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Release 20160315

March 15, 2016

For Immediate Release

U.S. Army Realigns Military Intelligence Units

VICENZA, Italy - On Nov. 23, 2015, the Secretary of Defense approved the U.S. Army's plan to realign Military Intelligence (MI) units supporting U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) to better support MI operations in the USAFRICOM AOR and globally through two separate actions.

The first action is to repurpose U.S. European Command's 66th MI Brigade (MI BDE) assets to provide dedicated tactical intelligence support to U.S. Africa Command. The U.S. Army will establish the 207th MI Brigade (BDE) Headquarters and 307th MI Battalion (BN) (Forward Collection) to be collocated with U.S. Army Africa in Vicenza, Italy. Another unit associated with the 207th MI BDE is the 522nd MI BN, which will be located in Wiesbaden, Germany. Two companies within the 66th MI BDE will inactivate as a result of this action.

A second action aggregates Aerial Exploitation and Reconnaissance Battalions (AEB) under one globally managed Aerial Intelligence Brigade. This action will inactivate the 1st MI AEB attached to the 66th MI BDE.

The inactivation of the 1st MI AEB is not associated with establishing the 207th MI BDE for USAFRICOM. This is a separate action that helps establish an additional Aerial Intelligence Brigade headquarters located in the United States to support global intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) requirements.

The 66th MI BDE assets currently support USAFRICOM, so it makes sense to use resources from this unit to help establish a Theater Intelligence Brigade capability for USAFRICOM.

These two OFSC actions have no effect on current USEUCOM operations as the positions moving from the 66th MI BDE already support USAFRICOM, and any future AEB operations will be globally managed under one Aerial Intelligence Brigade.

Italy will have a net gain of 300 military personnel and approximately 420 family members, and Germany will have a net loss of approximately 320 military personnel and approximately 450 family members.

No local national positions will be affected.

The U.S. Army does not anticipate any significant adjustments to current base operations support at any of the locations affected by this change.

The Army will fund these actions from within existing programmed Army resources.

The U.S. Defense Department is reorganizing its military force posture to meet current and future missions. Army Intelligence, along with other Army functions, is a piece of this transformation. The end state is a more responsive and agile force capable of supporting multiple simultaneous worldwide contingencies.