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OPERATIONS PLAN GERMANY

A whole-of-government and a
whole-of-society task



BUNDESWEHR

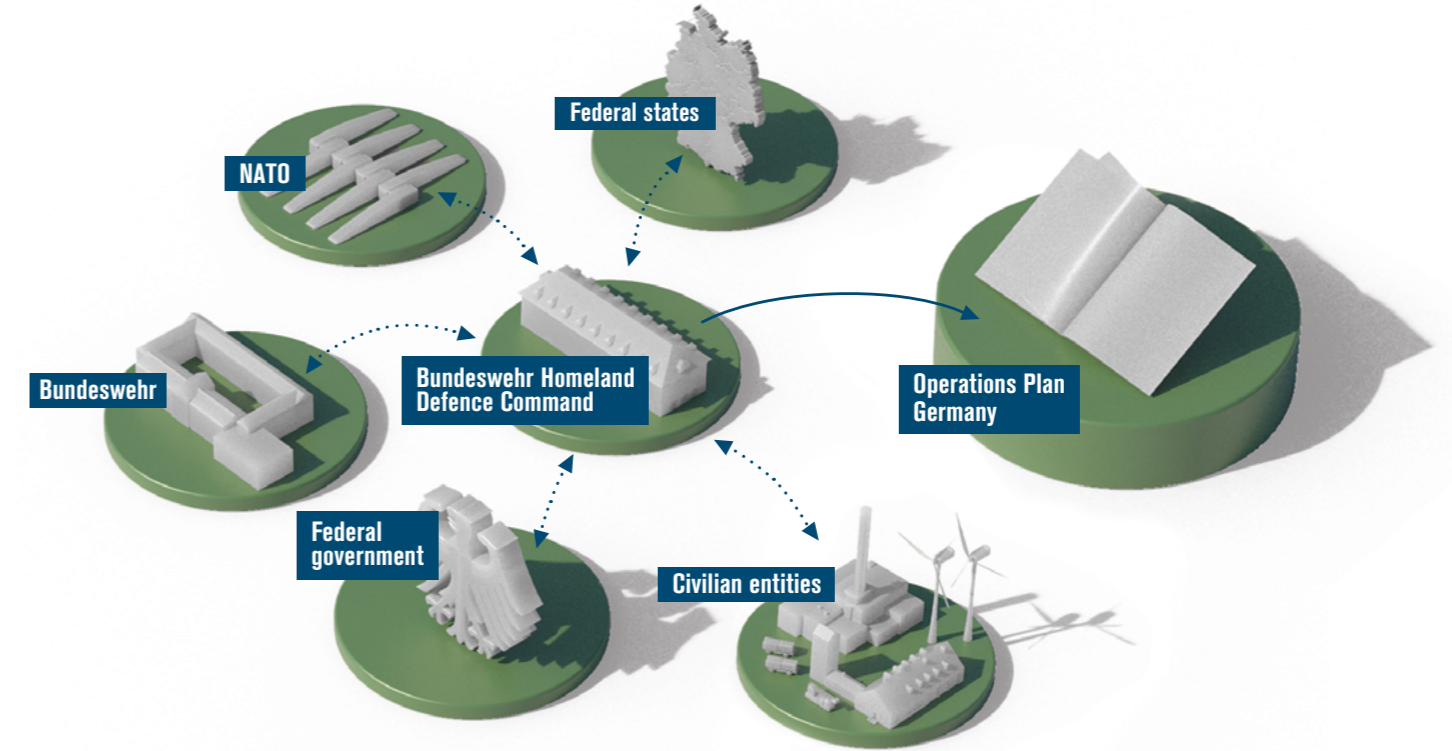
OPERATIONS PLAN GERMANY

Russia's illegal attack on Ukraine in 2022 has shaken the European security architecture to the core and forced Germany to redesign its defence capability and ability to honour its Alliance obligations. Joint planning within NATO was adapted to the new challenges. The visible commitment to defend the Allies and credible deterrence to safeguard peace and freedom are the guiding principles.

Within the context of the reorientation of security policy, one thing is for certain: Germany and its population must become more robust and more resilient to be prepared to face threats and aggressors. These challenges cannot be met at a purely military level. They must be mastered by the government and society as a whole. "United. We defend. Germany." is our goal and benchmark. Germany and the Bundeswehr must be prepared to respond to current threats and territorial defence in times of peace, crisis and war.

With this goal in mind, experts from all areas of the Bundeswehr developed the military element of a whole-of-government defence plan, the "Operations Plan Germany" (OPLAN DEU), within the framework of a joint planning group with representatives from the federal Government, the Federal states and municipalities, emergency and rescue services and business. The OPLAN DEU is a secret classified document subject to continuous further development and updating under the auspices of the Bundeswehr Homeland Defence Command.

DEVELOPMENT



OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONS PLAN GERMANY

The OPLAN DEU is a response to the aggravated security situation in Europe. It merges the central military elements of national and collective defence in Germany with the necessary civilian support services to create a plan that may be executed at the operational level. In doing so, it provides the planning provisions to take purposeful action within the constitutional framework and following a political decision in the event of a crisis or conflict. The OPLAN DEU defines procedures, processes and responsibilities to protect and defend Germany's territorial integrity and its citizens together with other government and civilian entities and to guarantee the Allied Force's deployment to NATO's eastern flank through Germany. The objective is to establish the ability to rapidly respond across all ministries and nations.

THE BUNDESWEHR'S TASKS

With the OPLAN DEU, the Bundeswehr highlights its operational readiness to protect the nation and its citizens. This project aims to protect Germany against potential threats, deter potential adversaries and defend our country in an emergency. It reflects the requirement for a coordinated and comprehensive defence strategy. It is an important step toward achieving a robust, resilient and combat-ready defence architecture that is prepared to face the challenges of our times. The core task is national and collective defence. All other tasks are second to this.



THE BUNDESWEHR HOMELAND DEFENCE COMMAND'S TASKS

The Bundeswehr Homeland Defence Command is an essential tool to meet national challenges. It focuses on planning, commanding and coordinating Bundeswehr operations within Germany. The OPLAN DEU covers the deployment of the Bundeswehr within Germany in times of peace, crisis and war, meaning the full range from homeland security to national territorial defence. The ability to rapidly deploy large NATO force contingents to the Alliance's eastern flank in the event of an escalation of the security situation is the central pillar of conventional deterrence. Germany's essential task is to guarantee the planned deployment and supply of allied and German forces, especially through host nation support as a whole-of-government task with Germany as a central hub. According to NATO planning, several hundred thousands of military personnel must receive permanent logistic and medical support. To this end, the OPLAN DEU specifies requirements for the Bundeswehr and requirements to be met by other state and civilian entities in defence as a whole-of-government and whole-of-society task.



TASKS IN CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION

The maximum level of civilian support is a key factor in the OPLAN DEU. While the Bundeswehr offered support to civilians during the flood disaster in the Ahr Valley or during the pandemic, the Bundeswehr will in turn need to depend on civil society and business assistance in the event of a crisis or a state of defence. These comprehensive tasks can only be met with coordinated and purposeful cooperation at the Federal, state and local levels. The OPLAN DEU combines the central elements of national and collective defence in Germany with the necessary civilian support services. It stipulates, for instance, which lines of transportation may be used, which bridges may be considered and the planned location of rest areas and how those must be protected. The safeguarding of those lines of transportation must be closely coordinated with the police and other civilian institutions.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION



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