

EUROCORPS

A Force for the European Union and NATO



EUROCORPS, OVERVIEW

MULTINATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL CORPS FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

As of today Eurocorps includes military personnel from 9 nations. It represents a permanent, operational, multinational structure capable of being deployed into operation at very short notice.

Eurocorps was created by France and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1992. Between 1993 and 1996, three other countries joined the corps: Belgium, Spain and Luxembourg. These 5 framework nations make all major decisions on the functioning and employment of the Eurocorps together and share all related costs.

Its human and material assets give it the capacity of being committed to a large spectrum of interventions. Apart from participation in the common defence of the contributing countries and of the Atlantic Alliance, it can be assigned the following missions:

- humanitarian missions and evacuation of nationals;
- peace-keeping operations;
- combat forces missions for crisis management including peace-making.



It can intervene in the framework of:

- the European Union (EU);
- the United Nations (UN);
- the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);
- a common decision taken by the contributing nations.

It is both initial-entry-capable in a theatre and able to conduct forces of up to 65,000 personnel.

The 2015-2016 period should be seen in the context of three major stakes reflecting Eurocorps features:

- **EUTM Mali in second semester 2015**
- **Poland as a framework nation 1st January 2016**
- **Prepare EUBG 16/2 (F) HQ**

Since 28 June 2013, Eurocorps is under the command of Belgian Lieutenant-General **Guy Buchsenschmidt**.

OPERATIONAL AND RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE

Operational command structure

Eurocorps includes two major entities:

- the Headquarters, counting slightly less than 400 men and women;
- the Multinational Command Support Brigade, roughly 540 persons strong, which provides the entire support (communications and logistics) in daily life and during deployments.

As very experienced headquarters, Eurocorps was certified NATO High Readiness Force (HRF) in 2002 and NATO Response Force (NRF) in 2006/10.

These certifications were obtained as a result of very demanding processes including numerous training periods and validation exercises in the terrain.

In fact, as it has all necessary equipment, Eurocorps is ready to be rapidly deployed to a theatre of operations.





Experience in commitments

Declared fully operational in 1995, Eurocorps has been engaged in 4 foreign missions.

Its first commitment took place in 1998 in the form of a participation in the stabilization force in Bosnia-Herzegovina (SFOR) under NATO command.

In 2002, Eurocorps constituted the main core of the force headquarters deployed in Kosovo (KFOR 3).

From August 2004 to February 2005, Eurocorps took over the command of the 6,500 troops making up the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

Eurocorps took over twice, in 2006 and 2010, the NATO stand-by period after having undergone far-reaching and specific preparations as a token of its ability to cope with any mission.

From January 2012 to January 2013, Eurocorps was deployed a second time in Kabul. It played again an active role in the conduct of operations in Afghanistan within the ISAF headquarters, in which General de Bavinchove was chief of staff for some 15 months.

COMPLETE STRUCTURE



Eurocorps is structured according to the standard NATO model. Its headquarters includes the command group plus **three subdivisions**, each of them commanded by a general. These subdivisions are themselves made up of all branches needed for a commitment.

Thus, the represented functions range from human resources to civil-military cooperation including planning and conduct of operations, intelligence, logistics or even fund management.

The Navy and Air Force Representations are permanently assigned to Eurocorps and give the latter the capability of coordinating with joint elements during the planning of exercises or operations.

Thus Eurocorps' headquarters has **all the necessary skills for preparing and conducting land operations in a complex environment**.



In peacetime, Eurocorps Commander has two main subordinate units at his disposal:

- **the Multinational Command Support Brigade**, which includes a staff, signal and support units assigned to the Eurocorps headquarters;
- **the French-German Brigade**. Eurocorps is in charge of its training. In case of operation, it constitutes Eurocorps' initial entry force.

Simultaneously, the Framework Nations committed themselves to put units at Eurocorps disposal depending on the mission it could be entrusted with. This could be a maximum of 65,000 personnel, the equivalent of three divisions coming from Germany, Spain and France, a Belgian brigade and a Luxembourg company plus the French-German Brigade.

FULLY MULTINATIONAL



The creation of Eurocorps was decided at the 1992 La Rochelle summit under the political initiative of the French President François Mitterrand and the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. It was initiated by France and the Federal Republic of Germany and right away opened to other countries of the European Union and welcomed successively Belgium in 1993, Spain in 1994 and Luxembourg in 1996.

Sharing of responsibilities

These 5 countries are the Eurocorps Framework Nations. As such, they take together all major decisions about the operation and the employment of Eurocorps. They provide most of the assigned personnel, of the funding and of the equipment.



This way, they have an operational tool, the human and financial costs of which they really share.

The command is provided in turns by a Lieutenant-General coming from one of these nations for a 2-year mandate.

Since summer 2013 **Lieutenant-General Guy Buchsenschmidt** has **Major General Adolfo Orozco** from the Spanish Army as Deputy Commander and **Major General Thierry Corbet** from the French Army as Chief of Staff.

Greece, Italy, Poland and Turkey have the status of Associated Nations. They hold a limited number of positions within Eurocorps and have no decisional power concerning Eurocorps operation and employment, even if they are naturally consulted.

Poland will become the 6th Framework Nation on 1 January 2016. This is why it progressively increases its manning, replacing soldiers of other Framework Nations.

The United States of America could also join Eurocorps in the near future as Associated Nation.

Multinationality in daily life, a major asset in coalitions

The strong contributions of each Framework Nation abreast of their respective capabilities and the total intertwining within the different cells make Eurocorps an example of multinationality. The operational language is English.

As operations are generally conducted by coalitions, Eurocorps' soldiers can adapt themselves without delay to these special conditions. They bring along the significant advantage of their attitude skills as they experience multinationality on a day-to-day basis.

The military personnel are put at Eurocorps' disposal by their countries of origin. Therefore they keep their national uniform and status however they all display the same beret and Eurocorps badge as a symbol of a genuine multinationality.

UNIQUE STATUS

Eurocorps also distinguishes itself especially by its subordination and its status.

Direct subordination: the Common Committee

Due to its nature, Eurocorps is directed jointly by the Framework Nations. Thus, any major decision is taken by consensus in the Belgian, French, German, Luxembourg and Spanish capitals.

The Commander Eurocorps receives his orders directly from **the Common Committee**, which is made up of the Chiefs of Defence and the Political Directors of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Therefore it is **the senior decision body** for any major matter related to Eurocorps, notably if the latter is made available for an operation.

Within a framework previously defined and approved by the Common Committee, the Eurocorps Commander can build up the contacts he deems necessary with different civil or military supranational political entities.





Unique status: the Treaty of Strasbourg

Eurocorps' special status strengthens its uniqueness.

Indeed, on 22 November 2004 the civil representatives of the five Framework Nations signed the so-called Treaty of Strasbourg related to Eurocorps and to the status of its headquarters.

This document was ratified by each country and **came into force on 26 February 2009.**

Its text specifies again the commitment framework and the mission of Eurocorps, its subordination and the Commander's prerogatives, apart from numerous administrative provisions.

Above all, **the Treaty of Strasbourg gives a legal capability to this organization.** Therefore, **Eurocorps notably enjoys a full autonomy and extended responsibilities as regards contracting, acquisition and alienation.** It is owner of its infrastructure, can purchase equipment or even hire civilians under contract if needed.

This aspect makes it a unique case in the world for headquarters of this level.

IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Strasbourg, European capital

As early as 1992 Eurocorps was set up in Strasbourg, European capital, featuring the Council of Europe, its 47 diplomatic representations and the European Parliament.

Strasbourg, at the heart of exchanges

Strasbourg is also located in the vicinity of **the European Union's and NATO's decision-making centres**, as well as near American headquarters and units garrisoned in Germany, such as the US European Command.

This ideal geographic situation allows numerous exchanges, both with the different political and military levels.

Strasbourg, an attractive city

Moreover, due to its many assets within an active, well-known and appreciated region, Strasbourg is an attractive destination for the soldiers assigned here, whatever their nationality.

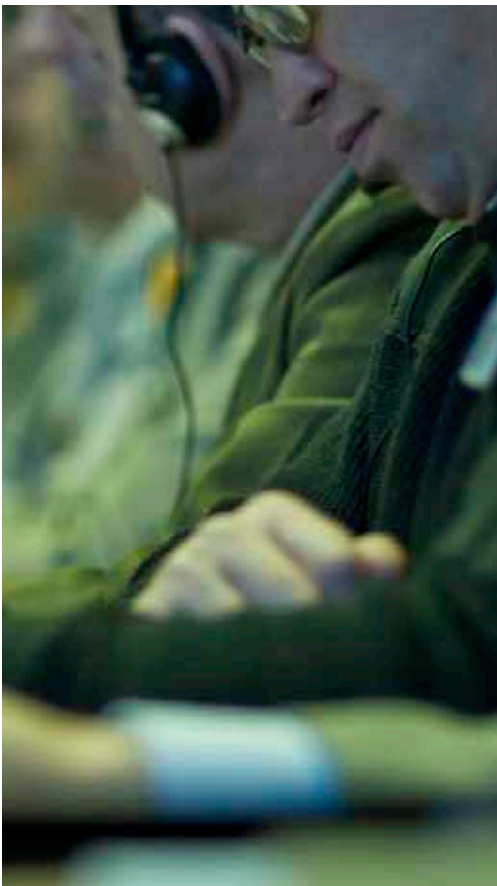
Eurocorps and Strasbourg

Eurocorps is divided between two main compounds and a secondary one. Located south of the Strasbourg-Polygone airfield, the Aubert-de-Vincelles compound has a surface of roughly 15 hectares. It includes the staffs of Eurocorps and of the Multinational Command Support Brigade. Located between la Meinau and le Neuhof, with a surface of approximately 7 hectares, the Lizé compound is mainly occupied by the Headquarters Support Battalion. Facing the latter, with a surface of roughly 2 hectares, the Lyautey compound shelters the soldier accommodation buildings.

Furthermore, **Eurocorps contributes to the local and regional economy.** 50% of its yearly operation budget, that is between 6 and 7 million Euros, are used to pay the services of construction, cleaning, security and other companies. In addition, the expenses of the Eurocorps members and of their families, a total of nearly 3000 persons, are of benefit for the rental sector and the businesses in Strasbourg and its surroundings. The schooling of children is also an important factor, both for the International Lycée and for the other educational facilities.



FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE



Eurocorps also distinguishes itself especially Adaptation and openness, a state of mind

Since its creation, Eurocorps sees to stay at the head of evolutions generated by geopolitical and strategic changes. For instance, at the end of the nineties, the European Union and NATO expressed their will of having tools at their disposal that were better adapted to crises. Eurocorps very quickly complied with these criteria and became a Rapid Reaction Force headquarters.

In the same spirit, it opened itself to all NATO member nations. Indeed, until 2001 it hosted observers and liaison officers. From 2002 on, it integrated Associated Nations.

Anticipate the future, a permanent concern

Eurocorps is preparing itself for new major evolutions.

A 6th Framework Nation; one new Associated Nation

On the one hand, **Poland will officially become the 6th Framework Nation on 1 January 2016.** This is why the manning in Strasbourg will increase until 2015 and reach a total of 120

Polish service members. Simultaneously, the contribution of the other Framework Nations will slightly decrease.

On the other hand, **the upcoming arrival of the United States of America as Associated Nation** will increase the opportunities of contacts and exchanges with this country.

Preparing for two operations

The Eurocorps Common Committee has decided to have Eurocorps soldiers participate in **the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali)**. **50 soldiers** of the Eurocorps will form the core element of this headquarters during the second semester of 2015. After an individual and collective training period, they will execute this important mission under the command of a Eurocorps Brigadier General.

Furthermore the decisions of the Eurocorps Common Committee included to place the role of **Force Headquarters (F)HQ for the European Union Battle Group (EUBG)** on our calendar in the second semester of 2016. The first steps for the preparations of this mission have been taken. This will need acquiring knowledge and experience in the fields of know-how, EU procedures and a new operational structure. The learning will be done during an intensive training cycle in 2015 and 2016 together with the troop contributing nations such as **Germany (lead nation), Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Ireland, Luxemburg and the Netherlands**.

FRENCH-GERMAN BRIGADE

The decision to create this operational major unit with a strength of approximately 6000 personnel was taken in 1987. As a symbol of French-German cooperation, a high-performance combat tool, it has been placed under permanent operational command of Eurocorps since 1993. It was employed in the Balkans on several occasions, in Afghanistan in 2004/2005 proving its efficiency in operations.

The French-German Brigade has its own logistics and, in contrast to other brigades, thus enjoys an autonomy of action making it the privileged tool of Eurocorps for an initial entry into a new theatre.

The Staff and the Command and Support Battalion are made up of French and German soldiers. The subordinated battalions are purely national for efficiency reasons in the field. Indeed, in the heat of action, all actors of the same unit have to understand themselves perfectly well. Nevertheless, these units are trained in order to work side by side and to coordinate their action.



Beside the staff, it is also composed of:

- **2 mechanized infantry battalions** (German 292nd Infantry Battalion and French 110th Infantry Battalion) equipped with armoured personnel carriers and their own anti-tank defence;
- **1 armoured reconnaissance battalion** (French 3rd Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion) equipped with wheeled tanks and light armoured reconnaissance vehicles;
- **1 artillery battalion** (German 295th Artillery Battalion) equipped with heavy 155-mm self-propelled guns giving it a high firepower and with reconnaissance means (radars and observer teams);
- **1 engineer company** (German 550th Armoured Engineer Company).
- **1 logistic support battalion.**

The brigade is alternately under the orders of a general coming from either nation. Presently it is commanded by French **Brigadier General Marc Rudkiewicz**.

DEDICATED SUPPORT

In everyday life, the headquarters needs specific support in order to live, work and train. During an exercise or in operation, it needs to have all real life or communication means at its disposal in order to conduct its subordinated units.

Multinational Command Support Brigade

It is composed of a staff of 35 from all framework nations. The commander is a Colonel changing every other year according to a rotation plan. Presently, it is Spanish **Colonel Juan Enrique Gómez Martín**.

The brigade permanently has the following units at its disposal:

- the Headquarters Support Battalion with 413 persons;
- the Communication and Information System Company with 89 persons;
- the Eurocorps German Signal Company stationed in Sigmaringen (Germany) with a manning of 172 soldiers.

Finally, during exercises or in case of commitment, the brigade can be entrusted with the command of other support units put at its disposal by the nations.

The brigade underwent the same NATO certification processes as the headquarters.

Headquarters Support Battalion (HQSBn)

The battalion's 413 personnel are located at Lizé compound and distributed among a small staff and 3 companies themselves divided into sections. German **Lieutenant Colonel Wyrwa** has been the Commander of the Headquarters Support Battalion since 28th October 2014.

The companies are multinational however, for linguistic efficiency reasons, this does not apply to all sections.

The Support Company is in charge of Eurocorps real life support in Strasbourg, during an exercise or in operation. This includes among other things the registration of the personnel arriving and leaving, the management of supplies and stocks as well as catering.

The Transport and Maintenance Company is in charge of the personnel, equipment and supply routing. It also provides the maintenance of vehicles, signal equipment and power supply materials.

The Command Post Set-Up Company is responsible for the reconnaissance of the deployment areas and for the installation of the provisional command post infrastructures.

The National Support Detachments

Eurocorps' soldiers are provided by their respective nations. Therefore they keep their own country's status.

This is why the nationals' special administrative follow-up is provided by the National Support Detachments (NSDs). There are five of them: Belgium, France, Germany, Poland and Spain.

Luxembourg and the Associated Nations have agreements with one or the other of the NSDs.



DATES AND FIGURES

Key dates

1992:	creation by France and Germany
1993:	integration of Belgium
1994:	integration of Spain
1996:	integration of Luxembourg
1998/1999:	Bosnia-Herzegovina, SFOR reinforcement
2000:	Kosovo, KFOR III command
2002:	certification as NATO High Readiness Force (HRF)
2004/2005:	Afghanistan, ISAF VI command
2006:	certification as NATO Response Force (NRF)
2009:	implementation of the Treaty of Strasbourg, which gives Eurocorps a unique status
2012:	Afghanistan, ISAF mission
2013:	command takeover by Belgian Lieutenant-General Guy Buchsenschmidt

Key figures

Eurocorps manning by nation

France:	343
Germany:	254
Belgium:	136
Spain:	166
Luxembourg:	2
Poland:	90
Greece:	2
Italy:	2
Turkey:	3

Main equipment and vehicles

- 111 field tents;
- 90 modular shelters;
- 15 power generators;
- 30 4x4 vehicles (tactical range) provided by France;
- The heavy and superheavy trucks are provided by Germany/Belgium/Poland;
- Armament:
 - 9-mm automatic pistols provided by Belgium;
 - 5.56-caliber assault rifles of the FAMAS type provided by France;
 - MG-3 machine guns provided by Germany.

The equipment is:

- Eurocorps' own property (tents, modular shelters and power generators);
- permanently put at Eurocorps' disposal by the Framework Nations.



MAIN EUROCORPS AUTHORITIES

Commanding General	Lieutenant General Buchsenschmidt (Belgium) Take-over: 28 June 2013
Deputy Commander	Major General Orozco (Spain) Take-over: 28 June 2013
Chief of Staff	Major General Corbet (France) Take-over: 28 June 2013
Deputy Chief of Staff Operations	Brigadier General Pfrengle (Germany) Take-over: 28 June 2013
Deputy Chief of Staff Support	Brigadier General Przekwas (Poland) Take-over: 01 August 2013
Deputy Chief of Staff Training and Resources	Brigadier General Devos (Belgium) Take-over: 28 June 2013
Commanding Officer Multinational Command Support Brigade	Colonel Gómez Martín (Spain) Take-over: 20 June 2013
Commanding Officer Headquarters Support Battalion	Lieutenant Colonel Wyrwa (Germany) Take-over: 28 October 2014