

US EUROPEAN COMMAND AFTER ACTION REPORT

Action Officer (Rank/Name/DSN): (b)(6), (b)(3) (130b)	Directorate/Branch: ECJ64/JCC	Date of Event (DD MMM YY): 23-25 JUN 19
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Event Name: Exercise Baltic Ghost 2019

SUMMARY:

(U) On 25-27 June in Legionowo, Poland, USEUCOM and the Polish National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) hosted the 4th annual Exercise BALTIC GHOST, a table-top exercise (TTX) supporting Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP). Participants were asked to explore the operations, actions, and activities in the cyber domain necessary to respond to aggression in a cyberspace contested, degraded, and denied environment. The outcome of Baltic Ghost 2019 sets the stage for increased discussions at the National and Coalition level to address identified gaps and challenges.

PARTICIPANTS:

Participating nations included Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, the U.K, and U.S. Additionally, National Guard State partners from Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, and Pennsylvania participated, as well one representative from the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and one from the Multinational Coordination Element, North East (MNC-NE). AFCYBER provided exercise facilitation support, while the scenario was developed by the USEUCOM JCC, Defense Cyber Operations team.

BALTIC GHOST SCENARIO:

~~(U//FOUO REL USA, NATO)~~ (b)(3) (130e)
[Redacted]

(U) Scenario objectives:

- (U) Understand the operational and strategic-level impacts of a cyber-attack and the appropriate cyber defense to support military operations
- (U) Inform perspectives on the roles and responsibilities and decision rights and authorities of key stakeholders (U.S. and NATO) during a coalition and allied response
- (U) Share best practices for collective cyber defense processes, procedures, and structures

~~(U//FOUO REL USA, NATO)~~ Emerging themes from the first two objectives centered on (b)(3) (130e) [Redacted] and, as with previous iterations of Baltic Ghost, information sharing. Discussion related to these topics included the following:

- ~~(U//FOUO REL USA, NATO)~~ (b)(3) (130e) [Redacted]
- (U) Information sharing challenges were categorized in 3 distinct areas: Nation to nation trust and authorities, technical availability, and a general understanding of what information should/can be shared. Potential mitigations include:
 - (U) (b)(5) [Redacted]
 - (U) (b)(5) [Redacted]

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- (U) (b)(5) [REDACTED]
- (U) (b)(3) (130e), (b)(5) [REDACTED]
- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- (U) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- (U) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]

(U) The third objective focused on cyber defense processes and structures highlighting developing policies to provide cyber forces to NATO. Major discussion points were as follows:

- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) [REDACTED]
- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Distinguished Visitors Discussion:

- (U) USEUCOM J6, BG Biank, and NCSC Director, (b)(6), led a discussion on eFP cyber-related issues.
 - (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
 - (~~U//FOUO REL USA, NATO~~) (b)(6) (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]

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INTRODUCTORY BRIEFS:

(U) Highlights of the introductory briefs are as follows:

- (U) The Cyber Defense Management Board (CDMB): established following Baltic Ghost 2018 briefed their newly established lines of effort aimed at moving from a unity of standards to a unified force:
 - LOE1: Establishment of a federated force structure.
 - LOE2: Establishment of a Cyberspace Common Operational Picture (COP)
 - LOE3: Establishment of a cyber defense framework.
- (U) Germany: supporting eFP Lithuania, briefed major tasks of the Cyber Domain Team (CDT)
 - Advising the Commander of eFP Lithuania,
 - Conducting cyber awareness training
 - Maintaining the cyber situational picture.
- (U) The Netherlands: working with Germany to support eFP Lithuania briefed on current initiatives:
 - European Union (EU) Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project aimed at creating a volunteer Quick Reaction Force – Cyber, to assist with National cyber defense issues on a case by case basis.
 - Poland highlighted PESCO project
- (U) Lithuania Armed Forces: primary areas of focus within cyber:
 - LOA1: Cyber Defence of LAF information systems.
 - LOA2: Cyber Defence of LAF information systems and military critical infrastructure.
 - LOA3: Cyber Defence of Lithuanian cyberspace.
- (U) United Kingdom:
 - (U) Cyberspace domain integration should be similar to other 3 domains.
 - ~~(U//FOUO REL USA, NATO)~~ (b)(3) (130e) [REDACTED]
- (U) United States: eFP Battlegroup S6 in Poland highlighted challenges from the tactical units on ground:
 - (U) The importance of confidentiality, integrity, and availability of IT systems, noting that without availability users will often disregard integrity and confidentiality.

TEAM TAKE AWAYS:

- (U) (b) (5) [REDACTED]
- (U) (b) (5) [REDACTED]
- (U) (b) (5) [REDACTED]
- (U) (b) (5) [REDACTED]
- (U) (b) (5) [REDACTED]
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