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# OPERATIONS PLAN FOR GERMANY

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



BUNDESWEHR

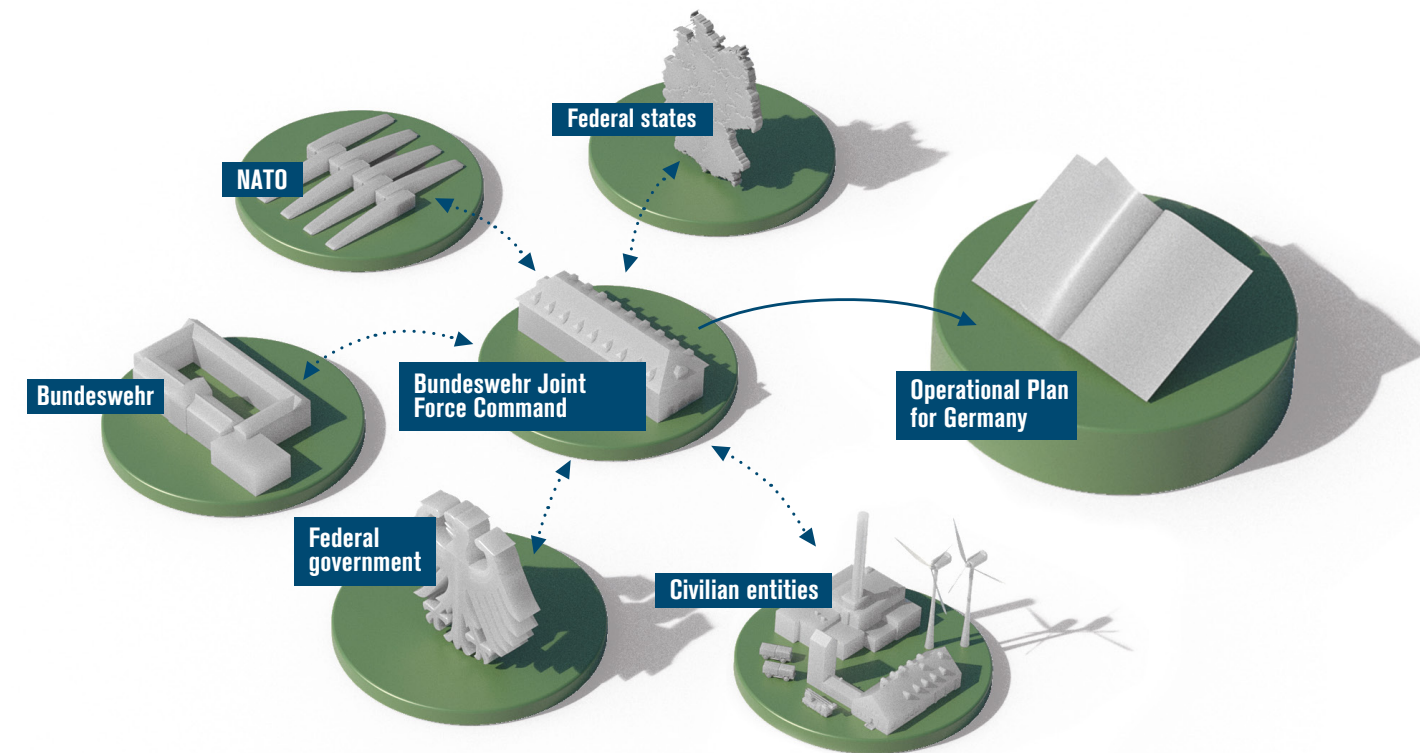
## OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR GERMANY

Russia's attack on Ukraine in 2022 has fundamentally shaken the European peace order and forced Germany to reorient its national and collective defence capability. Joint planning within NATO has been adapted to the new challenges. The visible commitment to defend the Allies and to safeguarding peace and freedom through credible deterrence is a guiding principle.

In terms of reorienting security policy, it is clear that Germany and its population must become more robust and resilient to withstand threats and aggressors. These challenges cannot be met purely at the military level. They need to be dealt with as a whole-of-government and whole-of-society task. Defending Germany. Together. is our guideline and objective. Germany and the Bundeswehr must be prepared to respond to current threats and to defend territory 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 Operational Plan for Germany

(OPLAN DEU), in a joint planning group with representatives from federal, state and local authorities, the emergency and rescue services, and the business sector. The OPLAN DEU is a classified document subject to continuous further development and updating under the auspices of the Bundeswehr Joint Force Command.

## DEVELOPMENT





## PURPOSE OF THE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR GERMANY

The OPLAN DEU is a response to the aggravated security situation in Europe. The OPLAN DEU is an operationally viable plan that brings together the key military elements of national and collective defence in Germany and the required civilian support services. It provides the planning to ensure that purposeful and constitutionally sound action can be taken following a political decision in the event of a crisis or conflict. It 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 ensure the deployment of allied forces to NATO's eastern flank through Germany. The objective is to establish the ability to rapidly respond across all ministries and federal states.



## THE BUNDESWEHR'S TASKS

The OPLAN DEU underlines the Bundeswehr's operational readiness to provide security for the nation and its citizens. The plan aims to deter potential adversaries, to protect Germany against potential threats, and to defend the country in an emergency. It reflects the necessity for a coordinated and comprehensive defence strategy. It is an important step towards achieving a robust, resilient and combat-ready defence architecture that is prepared to meet the challenges of our times. The Bundeswehr's core task is national and collective defence. All other tasks are subordinate to this.





## TASKS OF THE BUNDESWEHR JOINT FORCE COMMAND

The Bundeswehr Joint Force Command is an essential instrument to meet national challenges. Its focus is on planning, commanding and coordinating Bundeswehr operations within Germany. The OPLAN DEU covers deployments of the Bundeswehr within Germany in times of peace, crisis and war, i.e. 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 escalating security situation is the central pillar of conventional deterrence. Germany's essential task as a hub is to ensure the deployment and supply of allied and German forces as a whole-of-government task. According to NATO planning, several hundred thousand soldiers must receive consistent medical and logistic support. To this end, the OPLAN DEU specifies requirements to be met by the Bundeswehr and other state and civilian entities in terms of whole-of-government and whole-of-society defence.



## TASKS IN CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION

A key factor in the OPLAN DEU is that maximum civilian support can be provided. While the Bundeswehr offered support to civilians during the Ahr valley flood and the COVID-19 pandemic, it will need to rely on support from civil society and civilian companies during a crisis or state of defence. The extensive tasks can only be carried out through 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 determines, for instance, which routes are used for transport, which bridges are suitable, and the planned location of rest areas and how they should be protected. Security on these transport routes must be closely coordinated with the police and other civilian institutions.





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