



# Multinationales Kommando Operative Führung

## *Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm*

military exercise  
command Nato joint  
combined experience  
multinational european  
experience force  
multinational EU focus  
military joint  
further development  
joint planning EUBG  
combined multinational  
european experience  
operational UN  
military exercise

## Multinationality and Expertise

The Multinationales Kommando Operative Führung/  
Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm: A Contribution to the  
European Security Architecture at the Interface between the  
Bundeswehr, EU, and NATO



The Wilhelmsburg fortress and the Wilhelmsburg Barracks overlooking Ulm and the Ulm Minster (in the background).



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## Tasked by the EU and NATO

### A German Headquarters Featuring Multinational Staff

The Multinationales Kommando Operative Führung (MN KdoOpFü)/Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm (MN JHQ Ulm) is a German activity employing multinational staff. Primarily, the headquarters stands ready to fulfill missions assigned by the EU, but also by NATO, making an essential contribution critical to the European security architecture.

By exercising command and control of multinational and joint EU and NATO operations and exercises, the Ulm Command has developed a unique special expertise. An important milestone was reached in 2018 when the Ulm Command was certified as a NATO Joint Task Force Headquarters, i.e. as an operational-level headquarters that can be employed to assume command and control of joint and multinational operations as tasked by NATO. Several times before, it has also functioned as a "preferred" military-strategic headquarters ("preferred" operations headquarters) in support of EU crisis response forces, most recently for the EU Battlegroup from July 2020 to March 2021.

Drawing on its planning capacity, its capabilities, and its expertise, the Ulm Command supports the EU's capacity for action and crisis response capability and forms an element critical to the Strategic Compass approved by the European Council in March 2022.

In addition, the MN JHQ Ulm supports NATO by providing a command post to the national commander, and the command post to the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The MN JHQ Ulm tasks further include ensuring the operational capability of NATO's Joint Support and Enabling Command (JSEC) also based at Ulm's Wilhelmsburg Barracks.

Composed of both German and multinational billets with servicemen and women from seven nations, the MN JHQ Ulm is approximately 500 staff strong. The Ulm Command lays the ground for integrating the Bundeswehr both into EU and NATO structures, which makes it unique in the Bundeswehr.



The Commander, Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm, and Commander, Joint Support and Enabling Command, Lieutenant General

Alexander Sollfrank



## Tasked by the European Union

### Headquarters in Support of the European Union

In its capacity as one out of five military-strategic EU headquarters on permanent standby, the MN JHQ Ulm, when activated by the key EU political decision-makers, primarily assumes the task of exercising command and control of the EU military crisis response forces. As a headquarters functioning as the highest military planning and command and control authority, it advises the EU institutions and the Federal Ministry of Defense on their decision-making and planning of holistic crisis resolution approaches.

In its Strategic Compass dated March 2022, the EU defines the goal to increase its crisis response capability and operational readiness. Its military centerpiece is a new rapid response force known as Rapid Deployment Capacity, abbreviated to RDC, that the EU can flexibly use to swiftly deploy a modular multinational major formation up to 5,000 troops strong in response to different types of crises as dictated by the respective scenario. It will achieve full operational readiness in 2025 when Germany, as a framework nation, will provide the core of the EU response forces (EU Battlegroup 2025 (EUBG 2025)) as part of the RDC all year round.

In the event of a crisis, and after activation by the political decision-makers, the EU crisis response forces will be led by

an operational-level headquarters in theater. For 2025, the Eurocorps in Strasbourg, France, has been designated for this task. This operational-level headquarters in theater is then subordinate to a military-strategic headquarters below the political level. Specifically, the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) has been designated for this purpose. Supported by, and augmented with, personnel and expertise from the MN JHQ Ulm, it translates political directives into military action. Established as early as in 2017, the MPCC permits centrally planning and conducting missions and operations from Brussels according to an integrated approach as part of the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), i.e. in cooperation between military and civilian institutions. The MPCC is led by the Director General of the European Military Staff (EUMS) and is intended to ensure the EU's continuous military command and control capability after achieving full operational capability.

The MN JHQ Ulm will also be available for fulfilling the tasks assigned to the EUBG 2025. The Ulm Command supports the EU MPCC to pave its way for establishing full operational readiness, including planning capabilities and capacities that are required both for exercises and upon request of command and control capabilities for the purpose of international crisis management.

<sup>1</sup>See: page 6.



Cooperation in the EU Community: In 2021, the Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm hosted the EU Commanders' Conference 2021 in Ulm.



During years of planning and command and control of multinational and joint exercises, the MN JHQ Ulm has developed a unique and comprehensive expertise that it mainly contributes to the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) while also being integrated with NATO. To wrap up, it makes an essential contribution to the EU's capacity for action and its crisis response capability and is an essential building block critical to the implementation of the Strategic Compass.

**Digression: The Strategic Compass of the EU and the Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm**

The Strategic Compass represents an ambitious plan of action for strengthening the EU's security and defense policy by 2030. It provides a shared assessment of the strategic environment in which the EU is operating, and of the threats and challenges the Union faces. As a potential response to these situation assessments, the document makes concrete and actionable proposals, with a very precise timetable for implementation, in order to improve the EU's ability to act decisively in crises and defend its security and its citizens.

For example, the EU member states commit to a set of concrete and wide-ranging objectives to achieve these goals in the coming five to ten years. Currently, the practical implementation of the Strategic Compass is being developed in Brussels and the EU member states. Upon request from Brussels and Berlin, the Ulm Command will support this

process. Hosting the EUBG 2025 Force Planning Conference, or revising the operational scenarios contained in the Strategic Compass are tangible examples of this support.

The Strategic Compass includes specific planning for new rapid response forces, the RDC mentioned above, that form the military centerpiece of this action plan permitting the EU to swiftly deploy elements up to 5,000 troops strong in response to different types of crises as dictated by the respective scenario. The objectives do not only include increasing the operational readiness through regular exercising beyond command post exercises-which means an innovation at EU level-but also strengthening the command and control structures to permit more rapid and more flexible decision-making processes.

The RDC will be used for the first time when, in 2025, Germany will serve as a framework nation and assume command and control of the EU response forces. This means that the EU Battlegroups will continue to exist. But: This new joint and multidimensional approach mainly differs from the existing Battlegroup Concept, which has been more ground-oriented so far, by integrating air and naval forces, special operation and cyber defense forces and space-based capabilities. In contrast to the previous EU Battlegroups between 1,500 and 2,200 soldiers strong, the larger number of forces equipped with more capabilities and up to 5,000 troops strong is intended to permit a significantly higher and more robust spectrum of tasks.



MN JHQ Ulm staff during firing training in preparation for the MSIGT.

**Military Strategic Information Gathering Team (MSIGT)**

For the purpose of fulfilling its tasks as a military-strategic EU headquarters, the MN JHQ Ulm keeps available a Military Strategic Information Gathering Team (MSIGT), a kind of fact-finding team consisting of select subject-matter experts. The MSIGT lays the groundwork for military operations in areas of conflict and, if applicable, in neighboring countries at the politico-military level while establishing initial liaison between the military-strategic headquarters and political leaders in the area of operation. It supports the political decision-makers by contributing to the situation picture and collects vital information in the future area of operation, effectively paving the ground for starting the military planning process. If invited by a host country, the MSIGT may deploy to a designated area of operation even before being mandated.

During the standby phases of the Ulm Command as a preferred OHQ for an EUBG, the MSIGT is placed on increased readiness. In addition to classroom training, the members of the MSIGT take practical lessons and regularly undergo geographic and country-specific briefings as well as weapons, equipment, and vehicle training as a preparation to accomplish the important and complex tasks they may face in the event of activation and deployment to a crisis area.

The MSIGT strength and composition, and its type of equipment vary from case to case and are specifically tailored to the situation in the designated country of deployment. In an evolving crisis, this may be a team of civilian and military subject-matter experts establishing liaison with officials of the host country. If the security situation so requires, the MSIGT may also consist of a robust delegation equipped with combat vehicles and combat gear so that it is able to ensure adequate local force protection.

MN JHQ Ulm staff members personally prepare for the EU task to be rapidly available and ready to deploy to a crisis area in the event of activation by the EU. These preparations comprise small arms and live-fire training, CBRN defense training, and medical examinations, to include immunization status. Every soldier has customized and completed their personal equipment and uniforms to be prepared for weather conditions in different climate zones



Key mission of the MN JHQ Ulm: Commitment in support of the EU at the military-strategic level.



Currently, men and women from seven nations serve with the Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm.

### Planning Capability Package (PCP): Capabilities and Expertise for EU Command Structures

During operations in theater, the EU must be able to take swift and effective action. A key factor in taking swift and effective action is to refine EU command structures for current and future Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, and adapt them to new challenges and requirements.

The Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) established in 2017 enables the EU to plan, and exercise centralized command and control of, CSDP missions and operations directly from Brussels in accordance with an integrated approach. The MPCC is part of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) and guarantees the EU's continuous military command and control capability - even in a crisis.

The advantage of this capability being continuously available in Brussels is that the EU does not have to rely on its member states in an emergency. As planning and command and control processes are mostly unaffected, this structural element provides a rapid and permanent crisis response capability.

In addition, MPCC personnel is firmly embedded in Brussels political structures to allow for a regular exchange with civilian planning and command elements.

Germany's Ulm Command is a key contributor in supporting MPCC capabilities and responsibilities.

Ensuring Germany's politico-military objectives, the MN JHQ Ulm's initial capability includes capabilities and expertise designed to temporarily reinforce central EU command structures in the EU Military Staff and the MPCC, enabling the EU to increase its response capability.

The modular Planning Capability Package (PCP) can provide an essential contribution to reinforcing and enabling the MPCC, especially in the time-critical early stages of missions and operations. Further to the mere personnel augmentation process, the PCP includes an additional option to the EU Military Staff to support both the MPCC and the partner headquarters in Rome (Italy), Larissa (Greece), Paris (France), and Rota (Spain) to conduct EU planning processes during exercises, or even prior to activation by the political decision-makers. The PCP is composed of a multinational team of subject-matter experts tailored to fit the respective operation or exercise. It can support the EU institutions either locally, or from Ulm.

The skills of the PCP were reviewed during the MILEX and Integrated Resolve exercise series and provided to the MPCC during the EU Military Assistance Mission Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine), by far the EU's largest training mission in support of a third country.

This gives the MN JHQ Ulm the opportunity to contribute to the EU its expertise gained over years while exercising command and control of multinational and joint operations, and to adapt it, if required.

### The MN JHQ Ulm as a Player in EU Exercises

Since 2022, the MN JHQ Ulm has participated in the MILEX and Integrated Resolve command post exercises. The Ulm Command supports and reinforces the EU institutions and bodies on the basis of its many years of expertise gained while planning and exercising command and control of operations as part of the CSDP. On the German part, the Ulm Command is the only Bundeswehr activity able to rapidly provide such qualified planning capability in support of EU exercises. The MILEX and Integrated Resolve exercise series create an opportunity for the Ulm Command to ensure its skills stay sharp, support EU institutions and bodies in a proven way, and exchange expertise. Further, these exercises are an essential element to prepare for the military-strategic role in 2025, when Germany, as a framework nation, will again assume command and control of the EU crisis response forces.

Practical land, air, and naval exercises the member states have pledged to conduct under the Strategic Compass will presumably be carried out from 2023.

### Real-life Support During Routine Duty: The Support Directorate

National support at the garrison of Ulm takes on a new dimension since the MN JHQ Ulm provides services to different headquarters with multinational staff from a single source. By adopting this resource-oriented approach implemented in the Support Directorate, Germany will honor the commitments it has made. The principal user of these support services the Ulm Command has to guarantee is NATO's Joint Support and Enabling Command (JSEC). Services include staff support, advice by a military psychologist, infrastructure, family support to the multinational community, warehousing, IT equipment, supplies and messing, transportation, and the provision of a deployable command post for the Joint Logistic Support Group Headquarters (JLSG HQ) that can be employed for EU, NATO, and further purposes.



The men and women of the Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm regularly participate in EU exercises. For example, the MILEX 2021 exercise in Larissa (Greece) (see picture) and MILEX 2022 in Brussels. In 2022, the MN JHQ Ulm and its Greek sister headquarters again conducted the Integrated Resolve exercise carried out every two years.



# Tasked by NATO



March individually, fight collectively: Alert and deployment exercises are critical to maintaining operational readiness. In cooperation with further elements from the national support forces headquarters to the NATO Response Force (NRF) 2022 to 2024 – mainly with their comrades of Logistic Regiment 1 from Burg, Germany, who form the support forces nucleus – the soldiers of the Command Post & Service Support Company rehearse to assemble at the decisive moment with independently operating units in the right place at the right time in order to be employed together.

## Support to NATO: The MN JHQ Ulm Command Post & Service Support Company (CP & Serv Spt Coy)

Support Group Headquarters (JLSG HQ), the MN JHQ Ulm stands ready in support of both the EU and NATO.

In addition to the cross-sectional service tasks the Support Directorate has to fulfill in support of both headquarters and the permanent EU mission, the MN JHQ also meets its different commitments to NATO. Organized into an Operations Support Directorate and a Core Staff Element (CSE) for the Joint Logistic

As the German national support forces of the NATO Response Force (NRF) 2022 to 2024 represent an integral NRF portion the MN JHQ Ulm also provides logistic support to the national support forces by keeping available a rapid deployment capability and a mobile command post infrastructure for these forces.



A particular skill the engineers and specialists of the Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm possess is setting up and operating the command post infrastructure.



Reach stacker container handler in operation: For the transshipment of material, field handling equipment, or (fork) lift trucks/container handlers, of different working loads are used.

The NATO Response Force (NRF) is composed of multinational NATO forces, ready to rapidly deploy worldwide, and intended for high-intensity combat - be it for the purpose of international conflict management, or defense of a NATO partner. In its capacity as the competent framework nation, Germany is the key force provider to the NRF 2022 to 2024, and to the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) 2023. Not only in terms of manpower, the NRF emphasis is placed

on the combat element. The combat element is supported by a variety of support forces. If it is about support in the field of logistics, medical care, guard and security tasks to ensure force protection, military policing operations, or information technology expertise: While national support forces keep operating in the background, their services lay the ground work for the combat elements to accomplish their mission effectively.



Practical military training: The Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm has undergone training in training areas to prepare for the NATO Response Force (NRF) 2022 to 2024 tasks.



The new command post building is part of the new infrastructure, providing the MN JHQ Ulm Command Post & Service Support Company the opportunity to store, maintain, clean, and transship command post equipment.

The soldiers of the MN JHQ Ulm Command Post & Service Support Company have prepared for these tasks during different training phases. A practical military training phase at the Heuberg training area in Stetten am kalten Markt, Germany, was followed by rehearsing the setup and operation of a deployable command post in the Lower Saxony Barracks in Brunssum, the Netherlands, or Naples, Italy, while Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin, Poland, exercises command and control of the VJTF. In response to a modified security situation, NATO did not only adapt its strategic concept during the Madrid Summit in late June 2022, but also decided to take specific measures. From 2025, the New Force Model will replace the NATO Response Force (NRF). No later than 2024, Germany will contribute approximately 14,200 soldiers as well as 34 ships and aircraft in the first 30 days after activation of the force. Germany will contribute up to 30,000 soldiers as well as 85 aircraft and ships to the New Force Model from 2025. These figures also refer to the first 30 days following the decision to deploy these forces.

#### Digression: NRF and New Force Model

And the new model will include a rapid response force similar to the current VJTF, too. From 2025, the Allied Reaction Force (ARF) shall be available. The ARF will provide forces and capabilities that can generate rapid effects, such as an initial operation to retain important tracts of terrain or facilities, or an operation in support of disaster relief or crisis management. Contrary to the current NRF, the land component will then include light forces able to quickly reach their destination. For example, the ARF will accommodate infantry forces, such as paratroopers, but no heavy equipment, such as tanks.



Multinational soldiers of NATO's Joint Support and Enabling Command.

#### The NATO Joint Support and Enabling Command

Faced with the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, NATO has adapted its command structure as a whole. The ability to swiftly deploy forces to potentially critical hotspots is of crucial importance to the Alliance's defense readiness and a credible deterrence. Against this backdrop, Germany as a framework nation, and specifically the MN JHQ Ulm, was tasked to establish the JSEC at Ulm, Germany. In 2021, the JSEC declared its full operational readiness.

In its capacity as a functional command headquarters, the JSEC has since coordinated the deployment and supply of all forces subordinate to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) throughout the entire territory of the Alliance. Serving as a logistic interface, it links civilian and military actors. Geographically located at the heart of Europe, Germany is a central hub for NATO's force deployments and plays a crucial role in enabling the JSEC to fulfill its mission. Germany has adopted the role of framework nation for the new command.

The JSEC is a NATO activity forming part of the NATO Force Structure (NFS). It is directly subordinate to the SACEUR. Double-hatted, the Commander, MN JHQ Ulm is also the Commander, JSEC and exercises command and control of the approximately 400 staff from currently 25 nations.

Following the Russian Federation's illegal attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the JSEC has been particularly challenged, coordinating the movements of allied forces inside Europe and at the Alliance borders.



The Commander, Multinationales Kommando Operative Führung/Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm and Commander, Joint Support and Enabling Command, Lieutenant General Alexander Sollfrank, talking to military attachés from all over the world.

### The German/Dutch (DEU/NLD) Military Mobility Office

Inside the Ulm Wilhelmsburg Barracks, the MN JHQ Ulm also accommodates the DEU/NLD Military Mobility Office (DNO), which directly reports to both the German and the Dutch Ministries of Defense. The mission of this facility is to identify the existing barriers and restrictions affecting smooth military movement activities between the two countries, evaluate these, and develop solutions coordinated between both ministries. The objective is to achieve a smooth German/Dutch military traffic flow inside and through both of these nations. As a stand-alone institution not depending on the Alliance, the DNO will form an interface between the EU and NATO designed to enable these two major organizations to benefit from the results achieved at the binational level. Currently, the DNO is four staff strong, two from each of both nations. It will achieve full operational capability (FOC) in the first half of 2023. The lead rotates between the two countries. After achieving FOC, it is intended to open up the DNO for further interested nations step by step and extend it into a Multinational Military Mobility Office (3MO).

### Multinationality as a Showcase

More than 130 multinational soldiers serve with the two multinational headquarters stationed in the Ulm Wilhelmsburg Barracks and are led by a German commander, showcasing the uniqueness of the Ulm garrison. To Germany, this means short distances while coordinating the planning and command and control processes at this prominent interface between the Bundeswehr, the EU and NATO.

A visible sign of multinational cooperation is the everyday routine duty, specifically the Day of the Nations, observed in the Ulm Wilhelmsburg Barracks. This annual event is a large get-together where soldiers from 27 nations along with their families sharing their tour of duty in Germany meet with their German comrades.

This traditional event marks a fixed date in the MN JHQ Ulm and the JSEC calendar. The Day of the Nations gives the soldiers and civilian employees the opportunity to socialize with members from other activities and divisions as well as families from other foreign nations, and meet for talks and the exchange of ideas outside their daily routine.



Multinationality means both a showcase and strength to the Ulm Command.



Commemoration ceremony marking the anniversary of 20 July 1944: The Commander, MN JHQ Ulm, Lieutenant General Alexander Sollfrank, the former member of the German Parliament, Ernst-Reinhard Beck, and the former German Chief of Defense, General (Ret.) Wolfgang Schneiderhan (from left to right), laying a wreath at the memorial stone inside Wilhelmsburg Barracks in 2022.

### The Ulm Command and the Culture of Remembrance of 20 July 1944

The commemoration of Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg and the other 20 July 1944 resistance fighters has a firm place in the Bundeswehr's tradition and its culture of remembrance. The Bundeswehr cultivates this commemoration as a central element of its traditions in many different ways.

The Federal Government and the Bundeswehr host several central events in Berlin to honor the military resistance movement against the Nazi regime every year on 20 July, e.g. at the Berlin-Plötzensee memorial site, or by the Bendlerblock building in Berlin where recruits have their solemn pledge ceremony on the day of remembrance of the German resistance.

In parallel, a regional culture of remembrance based on Stauffenberg's Swabian provenance has developed. For half a century, a ceremony was held in Sigmaringen, Germany, at the Graf-Stauffenberg Barracks named after the resistance fighter. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the plot,

a Stauffenberg memorial stone was inaugurated in the Graf-Stauffenberg Barracks on 20 July 1964. This is where the annual commemoration ceremonies used to be held.

As part of the Bundeswehr reorganization, the garrison of Sigmaringen was disbanded in late 2014. At that time, this raised the question of how the Bundeswehr could continue handling the regional aspect of commemorating Colonel Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg as the Swabian key actor of military resistance. In order to preserve the memory of the resistance and Graf von Stauffenberg, the home of the German Army Officer School based in Dresden was renamed to Graf-Stauffenberg Barracks. At a regional level, the memory could be kept up, too: In 2015, the MN JHQ Ulm adopted this tradition from 10 Armored Division in Sigmaringen. By putting up a memorial stone in the Wilhelmsburg Barracks in 2015, the Ulm Command created a dignified setting to continue and cultivate one of the most important Bundeswehr lines of tradition.



# MN JHQ Ulm: Embedded in the Region

## Friendly Relationship with the City of Ulm

The roots of the Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm go back to 1956, when the II. German-American Corps was established in Ulm. Since the beginning, it has been a close friend and partner to the city of Ulm and its surrounding Alb-Danube district, hosting and sharing numerous events to nurture this friendship. An important highlight of the year is the traditional information event the MN JHQ Ulm hosts at the historic Kornhaus building right in the heart of Ulm. For the Commander of both the MN JHQ Ulm and the JSEC, who is the highest-ranking soldier in southern Germany, the event provides an excellent opportunity to regularly inform the public, the media, and guests about the two Ulm-based headquarters and their military mission. The two multinational headquarters play an important role in defense policy, making the future Kornhaus events feel more acute than before, especially in view of the war in Ukraine and the historical watershed it represents.

## The Ulm Command: A Partner Administrative Assistance Can Rely on

When requested to provide administrative assistance, e.g. in support of the COVID-19 pandemic management since spring 2020, the MN JHQ Ulm has not only rendered unbureaucratic assistance by providing infrastructure (storage of medical material), but also by making available manpower employed to trace contacts in the city of Ulm and its surrounding Alb-Danube district, or by organizing support services for nursing homes and homes for the elderly, social facilities, and public health offices in other districts. Especially the pandemic management highlights the importance of the close bonds and friendly relationships that have developed over the years.



Ulm Mayor, Mr. Gunter Czisch, delivering a welcome address at the 2023 Kornhaus information event.

The MN JHQ Ulm soldiers contributed their fair share to mitigate the repercussions of the pandemic for the benefit of the citizens in the region. Especially in phases when time was of the essence the soldiers stood ready, displaying outstanding reliability and professionalism. Especially in Ulm and its surrounding Alb-Danube district, soldiers have shown their readiness to help, bringing forth a favorable response among the population. Involved in the activities of the authorities and organizations without much ado, their supportive work was fully appreciated. The administrative assistance by the soldiers has strengthened the bonds between the Bundeswehr and the Ulm region all the more, making them less complicated and more professional. It is above all the assistance in support of the COVID-19 pandemic management that has triggered the increasingly affirmative response to the Bundeswehr.



General Sollfrank informed the Public, Media and Guests during MN JHQ Ulm's traditional Kornhaus-Event in the heart of old-town Ulm about the military tasks and challenges of the both commands.



Members and guests of the Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm at the 2023 Kornhaus information event.



The traditional events hosted by the garrison senior officer of the Ulm/Dornstadt garrison include the Advent concert at St. Paul's Church.

### Support to the Ulm and Dornstadt Garrison Senior Officer

The Advent concert also ranks among the traditional events the Bundeswehr hosts in Ulm. It has been conducted for decades, forming an integral part of the city's social life. Hosted by the garrison senior officer and the activities of the Ulm/Dornstadt/Setzingen garrison, the concert is organized as a charity event open to the public. The Advent concert is performed at Ulm's St. Paul Church by the Army Band Ulm ("musical ambassador for the Bundeswehr in Ulm"). Invited to participate by the Army Band Ulm, various artists from the civilian musical community have contributed their share to the performance, such as the Ulmer Spatzen (= Ulm sparrows) children's choir, or various top-class soloists.

### Conclusion & Way Ahead

Violating International Law, the illegal Russian attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022 represents a historical watershed, marking a radical turning point affecting our society and our armed forces. Peace and freedom can no longer be taken for granted in Europe.

The EU and NATO have responded to the change in the security situation by taking forward-looking decisions and issuing new doctrinal documents, e.g. the Strategic Compass adopted by the European Council in March 2022, or the decision on the new NATO strategic concept during the historic NATO summit of Heads of State and Government in Madrid from 28 to 30 June 2022.

Both multinational headquarters at the Ulm garrison stand ready to apply their EU and NATO expertise and fulfill their tasks. The Ulm garrison has developed into an interface nowhere else to be found in the Bundeswehr, symbolizing Germany's integration into the EU and NATO.

## Brief MN JHQ Ulm Chronicle

### 1956 - 2005 II. Korps/II.(GE/US) Korps

Dated 16 June 1956, the order no. 19 for establishing the Army Staffs I and II by the Federal Minister of Defense included the order to establish the Army Staff II, the predecessor of II. Korps. The planning regarding the defense along the border between western Germany and the states of the former Warsaw Pact tasked the divisions and corps troop commands led by II. Korps to stand ready for the defense of the south of the Federal Republic of Germany.

For nearly 50 years, the II. Korps, one of the most important and strongest major formations of the German Army, used to guarantee peace and security, functioning as the backbone of the Western Defense Alliance with its military elements in the south of the Federal Republic of Germany. At that time, 16 military compounds used to be subordinate to the Ulm Command, which was the supreme headquarters in southern Germany. During the Cold War era, more than 80,000 staff organized in four divisions were subordinate to II. Korps.

The II. Korps was among the first of the three Bundeswehr corps headquarters that were assigned to NATO, giving proof of its capabilities in numerous major exercises.

The year 1989 and the reunification of Germany into one country in 1990 required the armed forces and the corps to adjust to this change of the security situation.

In the few years after, corps units were continuously deployed to stabilize peace, be it in Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, or Afghanistan. Further humanitarian and disaster relief operations also contributed to the good standing the Corps has had.

In April 1993, II. Korps became binational II.(GE/US) Korps. The reason for the reorganization was the extension of the Bundeswehr's task spectrum and the intended multinationality of the corps headquarters, but also the cutback of financial resources, which, as early as in late 1992, had already led to an adjustment of Army structure 5. The permanently close liaison with, and constant contacts to, friendly armed forces always were a signature trademark of the Korps. The bonds between V (US) Corps and II.(GE/US) Korps were particularly close and strong. For more than ten years, American officers and NCOs served with the headquarters of II.(GE/US) Korps, while German staff reinforced V (US) Corps.

### 2005 - 2013 Response Forces Operations Command

New security challenges and the development along the lines of the European Union CSDP led to the establishment of the Response Forces Operations Command on 7 October 2005. Upon the establishment and activation of the Response Forces Operations Command, the II.(GE/US) Korps was disbanded. The new command stood ready to assume command and control of crisis prevention forces.



02 July 2013 Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm activation ceremony at Ulm Münsterplatz (Minster Square).



Initially, the Ulm Command's primary mission was to provide a deployable EU Force Headquarters (EU FHQ) capable of exercising operational command and control of joint and combined operations involving up to 60,000 troops, particularly for the European Union. Based on the lessons learned from the European Union mission in the Congo (EUFOR RD Congo), the Ulm Command's mission was extended in 2009 to include the provision of an EU OHQ at the next-higher level of command, the military-strategic level.

### 2013 till Present: Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm

The Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm (MN JHQ Ulm) was established in 2013 to serve as Germany's key contribution to strengthening the CSDP aimed to substantiate the EU's capacity for action and crisis response capability by enhancing planning and command and control capabilities at the military-strategic and operational levels.

Its activation has been Germany's response to the international challenges posed by ongoing crises in Europe's immediate neighborhood. As a permanently available military-strategic EU headquarters, the Ulm Command, when activated by the EU political decision-makers, has had the primary task to function as the highest military planning and command and control authority outside Brussels for military crisis

management within the scope of Petersberg tasks. In addition to this full-time role as a military-strategic headquarters, it has been regularly available to the EU rapid response forces as a preferred EU OHQ. The Command assumed this task in 2012 and 2016, and recently served as a preferred OHQ to the German-led EU Battlegroup 2020-2 (EUBG 2020-2) in the period from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021. During this time, Germany exercised command and control of an approximately 4,100-strong EU Battlegroup (EUBG) including approximately 2,500 Bundeswehr soldiers. If everything goes as planned, the Ulm Command will contribute its expertise in support of the military-strategic level again in 2025.

In 2018, the Ulm Command and the Ulm garrison reached a radical turning point. In addition to its EU commitments, the Command was available for use by NATO as well. Following certification as a Joint Task Force Headquarters (JTF HQ) in 2018, the Command was kept available for NATO operations for a period of one year. That same year, framework nation Germany and, subsequently, the MNJHQ Ulm, were tasked with establishing a new operational-level NATO headquarters, the Joint Support and Enabling Command (JSEC). JSEC achieved initial operational capability (IOC) in late 2019. Following an evaluation exercise, full operational capability (FOC) was reached in May 2021. The buildup phase was concluded



Multinational soldiers during the Trident Jaguar 2018 exercise in Stavanger, Norway, the certification exercise to become a NATO Joint Task Force Headquarters.



Change-of-command ceremony on 17 March 2022: German Lieutenant General Alexander Sollfrank (left) taking over command of the Multinationales Kommando Operative Führung/Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm and NATO's Joint Support and Enabling Command while accepting the command flag from German Lieutenant General Martin Schelleis, Chief of the German Joint Support and Enabling Service, (center) and German Admiral Joachim Rühle, Chief of Staff of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

in October 2021. German MN JHQ Ulm personnel helped accelerate the buildup process by rendering considerable support to efforts for the new headquarters.

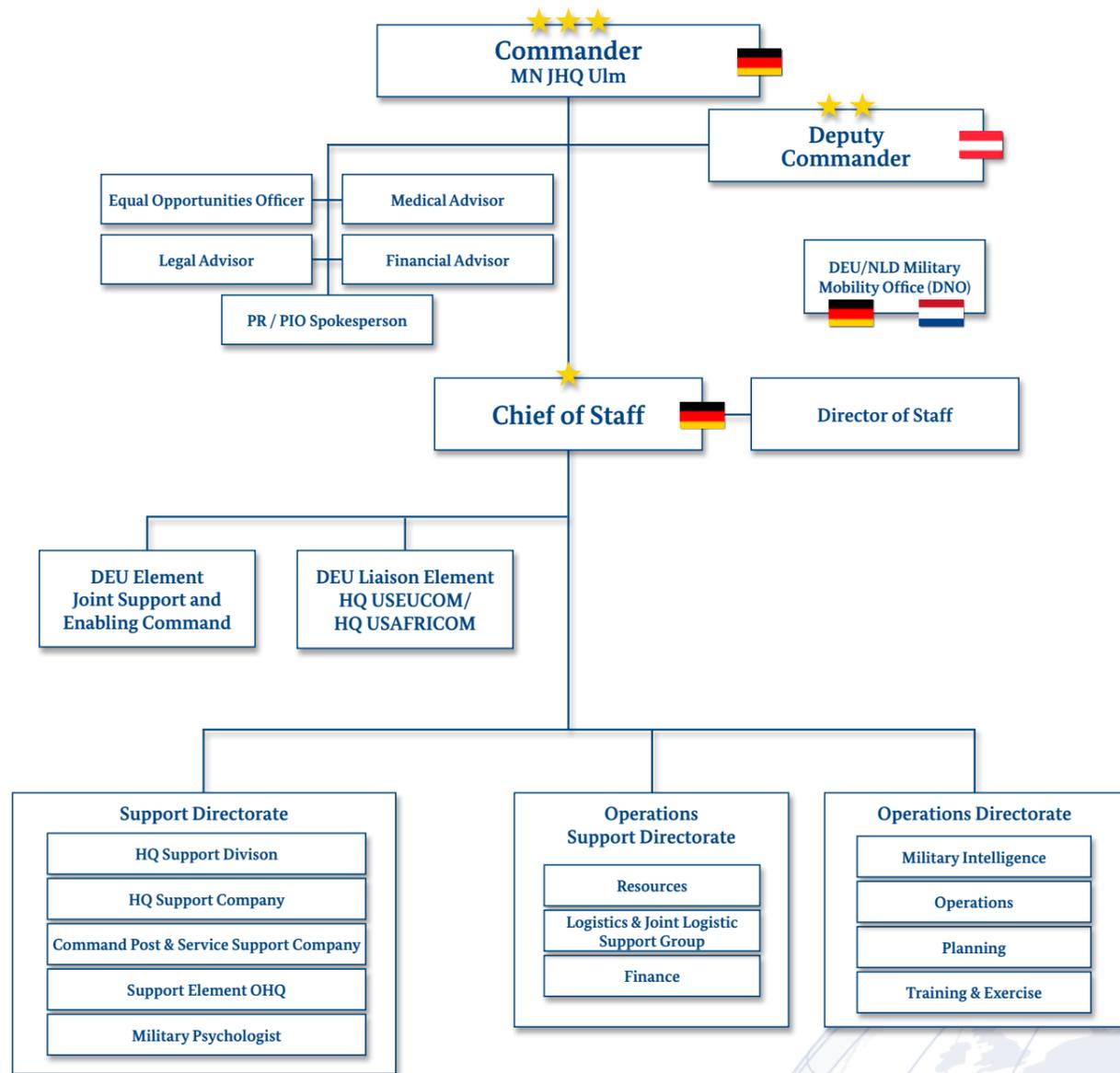
Since its activation as an international military command headquarters by NATO's North Atlantic Council on 14 July 2021, the JSEC has been an independent international activity separate from the MN JHQ Ulm both in terms of personnel and material. As a result of the mission reorientation, the MN JHQ Ulm soldiers have worked in a new headquarters structure since 1 October 2021. Over the past few years, the Bundeswehr has created an infrastructure inside Wilhelmsburg Barracks that is unique in the German armed forces. It serves to support the fulfillment of tasks, enabling the activities to work even more professionally.

The new structures include the JSEC functional building, the JSEC IT system shelter, the command post building for the MN JHQ Ulm, the Ulm conference, service & support center still under construction, the Medical Clinic Ulm, a new gymnasium, and buildings for the Army Band Ulm.

With renewed strength and a positive attitude, the MN JHQ Ulm will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2023.



## Organizational Chart Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm



### Post Allocation to MN JHQ Ulm

(excluding DEU JSEC Element)

- » Command Group: approx. 30 DEU and multinational posts
- » Support Directorate, Operations Support Directorate and Operations Directorate:
- » approx. 470 DEU and multinational posts





Panoramic View of the Old Town, the Ulm Minster, and the Danube River.

## Editorial Information

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operational  
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Nato joint  
combined experience  
multinational european  
experience force  
multinational EU focus  
military joint  
further development  
joint planning  
EUBG  
combined multinational  
european experience  
operational  
UN  
military exercise