

## Quarantine the US Military Machine?

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

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Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

*It happened almost on the same day. Italy's lockdown. People confined to their homes across the European Union. Influx of 30,000 US troops in preparation of the "Defend Europe 2020" war games against Russia in the largest display of military might since the Cold War. Across Europe, no sports events, no anti-war protest movements.*

It had been decided on March 4-5 in Zagreb at a meeting of the Ministers of Defence of 27 EU countries.

The central theme of the meeting... was not to seek a response to the Coronavirus crisis which is jamming up the mobility of civilians, but how best to develop "military mobility". ([Manlio Dinucci](#), March 13, 2020)

And on March 11, when Trump suspended transatlantic "civilian" flights, US "military" flights to Europe were still ongoing.



(Foto di Capt. Ellen Brabo (public domain <https://www.eur.army.mil/Newsroom/Multimedia/igphoto/2002260909>))

About Turn, on March 13: the Pentagon ordered a halt to the deployment of US forces for Defender-Europe 20 " ... because of concerns about the coronavirus".

"All movement of personnel and equipment from the United States to Europe has ceased," according to US Army Europe... As we make the appropriate adjustments, the linked exercises to Exercise Defender-Europe 20 - Dynamic Front, Joint Warfighting Assessment, Saber Strike and Swift Response - will not

be conducted.”

## Coronavirus fears force Pentagon to curtail large Defender-Europe 20 exercise



U.S. Army soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division line up to meet U.S. and Polish dignitaries during a event at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, in support of Defender-Europe 20, March 11, 2020. The Pentagon ordered a halt to the deployment of forces for the exercise, which will be sharply curtailed because of concerns about the coronavirus, U.S. European Command said Monday.

JOY DULEN/U.S. ARMY

“Protecting Europe” against Russia is on hold. Why? Nothing to do with protecting civilians against the virus.

The military need the green-light from “civilian politicians” including the Washington hawks, the so-called leaders who function within a civilian environment. Civilians are ultimately those who decide on waging war.

It follows that the planning of this vast military exercise against Russia requires US-NATO access to EU civilian infrastructure, interaction with civilian politicians in 27 EU member states as well as in the US, consultants, government bureaucracy, supply lines, transportation, affiliated research entities, think tanks, etc.

Another dimension is the virus “fear factor” affecting soldiers’ preparedness. According to Colonel (ret) Karen Kwiatkowski:

“Being prepared for battlefield toxins isn’t the same as being prepared as a soldier for something that is already behind enemy lines, and is even in your own home town... the fear factor is real, perhaps more than the fear that is part of the life of combat troops.” (quoted by RT, March 14, 2020)

The Europe Defender 2020 project was scheduled to take place in April- May, with a view to “promoting peace through deterrence”.

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