



An AN/TWQ-1 Avenger air defense system fires a missile over the Black Sea at Capu Midia Training Area, Romania on July 19, 2017. The drill allowed gunners to fire live missiles as part of Tobruq Legacy, an air defense exercise where the U.S. and its NATO Allies and partners share new knowledge, techniques and strategies to enhance air defense capabilities in Eastern Europe. (Pfc. Nicholas Vidro/7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

10th AAMDC demonstrates new capabilities during Tobruq Legacy 2017

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Kruthers

During an early July air and missile defense exercise, U.S. Army Europe and members of nine other NATO nations coordinated a complex operation in Eastern Europe involving 2,000 Soldiers, short- to long-range defense systems, network in-

tegration and the introduction of new battlefield options and capabilities.

The third annual Tobruq Legacy exercise, held in the Czech Republic, Romania and Lithuania, was the largest yet. Soldiers employed short-range,

anti-aircraft artillery guns and missiles such as the ZU-2 and SA-6 and medium- to long-range missiles like Hawk and Patriot. For the second consecutive year, the U.S. Army also used a prototype of Raytheon's Dismounted Patriot Infor-

mation Coordination Central. DPICC is a portable version of a tactical Information Coordination Shelter (ICC), which fits into five handheld cases.

The 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command planned the first deployment of the Pa-

triot Air and Missile Defense System to Lithuania for the exercise however, air transport availability ruled out an ICC. The 10th AAMDC solved the issue by using DPICC. As a result, when junior Army leaders deployed to Lithuania alongside Soldiers from the South Carolina Army National Guard, they brought along Patriot's full capabilities without depleting them in other exercise locations.

The hardware also provided joint Patriot interoperability, a significant reduction in logistics and personnel footprint, and is set for fielding in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017 under an urgent material release to U.S. forces to relieve stress on the current Patriot force.

DPICC was previously used in Tobruq Legacy 16 to integrate Patriot units in Germany

with 10th AAMDC forward-deployed forces in Slovakia. Another 10th AAMDC unit — C Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery — deployed to Sweden in September 2017 with a DPICC in support of Aurora 17, the largest defense exercise for Sweden in more than two decades. The smaller hardware showed how it will expand capabilities for the 10th AAMDC, which is a relatively small command force in comparison to others.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Jones, 10th AAMDC command chief warrant officer, acknowledges the capabilities of the DPICC, especially operating in a joint force environment.

"DPICC is the type of innovative, scalable and game-changing capability needed to enable the 10th AAMDC commander

to integrate and interoperate with U.S. and multinational forces to provide integrated air and missile defense protection of the European Command commander, supreme allied commander or other joint/combined forces commander's critical asset list," Jones said.

Other U.S. participants in this year's exercise included 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade; 5th Battalion (Patriot), 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment; and 2nd Battalion (Avenger/Sentinel), 263rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, South Carolina Army National Guard. Just as in the two previous Tobruq exercises, the 10th AAMDC played a pivotal role, this time with a new major objective of network integration and interoperability for multinational air defense capabilities within

regional surface-based air defense operations centers — a first for NATO and USAREUR.

The exercise met and supported all five pillars of U.S. Army Europe: Empowering junior leaders; Army Reserve and National Guard support; allies and partners; regionally allocated forces and dynamic presence. The 10th AAMDC is USAREUR's executive agent for all theater air and missile defense operations and air missile defense force management. Additionally, the 10th AAMDC and its joint and multinational operations support full-spectrum operations under the European phased adaptive approach.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Kruthers is a 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, United States Army-Europe, air and missile defense tactician/technician.

Pvt. James Fricks, a gunner with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, 263rd Army Air & Missile Defense Command, slides into the gunner's seat of an AN/TWQ-1 Avenger air defense system in preparation for a live-fire demonstration at Capu Midia Training Area, Romania on July 19, 2017. (U.S. Army Pfc. Nicholas Vidrol/7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

