

The new exercise in Southern Europe

“Astral Knight 2019”



The exercise was a combination of air and missile defence operations focused on defence of key areas. Astral Knight 2019 involved flight operations and computer-assisted scenarios with the aim to enhance command and control integration, coordination and interoperability of air, land and sea capabilities. In addition, there were overlapping operations with integrated air and missile defence systems. This integrated offensive and defensive measures to create a comprehensive combined force, preventing the enemy

Astral Knight 2019, the US Air Forces in Europe-led exercise was held in southern Europe during the first week of June 2019. This four day exercise was first of its kind and involved US and coalition forces to operate from locations in Italy, Germany, Slovenia and Croatia. Personnel from the United States worked together with service members from Italy, Slovenia and Croatia at the main operating base Aviano Air Base in the North-East of Italy, with the Adriatic Sea being the area of operations.



USAF F-35s were exercised for the first time in Southern Europe, along with F-16s and other fighters from Italy, Germany, Slovenia and Croatia