

Defender Europe 23 Exercise

The Defender Europe 23 Exercise is starting with the Spanish leadership of a Division and more than 10 countries involved

It is the first time a non-American Division is directing a part of the exercise, falling this responsibility to the Castillejos Division of the Army

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Next May 7th, the Defender Europe 23 Exercise (DE-23), which means the main effort of the Army (ET) in 2023, is starting. This exercise involves numerous units of the Army, especially the "Castillejos" Division, which is leading the exercise, the 6th "Almogávares" Paratrooper Brigade (BRI VI) and the Airmobile Forces of the Army (FAMET).

The DE-23 exercise is directed by the United States Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF), and it highlights the operational capacity of the host nations, participants and contributors to each of the planned events, improving the command and control allied capability in the context of complex tactical situations. Moreover, it increases the interoperability of the armies involved, through the integration of numerous countries.

The DE-23 exercise is in turn composed of three exercises, which are carried out in different European countries simultaneously:

- . Immediate Response 23.
- . Swift Response 23 (SR-23).
- . Saber Guardian 23.

The Spanish Army is participating in the SR-23 Exercise, during which the "Castillejos" Division, reinforced with units from different countries, is carrying out three (3) initial entry operations (Joint Forcible Entry-JFE) in different scenarios (Estonia, Greece and Spain).

In Spain, the development of the exercise is going to take place in Huesca, at San Gregorio Training Center (Zaragoza) and at the airdrome of Ablitas (Navarre) between May 7th and 20th, being BRI VI the leader of one of the JFE operations and the unit on which a multinational brigade will be shaped for the implementation of the Airborne Operation (OAT) with paratrooper launch in which the FAMET participate too.

The DE-23 exercise is a demanding and complex challenge, with a higher degree of ambition, being an exercise in which the "Castillejos" Division is assuming, for the first time, the command and control of units of different nationalities, favoring their interoperability, integrating into multinational operational structures and leading joint-combined operations in different European scenarios.

This kind of exercises are fundamental to maintain the proper preparation of the Army. A preparation that enables it to generate efficient operational organizations and to plan and lead operations in any situation.