



U.S. Army Central Book of Messages 1st QTR, FY24

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Commanding General's Public Affairs Guidance

- **DO** communicate the CG's priorities: People, Partnerships, Innovation, Readiness, & Modernization.
- **DO** talk about what a great job our Soldiers are doing.
- **DO** talk about how committed we are to our partnerships.
- **DO** talk about our innovation and readiness.
- **DON'T** talk about U.S. policy.
- **DON'T** talk about our capability gaps or vulnerabilities that could be exploited by potential adversaries.
- **DON'T** talk specific adversaries or competitors, we have a 360-degree focus.

Command Narrative

United States Army Central (USARCENT) is the U.S. Army Service Component Command for United States Central Command (CENTCOM) and is responsible to the Secretary of the Army for the support and administration of more than 12,000 Soldiers, including those assigned to joint task forces and embassies, across the 21 countries in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR).

The CENTCOM Commander has designated USARCENT as the Coalition Forces and the Land Component Command (CFLCC) for planning, preparation, and for ensuring uninterrupted logistics support to ongoing operations. Portions of USARCENT's combat forces are designated as a rapid reaction force able to respond to emergencies anywhere in the AOR. USARCENT remains on call to command units in direct combat, as happened in Kuwait in 1990, in Afghanistan in 2001, and in Iraq in both 2003 and 2014.

A baseline of forces in the CENTCOM AOR is required to ensure USARCENT maintains key access, basing, and overflight permissions to reassure partners and protect U.S. interests. Through strong partnerships and forward presence, USARCENT maintains CENTCOM's ability to support integrated deterrence, retain freedom of action, and rapidly deploy combat-ready forces anywhere in the AOR in the event of a contingency. USARCENT effectively shapes and sets the theater, supports current operations, and strengthens partnerships and interoperability to advance and safeguard U.S. interests, compete against China and Russia, deter aggression and regional malign influence, including Iran, its surrogates, and violent extremist organizations.

The geostrategic location of the CENTCOM AOR is important due to its foundational source of global energy and thoroughfare for international commerce. More than 27% of global oil travels through the Strait of Hormuz and over 20% of global commerce depends on the Suez Canal. Disruptions of oil shipments in the region are felt both at home and abroad where a single ship stuck in the Suez cost \$400 million per hour in commerce.

The CENTCOM AOR provides key terrain and a dominant position for the U.S. to strategically compete with China and Russia through a range of security cooperation ventures including border security, counter narcotics, counter terrorism, and defense institution building-activities that allow USARCENT to maintain status as partner of choice in the region. Strategic competitors recognize the importance of relationships in the region and seek to draw partners and allies away from the United States. USARCENT maintains a competitive advantage against adversaries by implementing a long-term, committed approach that not only deepens interoperability but also innovates with our partners.

One area where USARCENT will continue to innovate with regional partners is in countering the threat of Unmanned Aerial Systems. The UAS threat is a shared security challenge for the U.S. and regional partners. Due to its low cost to entry, it is becoming the weapon of choice for our adversaries resulting in rapid technology proliferation and increased employment against U.S. forces, and our partners. To combat this threat, USARCENT will test and field counter-UAS systems, and implement best practices by working closely with our partners. The aim is to develop a counter-UAS threat solution that combines the efforts of our interagency, law enforcement, and regional partners and allies.

The 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) in the CENTCOM Theater also offers a purpose-built and scalable method for persistent engagement with our partners that builds the military capacity required for defending against common threats. The SFAB has a presence in Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, and the UAE, with plans for persistent presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They will execute subject matter exchanges and exercises across Egypt, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Uzbekistan, Lebanon and Tajikistan. Complex and interconnected challenges cannot be faced alone and require improving partners' collective defensive capabilities by building and maintaining multilateral constructs the SFAB directly sustains.

USARCENT deepens military partnerships by conducting approximately 20 military exercises with our partners per year. The Command also conducts more than 200 theater security cooperation events with 17 nations including symposiums, conferences, and exchanges. Mutually beneficial partnerships and alliance architectures are our greatest strategic advantage. The USARCENT Theater Security Partnership program is daily evidence that the US remains a reliable and committed regional partner. To further our goal of maintaining partner of choice status, USARCENT supports initiatives that optimize the speed and effectiveness of Foreign Military Sales and Foreign Military Financing, including the increased use of International Military Education and Training. Efforts to improve these initiatives will strengthen U.S. credibility in the region and result in stronger military partnerships.

The USARCENT Headquarters consists of approximately 1,000 Soldiers and Civilians primarily at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. A small number of headquarters personnel are located at Kuwait and Jordan to provide support and oversight. These personnel include active Soldiers who rotate between Shaw AFB and forward posts, mobilized National Guard and Reserve Soldiers and civilians.

USARCENT supports Operation Spartan Shield. Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) is a CENTCOM operation to strengthen defense relationships, build partner capacity, maintain readiness and when necessary, execute contingency plans. These efforts are facilitated through theater security cooperation activities such as key leader engagements, exercises, conferences, symposia, and humanitarian assistance/disaster response planning. Task Force Spartan is the U.S. Army component of OSS.

Permanently assigned and allocated units include:

- Task Force Spartan provides command and control of combat forces in theater, strengthens defense partnerships, and provides crisis response forces. The critical headquarters organization is manned by National Guard Division Headquarters on nine-month rotations.
- 1st Theater Sustainment Command ensures that Land Forces have food, water, fuel, ammunition, building materials, equipment, and repair parts, along with maintenance and human resourcing support. The command also manages air and sea ports, flights and customs points, and provides transportation services throughout the theater to include integrating Joint Forces.
- 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command performs critical theater air and missile defense planning, integration, coordination, and execution functions. The command coordinates and integrates theater missile defense activities to protect contingency, forward deployed, and reinforcing forces, as well as designated theater strategic assets.

- 3rd Medical Command provides surgical, dental, behavioral health and veterinary support including a Level III trauma center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.
- 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment is the Army liaison to the air component commander.
- 160th Theater Signal Brigade provides communications and cyber support.
- 513th Military Intelligence Brigade provides all-source intelligence and security support.
- 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade provides persistent partnership.
- Area Support Groups in Kuwait and Jordan provide base operations and training support for rotational forces.

USARCENT commands multiple units on nine-month tours including infantry, armor, fires, air defense, engineers, military police, and sustainers. USARCENT also has support and force protection responsibilities for the U.S. units in the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai monitoring peace between Egypt and Israel.

USARCENT also maintains and protects the joint military communications infrastructure, and manages construction and maintenance for multiple bases, often small sites in hostile areas. Furthermore, the Department of Defense has assigned USARCENT sole responsibility for many resource-intensive missions in the theater including contracting, postal services, linguist management, and the blood program.

USARCENT is responsible for providing managerial oversight and monitoring operational readiness of Army Prepositioned Stocks in Kuwait. These sets of military equipment and vehicles are prepositioned and maintained forward, reducing deployment response times by allowing Soldiers to fall in directly on the equipment they need for contingencies, exercises, and humanitarian missions.

USARCENT supports the Department of State-led effort at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar in the processing and travel for Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Applicants, their families, and other eligible persons at risk. To date, U.S. Army Central has processed more than 14,000 at CAS.

Soldiers assigned to USARCENT Headquarters follow Third Army's lineage and honors, proudly wearing the Circle A shoulder patch made famous in WWII by General George S. Patton.

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Critical Information List



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Critical Information List (CIL)

9 January 2023

1. Current/future USARCENT Operational Activities

Mission, strategies and strategic planning, objective dates/times, new tactics/techniques/procedures (TTP) being considered, exercised, or evaluated.

2. Scope of Operations/Logistical Support to Operations

Movement of forces, force capabilities/limitations, TTPs, deployment of special equipment, equipment OR rate, equipment supply status, logistical supply operations, contracting and funding data.

3. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Asset Support

Collection techniques, capabilities/limitations, associated mission nicknames or Code words.

4. Infrastructure and Critical Asset Locations

Detailed diagrams, maps, or geospatial data of camps/bases; photos showing layouts or protective measures used on camps/bases.

5. Specific Peripheral Operational Data

Special duty rosters, itineraries/time tables, meetings, conferences, working groups, drivers/aides/personal security details schedules.

6. Communications involved with or in support of operations

Capabilities/limitations, call signs, frequencies, information network vulnerabilities, computer passwords, special equipment.

7. Administrative support to operations

Call up rosters, travel plans, planning rosters, joint manning documents, shortfalls, unit organizational charts, and personal data on voter registration forms.

8. Personal information of US, Coalition, USARCENT and Foreign Nationals who are involved or in support of operations

Identities, social security numbers, passport/visa information, assignments, levels of security clearances, badges, home of record, addresses/phone numbers, data relating to family members, KIAs/WIAs.

9. Critical infrastructure that support operations

Telecommunications, power generation and distribution, banking and finance, transportation, emergency services capabilities, continuity of government, and water.

10. General Officer or VIP movements/itineraries.


 LTG PATRICK D. FRANK, Commanding

MAJ Lelsenberg - G34 IO- X8432

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National Messages

2022 National Security Strategy¹

- President Biden's National Security Strategy is rooted in our national interests: to protect the security of the American people, to expand economic opportunity, and to realize and

¹ 12 OCT 22 WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET: The Biden-Harris Administration's National Security Strategy

defend the democratic values at the heart of the American way of life. In pursuit of these objectives, we will:

- Invest in the underlying sources and tools of American power and influence;
- Build the strongest possible coalition of nations to enhance our collective influence to shape the global strategic environment and to solve shared challenges; and
- Modernize and strengthen our military so it is equipped for the era of strategic competition.

Department of Defense Priorities in National Defense Strategy²

- Defending the homeland, paced to the growing multi-domain threat posed by the People’s Republic of China.
- Deterring strategic attacks against the United States, Allies, and partners.
- Deterring aggression, while being prepared to prevail in conflict when necessary, prioritizing the PRC challenge in the Indo-Pacific, then the Russia challenge in Europe.
- Building a resilient joint force and defense ecosystem.

Secretary of Defense Priorities & Areas of Focus³

1. DEFEND THE NATION

- Prioritize China as the “Pacing Challenge”
- Tackle the Acute Russian Threat
- Address Advanced and Persistent Threats
- Innovate and Modernize
- Meet the Climate Crisis

2. TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

- Grow Our Talent
- Build Resilience and Readiness
- Ensure Accountable Leadership

3. SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

- Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners
- Strengthen Partnerships Across America
- Build Unity Within the Department

Safeguarding Classified Information

- The Secretary and the Department of Defense take the recent apparent unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information extremely seriously.⁴
- We continue to review and assess the validity of the documents.⁵

² 27 OCT 22 2022 National Defense Strategy

³ 02 MAR 23 Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III Message to the Force

⁴ JUN 23 DOD Communication Playbook

⁵ Ibid.

- On April 14, 2023, Secretary Austin issued a memorandum, “Review of Department of Defense Security Policies and Procedures,” directing the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, in coordination with the DoD Chief Information Officer and the Director of Administration and Management, to lead a comprehensive 45-day review of DoD security programs, policies, and procedures.⁶

Foreign Military Sales⁷

- The US did recently initiate an internal FMS tiger team process in exploring a wide range of immediate and systemic areas for reform of Department of Defense processes, platforms and regional perspectives to improve our ability to work with allies and partners.
- This endeavor is not focused on a particular region, it's rather designed to intensively explore and look at internal processes throughout the department. And so this is largely focused on efficiency.

US Army Priorities

- People
- Readiness
- Modernization

Legislative Themes: Messages for Congress

Recruiting and Retaining Talent:

- Today’s recruiting landscape did not emerge overnight; it is driven by trends that have been years in the making. Our recruiting efforts are focused to overcome these challenges.
- We continue to reach out to Americans from all backgrounds and talents from across the country to inform them of all the Army has to offer and how they can succeed as part of the Army team.
- The Army offers 178 different military occupational specialties and unlimited possibilities to discover one's passion, pursue purpose, and build a lifelong community.
- The new Army brand, introduced in March 2023, redefines what it means to “Be All You Can Be” for a new generation spotlighting the countless opportunities the Army has to offer for youth to explore their passions, build community, and become the best versions of themselves.

Building the Army of 2030:

- The Army is modernizing to address the challenges identified in the National Defense Strategy regarding the Pacific and European Theaters while protecting the homeland and promoting deterrence against secondary aggressors throughout the world.
- Army prioritized capabilities will provide overmatch against the broadest range of adversaries, particularly the pacing challenge of China and the acute threat posed by Russia.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ 06 SEP 22 Transcript: DOD Press Secretary On-Camera Press Briefing

Congressional Support to Army Transformation:

- Army modernization is the greatest transformation in 40 years. It is not about winning the last fight but winning the next fight decisively and to win without fighting through campaigning and deterrence.

CENTCOM Messages

CENTCOM Lines of Effort

Deter Iran

- Iran's malign activities is one of the main challenges we face in the central region: for more than 40 years the Iranian regime has funded and aggressively supported terrorism and terrorist organizations
- Our mission is to deter Iran and its proxies from continuing malign activities that destabilize not only the region but global security and commerce as well
- Iran continues to conduct state-on-state missile, UAS, and cyber attacks as well as attacks through proxies and aligned groups that kill and injure innocent civilians and Coalition forces
- We will counter Iranian activity through multilateral approaches, capitalizing on collective security mechanisms like the Combined Maritime Force, International Maritime Security Construct, and IAMD-focused regional security constructs

C-VEOs

- While ISIS' territorial caliphate is defeated, they remain a transnational threat; their desire to regenerate and conduct external ops threatens the U.S. homeland, and those of our partners and allies
- Our goal is to continue developing and enabling Iraqi Security Forces and our partnered Syrian Democratic Forces so they can contain and defeat ISIS without external assistance
- ISIS sees Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps as an opportunity for its messaging and recruitment efforts; therefore, it is critical that countries repatriate, rehabilitate, and reintegrate residents back to their countries of origin
- There is no military solution to the IDP camp problem; addressing the issue requires cooperation among diplomatic, security, and humanitarian organizations, as well as a local solution supported by local governments

Compete Strategically

- The central region provides key terrain and a dominant position for the U.S. to strategically compete with China and Russia through a range of security cooperation ventures including border security, counter narcotics, counter terrorism, and defense institution building-activities that allow us to maintain status as partner of choice in the region
- Maintaining a sufficient and sustainable presence in the central region is critical to preserving security relationships that will further our national interests
- Regional partners, allies are foundational to our collective ability to address challenges presented by strategic competitors in the region

- Counter abandonment narrative with “non-traditional” cooperation: intel sharing, cyber exchanges, exercises and training; CENTCOM will establish a culture of innovation, data literacy, cloud utilization, and data governance
- FMS/FMF processes are lengthy and bureaucratic; if we do not prioritize FMSS/FMF, we will not only lose interoperability without partners, but partners may limit access, basing, overflight

CENTCOM Functional Priorities

Regional Constructs

- We cannot contend with complex and interconnected challenges alone. Mutually beneficial partnerships and alliances architecture are our greatest strategic advantage; they are the center of gravity in our national strategies
- We must place increased emphasis on improving partners’ collective defensive capabilities by building and marinating multilateral constructs that they can sustain; we will prioritize developing regional security constructs through Middle East Air Defense initiatives, and executing the International Maritime Security Construct
- Controlling the air domain and securing the maritime commons in an integrated manner is essential to our collective success in future operation; lack of coordination presents seams along our borders, airspace, and in international waterways that can be exploited

IAMD/C-UAS

- State and non-state actors are rapidly growing their UAS capabilities, which present a direct threat to the U.S. and our regional Partners and allies
- The growing threat posed by USA, coupled with our lack of dependable, networked capabilities to counter them is the most concerning tactical development since the rise of the IED in Iraq
- The strategic answer to effectively counter UAS threats is to combine our efforts—with our interagency, law enforcement, and regional partners and allies, through regional security constructs
- Our adversaries seize the opportunity to acquire relatively cheap commercial and military-grade UAVs and weaponized them to great effect; these systems are inexpensive, easy to modify, and easy to proliferate

CENTCOM Talking Points

A New Approach

- Based on GEN Kurilla's 90-Day Assessment, he concluded the best way to address USCENTCOM’s security challenges was to change USCENTCOM’s focus from posture to PEOPLE, PARTNERS and INNOVATION.
- USCENTCOM is reviewing its strategy and considering innovative ways to implement integrated deterrence to support the 2022 National Defense Strategy.
- As USCENTCOM prioritizes PEOPLE, PARTNERS and INNOVATION to fulfill the 2022 NDS, we must be mindful not to redesign our posture below the threshold of preparedness. Doing so could have significant global consequences should a crisis emerge—a crisis that may draw resources back into our theater; USCENTCOM requires

a minimally sufficient footprint and sustainable presence to confront existing threats and further our national interests.

- The USCENTCOM of tomorrow will, and must, look much different than the USCENTCOM of the last 20 years.

People

- The foundation of any organization is its people; the integrity of any organization, its effectiveness, and even its continued existence depends on its people. This is why people are USCENTCOM's greatest asset.
- Equipment and technical resources are important, but ultimately it's the people who move an organization forward and ensure its competitive advantage. This is why people are USCENTCOM's greatest asset.
- Successful organizations are experts at hiring, developing, and motivating their people. Therefore, USCENTCOM strives to hire the best people, and retain them by treating them with dignity and respect.

Partners

- Regional partners and allies are foundational to our collective ability to address challenges presented by strategic competitors in the region.
- We cannot contend with complex and interconnected challenges alone. Mutually beneficial partnerships and alliance architectures are our greatest strategic advantage; they are the center of gravity in our national strategies.
- Partnerships and alliances provide opportunity for collaborative innovation and experimentation. Therefore, we intend to use every military and non-military tool in our toolbox, in lock-step with our partners and allies, to ensure the region's perpetual instability does not draw us into protracted conflicts with strategic bills we can no longer afford.

Innovation

- USCENTCOM is excited to lead campaigning efforts in support of national objectives and NDS taskings through pursuit of novel and resource- conscientious methods.
- The bold measures we intend to pursue regarding innovation and experimentation will enable USCENTCOM to campaign creatively, contribute to cross-domain integrated deterrence, and support the effort to build enduring advantages.

ARCENT Messages

Abraham Accords

- We celebrate the signing of the Abraham Accords and normalization agreements. These steps have been transformational for Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco. They have led to new forms of cooperation and regional integration in the Middle East and beyond, including the historic Negev Forum, which brought us together with Israel and its neighbors. We are committed to advancing and expanding upon these

agreements between Israel and Arab and Muslim-majority countries to enhance regional security, prosperity, and peace.⁸

Middle East

- An integrated, whole-of-government approach with Allies and partners across the Middle East is key to enabling peace and stability in the region. The United States is committed to advancing the security of our Gulf partners against serious external threats while protecting civilian life. We stand with the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and all of our Gulf partners in defending against threats to their people and territories.⁹
- United States places importance on its decades-long strategic partnerships in the Middle East region, affirm the United States' **enduring commitment to the security and territorial defense** of U.S. partners, and recognize the region's increasingly important role as a trade and technology crossroads between hemispheres.¹⁰
- United States is committed to accelerate ongoing work with its allies and partners in the Middle East to integrate and enhance security cooperation. In particular, the United States is committed to advancing a more **integrated and regionally-networked air and missile defense architecture** and countering the proliferation of unmanned aerial systems and missiles to non-state actors that threaten the peace and security of the region.¹¹
- The US has reaffirmed its commitment to preserving the **free flow of commerce through strategic international waterways** like the Bab al-Mandab and the Strait of Hormuz, through which 40 percent of the world's energy passes every day, via multiple joint naval task forces, in partnership with longstanding U.S. partners integrated through U.S. Central Command.¹²

ISIS

- During the month of April 2023, U.S. Central Command, along with coalition and other partners, conducted a total of 35 D-ISIS operations, resulting in 13 ISIS operatives killed and 28 detained. These operations showcase our enduring commitment to the lasting defeat of ISIS and the continued need for targeted military efforts to prevent ISIS members from conducting attacks and regaining a foothold. We remain focused on building local partner forces' capabilities to prevent ISIS resurgence. resurgence.¹³
- In Iraq, CENTCOM troops advise, assist, and enable Iraqi Security Forces, including the Kurdish Peshmerga, who lead our shared fight against ISIS in Iraq. In Syria, CENTCOM relies heavily on local forces, including the Syrian Democratic Forces, to put pressure on ISIS in Syria. These operations were conducted under the authority of the CENTCOM commander who retains authority for operations against ISIS in Iraq and Syria and under the command of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve.¹⁴

⁸ 15 SEP 22 DOS Statement on Second Anniversary of the Signing of the Abraham Accords

⁹ MAR 23 DOD Communication Playbook

¹⁰ 16 JUL 22 White House Fact Sheet: The US Strengthens Cooperation with Middle East Partners

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ 03 MAR 23 CENTCOM Press Release: February 2023 Month in Review: The Defeat ISIS Mission in Iraq and Syria

¹⁴ Ibid.

Iran

- Deterring Iran is arguably more urgent than at any time in CENTCOM's history due to Iran's cutting-edge missile and UAV capability as well as its uranium enrichment program. As it was at the time of CENTCOM's formation, Iran is the most destabilizing actor in the region. Today, Iran is undeterred from its malign activities, which include conventional threats to neighbors, support to violent proxy groups that spread chaos and instability throughout the region, and support to Russia's war in Ukraine.
- Iran's harassment of vessels is contrary to international law and disruptive to regional security and stability and that the United States will continue to work with its partners and allies to promote freedom of navigation.
- Iran remains the primary driver of instability in the region and we remain deeply concerned by Iran's support for terrorism, its dangerous proxies, its nuclear advances, its aggression at sea, its cyber threats, and its proliferation of attack drones and advanced conventional weapons.¹⁵
- Iran's destabilizing actions are not just a threat to Israel, they are a challenge to the region and to the world. We're especially concerned by Iran's growing strategic partnership with Russia, including using Iranian drones to terrorize and kill innocent civilians in Ukraine.¹⁶
- And over the past year, Russia's military cooperation with Iran has deepened, and that poses serious challenges for this region and for the safety of your citizens. Iran is gaining important battlefield expertise and experience in Ukraine that will eventually transfer to its dangerous proxies in the Middle East.
- The United States and GCC member states affirm that Iran's support to terrorist militias and armed groups across the region and use of unmanned aircraft systems threatens regional security and stability. The United States and GCC members have already affirmed that diplomacy remains the preferred way to address Iran's destabilizing policies.¹⁷
- Iran's support to armed regional militias, including the proliferation of ballistic missiles and unmanned aircraft systems, poses a clear threat to regional security and stability. These advanced weapons systems and other forms of support have been used in hundreds of attacks against civilians, critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, international shipping and commerce, and northern Iraq—fundamentally undermining the sovereignty of its neighbors.¹⁸
- Iran's reckless provision of these weapons also endangers American troops deployed across the region, demonstrated by continued attacks in Syria that occurred.¹⁹
- We now see Iran's disregard for international norms manifest itself in Ukraine with its irresponsible provision of lethal aid, including unmanned aircraft systems to the Russian Federation, which are causing civilian death and suffering in the conflict.²⁰

¹⁵ 09 MAR 23 SecDef Austin Holds a Joint Press Conference With Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ 17 FEB 23 Joint Statement of the USA and U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council Counterterrorism Working Group

¹⁸ APR 23 DOD Communication Playbook

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

- We call on Iran to take continued action to de-escalate tensions in the region. The US does not seek war with Iran but will not hesitate to defend ourselves.²¹
- The United States will take all necessary measures to protect and defend U.S. interests.²²
- President Biden has been clear that Iran will not acquire a nuclear weapon on his watch.²³

Yemen

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- The past year in Yemen has been the quietest since the war began, saving thousands of Yemeni lives and allowing for vast increases in humanitarian assistance, fuel imports, and civilian flights to and from Sanaa. Building on the prisoner exchange today, we encourage all parties to further consolidate these positive trends and ultimately forge a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.²⁴
- The UN-led truce and U.S.-facilitated diplomacy have largely stopped the fighting, saving thousands of civilian lives; nevertheless, the United States recognizes that the truce was only the first step toward a comprehensive, Yemeni-Yemeni political process and a durable resolution to the conflict.²⁵
- The truce has paved the way for intensive dialogue on a more comprehensive agreement, and the recent deal to release almost 900 detainees from all sides of the Yemen conflict represents another important step forward. The United States welcomes the efforts of regional partners, including Saudi Arabia and Oman, to advance peace efforts. We remain seriously concerned, however, about Houthi actions that threaten this extraordinary progress and exacerbate the suffering of Yemenis, such as recent attacks in Taiz and Marib and on Yemen's oil exports. We call on the Houthis to foreswear such actions and pursue a peaceful resolution to the conflict.²⁶
- As we continue to support diplomacy to de-escalate tensions wherever possible in the Middle East, the United States is also focused intensively on defending our partners, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, from Iranian-enabled attacks.²⁷

Iraq

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²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ 14 APR 23 Statement from NSA Sullivan Welcoming The Breakthrough Prisoner Exchange in Yemen

²⁵ 04 APR 23 DOS Statement: One-Year Anniversary of the Yemen Truce's Commencement

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

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- We reaffirm the U.S.-Iraq strategic partnership and underscore the U.S. commitment to a secure, stable, and sovereign Iraq.²⁸
- We affirm U.S. and Coalition commitment to advising, assisting, and enabling the Iraqi Security Forces, at the invitation of the Government of Iraq, to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS.²⁹
- We praise the tremendous progress made by the Iraqi Security Forces as they lead the fight against ISIS and encourage continued repatriations of displaced persons and ISIS detainees from northeast Syria.³⁰
- We continue to believe that Iraq's greater integration with its Arab partners in the region will deliver increased stability, security, and prosperity, and it will pay dividends not only for Iraqi citizens, but for all people of the region.³¹
- We reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the Strategic Framework Agreement with Iraq and commended the Prime Minister's efforts to strengthen Iraq's sovereignty and independence.³²
- The United States and Iraq share a strong security partnership that encompasses a range of activities—including Defeat-ISIS activities, border security, and defense institution building—that bolster both our countries' security.³³
- The United States continues to work with the Iraqi government to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS. Together with the Global Coalition, we have achieved significant progress, but ISIS still remains a threat.³⁴
- U.S. forces remain in Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi government to advise, assist, and enable the Iraqi Security Forces to lead in the fight against ISIS.
- While we have ended our combat mission, we will always maintain the inherent right of self-defense.³⁵

Syria

ARCENT Desk Officer: MAJ Pascal Reber, 803-885-8693

- The United States and GCC member states affirm that to reduce the risk of ISIS/Da'esh re-emerging in Syria and Iraq, more joint effort should be encouraged globally to ensure

²⁸ 07 MAR 23 Readout of SecDef Austin's Meeting With Prime Minister al-Sudani of Iraq

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ 27 MAR 23 SecDef Austin Addresses Media in Baghdad, Iraq

³² 02 FEB 23 Readout of POTUS Call with Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani of Iraq

³³ APR 23 DOD Communication Playbook

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

that a practical and sustainable solution is achieved for individuals currently located in camps and detention facilities in northeast Syria that could include safe repatriation, rehabilitation, reintegration, and prosecution, as appropriate.³⁶

- The United States is profoundly concerned by the reports of today's destructive earthquake in Turkiye and Syria. We stand ready to provide any and all needed assistance. President Biden has directed USAID and other federal government partners to assess U.S. response options to help those most affected.³⁷
- We are recommitted to ensuring that ISIS can never again threaten the Iraqi people or regional and international security.³⁸
- We reaffirm our steadfast support for UN Special Envoy Geir Pedersen's efforts to reach a political solution to the Syrian conflict in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254. We are firmly committed to the implementation of all aspects of UNSCR 2254, including a nation-wide ceasefire, the release of any arbitrarily detained persons, free and fair elections, and the need to build conditions for the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons, consistent with UN standards. UNSCR 2254 remains the only viable solution to the conflict.³⁹
- We are committed to reaching a political solution to the Syrian crisis consistent with UN Security Council resolution 2254, including continued support for implementing and sustaining an immediate nation-wide ceasefire, the Constitutional Committee, free and fair elections, the end of arbitrary detention, and the release of all those unjustly held.⁴⁰
- We remain deeply concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in Syria and the ongoing suffering of the Syrian people.⁴¹
- The United States will maintain its military presence in eastern Syria to enable the enduring defeat of ISIS.⁴²
- The U.S.-led Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS continues to work by, with, and through vetted local partner forces, including the Syrian Democratic Forces, to achieve this mission.⁴³
- The Department remains deeply concerned about the potential for military escalation in northern Syria. While we recognize Turkiye's legitimate security concerns, we condemn any offensive actions that disrupt ongoing Defeat-ISIS operations and threaten the safety of the civilian population.⁴⁴
- As the January 2022 attack on the Hasakah detention facility demonstrates, ISIS remains a real and potent threat that requires continued Coalition support and pressure.⁴⁵

³⁶ 17 FEB 23 Joint Statement of the USA and U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council Counterterrorism Working Group

³⁷ 05 FEB 23 Statement from NSA Jake Sullivan on the Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ 25 JAN 23 DOS Joint Statement on Syria

⁴⁰ 31 AUG 22 DOS Joint Statement on Syria: US, Arab League, Egypt, EU, France, Germany, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, KSA, Turkey, & UK

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² APR 23 DOD Communication Playbook

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

- The United States is committed to supporting the Syrian people in response to the recent earthquake devastation in the area. DoD supports U.S. whole-of-government efforts led by the U.S. Agency for International Development to help those affected.⁴⁶

Israel

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- We are providing \$3.3 billion in foreign military financing to Israel each year. On top of that, Israel receives \$500 million in funding for missile defense. Tens of millions more for new counter-drone and anti-tunneling technologies. That is in keeping with the 2016 memorandum of understanding negotiated by the Obama-Biden administration – and it is more than at any point in the history of our relationship. We’re also delivering an additional \$1 billion in funding to replenish supplies for Israel’s Iron Dome, the missile defense system that we developed together and that has saved countless lives.⁴⁷
- We’re also expanding our joint military exercises that improve how our forces work together seamlessly. This year, we have more joint exercises scheduled than at any point in our history. We’re also conducting joint research and development on advanced military capabilities, working together on cutting-edge defense systems, including Israel’s new laser-focused Iron Beam.⁴⁸
- Israel is a major strategic partner for the United States, and that very special relationship began when President Truman became the first world leader to recognize the state of Israel, 11 minutes after it was formed.⁴⁹
- Juniper Oak underscored the depth of our security partnership. It was a key step forward in interoperability, helping us both to better address regional threats. And it showed our ability to swiftly flow in forces and respond to crisis, even while maintaining our commitments in other key theaters.⁵⁰
- The abiding U.S. commitment to Israel’s security is buttressed by robust security assistance to Israel – including the 10-year, \$38 billion MOU that was concluded in 2016. Consistent with the MOU, the United States provides \$3.3 billion annually in Foreign Military Financing and an additional \$500 million in missile defense funding. Missile defense funding supports several cooperative missile defense programs, including David’s Sling and Iron Dome, as well as Arrow, Arrow II, and Arrow III, whose life-saving capabilities have proved vital to Israel’s security. In 2022, the United States provided \$1 billion in supplemental funding to replenish Israel’s stock of missile interceptors for the Iron Dome.⁵¹
- We are focused on cooperation against the Iranian nuclear and regional threats, the opportunities created by the Abraham Accords, and the evolving cooperation between the

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ 05 JUN 23 SecState Blinken at the 2023 American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Summit

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ 09 MAR 23 SecDef Austin Holds a Joint Press Conference With Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ 30 JAN 23 DOS Statement: U.S. Relations with Israel

Israel Defense Forces and the Department of Defense, with U.S. Central Command leading operational expansion of military cooperation.⁵²

- The United States is committed to Israel's security; the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding on security assistance to Israel, the largest commitment of U.S. security assistance in history, is demonstrative of these ironclad commitments.⁵³
- Israelis and Palestinians both deserve to live safely and securely and to enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity, and democracy.⁵⁴
- The United States stresses that integral to this pledge is the commitment never to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon, and that it is prepared to use all elements of its national power to ensure that outcome. The United States further affirms the commitment to work together with other partners to confront Iran's aggression and destabilizing activities, whether advanced directly or through proxies and terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.⁵⁵

Israeli Current Events:

Israel – Palestinian conflict

Background: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1947, the United Nations adopted Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

Over the following years, tensions rose in the region, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In June 1967, following a series of maneuvers by Egyptian President Nasser, Israel preemptively attacked Egyptian and Syrian air forces, starting the Six-Day War. After the war, Israel gained territorial control over the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria. Although Israel has signed a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979 and with Jordan in 1994, the question of Palestinian self-governance has remained unresolved.¹

Key Messages

May 20, 2021

President Biden statement,

"We believe the Palestinians and Israelis equally deserve to live safely and securely, and enjoy equal measures of freedom, prosperity, and democracy. My administration will continue our quiet and relentless diplomacy toward that end." We can't stress this enough: Advancing equal measures of freedom and dignity is important to advance towards a negotiated two state solution. The U.S. approach will be to work towards a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous future for the people of the Middle East.

May 21, 2021

President Biden statement,

⁵² 25 OCT 22 DOS Statement: Joint Statement of the 48th U.S.-Israel Joint Political-Military Group

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ 07 AUG 22 Statement by President Biden on the Ceasefire in Gaza

⁵⁵ Ibid.

"There will not be peace until people in the region accept that Israel exists."

Golan Heights

Key Messages

- Cooperation between the U.S. and Israel is important to the stability in the Middle East and reflects our common understanding of the global security environment.
- [If pressed on policy changes] Regarding any changes to foreign policy, please contact State department.
- [If pressed about Israeli military actions] Israeli operations are independent. However, we support Israel's inherent right to self-defense against imminent threats.
- The U.S. is strongly committed to the defense of Israel and supporting Israel's qualitative military edge.
- The U.S. maintains an ironclad commitment to assist the defense of Israel.
- The U.S. and Israel enjoy a strong and enduring mil-to-mil partnership built on trust developed over decades of cooperation.

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Operations

Key Messages

- The Israel Defense Force (IDF) operates independently; however, we support Israel's inherent right to self-defense against imminent threats.
- If an event or action puts our military operations or personnel at risk, combatant commanders take appropriate measures. As a matter of policy, we do not discuss security measures or force protection methods or activities.

(16 Nov 2022)

"Israel maintains a remarkably impressive airpower capability here in the Nevatim Air Force Base. The Israeli Air Force maintains world-class air power with cutting-edge systems, the highest level of professionalism, and a first-class combat capability." – General Michael "Erik" Kurilla, commander of U.S. Central Command. During a recent visit, General Kurilla and the IDF leaders discussed opportunities to improve integrated air and missile defense and regional security. Kurilla reaffirmed CENTCOM's commitment to the U.S.-Israeli military partnership. "Our strategic partnerships within the region – to include our longstanding, ironclad partnership with the IDF – are critical to regional security and stability. All these trips to the region inform my understanding of the threats and challenges faced by each country and the capabilities available. This visit – my fourth to Israel in seven months – reinforced the importance of this relationship and the many opportunities ahead of us for the Middle East," said Kurilla.

U.S. Embassy move to Jerusalem on May 15, 2018

Key Messages

- The U.S. officially moved its Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, May 15, 2018.
- The Department of Defense takes necessary steps to mitigate threats to U.S. personnel, embassies, and consulates around the world.
- Augmentation is conducted regularly when a diplomatic post faces a heightened threat environment. Due to operational security reasons, we cannot discuss these units' size, capabilities, and deployment timelines.

U.S. forces in Israel transfer from EUCOM to CENTCOM responsibility on September 1, 2021

Key Messages

- U.S. Central Command assumed combatant command responsibility of Israel from U.S. European Command on Sep 1, 2021.
- The realignment, announced by the Defense Department in January 2021 strengthens the strategic U.S-Israeli defense relationship and offers opportunities to deepen operational collaboration between the Israel Defense Forces and CENTCOM's many partners in the region.
- CENTCOM will now work to implement the U.S. Government commitment to a holistic approach to regional security and cooperation with our partners.
- The U.S. Government's unwavering commitment to Israel's security remains enduring and ironclad.

(March 2023 GEN Kurilla Posture Statement)

“The realignment of Israel from European Command to Central Command 18-months ago has immediately and profoundly altered the nature and texture of many of CENTCOM’s partnerships for the good. Back in 1983, the boundaries of the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility excluded Israel; Secretary Weinberger and National Security Advisor William Clark were concerned that CENTCOM leaders would be challenged to build enduring, trust-based relations with Arab military leaders while also partnering with the Israel Defense Force. While that concern may have been well-founded, CENTCOM today has had no such problems. In fact, the inclusion of Israel presents many collaborative and constructive security opportunities. Our partners of four decades largely see the same threats and have common cause with Israel Defense Forces and the Arab militaries.”

Mil-to-Mil Exercises

Background: U.S.-Israeli exercises include (but are not limited to) Juniper Series (Falcon, Cobra, Oak). (See Exercise Messages for historical messages for each exercise)

Key Messages

- Mil-to-mil exercises are designed to improve interoperability between our two forces.
- The goal of the exercise is to improve our cooperation and combined ability to deter and if needed, defend against missile attacks.
- While this exercise is not a response to current events, it is worth noting that these combined exercises help deter possible threats and avoid future conflict.

Lebanon

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- Hizballah remains a terrorist organization that undermines Lebanon’s stability and security, as well as regional stability, even as the Lebanese people suffer through a dire financial crisis.⁵⁶
- The Governments of Israel and Lebanon have an historic agreement to establish a permanent maritime boundary between the two countries. This breakthrough promises to usher in a new era of prosperity and stability in the Middle East and will provide vital

⁵⁶ 01 DEC 22 DOS Release: Targeting Hizballah Financial and Weapon Facilitators

energy to the people of the region and to the world. Beyond delivering tremendous benefits to the Lebanese and Israeli people, this announcement demonstrates the power of regional cooperation to meet shared challenges in the Middle East and beyond.⁵⁷

Jordan

State Partner: Colorado (2004)

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- It is fitting to celebrate the long history of friendship and partnership between our two countries and peoples. The United States and Jordan share an enduring, strategic relationship deeply rooted in shared interests and values. We appreciate the important role Jordan plays in promoting peace and security across the region and countering violent extremism. We also laud your commitment to implementing domestic reforms crucial to Jordan's future prosperity. In an increasingly complex world, the United States knows we can rely on Jordan when facing difficult situations and challenges. We also remain committed to inclusive and sustainable growth in Jordan, as demonstrated through our new Memorandum of Understanding. We are grateful to be such close partners and friends.⁵⁸
- We reaffirm our intent to deepen economic and military cooperation between the countries, underpinned by the seven-year, \$10.15 billion U.S.-Jordan Memorandum of Understanding.⁵⁹
- We applaud the professionalism of the Jordanian Armed Forces and appreciate U.S.-Jordan military cooperation. We are grateful for Jordan's contributions to regional security cooperation, in particular Jordan's efforts to facilitate integrated maritime, air, and missile defense cooperation with allies and partners.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ 11 OCT 22 DOS Statement: Historic Breakthrough on the Israel-Lebanon Maritime Boundary

⁵⁸ 25 MAY 23 DOS Release: Jordan National Day Statement

⁵⁹ 06 MAR 23 SecDef Austin's Meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan

⁶⁰ Ibid.

- There is a strong defense partnership between the US and Jordan, and we are committed to the partnership in the fight against terrorism, including through cooperation within the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and the Aqaba Process.⁶¹
- MOU⁶²
 - The United States supports providing \$1.45 billion per year in U.S. bilateral foreign assistance to Jordan beginning in Fiscal Year 2023 and ending in Fiscal Year 2029.
 - One of the most significant bilateral instruments of its kind, the MOU represents a major commitment to Jordan's stability and the durability of the strategic partnership.
 - The U.S. commitment to Jordan's security and prosperity is ironclad, and this MOU will address the extraordinary challenges Jordan faces, as it mitigates the heavy impact of regional challenges, supports King Abdullah II's economic reform program, and ensures the long-term strength of the close partnership between the United States and Jordan.
 - The United States is committed to helping Jordan further develop its economy and strengthen its resilience. We will work together to confront the climate crisis, including the severe water scarcity challenge. Our partnership will also foster cooperation and investment in infrastructure, energy, water, food security and climate, facilitating much-needed regional integration.

Egypt

State Partner: Texas (2020)

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- BRIGHT STAR 23, as a demonstration of Egypt's leadership and the strength of continued U.S.-Egypt cooperation to improve regional security and credible deterrence.⁶³
- We affirm our commitment to enhancing interoperability between U.S. and Egyptian armed forces, acknowledge the Egyptian military's important steps to reduce civilian harm during operations, and underscore the Department of Defense's commitment to working with Egypt to enhance its defensive capabilities.⁶⁴
- We commended Egypt's important role in promoting stability in the region. The United States is in solidarity with Egypt as it contends with the economic impact of Russia's brutal war in Ukraine.⁶⁵
- U.S. supports a diplomatic resolution on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam that would safeguard the interests of all parties.⁶⁶

⁶¹ 16 JUL 22 Joint Statement following Meeting between POTUS and HMS King Abdullah II of Jordan

⁶² 16 SEP 22 DOS Joint Statement on the Signing of the Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Partnership between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

⁶³ 08 MAR 23 Readout of SecDef Austin's Meetings with Egyptian President El Sisi and Egyptian MinDef Zaki

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ 30 JAN 23 DOS Statement following Sec. State Blinken's Meeting w/Egyptian Pres. El-Sisi

⁶⁶ Ibid.

- The United States and Egypt share an unwavering commitment to a negotiated two-state solution as the only path to a lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and equal measures of security, prosperity, and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians. Building on Egypt's transformational peace with Israel, the United States and Egypt are partnering to foster further regional cooperation, including through the Negev Forum process.⁶⁷
- Egypt is a valued U.S. partner in counterterrorism, anti-trafficking, and regional security operations, which advance both U.S. and Egyptian security. The decades-long defense partnership is a pillar for regional stability. Since 1978, the United States has contributed more than \$50 billion in military assistance, which has contributed to Egypt's capabilities to protect and defend its land and maritime borders and to confront an evolving terrorist threat, including in the Sinai Peninsula.⁶⁸
- The US underscores our commitment to the U.S.-Egypt strategic partnership, including Egypt's important role in promoting stability in the region and our decades-long bilateral defense ties.⁶⁹
- We continue to work with Egypt to strengthen interoperability, integrated air and missile defense, and maritime security. We are committed to deepening our bilateral defense cooperation and to advancing our shared defense priorities.⁷⁰

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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- We appreciate Saudi Arabia's leadership in hosting the D-ISIS Ministerial and stress our joint continued efforts to fight terrorism. We have a shared commitment to advance stability, security, and prosperity across the Middle East and beyond, including through a comprehensive political agreement to achieve peace, prosperity, and security in Yemen. Secretary Blinken thanks the Crown Prince for Saudi Arabia's support evacuating hundreds of U.S. citizens from Sudan, and for the Kingdom's ongoing partnership in diplomatic negotiations to stop the fighting there.⁷¹
- Working with Saudi Arabia to ensure regional stability remains a pillar of our bilateral relationship. The United States is the top defense supplier for Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi defense establishment remains the single largest U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customer, with cases valued at more than \$140 billion. This partnership is predicated on our shared interest in security in the Gulf and deterring any foreign or regional power from threatening the region.⁷²

⁶⁷ 28 JAN 23 DOS Statement: The U.S.-Egypt Relationship

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ 14 DEC 22 DOS Statement following Sec. State Blinken's meeting w/Egyptian Pres. El-Sisi

⁷⁰ 14 DEC 22 SecDef Austin's Remarks Welcoming Egyptian Pres. E. Sisi to the Pentagon

⁷¹ 06 JUN 23 Secretary Blinken's Meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

⁷² Ibid.

- The United States is committed to advancing our security partnership with Saudi Arabia through defense sales that will support a more integrated and regionally networked air and missile defense architecture, participating in joint military exercises, and countering the proliferation of unmanned aerial systems and missiles to non-state actors that threaten the peace and security of the region.⁷³
- The United States continues to work with Saudi Arabia to resolve regional conflicts and deal with global challenges. Our two countries are working together to end the conflict in Sudan, including in negotiating the Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan and enabling humanitarian assistance. Saudi Arabia has supported UN-led peace efforts in Yemen that have enabled over a year of de-escalation and created the best opportunity for peace since the war began.⁷⁴
- We welcome steps that Saudi Arabia has taken in support for Ukraine, including pledging \$400 million in aid to Ukraine earlier this year, while supporting key UN resolutions calling on Russia to end its full-scale invasion. In conjunction with the President's 2022 visit, Saudi Arabia took a step toward greater regional economic integration by allowing overflights of civil aircraft of all countries, including Israel.⁷⁵
- "CENTCOM is committed to strengthening military-to-military relations throughout the region," said Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla, commander of CENTCOM. "Exercises like Eagle Resolve provide opportunities to demonstrate U.S.-Saudi military cooperation and deepen interoperability across the GCC all while advancing the security and stability in the Middle East."⁷⁶
- We have a great deal of work to do together. That includes ending the war in Yemen, where U.S. and Saudi support for UN-led peace efforts have helped facilitate now 14 months of dramatically reduced violence, increased humanitarian access, and the quietest period since the conflict began more than eight years ago. That includes Saudi Arabia's support for Ukraine, which has included \$410 million in critical assistance and high-profile bilateral visits from leaders of both countries. We also have newer areas of cooperation like tech and telecom, including Open RAN, our cutting-edge collaboration on 5G/6G technologies, green energy cooperation, and space.⁷⁷
- The Boeing deal with Saudi Arabia announced in March 2023, valued at nearly \$37 billion, will support over 140,000 jobs across the United States. Our defense cooperation remains strong; our security relationship with Saudi Arabia remains a bedrock of our approach to regional defense and security and protecting the more than 80,000 U.S. citizens living and working in the kingdom.⁷⁸
- The historical relations and partnership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America was established nearly eight decades ago with the meeting

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ 28 MAY 23 CENTCOM News Release: Eagle Resolve 23 Exercise with Saudi Arabia

⁷⁷ 05 JUN 23 Dep. Asst. SecState for Arabian Peninsula Affairs Daniel Benaim on SecState's upcoming travel to KSA

⁷⁸ Ibid.

between King Abdulaziz Al-Saud and President Franklin D. Roosevelt on board the USS Quincy.⁷⁹

- The U.S.-Saudi partnership has been a cornerstone of regional security over decades, and we affirm that the two countries share a vision of a more secure, stable, and prosperous region, interconnected with the world.⁸⁰

Kuwait

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- The United States and Kuwait are strong strategic partners, longtime allies, and increasingly working together on the many challenges that both of our countries face. We see Kuwait playing a vital role as a force for peace, for security, for diplomacy throughout the Middle East and beyond, globally.⁸¹
- As the crisis unfolded in Sudan, the United States is grateful that Kuwait was quite literally the first country to say what can we do, how can we help, including American citizens who were seeking to leave.⁸²
- The strong and storied bond between our nations has been forged over decades of partnership, enhancing peace and security in a critical region. Kuwait is a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States, and over the past year we have continued to deepen our economic, cultural, political, security, and people-to-people ties. We appreciate Kuwait's steadfast friendship and its support for the rules-based international order.⁸³
- We recognize Kuwait's constructive diplomatic role in lowering regional tensions, including Kuwait's recent confidence-building efforts to restore diplomatic ties between Gulf states and Lebanon.⁸⁴
- Kuwait is a valued partner for the U.S. military. In fact, U.S. Central Command's ironclad relationship with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces goes back to CENTCOM's founding in 1983. The relationship, which was then forged in mutual battle during Kuwait's liberation in 1991, and continues to grow today, reaps security and stability benefits for the United States and the Middle East.⁸⁵

United Arab Emirates

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⁷⁹ 15 JUL 22 The Jeddah Communique: Joint Statement between US and KSA

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ 11 MAY 23 Secretary Blinken and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Before Their Meeting

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ 25 FEB 23 DOS Statement Kuwait National Day

⁸⁴ 16 JUL 22 Readout of POTUS Meeting with Crown Prince Al-Sabah of Kuwait

⁸⁵ 20 JUL 22 Statement from GEN Kurilla after meeting with Kuwaiti Military Leadership

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- Our partnership is strong, as represented by our troops who have served together in defense of our shared security, the tens of thousands of Emiratis who have studied at American universities, business leaders from each country working together to pursue economic opportunity, and the exceptional and wide-ranging cooperation between our two governments.⁸⁶
- We commend the United Arab Emirates for the historic cooperation with Israel forged over the past two years through the Abraham Accords.⁸⁷
- The US and UAE leaders affirmed their commitment to deepening the extensive security cooperation that has made both countries safer and been a major contributor to regional peace and stability.⁸⁸
- The UAE is the only country in the Middle East to have deployed its military forces alongside the U.S. military in every international security coalition involving the United States since Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-1991.⁸⁹
- The US and UAE have a close and decades-long cooperation in their nations' shared mission to counter terrorism and violent extremism.⁹⁰
- The US is committed to supporting the defense of the UAE against terrorist and other hostile acts such as the attacks targeting civilian sites in the UAE in January 2022.⁹¹
- We're bringing the region together to tackle UAVs—including through joint exercises and training in places such as the UAE Air Warfare Center. For 17 years now, we've joined with the UAE to bring together air forces from the Gulf and beyond to train and integrate together. We also have a range of systems deployed in the region that have already thwarted drone attacks. And thanks to our shared investments, our partners here have their own formidable capabilities to handle the dangers from UAVs.⁹²

Toplines for Mission UAE (USEMB Abu Dhabi Top Lines, Feb 2023)

- The United Arab Emirates is among the United States' closest economic, diplomatic, and security partners in the Middle East.

Bilateral Relationship

- The United States reaffirms the strong U.S.-UAE partnership and looks for ways to broaden and deepen its wide-ranging cooperation, including its shared commitment to peace in Yemen.
- Our partnership is strong, as represented by our troops who have served together in defense of our shared security.

⁸⁶ 02 DEC 22 Remarks by SecState Blinken on UAE National Day

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ 16 JUL 22 Joint Statement following Meeting between POTUS and Pres. of UAE MbZ

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² 20 NOV 21 Remarks by SecDef Austin on Middle East Security at the Manama Dialogue

- Our partnership advances key regional and global priorities, including resolving regional problems, combating extremism, and advancing peaceful religious coexistence.
- The UAE has shown, in its historic outreach to Israel and even with its recent diplomacy to lower tensions with Iran, that it can contribute meaningfully to a more peaceful Middle East.
- The United States will look to the United Arab Emirates to continue its close and multifaceted partnership with the United States; build on its historic engagement with Israel; engage constructively to address the range of concerns our countries face from Iran; work to end regional conflicts and stabilize their aftermath; address human rights concerns; and continue its welcome progress toward easing its rift with Qatar.
- We welcome a deepening of regional cooperation, especially where it reduces the risk of conflict and helps our partners enhance their security.
- We recognize the somber one-year anniversary of the cross-border terrorist attack against the UAE, which tragically killed and wounded civilians. We strongly condemn these attacks. We reaffirm with Emirati President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed, that the United States remains resolutely committed to helping the UAE defend its territory and people – as well as the tens of thousands of U.S. citizens living and working in the UAE – including from threats emanating from Yemen.
- We also remain committed to our collective diplomatic efforts toward a sustainable end to the war in Yemen, which would bring greater security and stability to the people of Yemen and the broader region.

Qatar

State Partner: West Virginia (2018)

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- The US desires to continue working together to address regional and global challenges and to deepen defense and security cooperation as Major Non-NATO Allies.⁹³
- The US appreciates Qatar's role in promoting security and stability for the Afghan people, and Qatar's exceptional efforts in the evacuation of Afghans.⁹⁴
- Our militaries share a vision for integrated deterrence to address threats confronting the region that will continue and even strengthen into the future.⁹⁵

⁹³ 16 JUL 22 Readout of POTUS meeting with Amir Al Thani of Qatar

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ 17 MAY 22 CENTCOM Press Statement: CENTCOM Commander meets with Qatar Armed Forces Chief of Staff

Bahrain

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- There is a strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Bahrain, which emphasizes security, regional integration through the Negev Forum and the Abraham Accords, and advancing sustained progress on human rights.⁹⁶
- Tell us about the significance of the advancement of the US-Bahraini relations in general and its joint military and defense cooperation in specific.
 - Response: Bahrain Defense Force is one of U.S. Central Command's strongest and most reliable partners, leading the way for security and stability in the region. Events such as the recent Bahrain International Airshow provide an opportunity to demonstrate the Department of Defense's commitment and willingness to contribute to regional stability and defense of our partner nations. As we face rising aggressive actions by malign forces around the world, these partnerships enable us to meet new and continuing threats together.
 - As an example, U.S. and Bahraini maritime forces continuously work together to build upon our already strong relationship through a series of bilateral and multilateral naval exercises and professional exchanges that increase interoperability. The U.S. and Bahrain share a common interest in prevailing against complex regional security challenges, including a commitment to combatting terrorism in the region. Bahrain is an important partner in the global coalition to ensure the lasting defeat of ISIS and has been an early supporter of U.S. counterterrorism operations in the region since 2004.

Oman

State Partner: Arizona (2022)

USEMB Public Affairs contact: Mark J Bosse, BosseMG@state.gov

ARCENT Desk Officer: MAJ William Whelan, 803-885-8530, william.j.whelan.mil@army.mil.

- The first Strategic Dialogue (in FEB 23) coincides with the 190-year anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, which established commercial relations between the two countries. It was the first trade agreement the United States signed with an Arab country.⁹⁷

⁹⁶ 10 DEC 22 DOS News Release: Under Secretary Fernandez's Participation in the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce's Ambassador of the Year Award Ceremony

⁹⁷ 02 FEB 23 DOS Joint Statement on the U.S.-Oman Strategic Dialogue

- There is a historic, strategic, and growing partnership between the United States and the Sultanate of Oman on regional security.⁹⁸
- We thank Oman for the important role it has played in securing the truce in Yemen over the last several months and expressed hope that, with Oman's support and the overwhelming consensus in the region and beyond, the Yemeni parties will reach an agreement on a comprehensive truce extension soon and put the country back on the path to peace.⁹⁹

Afghanistan

ARCENT Desk Officer: MAJ Jacob Partridge, 803-885-7719, jacob.w.partridge.mil@army.mil

- We express grave concern about the increasing threat of terrorist groups in Afghanistan, including ISKP, Al Qaeda, Tehrik-i-Taliban-Pakistan and others, which deeply affects security and stability inside the country, in the region and beyond, and call on the Taliban to uphold Afghanistan's obligation to deny these groups safe haven.¹⁰⁰
- The United States is deeply grateful for the contributions of all those who served and sacrificed over 20 years of operations in Afghanistan.¹⁰¹
- The United States maintains its counterterrorism focus aimed at preventing Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for terrorists seeking to threaten the United States or its interests.¹⁰²
- The United States is providing nearly \$327 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help the people of Afghanistan. This brings the total U.S. humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and neighboring countries to more than \$1.1 billion since the Taliban takeover in August 2021.¹⁰³
- Our commitment to the people of Afghanistan is enduring. We provide assistance to people in need, regardless of their gender, race, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, or profession. We welcome the contributions of other donors toward this international response and urge others to generously support Afghanistan's humanitarian needs and maintain support for the Afghan people.¹⁰⁴

Afghan Special Visa Applicants

- DoD continues to support State Department-led efforts to facilitate the departure of U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, special immigrant visa applicants, and their families from Afghanistan.¹⁰⁵
- We have taken many steps to improve the SIV process while safeguarding national security. Since the beginning of the Administration, we have surged resources to this

⁹⁸ 08 NOV 22 DOS Joint Statement on the U.S.-Oman Strategic Dialogue

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ 07 MAR 23 DoS Joint Statement on Afghanistan

¹⁰¹ APR 23 DOD Communications Playbook

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ 23 SEP 22 DOS Statement: United States Announces Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ APR 23 DOD Communication Playbook

vital program and have reviewed every stage of the statutorily required application process to streamline wherever possible.¹⁰⁶

Kazakhstan

State Partner: Arizona (1993)

USEMB Contact: Lt Col Alexandra Hanson, SDO DATT, HansonA2@state.gov, 7 7172 70 2493

ARCENT Desk Officer: MAJ Andrew Benton, 803-885-7750, andrew.p.benton.mil@army.mil.

- U.S. government assistance to Kazakhstan focuses on combating transnational threats (trafficking in persons, narcotics, terrorism, and proliferation of WMD materiel), supporting the development of the judicial system and law enforcement, promoting an increased public role for civil society and mass media, improving Kazakhstan's investment and trade environment, helping the government provide effective social services, combatting corruption and cybercrime, and supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to increase its production of low-cost clean energy.¹⁰⁷
- The enhanced strategic partnership between the United States and Kazakhstan, is moving forward strongly. Ever since being the first nation to recognize Kazakhstan in December of 1991, the United States has been firmly committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Kazakhstan – and countries across the region.¹⁰⁸
- Kazakhstan also continues to be a valued partner on key global issues: reducing the spread of nuclear weapons by dismantling Soviet-era missiles; contributing to vital peacekeeping operations from Lebanon to Mali; exploring the galaxy through space cooperation; repatriating and rehabilitating more than 600 foreign terrorist fighters and their families.¹⁰⁹
- We have an important partnership, and it's one that we've been working to deepen and to strengthen over the last couple of years. As you know well, the United States strongly supports Kazakhstan's sovereignty, its independence, territorial integrity.¹¹⁰

Kyrgyzstan

State Partner: Montana (1996)

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- The United States thanked the Kyrgyz Republic for its leadership in regional integration efforts and its upcoming role as annual co-chair of the C5+1 Secretariat beginning in July 2023. The two countries' representatives also discussed the successful repatriation and

¹⁰⁶ 18 JUL 22 DOS Media Note: Ongoing Efforts to Support Afghan Special immigrant Visa Applicants

¹⁰⁷ 27 FEB 23 DoS Fact Sheet: U.S. – Kazakhstan Relations

¹⁰⁸ 28 FEB 23 Sec. Blinken and Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Tileuberdi at a Joint Press Availability

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ 28 FEB 23 Sec. Blinken and Kazakhstani Foreign Minister Tileuberdi Before Their Meeting

reintegration of 59 Kyrgyz citizens from Syria, border security and assistance, and global health security.¹¹¹

- The United States welcomed the Kyrgyz Republic's efforts to delimitate and demarcate its international borders as a central element of peace and security in Central Asia.¹¹²
- We are proud of the partnership that we've built over the last more than 30 years with Kyrgyzstan. We're committed to your sovereignty, to your territorial integrity, your independence, and very much look forward to continuing to deepen cooperation to advance democratic values, economic prosperity, regional interconnectivity as well as to confront the shared challenges that we have.¹¹³
- We are grateful to the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic for working to resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis resulting from the dismantling of the so-called ISIS caliphate. The only long-term solution to this crisis remains the successful repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of residents back to their countries of origin. In concert with our regional partners, CENTCOM will continue to support these repatriation efforts using resources such as aircraft.¹¹⁴
- The shared values between our peoples make us natural partners, and the benefits of our cooperation are self-evident. The United States is committed to partnering with the Kyrgyz Republic to achieve its development goals, including by expanding economic ties and strengthening democratic institutions.¹¹⁵
- U.S. government is committed to the security, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Kyrgyz Republic.¹¹⁶
- The United States was the first country to recognize the independence of the Kyrgyz Republic. That commitment remains unwavering 30 years on. CENTCOM intends to build on that strong foundation, in the areas of emergency preparedness, humanitarian assistance, and security cooperation.¹¹⁷
- Since 1999 the U.S. International Military Education and Training program has trained more than 500 Kyrgyz military, security service and other ministerial personnel.¹¹⁸

Tajikistan

State Partner: Virginia (2003)

ARCENT Desk Officer: MAJ Jacob Partridge, 803-885-7719, jacob.w.partridge.mil@army.mil

¹¹¹ 07 APR 23 Joint Statement of the US-Kyrgyz Republic Annual Bilateral Consultations

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ 28 FEB 23 Sec. Blinken and Kyrgyz Republic Foreign Minister Jeenbek Kulubaev Before Their Meeting

¹¹⁴ 16 FEB 23 Statement from General Kurilla on the repatriation of 59 women and children from Syrian conflict zones to Kyrgyzstan

¹¹⁵ 30 AUG 22 Sec Blinken Message on Kyrgyz Republic Independence Day

¹¹⁶ 16 JUL 22 Readout: GEN Kurilla engages with leaders from the Kyrgyz Republic

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

- The United States and Tajikistan have built a strong partnership based on shared goals, countless cultural and people-to-people ties, and a commitment to combatting terrorist threats – not only in Tajikistan, but throughout the region and across the globe.¹¹⁹
- Even as both our countries faced challenges over the past year due to global shifts, the United States remains committed to Tajikistan’s stability and prosperity.¹²⁰
- Strong Tajikistan borders are critical to security of the entire Central Asia region.¹²¹
- Security cooperation with Tajikistan security forces focuses primarily on counterterrorism and border security operations. CENTCOM provides Tajikistan training, equipment, and infrastructure to defend its border with Afghanistan. CENTCOM support to Tajikistan includes ground sensors, communication equipment, and patrol vehicles to Tajikistan border guards.¹²²

Turkmenistan

State Partner: Montana (2021)

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- We respect Turkmenistan’s doctrine of ‘positive neutrality’ and are united in support of the territorial integrity and stability of the Central Asian states.¹²³

Uzbekistan

State Partner: Mississippi (2012)

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- Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1992, the United States and Uzbekistan have developed a broad-based relationship, cooperating in such areas as border and regional security programs, economic relations, political and civil society issues, and English language training. Uzbekistan is important to U.S. interests in ensuring stability, prosperity, and security in the broader Central Asian region. Regional threats include illegal narcotics, trafficking in persons, terrorism, and violent extremism. Uzbekistan is a key partner in the provision of international humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, and it continues to support the country through provision of electricity, economic assistance, and infrastructure development.¹²⁴
- Uzbekistan is a valued partner and plays an important role in ensuring Central Asia’s strategic autonomy, including through the C5+1 diplomatic platform.¹²⁵

¹¹⁹ 08 SEP 22 DOS Press Statement: Tajikistan Independence Day

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ 17 JUL 22 Readout: USCENTCOM Cdr meeting with Tajikistan Pres., DefMin, and Chief of Gen. Staff

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ 25 APR 23 CENTCOM News Release CENTCOM Commander Visits Turkmenistan

¹²⁴ 28 FEB 23 DoS Fact Sheet: U.S.-Uzbekistan Relations

¹²⁵ 31 AUG 22 DOS Press Statement: Uzbekistan Independence Day

- We thank the Uzbek people and the military for leading the region in repatriating Uzbek citizens from al-Hol back into society. We must continue to support Uzbekistan in this effort.¹²⁶

Pakistan

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- We don't have a position on one political candidate or another inside Pakistan. We call for the respect and equal application of democratic principles, freedom of expression around – and rule of law around the world, and of course in Pakistan we urge that these principles be respected for all people.¹²⁷
- U.S.-Pakistan cooperation is important for regional peace, counterterrorism, Afghan stability, support for Ukraine, and democratic principles.¹²⁸
- Pakistan has been an important partner on wide-ranging mutual interests for nearly 75 years and we value our relationship.¹²⁹
- The United States views a strong, prosperous, and democratic Pakistan as essential for the interests of both of our countries.¹³⁰

Exercise and Operations Messaging

Exercise Bright Star

Exercise BRIGHT STAR 23 is a multilateral U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) command-post exercise, field training exercise and senior leader seminar, held in the Arab Republic of Egypt along with other partner nations. Participation strengthens military-to-military relationships between U.S. forces and our Egyptian partners in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility, as well as other participating nations. The exercise enhances regional security and stability by responding to modern-day security scenarios. Held since 1980, it is the longest and largest multinational exercise held in the Middle East.

Key Messages

Theme 1: Military engagements help prepare our forces.

Message: Military-to-military engagements capitalize on the value of a cooperative approach to combating dynamic security threats of mutual concern. Exercises like this give Egyptian and U.S. military members, and our partner nations, the opportunity to work together, improve common processes and develop combined leadership understanding – which create habits that pay off in times of crisis. Fundamentally, military engagements – whether they are functional training, senior leader seminars or bilateral and multilateral exercises – are designed to prepare partner forces so that they are ready to meet challenges at all levels of command.

Theme 2: Exercise BRIGHT STAR allows us to pursue opportunities.

¹²⁶ 14 JUN 22 Statement from GEN Kurilla after meeting with Uzbekistan Defense Officials

¹²⁷ 23 MAY 23 DOS Press Briefing

¹²⁸ 18 MAY 22 DOS Readout: Sec. Blinken's Meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister

¹²⁹ 13 APR 22 DOS Press Statement: Election of Pakistan Prime minister Shehbaz Sharif

¹³⁰ Ibid.

Message: BRIGHT STAR focuses on continuously improving interoperability throughout the full range of military operations. This exercise is an important symbol of the long-standing relationship between the U.S. military and the Egyptian Armed Forces. Over 1500 U.S. personnel will participate. BRIGHT STAR is a chance to pursue engagements with Egypt to better address threats common to regional security at all levels of command.

Theme 3: Participation demonstrates a commitment to prevail.

Message: Both the U.S. military and Egyptian Armed Forces are committed to prevailing against our most complex challenges. Our ability to work together is key to our concept of integrated deterrence and demonstrating our combined resolve in the face of challenges to regional security. We must focus on maintaining ready and responsive forces by increasing common understanding and providing the most decision space for senior leaders.

Exercise Eagle Resolve

Eagle Resolve 23 (ER23) is conducted bi-annually with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations to exercise and develop a GCC and U.S. Combined Joint Task force (CJTF) capable of linking multiple agencies to build and develop a regional approach for Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) to protect population and infrastructures. The last iteration of this event was Eagle Resolve 23 conducted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and included land, maritime, and air assets from both U.S. and GCC partners.

Key Messages

Eagle Resolve 23 is a multilateral exercise designed to improve the interoperability of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partner nations that include: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), State of Kuwait, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Sultanate of Oman.

Combined exercises between the U.S. and regional partners help to build a more networked architecture for enhanced collective defense in the Gulf to oppose destabilizing forces in the Central Command region. Eagle Resolve 23 is a long-standing exercise between the U.S. and GCC partner nations.

The U.S. maintains an unwavering commitment to the unity and interoperability of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partner nations.

Theme 1: Partnership

- Eagle Resolve 23 is a multilateral exercise designed to improve the interoperability of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partner nations. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), State of Kuwait, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Sultanate of Oman
- The goal of Eagle Resolve 23 is to improve our interoperability towards a secure and stable Middle East.

Theme 2: Commitment

- The U.S. maintains an unwavering commitment to the unity and interoperability of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partner nations.

- Eagle Resolve 23 is a multilateral exercise designed to improve interoperability between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partner forces. Combined exercises help deter threats and avoid future conflict.
- Cooperation between the U.S. and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partner nations, is important to stability of the Middle East and reflects a common understanding of the global security environment.

Theme 3: GCC Contributions

- Combined exercises between the U.S. and regional partners help to build a more networked architecture for enhanced collective defense in the Gulf to oppose destabilizing forces in the Central Command region.
- The U.S. and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia maintain an enduring mil-to-mil partnership built on decades of unity and cooperation.

Autonomous Vehicle Testing

U.S. Army Central is testing three autonomous vehicles during sustainment operations in Kuwait. These autonomous systems are installed on Palletized Load Systems, or PLS, which is a ten-wheeled vehicle optimized to transport palletized loads in support of Army sustainment operations. The autonomous systems are designed to work semi-autonomously with direction and input from vehicle operators. The purpose of this testing is to gather the most data as possible about the capabilities and limitations of semi-autonomous vehicles in the challenging desert environment of Kuwait. The vehicles were previously tested at Fort Polk, La., and in the U.S. European Command region. The vehicle operators are Army transportation specialists who trained on the vehicles since late June, 2023. Semi-autonomous vehicles are the future of Army sustainment operations. They reduce the risk to our people by decreasing the number of operators exposed to threats while increasing the capability of sustainment units.

Key Messages

Themes to avoid: There will be no reference of “ATV-S”, Army Futures Command, DEVCOM, or “leader-follower”. Instead, use the term “autonomous vehicles.”

Theme 1: Innovation “Leading the Way”

- Autonomous vehicles are the future of Army sustainment operations and rigorously testing this new technology creates the best possible product.
- The innovative measures we are pursuing will better enable USARCENT to campaign creatively, contribute to cross-domain integrated deterrence, and support the effort to build enduring advantages.
- USARCENT is excited to lead campaigning efforts in support of national objectives and NDS taskings through pursuit of novel and resource- conscientious methods.
- Incorporating autonomous technologies increases capabilities while reducing the requisite resources and strain on personnel.
- USARCENT is testing this new technology in the difficult desert environment of Kuwait to gather the most data possible.

Theme 2: Partnerships “Partner of Choice”

- USARCENT's innovative solutions to increase sustainment capabilities are unrivaled anywhere in the CENTCOM region.
- We are focused on testing new technologies hand-in-hand with our regional partners, as interoperability is a requirement for any new technology.
- USARCENT is committed to incorporating ground-breaking technology throughout the CENTCOM region.

Theme 3: People “People Matter”

- People are our greatest asset and USARCENT will work to generate, test, and incorporate technologies that enable our people and keep them safe.
- Autonomous vehicles reduce the number of operators required for specific mission which reduces the risk to personnel in combat environments.
- USARCENT is focused on increasing safety by incorporating semi-autonomous vehicles into sustainment operations by reducing the strain on operators.
- Incorporating autonomous vehicles allows a smaller number of personnel to accomplish a greater number of tasks while reducing risk to the force.

IDEX – International Defense Exhibition (UAE)

The International Defence Exhibition & Conference, or IDEX, is a biennial arms and defense technology sales exhibition. The exhibition is the largest defense exhibition and conference in the Middle East and takes place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) units provide static displays of U.S. weapons systems during the exhibit to demonstrate current U.S. capabilities to regional military partners.

Theme 1: Regional Commitment

- Participating in the International Defense Exhibition delivers a clear message: relationships matter.
- USARCENT is resolutely committed to building partner capacity and interoperability to ensure regional security.
- CENTCOM has a decades long commitment to the UAE and our regional partners built through shared values and interests.
- The U.S. is committed to ensuring stability and peace throughout the CENTCOM AOR.

Theme 2: Building Partner Capacity

- Effective defense against destabilizing threats requires a whole-of-government and industry approach and requires a close partnership between the United States and the UAE and with all of our regional partners. A vulnerability to one can quickly become a strategic loss to all.
- Building strong military capability is critical to deterring malign actors, deterring violent extremists, and ensuring regional security.
- We must remain committed to improving our interoperability, providing more decision-space for our senior leaders, and maintaining ready and responsive forces to truly demonstrate that we are ready and trained to address unpredictable and free-thinking adversaries.
- The U.S. is the partner of choice in the region for building capacity and interoperability.

Theme 3: Readiness

- USCENTCOM stands ready to respond to crises throughout the CENTCOM region in order to support our partners and ensure regional stability.
- USARCENT's capabilities displayed at IDEX 23 are innovative, lethal, and rapidly deployable.
- IDEX 23 provides unique opportunities for allies and partners across the region to share ways to improve and train their forces to counter growing threats by demonstrating developing technologies and capabilities.
- U.S. participation in IDEX 23 is another example of our commitment to lead and sustain a stable and open international system, underwritten by strong democratic alliances, partnerships, multinational institutions and international law.
- The U.S. is committed to countering regional malign actors and providing security in the region by building and effectively employing capable coalition-focused forces across the full spectrum of operations. We will endeavor to prevent conflict but remain prepared to win decisively.

Iron Union (UAE)

Iron Union is a recurring bilateral exercise between the U.S. Central Command and the United Arab Emirates Land Forces. The U.S. Army Central-led exercise combines the forces of Task Force Spartan and the UAELF to highlight and strengthen both nation's forces. Iron Union expands partner capacity and supports U.S. Central Command and U.S. Army Central Theater Security Cooperation objectives. Iron Union typically alternates between a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and a Field Training Exercise (FTX) that capitalizes on the staff led portion of the CPX to build on the cooperation and interoperability between the two nations.

Theme 1: Partnership

- We value our relationship with the United Arab Emirates, built upon years of partnership and commitment to security and stability across the region.
- The U.S. will build political, economic, and security connections between U.S. partners wherever possible, while respecting each country's sovereignty and independent choices.
- Iron Union is a recurring exercise between the U.S. and UAELF to build the abilities of both nations; we are committed to improving both nations through the partnerships like Iron Union 19.
- Sharing best practices and integrating tactics, techniques, and procedures strengthens relationships and trust, which cannot be surged in times of crisis.

Theme 2: Commitment to Regional Security and Stability

- The U.S. will support and strengthen partnerships with countries that subscribe to the rules-based international order, and we will enable those countries to defend themselves against foreign threats.
- Exercises like Iron Union 19 demonstrate the ability of the U.S. and our partner nations to react and respond decisively to a real-world scenario.
- Exercises like Iron Union 19 highlight the abilities of the U.S. and partners within the region and occur often as both forces constantly develop their ability to respond to emerging threats.

- The U.S. is committed to countering regional malign actors and providing security in the region by strengthening partnerships with capable coalition-focused forces across the full spectrum of operations. We will endeavor to prevent conflict but remain prepared to win decisively.

Theme 3: Lethality and Professionalism

- Iron Union 19 combines the tactical and strategic capabilities of U.S. Army Central and the UAELF to work in tandem to respond to emerging threats. Exercises like this demonstrate how fast, effective, and deliberate the response to any threat to the region would occur if anyone attempted to threaten the stability.
- Combining the armor and light infantry tactics of both nations produces a highly effective fighting force within the region. These combined armed formations offer the dual commanders several different options for achieving a mission.
- Conducting consistent and robust security cooperation activities demonstrates that U.S. Army Central remains a reliable and committed regional partner.
- U.S. Army Central combines broad experience and talent with cutting edge technology when training alongside partners across the Middle East and Central and South Asia.

Kinetic Mustang (KAZ)

Kinetic Mustang is a series of military-to-military exchanges conducted by USARCENT forces with the Kazakhstan Land Forces from May 23 to September 23 in order to reestablish conventional forces partnership in Kazakhstan. There are two mil-to-mil events taking place during Kinetic Mustang 23. The first will be a mortar subject matter expert exchange (SMEE). Task Force Spartan will deploy one mortar section, fire direction center, and required communications personnel and equipment to the Zharkent Marksmanship Range. The second is a 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade SMEE. 3rd SFAB will deploy an advisor team in June to conduct a SMEE focused on troop leading procedures and operational training. 1st TSC will conduct a SMEE focused on convoy operations.

Theme 1: Enduring Partnerships “Relationships Matter”

- We value our relationship with Kazakhstan, built upon our strong commitment to Kazakhstan’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.
- Participating in subject matter expert exchanges and other training opportunities with Kazakhstan delivers a clear message: relationships matter.
- Military-to-military engagements improve operational effectiveness when working in unfamiliar environments.
- Sharing best practices and integrating tactics, techniques, and procedures strengthens relationships and trust, which cannot be surged in times of crisis.

Theme 2: “Reassurance and Deterrence” Presence in the Region

- Training exercises like this demonstrate the interoperability between U.S. and Kazakhstan military forces, and the capability and readiness of both to ensure a secure and stable region.
- The United States will support and strengthen partnerships with countries that subscribe to the rules-based international order, and we will make sure those countries can defend themselves against foreign threats.

- Bilateral training and exchanges with the Kazakh Land Forces improves interoperability between our forces, helping to deter threats and avoid future conflict.
- The U.S. is committed to countering regional malign actors and providing security in the region by building capable coalition-focused forces across the full spectrum of operations. We will endeavor to prevent conflict but remain prepared to win decisively.

Theme 3: “Partner of Choice” Training Opportunities and Commitment

- U.S. forces regularly train with strategic partners like Kazakhstan on the full spectrum of military operations that strengthens a decades long relationship built on trust and shared goals.
- U.S. Army Central is a team of teams, experienced across all warfighting functions, and willingly sharing best practices with committed partners.
- Conducting consistent and robust security cooperation activities demonstrates that U.S. Army Central remains a reliable and committed regional partner.
- U.S. Army Central combines broad experience and talent with cutting edge technology when training alongside partners across the Middle East and Central and South Asia.

Exercise Juniper Oak (Israel)

Juniper Oak 23 (JO23) is a bilateral U.S.-Israel military exercise designed to enhance interoperability between the U.S. and Israeli militaries. Forces from U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Components and the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) participate. JO23-2 is the first iteration of this training event, but it joins the long-standing “Juniper” series that the U.S. and Israel have conducted for more than 20 years. In addition to being the first iteration of JO23, it is also the first “Juniper” event to take place since USCENTCOM assumed combatant command responsibility of Israel from EUCOM on Sep 1, 2021. (The “Juniper” series consist of three events: Juniper Oak, Juniper Falcon, and Juniper Cobra.)

Key Messages

- Juniper Oak is a bilateral exercise designed to improve the cooperative defense of Israel between the U.S. and the Israeli Defense Force.
- Combined exercises between the U.S. and partners such as Israel build the architecture of integrated deterrence to oppose destabilizing forces in the Central Command region. Juniper Oak is one of several exercises in a long-standing series of annual exercises between the U.S. and Israel.
- The U.S. maintains an "ironclad" commitment to assist in the defense of Israel and support Israel’s qualitative military edge (QME).

Exercise Juniper Cobra (Israel)

Juniper Cobra (JC) is a ballistic missile defense (BMD) exercise that uses computer simulations to train U.S. and Israeli military service members and enhance interoperability. While the exercise is driven by the regional dynamics of the Middle East, it is not related to any specific events or developments. The last iteration of Juniper Cobra took place in February and March 2020. (The “Juniper” series consist of three events: Juniper Oak, Juniper Falcon, and Juniper Cobra.)

Key Messages

- Juniper Cobra (JC) is a bilateral exercise with our partners in the IDF to prepare our forces to counter any ballistic missile threats to Israel.
- JC is designed to improve the cooperative defense of Israel between the U.S. and IDF.
- JC is a defense of Israel exercise; focused on exercising missile defense capabilities and interoperability and not focused on exercising offensive operations.
- While this exercise is not a response to current events, it's worth noting that these combined exercises help deter possible threats and avoid future conflict.
- The United States and Israel enjoy a strong and enduring military to military partnership built on a trust that has been developed over decades of cooperation. The Juniper Cobra exercises continue to strengthen this relationship, providing us with the opportunity to bolster interoperability and develop seamless integration with our Israeli partners.

Exercise Juniper Falcon (Israel)

Juniper Falcon (JF) is a joint, bilateral rapid deployment, and contingency response exercise. The exercise is designed to exercise command and control over forward deployed forces as well as exercise ballistic missile defense and crisis response to assist in the defense of Israel. While the exercise is driven by the regional dynamics of the Middle East, it is not related to any specific events or developments. The last iteration of Juniper Falcon took place in February 2023. (The “Juniper” series consist of three events: Juniper Oak, Juniper Falcon, and Juniper Cobra.)

Key Messages

- Juniper Falcon is a bilateral exercise with our partners in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and is intended to prepare our forces to counter ballistic missile threats to Israel.
- The U.S. maintains a rock-solid commitment to assist in the defense of Israel.
- While the exercise is driven by the overall dynamics in the Middle East, it is not a response to any specific situation or real-world event.
- JF25 is the next iteration in a long-standing series of cooperative exercises between the U.S. and Israel.

Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center

The Saudi Arabian Armed Forces (SAAF), and U.S. military forces under the direction of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), are working together to establish the Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center – a center for testing and developing technologies, tactics, techniques, and procedures to counter emerging UAS threats. This center will leverage existing space and infrastructure to provide a location for regional partners to work cooperatively, share best practices, develop technologies, and increase the interoperability of counter-UAS systems. The last live effects test of the Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center was a counter-sUAS exercise occurring September 9-12, 2023, at the Shamal-2 Range in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Theme 1: Enduring Partnerships “Relationships Matter”

- Effective defense against emerging UAS threats requires a whole-of-government and industry approach and requires a close partnership between the United States and all of our regional partners. A vulnerability to one can quickly become a strategic loss to all.
- The Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center provides a forum to focus and coordinate counter-UAS efforts between partners and allies across the region.
- Participating in the Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center and C-sUAS exercise delivers a clear message: relationships matter.

- We must remain committed to improving our interoperability, providing more decision-space for our senior leaders, and maintaining ready and responsive forces to truly demonstrate that we are ready and trained to address unpredictable and free-thinking adversaries.
- Military-to-military engagements improve operational effectiveness when working in unfamiliar environments.
- Integrating processes, systems, and command and control functions strengthens relationships and trust, which cannot be surged in times of crisis.

Theme 2: “Sufficient and Sustainable” Presence in the Region

- The Red Sands counter UAS effort addresses common threats to regional security at the operational and tactical levels and facilitates multilateral training and development in a relatively low threat but demanding environment.
- Training and development supported by the Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center concept empowers participants to provide greater security against UAS threats, protecting both military and civilian populations, infrastructure, and activities.
- Working with partner nations through the Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center provides a golden opportunity for allies and partners to pursue better ways of addressing common threats to regional security at the operational and tactical levels.

Theme 3: Security and Stability

- Unmanned Aerial Systems operated by malign actors are a shared security challenge for the U.S. and regional partners. The commercial off-the-shelf nature of many UAS being employed throughout the CENTCOM AOR and relative ease of use are making it the weapon of choice for our adversaries resulting in rapid technology proliferation and increased employment against U.S. forces and our partners.
- Countering emerging threats from UAS requires an innovative and cooperative solution.
- The Red Sands Integrated Experimentation Center concept and live effects exercises provide unique training opportunities for allies and partners across the region to develop and train their forces and systems to counter growing UAS threats by proving developing technologies in a real-world, challenging environment.

Branding Guide

All design elements used to promote the command are part of an overall branding initiative, intended to create a feeling of involvement, esprit de corps and brand recognition surrounding U.S. Army Central. Consistent use of the branding strengthens the ability of the command to communicate its mission and messages, creates a visual relationship with our audiences and allows us to be a clearly recognizable element of national power both at home and abroad. These branding guidelines promote and support the U.S. Army, U.S. Central Command, and specifically the U.S. Army Central brand.

1. Naming Convention – All public products will use "U.S. Army Central" on first use in all references. The acronym USARCENT or ARCENT can be used afterwards.
2. Slogan – Patton's Own
3. Hashtag – #USARCENT

4. Logo – The official branding, or logo, for U.S. Army Central is the Third Army shield. The logo may not be altered in size, shape or color. The U.S. Army star may be used where appropriate, however, adding the Central tab is NOT authorized.

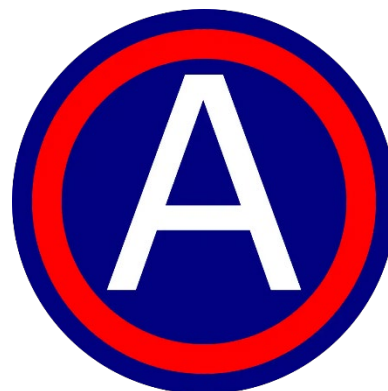
Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

Description/Blazon

On a blue disc 2 1/4 inches (5.72 cm) in diameter a white letter "A" with members 1/8 inch (.32 cm) wide within a red circle 2 inches (5.08 cm) in diameter and 3/16 inch (.48 cm) in width.

Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was originally approved for Third Army on 20 December 1922. It was redesignated for Third United States Army on 10 November 1960. The insignia was redesignated for US Army Central on 29 August 2006. (TIOH Drawing Number A-1-3)



Distinctive Unit Insignia

Description/Blazon

A gold color metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in height overall consisting of a blue disc with a red border, the blue area bearing throughout a white capital letter "A" (as depicted on the authorized shoulder sleeve insignia for US Army Central) in front of in base a gold stylized fleur-de-lis, the center petal of the fleur-de-lis extending behind and above the cross bar of the letter "A" and behind and below the red border and the tops of the two outer petals extending under, downward and over the red border and terminating at and conjoined with the feet of the letter "A" and the lower ends extending behind and below the red border which bears at top five gold five-pointed stars and the inscription "TERTIA SEMPER PRIMA" in gold letters, the word "TERTIA" in base and between the outer petals of the fleur-de-lis and the stars, the word "SEMPER" on the left and the word "PRIMA" on the right.



Symbolism

The design is based on the authorized shoulder sleeve insignia of US Army Central (formerly United States Third Army). The fleur-de-lis in base alludes to the initial activation of the Headquarters, Third Army, at Ligny-en-Barrois, France, 15 November 1918. The five stars refer to the five campaigns Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe, World War II in which the Third United States Army participated. The motto reflects the Third Army's constant readiness.

Background

The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for Third United States Army on 10 October 1968. It was redesignated for US Army Central with the description updated and symbolism revised on 29 August 2006.

Digital Communications Guide

DVIDS Guidance

- DVIDS is the standard – DVIDS is the official DoD content distribution and archival system for news, video and imagery and must be used by all public affairs personnel.
- All content approved for release by U.S. military, Department of State, and partner nation PAOs will be uploaded to DVIDS within 24 hours of approval.
- When uploading B-Roll footage name it “B-Roll” and don’t include music.
- Use an image along with your news stories. Preferred size 16:9.
- DVIDS tags are **VERY IMPORTANT**. When used correctly they feed your content to various unit, branch, and higher headquarters websites, as well as feature pages. Additionally, DVIDS pages are actively pitched to the media so if your tags aren’t correct your content won’t get pulled.
- At a minimum all content needs to be tagged with: USArmyCentral, along with the name of the exercise, operation or competition.
- Do NOT contact DVIDS to create a feature page. Feature pages for exercises, operations or competitions under U.S. Army Central will be created and managed by U.S. Army Central Public Affairs or CENTCOM Communications Integration planners to ensure standardization and continuity. If you need a feature page created, please contact us.

Social Media Guidance

- Tag @USArmyCentral on all platforms.
- Use the hashtag **#USARCENT** for all products on social media.
- PAOs are HIGHLY encouraged to use Sprinklr to manage their social media presences. Not only will it help you manage your platforms, it allows us all to share our content more effectively. Contact the Digital Team for details on registration and training.
- All U.S. Army Central organizations must follow U.S. Army regulations and guidance found at <https://www.army.mil/socialmedia>.
- All social media managers must be granted release authority by a brigade or higher commanding officer, either through orders or a command memorandum. A copy of this memo will be provided to the U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office. Battalion level and lower may have trained Unit Public Affairs Representatives (UPAR) that are tracked by the brigade.
- All social media platforms must be registered with the U.S. Army social media directory at <https://www.army.mil/socialmedia/directory>.
- All social media managers must conduct an annual review of contributors and those with access to official platforms.
- A “Terms of Use” statement is required on your Facebook ‘About’ page. You can copy the one from ours at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/USArmyCentral/about/>.
- Do NOT create new social media pages specific to your missions, location or exercise without consulting USARCENT Public Affairs.

Website Guidance: All publicly accessible sites must be managed by a PAO.

- Required training to manage public websites –
- One time training –

- AFPIMS site manager training for webmasters - <https://pwtraining.dma.mil/>
- OPSEC Level II - coordinated through your local OPSEC manager.
- Annual training:
 - OPSEC for EOP Operators - <https://iatraining.us.army.mil/>
 - Social Networking and Your Online Identity - <https://cyber.mil/training/social-networking/>
 - Cyber Awareness Challenge - <https://cyber.mil/training/cyber-awareness-challenge/>
- All official agency websites accessible to the public are managed through the contract the U.S. Army Central Public Affairs has established with the Defense Media Agency. Exceptions are granted only to supporting organizations that have mandated content management systems through their direct higher authority.
- U.S. Army Central must approve and assign all web manager accounts in the American Forces Public Information Management (AFPIMS) System.
- All web managers must be granted release authority by a brigade or higher commanding officer, either through orders or a command memorandum. A copy of this memo will be provided to the U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office. Battalion level and lower may have trained Unit Public Affairs Representatives that are tracked by the brigade.
- Web managers must conduct a quarterly OPSEC review of all publicly accessible websites.

Enduring priorities

People

#BeAllYouCanBe – Highlight how Army helps individuals realize their potential through the emphasis of high standards and unique opportunities

#MeetYourArmy - Highlights connections between Army and select areas

#KnowYourMil - Used with the DoD Initiative

#ArmyLife - Provides civilians with insight into Army experiences

#ArmyFamily - Describes Army family, organizations, and esprit de corps

#ArmyValues - Highlights the core principles and what we stand for

#PeopleFirst - CI where Soldiers' lives are improved

#ThisIsMySquad - Highlights the fight against extremism within the ranks

Innovation

#ArmyFutures - Highlights Army future environments, concepts, and Army innovations

#Adapt2Win - Describes solutions and ideas to better the Army or solve a problem

#ArmyTech - Talks about Army equipment and tech development

Partnerships

#StrongerTogether #RelationshipsMatter

Readiness

#Readiness - Overall Army as an institution readiness

#Ready2Fight - Describes tactical readiness of Soldiers in our formations

#Allied2Win - Describes joint training exercises or the exchange of information

#Partnerships - Discusses the overarching joint forces and combined partnerships

#StrongerTogether- Describes multinational unity in preparedness and training

#ACFT - Highlight the Army Combat Fitness Test

#H2F - In conjunction with the ACFT, H2F highlights the whole of a Soldier's wellbeing

Weekly Hashtag Opportunities

Monday - #MilitaryMonday / #MaintenanceMonday / #MonochromeMonday /
 #MondayMotivation
 Tuesday - #TrainingTuesday / #TankTuesday
 Wednesday - #WednesdayWorkout / #WarriorWednesday / #WeaponsWednesday /
 #WhyIWeServe
 Thursday - #ThankYouThursday / #TBT / #ThoughtfulThursday
 Friday - #FollowFriday / #FeatureFriday / #FiresFriday / #FlightFriday
 Saturday - #SaturdayShoutout / #SaturdaySwag / #SoldierSaturday
 Sunday - #PartnershipSunday / #StatePartnershipSunday / #SundayVibe

***Tagging** - Please remember to tag @USArmyCentral, @CENTCOM, @TaskForceSpartan, etc... as appropriate for widest dissemination.

USARCENT RELEASE AUTHORITY MATRIX

UNCLASSIFIED // FOUO

As of 03 MARCH 2021

	PA Posture	Host Nation PAO	Embassy PAO	OSD PA	CENTCOM PAO	CG USARCENT	USARCENT DCG / COS / DCoS	USARCENT PAO / DPAO	DIV / SEP w/ GO CDR and Qual PAO	BDE PAO
Accident involving civilians	Active						★		■	
Accident, CAT A	Active						★		■	
Accident, CAT B	Active						★		■	
Accident, CAT C	Active						★		■	
Aircraft down	Active				★				■	
ARCENT/CFLCC Unit Training death	Active				★			■		
Blue-Green, Blue-Blue, Green-Blue	Active				★			■		
CID investigations (ICW CID)	RTQ							★	■	
CIVCAS, ARCENT / CFLCC unit-caused	RTQ			★	■					
DUSTWUN / kidnap of ARCENT / CFLCC personnel	RTQ				★	■				
US WIA / KIA (Initial Release - NOT CASUALTY IDENTIFICATION)	RTQ				★		■			
US WIA / KIA (Casualty identification)	RTQ			★						
Environmental issues within HN	RTQ	■								
Good will events inside deployed area (unit-led or in partnership)	Active w/ caveats		★						■	
Host Nation capabilities (Army, Police, Governance, Development)	RTQ	■								
Local Demonstrations against ARCENT units (ICW State Dept / Embassy)	RTQ							★	■	
Mass Atrocity by Host Nation military (ICW State Dept / Embassy)	RTQ	■			★					
Misconduct by partner nations (Significant) (ICW State Dept / Embassy)	RTQ			★	■					
Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)	Active w/ caveats		★					■		
Operation Inherent Resolve (Dismantling of Daesh)	Active w/ caveats			★		■				
Operational events, updates (at your unit level)	Active							★	■	
Repositioning of forces (at your unit level)	Passive w/ caveats				★	■				
Strategic, political, inter-theater implications	RTQ		★		■					
Unit Command information products (MWR events, promotions, awards, changes of command, unit events not involving partnered / host nation units, etc. IAW Release Caveats)	Active w/ caveats								★	■
Unit internal training (METL) within deployed area (host nation, IAW Release Caveats)	Active w/ caveats								★	■
Unit Location within host nation (IAW Release Caveats)	Active w/ caveats							★		■
Unit partnership training with host nation (Capacity Building) (IAW Release Caveats)	Active w/ caveats		★						■	
VIP visits (sliding scale based on VIP level) (IAW Release Caveats)	Active							★		■

★ Approval Authority (the office/headquarters who must approve the product before being sent out or posted online)
 ■ Lowest level of release authority (the headquarters authorized, after approval, to send out the product)

All USARCENT releases must be routed through the USARCENT PAO and be in accordance w/ AP, DoD, and USARCENT style guides

Releases on events or actions within the CJTF-OIR CJOA or Afghan CJOA must be approved by the relevant operational PAO

All releases that require US Embassy Approval will be approved by USARCENT PAO / DPAO prior to embassy staffing.

Releases / products requiring USARCENT PAO / DPAO approval will go directly to MCP personnel

All release and approval authorities are subject to individual national Caveats. USARCENT Area of Operations National Caveats can be found at https://portal.arcent.sva.army.mil/special_staff/SS/PAO/ADMNandSOP/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Products covering VIP Visits also require approval from the PAO of the visiting VIP (contact USARCENT for discussion on approval authorities for these events)

Matrix subject to operation / exercise specific Public Affairs Guidance

Higher HQs reserve the right to retain release authority on everything. Always communicate with your higher HQs.