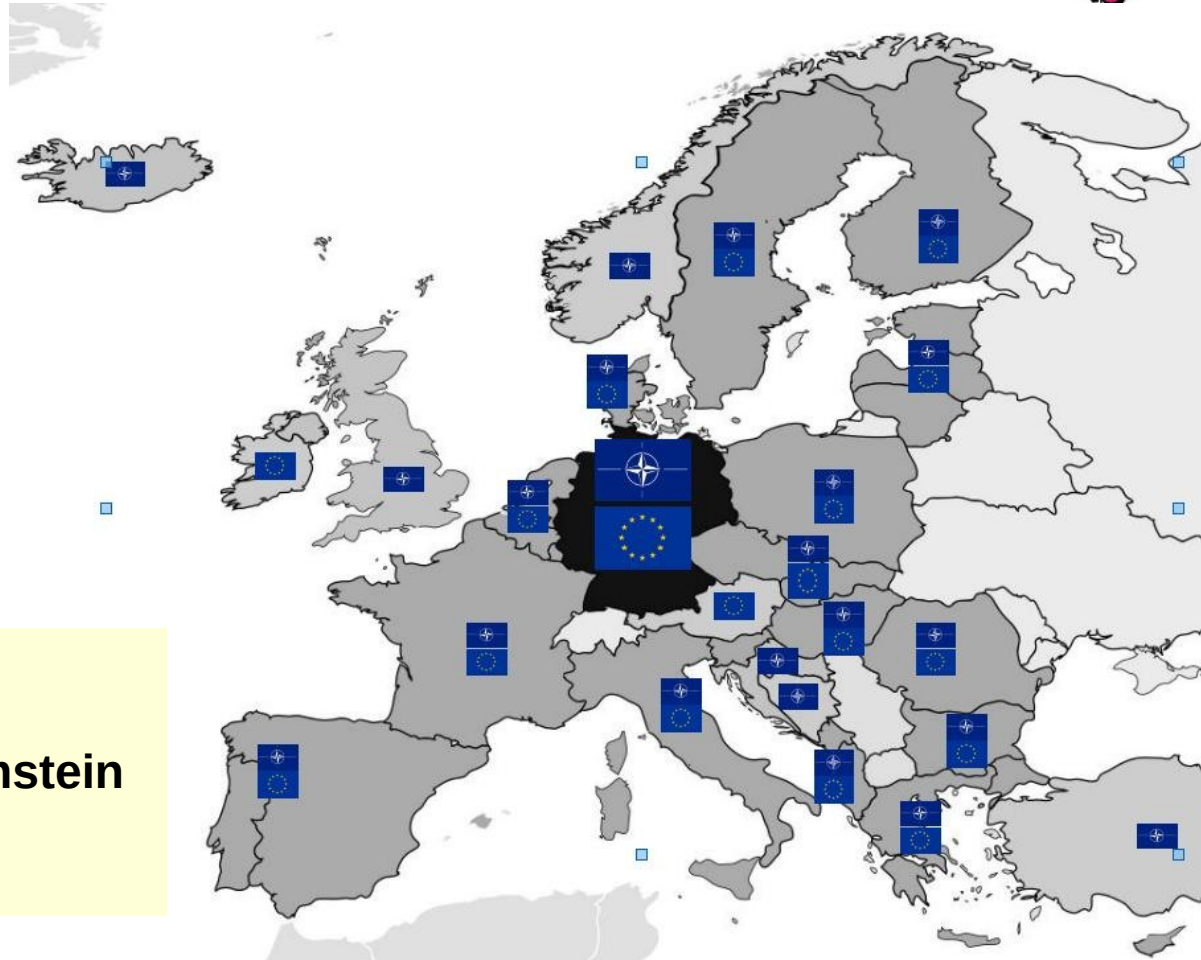


# U.S. Military Bases in Europe – an overview



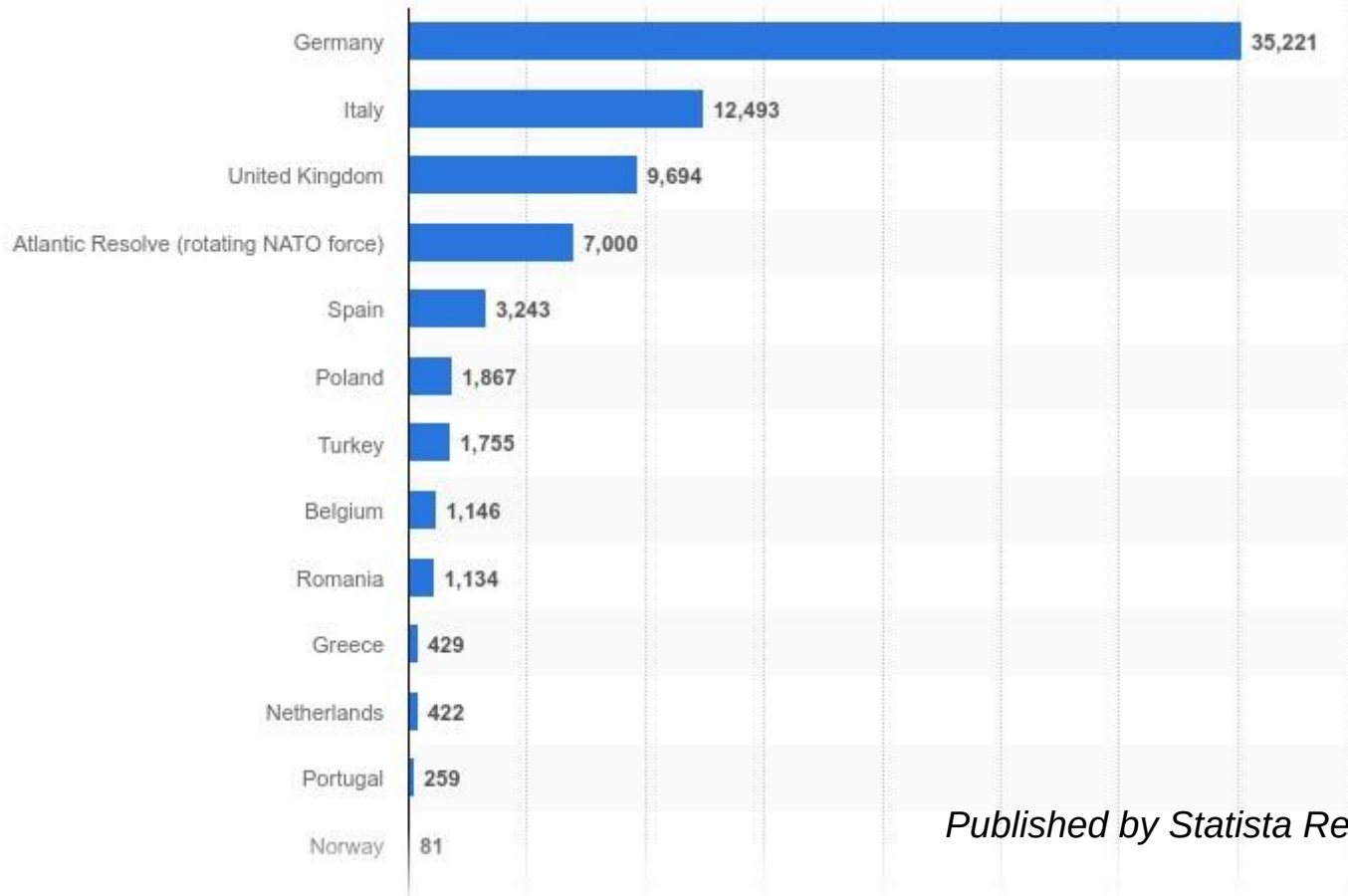
- U.S. military presence in Europe
- Short history since 1990
- Main U.S. locations in Germany
- Countries with strong US expansion
- Local resistance



by **Karl-Heinz Peil**

from the campaign **Stopp Air Base Ramstein**  
Contact: [khpeil@gmx.de](mailto:khpeil@gmx.de)

# Number of U.S. military personnel in Europe 2022



Number have increased significant until now.

*Published by Statista Research Department, Dec 5, 2023*

# History of U.S. military presence in Europe



- Since 1990: General reduction of foreign forces after the end of the cold war
- 1997: NATO-Russia Founding Act and several additional agreements with main statement: **No permanent deployment of NATO forces in Eastern Europe**
- Since 2015: Military training of NATO troops in Poland and Baltic states
- 2016: Opening of the first site of NATO missile defense system in Romania
- 2017: NATO's four multinational battlegroups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland fully operational – based on periodical rotation
- Since 2019: U.S. military facilities and permanent deployment of NATO forces in Eastern Europe



# History of U.S. military presence in Germany



- 1990: 200.000 U.S. soldiers in Western Germany reduced to 70.000 until 2000 (Eastern Germany: 400.000 Sowjet soldiers)
- 2002 – 2005: Strong reduction of total number of bases and concentration to region Rhineland-Palatinate with focus on Kaiserslautern and Ramstein
- 2012: Relocation of US Army HQ Europe and Africa from Heidelberg to Wiesbaden
- 2024: official 38.000 military staff - Total US persons with family members, civil employees, service providers, NSA and CIA approx. additional 40.000



Source: Wikipedia

# Actual U.S. military presence in Germany

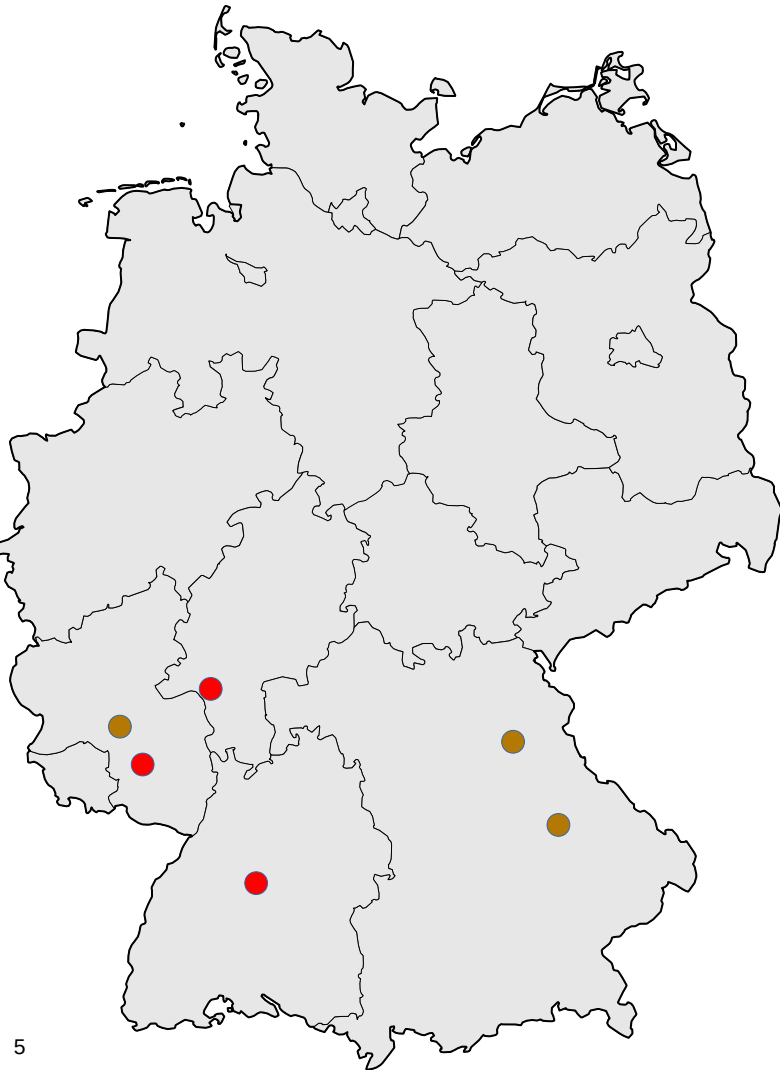


## Main distribution

- US **Garrison Rhineland-Palatinate** (incl. Mannheim) - approx. 50.000 persons in total
- US Army **Garrison Wiesbaden**: approx. 20.000 persons in total
- approx. 70 single locations

## Main functional Structure

- **Command centres:** **Stuttgart** (EUCOM, AFRICOM), **Wiesbaden** (HQ US Army Europe and Africa), **Ramstein** (NATO, AIRCOM, US Air and Space Operations Center)
- **Training areas:** **Hohenfels, Grafenwöhr, Baumholder**
- **Military logistic:** Kaiserslauten (with Ramstein, Miesau, Mannheim)

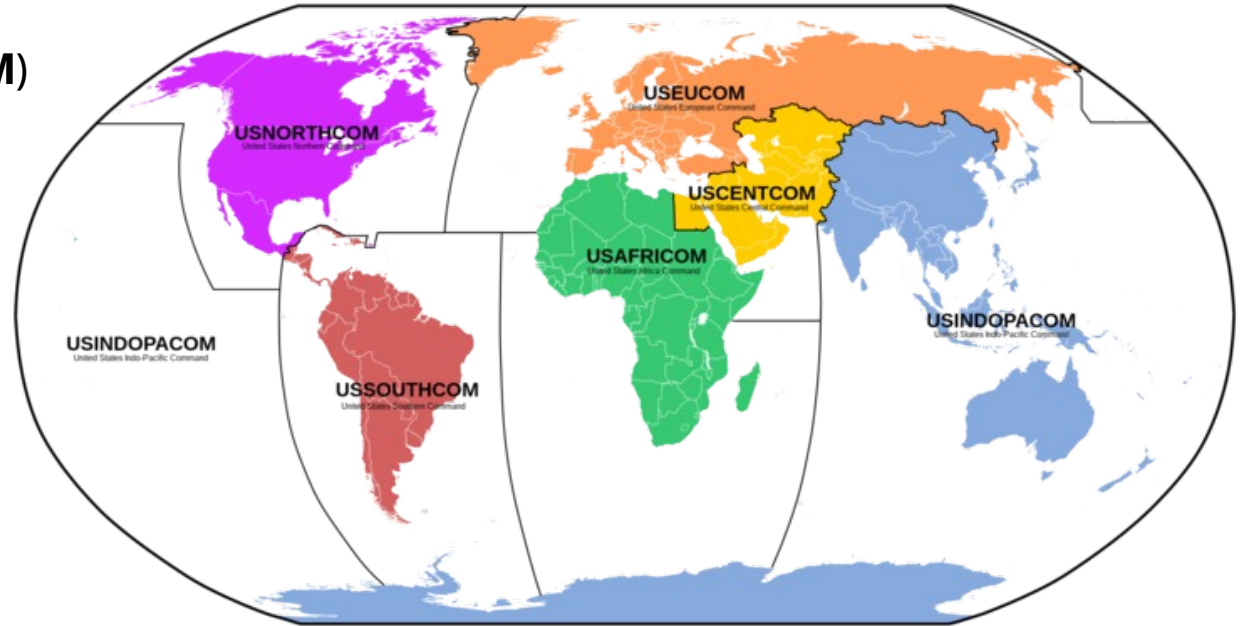


# U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart



## Main locations in Stuttgart (Germany)

- Patch Barracks:
  - US European Command (**EUCOM**)
  - Special Operations Command (SOCEUR)
    - all special units in Europe
  - National Security Agency (NSA)
    - European Centre
- Kelley Barracks:
  - US Africa Command (**AFRICOM**)
    - since 2007



# U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden: Headquarters of the U.S. Army in Europe and Africa



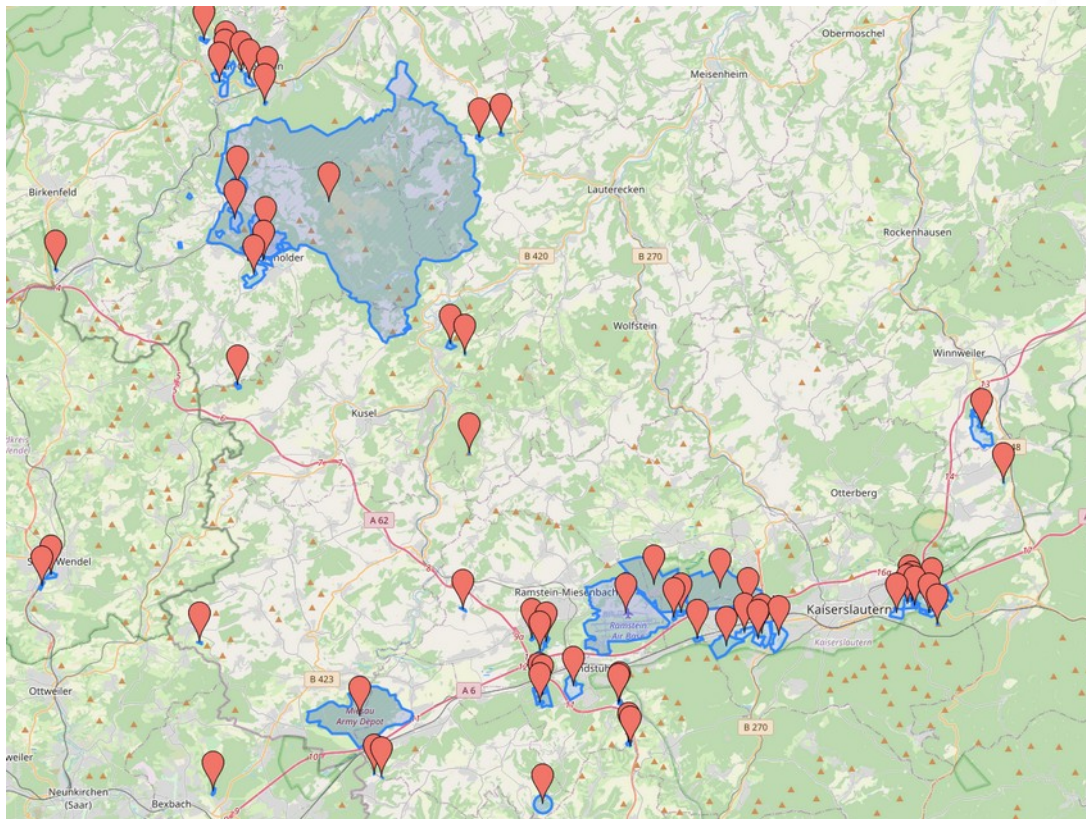
- **Security Assistance Group Ukraine unit** is to be expanded into a NATO headquarters called **NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine**
- **Multi-Domain Task Force** (MDTF) stationed in Wiesbaden since the end of 2021 would become the operations center for the new cruise missiles
- **56th Artillery Command** (part of MDTF) in the Mainz-Kastel district of Wiesbaden is intended to be the command center for the scheduled Dark Eagle, Tomahawks and SM-6



# US Garrison Rhineland-Palatinate



- **Kaiserslautern:**  
couple of facilities US Army und US Air Force
- **Landstuhl Regional Medical Center:**  
largest hospital of US Army outside USA, new hospital Weilerbach next to Air Base
- **Miesau Army Depot:**  
largest ammunition depot of US-Army outside USA
- **Training area Baumholder:**  
i.e. training of Ukraine soldiers



Source: Openstreetbrowser with military layer



# Ramstein: Headquarter of US Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa



Responsible for planning, operation and support of Air Force operation in Europe and Africa, including:

- Five main bases in UK and Germany (Ramstein, Spandahlem) an Italy
- 80 further facilities in Europe and Incirlik (Turkey)



# Global U.S. drone war via Distributed Command Ground System



Below: Air Base Ramstein 2017

Right: Air Base Sigonella (Italy / Sicilia) 2017

Right below: Sigonella 2020

*All images: Google Earth*



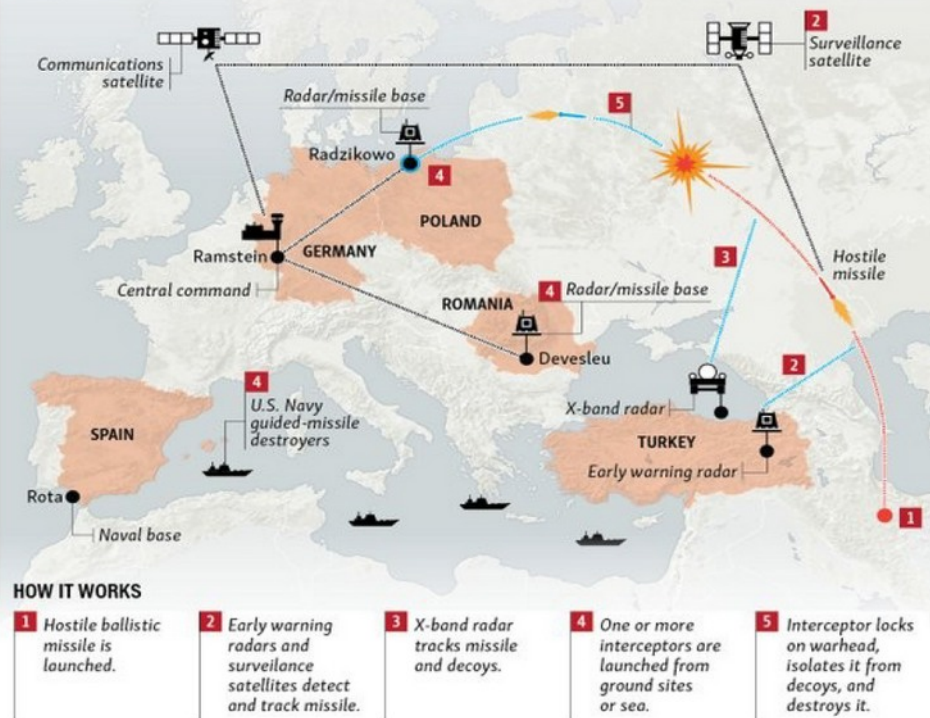
# NATO Allied Air Command (AIRCOM)

- since 1974 in Ramstein: NATO Air Force HQ
- Since 2004: Airspace surveillance in the Baltic States
- Since 2019: NATO missile defense in eastern Europe



## EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

A high-tech 'shield' aimed at protecting Europe from **ballistic missile threats** is a step closer to being established. This is how it will work:

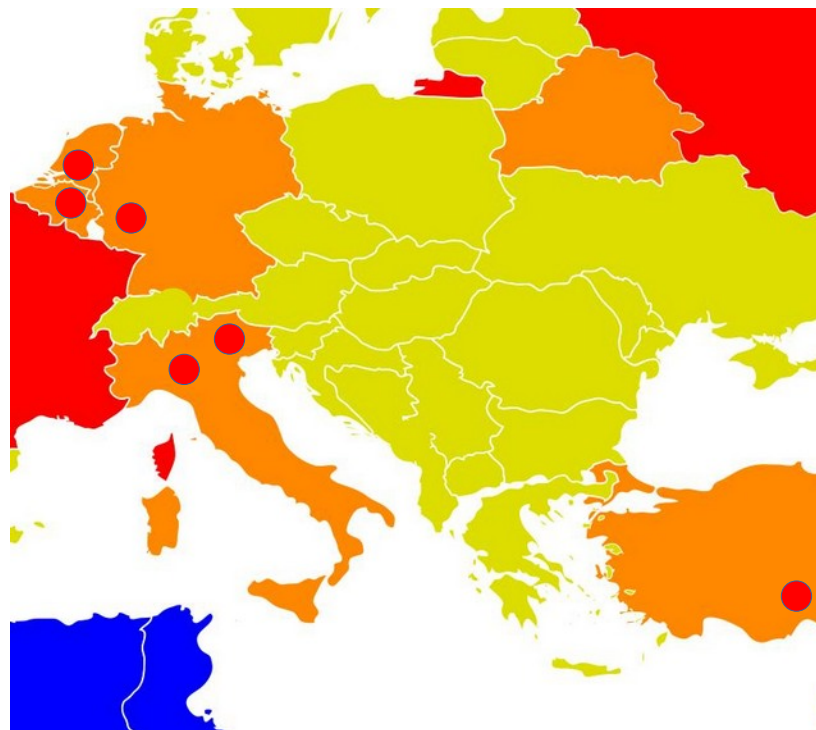


The screenshot shows the NATO Allied Air Command website. The header includes the NATO logo and navigation links: 'Who we are', 'What we do', 'Newsroom', 'Contact', 'Career', and a search icon. The main content area features the slogan 'WE BRING AIRPOWER TO ITS FULL EFFECT' and 'Air Command and Control'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'Excellence in Air Command and Control is vital to bring NATO's Airpower to its full effect. Proper planning, tasking, communication and assessment are necessary to coordinate and synergize the broad strategic, operational and tactical potential of Air Power, enabling the full delivery of the required military effect.'

# Nuclear Sharing of U.S. weapons in NATO countries



- National military bases shared with U.S. military staff



Weapons provided for nuclear sharing in NATO by the United States (2021)<sup>[2]</sup>







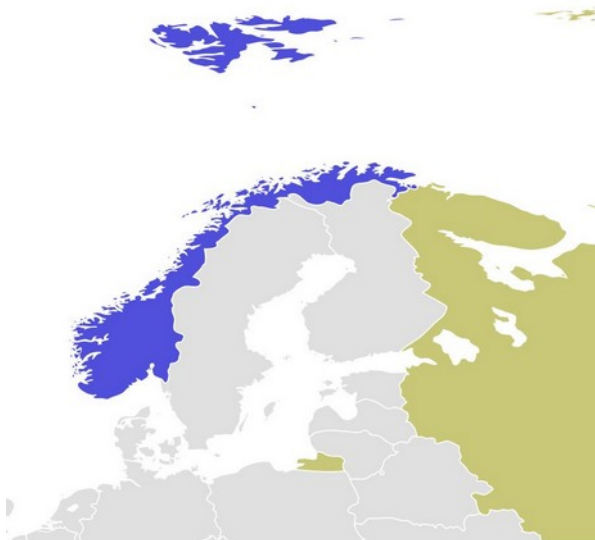
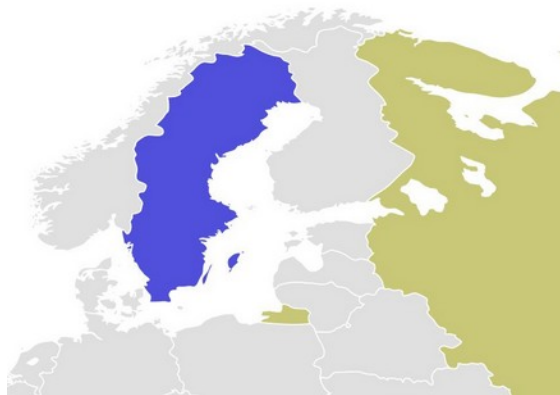
Country ↕	Base ↕	Estimated ↕
 Belgium	Kleine Brogel	20
 Germany	Büchel	20
 Italy	Aviano	20
 Italy	Ghedi	
 Netherlands	Volkel	20
 Turkey	Incirlik	20
		<b>100</b>

Image and table: Wikipedia

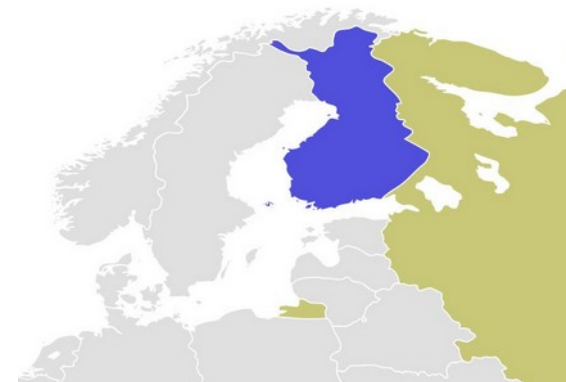
# U.S. military presence in Northern Europe



**Norway** April 2021:  
*Supplementary Defense Cooperation Agreement*  
to give access to three  
air bases and one naval  
station.



**Sweden** Dec. 2023:  
Agreement to give  
control to 17 military  
bases

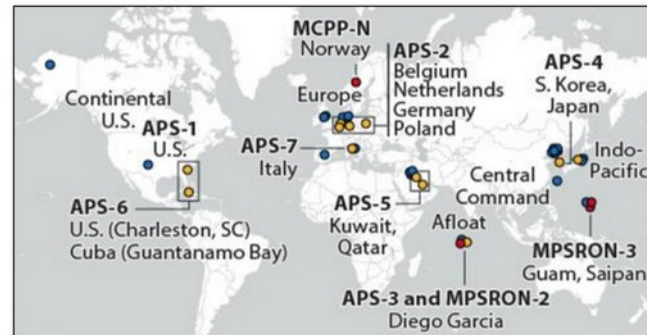


**Finland** July 2024:  
Agreement to give US  
control over (at least) 15  
military bases

# U.S. military presence in Poland



- Powidz: 33rd Air Base and logistical centre within APS-2
- Several training areas



- U.S. Marine Corps Prepositioning Programs (3 locations)  
 MCPP-N = Marine Corps Prepositioning Program-Norway  
 MPSRON = Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron
- Army Prepositioned Stocks (7 designations)

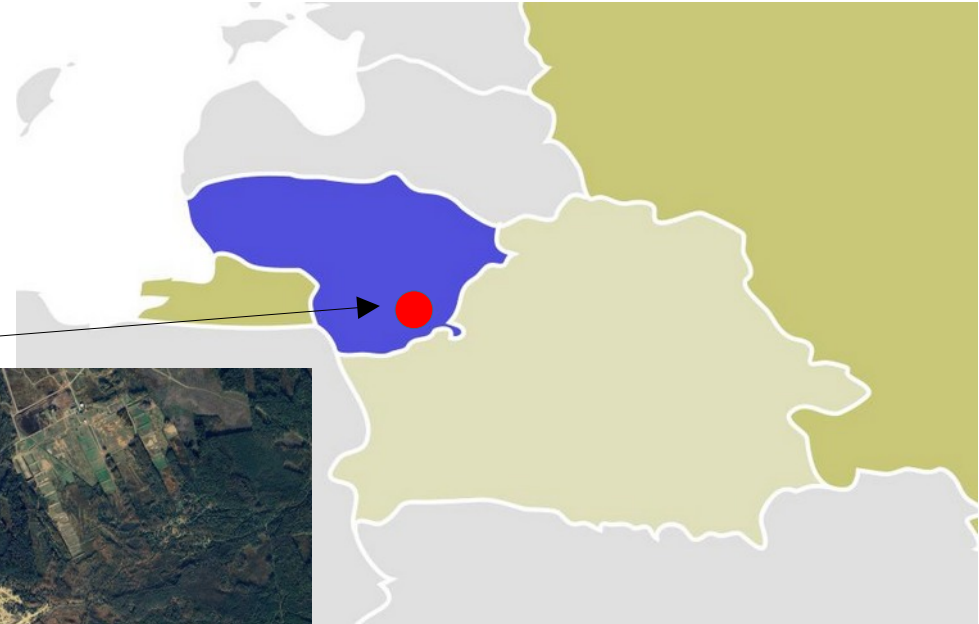
	DESIGNATION	MATERIELS		
		Unit Sets	OPROJ	Sustainment
APS-1	Continental U.S.		✗	✗
APS-2	Europe	✗	✗	✗
APS-3	Afloat	✗	✗	✗
APS-4	Indo-Pacific	✗	✗	✗
APS-5	Southwest Asia	✗	✗	✗
APS-6	U.S. Army South		✗	
APS-7	U.S. Army Africa		✗	✗

● U.S. Air Force Prepositioned War Reserve Materiel (23 locations)

# Expansion of NATO in the Baltic States: Lithuania



- First foreign military base of **German Bundeswehr** in Lithuania with tank brigade scheduled to operate in 2026
- Construction works started in 2024 as an extension to training area **Rudninkai**
- Full operational end of 2027 with 5.000 people in residence (military staff and families)



# U.S. Army in the Baltic States



En

Rotational U.S. battalions changed over at the Pabradė Training Area

2024-05-28



On May 28 Colors of the 3-67 armor and the 1-9 field artillery battalions were cased at Camp Herkus and replaced with the colors of the 2-8 cavalry and 1-82 field artillery battalions, the latest U.S. rotational presence in Lithuania, at the hand over-take over of the rotational U.S. battalions ceremony in Pabradė.

## Stars & Stripes, Jan. 5, 2021:

*The Army has, since 2019, been sending a battalion-sized element to Lithuania for most of their nine-month deployments, adding fire power near the heavily militarized Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, which is wedged between Lithuania and its southern neighbor, Poland.*

*[...] The majority of the regiment's force is anchored in Poland, but smaller elements are spread out along NATO's eastern flank.*





# U.S. Air Force Expansion at Constanța in Romania



- In terms of area, the **Mihail Kogălniceanu base** will be 50% larger than Ramstein and become the largest NATO military base in Europe.
- Around 11,900 military personnel will be relocated from Germany, almost 5,600 will be transferred to other NATO countries and 6,400 will return to the USA (for rotating missions)
- A total of 2.7 billion US dollars has been budgeted



More info:

<https://visualbases.org/mihail-kogalniceanu-constanta/>

# Resistance against US Air Base Ramstein



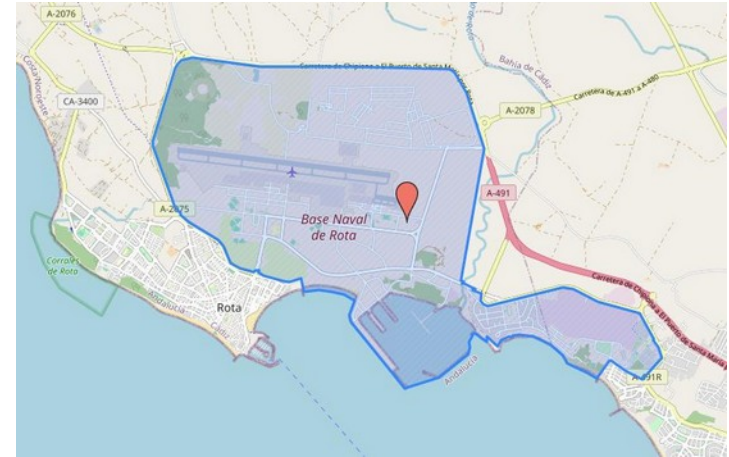
Continuous weeks of actions **from 2015** until now including *International Congress against Military Bases*



More info: <https://stoppramstein.de>



# Restistance against Spanish-U.S. Naval Station Rota



Protests since 1985  
Image: Annual march (No. 23)

# NoMuOS: Resistance in Niscemi (Italy / Sicily)



The M.U.O.S. (Mobile User Objective System) is a military telecommunication system of the USA Navy.

The scope of this complex infrastructure is the control and coordination of USA military systems around the world.

*More info:*

*<https://visualbases.org/niscemi-radar-station-muos/>*



# VisualBases

Uncover and Watch Foreign Military Bases!



Home → Kind of Location Σ → Foreign or Overseas Base → ITA | Sicilia: Niscemi Radar Station

## Country, Location or Term

Search for:  
Location Search in OpenStreetBrowser with Military Layer

## Region, Kind of Location and Facilities

Select Category

## List of Locations

- AFG | Kabul ISAF
- AL | Durrës
- ALB | Kucova
- ARG | Ushuaia Base Naval
- AUS | East Chapman Australian Defence Satellite Comm. Station
- AUS | Ghan Joint Defence Facility, Pine Gap
- AUS | Naval Comm. Station Holt, Northwest Cape Exmouth
- AUS | Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory

← DEU | Landstuhl: US-Hospital

## ITA | Sicilia: Niscemi Radar Station

<https://www.openstreetbrowser.org/#map=15/37.1186/14.4405&categories=milit>  
37.11, 14.44



Google Earth 2018



Google Earth 2013

Wikipedia EN:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval\\_Radio\\_Transmitter\\_Facility\\_\(NRTF\)\\_M](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Radio_Transmitter_Facility_(NRTF)_M)  
IT: [https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stazione\\_di\\_trasmissione\\_radio\\_navale](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stazione_di_trasmissione_radio_navale)

Campaign info (IT): <https://www.nomuos.info/>



Environmental issues: Explo...  
waves, destruction of the Nis...

Images from Resistance: N

Google Earth Pro interface showing a map of Sicily. The left sidebar lists various military bases and facilities, including:

- Atlantic Ocean
- Australia and Oceania
- Europe
- Germany
- United Kingdom
- Italy
  - Camp Darby, Terrenia / Livorno
  - Maritime Component Command Naples
  - Aviano Air Base
  - Ghedi Air Base
  - Longare Communications Site Pluto, Vicenza
  - Del Din Barracks, Vicenza
  - Camp Ederle, Vicenza
  - Distributed Command Ground System Sigonella
  - Sigonella Air Base
  - Sigonella Navy Active Support 1
  - Niscemi Radar Station
- North Europe
  - Keflavik Base
  - Naval Radio Transmitter Facility Grindavik
  - Globus II, Varde
  - Evenses Military Air Station and Airfield

The map shows the island of Sicily with several locations marked, including Sigonella Navy Active Support 1, Distributed Command Ground System Sigonella, Sigonella Air Base, and Niscemi Radar Station. A tooltip for Sigonella Navy Active Support 1 is visible, providing a link to its page on VisualBases.org.

More info: <https://visualbases.org>