



## U-A Operational Focus Area #2 – Integrated Air & Missile Defense

**Mission:** USAFE-AFAFRICA plays a critical role contributing to the security and stability of the European theater. Within the ever-evolving threat landscape, the Command prioritizes Integrated Air & Missile Defense (IAMD) as one of its key operational focus areas. The objective is to deter, and if necessary, defeat an attack against friendly installations, forces, and critical assets throughout the entire theater while emphasizing the importance of integrating NATO Allies and partners in achieving this objective.

**Situation:** The European theater faces an array of dynamic challenges, including the proliferation of advanced air and missile threats. Potential adversaries possess formidable capabilities, such as ballistic and cruise missiles, hypersonic weapons, unmanned aerial systems and precision-guided munitions, that present risk to vital infrastructure, military assets, civilian populations, and NATO's abilities to generate relevant combat power.

### **Execution:**

- **Sensor Fusion:** USAFE-AFAFRICA invests in advanced sensors, radars, and surveillance technologies, then integrates, and fuses them with Allies and partners to develop a comprehensive and accurate common situational awareness picture. This enables effective detection, tracking and identification of potentially hostile airborne and missile threats displayed at all levels of operations.
- **Advanced Battle Management:** USAFE-AFAFRICA facilitates timely decision-making and response coordination at the theater, sector, and local levels to counter multi-domain threats to our critical infrastructure and ability to generate combat power.
- **Multi-Layered Defense Architecture:** USAFE-AFAFRICA adopts a multi-layered, multi-domain defense design to effectively counter various threats. This is done passively with measures including camouflage, concealment and deception and actively by integrating multiple air and missile kinetic and non-kinetic defense systems, such as defensive counter air, Patriot, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, Aegis, and European-based assets. USAFE-AFAFRICA creates a robust defense posture capable of disrupting, intercepting, or destroying threats at the most advantageous point of a potential adversary's kill chain.
- **Cyber Resilience:** USAFE-AFAFRICA enhances cyber resilience and redundancy to protect its air and missile defense systems from cyber threats, ensuring the integrity, availability, and network security of critical information and effects.

### **Importance of NATO Integration:**

- **Collective Defense:** Collaboration with NATO Allies and partners strengthens collective defense capabilities across the European theater. Through early collaboration and integration of coalition air and missile defense efforts, USAFE-AFAFRICA and NATO nations effectively deter and respond to common threats.
- **Enhanced Interoperability:** NATO integration fosters interoperability among Allied and partner forces, enabling seamless information sharing, joint training exercises, and combined operations. This interoperability maximizes the effectiveness of air and missile defense systems.
- **Resource Sharing:** No single nation has sufficient IAMD resources. Integration allows for the pooling of resources and expertise, enabling a more cost-effective approach to developing and sustaining advanced air and missile defense capabilities.

**Supports DAF Operational Imperatives on Operationally Focused ABMS, Resilient Basing, Readiness to Deploy and Fight**