



## Building Interagency Understanding

With the evolving political, economic, and social environment in Europe, the 7th Mission Support Command (MSC), headquartered in Germany, noted that US military logistics capabilities and relationships must develop alongside their surroundings.

### CHALLENGE

To further strengthen the US military's capabilities in the European Theater, leadership from the 7th MSC and its higher headquarters, the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, hoped to emphasize understanding, communication, and cooperation among key players across the Department of State, government agencies, and the US military logistics unit in Germany.

### SOLUTION

At the request of the 7th MSC, IDB, in collaboration with the Department of State and the US diplomatic mission in Germany, crafted a week-long roundtable for the US military logistics unit, comprised mainly of civil affairs personnel in the US Army Reserve.

The roundtable focused on expanding both the logisticians' awareness of interagency roles and responsibilities during a crisis, as well as their range of contacts with interagency actors in theater.

The curriculum was delivered by foreign service, civil service, and military representatives based at the US Embassy and Consulates General, and the US EUCOM headquarters in Germany. Course objectives included:

- Outline ways embassies and country teams can better support US military movements in Europe in times of crisis
- Discuss how US EUCOM logistics entities can plan and operate in harmony with embassy operations and integrated country strategies

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### RESULTS

Members of the 7th MSC gained an understanding of how the Command's own goals could be further boosted through coordination with local embassies and their constituent posts throughout Europe.

### PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

From an article about the course on the US Army Reserve official website:

**"It was a gold mine. Civil affairs soldiers typically work with the defense attaché at an embassy, but this conference helped [them] get to know what other embassy personnel contribute. You see the high-level strategic picture of the same missions that we were doing on the ground."**

- Lt. Col. Carlos Gorbea, commander of the 457th Civil Affairs Battalion

**"Nicely put program that reached the goals of understanding interagency roles and responsibilities during a crisis, connecting with interagencies in theater, and the civil military communication, trust, and cooperation."**

- US Army Reserve participant