

**18th US – Adriatic Charter Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) Conference
Budva, Montenegro, June 11, 2014**

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the Chiefs of Defense/Chiefs of General Staffs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Representative of U.S. EUCOM, convened on June 11, 2014 in Budva, Montenegro, at the 18th CHODs' Conference within framework of the US - Adriatic Charter.

We seized this opportunity to reaffirm our strong commitment to further strengthening relations and to widening and deepening areas of military cooperation amongst the signatories of the Charter. Developing and maintaining the core capabilities for individual and regional contribution in current and future peace support operations are and will remain, a challenge, priority, and a necessity

We agreed to continue work on the BRAAD (Balkan Regional Approach to Air Defence) Project, as defined in the spirit of NATO Smart Defence Initiative.

Recent natural disasters including massive floods causing human casualties and enormous material damage, added to other natural events such as snowstorms and wildfires, strengthen our determination to improve regional cooperation and interoperability in order to provide timely and efficient response to future natural and man-made disasters within the region.

We welcomed and approved the Report of the Implementation Working Group. We appreciate the outcome of their work. In the spirit of the conclusion of the 17th US-Adriatic Charter CHODs' Conference in Sarajevo, we highlight some of the achievements stated in this Report as follows:

- Identified the value of developing a finite number of combined US-Adriatic Charter niche capabilities to provide greater potential for sustained joint contributions to future missions in support of NATO, EU or UN operations.
- Develop and execute exercises involving US-Adriatic Charter members and their U.S. National Guard State Partners to focus on A-5 niche capabilities, interoperability, and regional disaster relief response capabilities;
- Implementation of NATO's Multinational Balkan Regional Approach to Air Defense (BRAAD) Initiative;
- Establish a network of Training Centers in the region;
- Establish a Draft Catalogue of Regional Military Disaster Relief Response Capabilities.

We encourage the Implementation Working Group to further work on the development and improvement of the above achievements, as well as continue to identify new areas of cooperation within US-Adriatic Charter in the spirit of "Smart Defence", "Pooling & Sharing", and "Connected Forces Initiative".

We task the Implementation Working Group to explore solutions and develop an Agreement similar to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) among the member countries as well as other interested countries in the region. The Draft of the Agreement endorsed by the A-5 CHODs should be presented at the A-5 Ministerial meeting in October 2014.

We would like to express a deep appreciation to the delegation of the Republic of Slovenia, observing country in the US-Adriatic Charter, headed by Brigadier General Andrej OSTERMAN, Deputy Chief of Defence of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Slovenia and to the respective guests:

- Major General Salvatore FARINA, KFOR Commander;
- Lieutenant General Kadri KASTRATI, KSF Commander;
- Major General Richard NASH, the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard;
- Major General Steven CRAY, the Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard;
- Major General Timothy ORR, the Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard;
- Brigadier General James CAMPBELL, the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard;
- Brigadier General Steven FERARRI, Deputy Commanding General - Support, 42nd Infantry Division of the New Jersey National Guard;
- Brigadier General Peter BYRNE, Director of the Joint Staff of the Colorado National Guard;

for their attendance and significant remarks which contributed to the discussions.

Finally we wish to express our gratitude to Montenegro for hosting this significant and productive event.

We appreciate the readiness of Chief of General Staff of Macedonia, Lieutenant General Gorancho KOTESKI to host the 19th US Adriatic Chiefs of Defence Conference.

Signed the eleventh day of June, two-thousand and fourteen in Budva, Montenegro.

<hr/> Charles W. MARTOGLIO Vice Admiral Deputy Commander U.S. European Command	<hr/> Jeronim BAZO Major General Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff of the Republic of Albania	<hr/> Anto JELEČ Major General Chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina
<hr/> Drago LOVRIC General Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia	<hr/> Naser SEJDINI Lieutenant General Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia	<hr/> Dragan SAMARDŽIĆ Admiral Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Montenegro