



TOGETHER.
ANYTIME.
RESOLUTE.

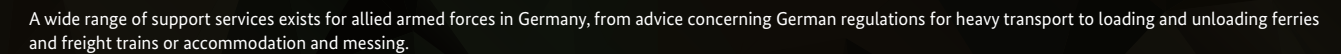
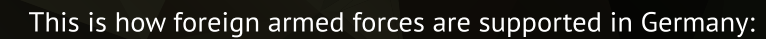
HOST NATION SUPPORT

Support for foreign armed forces
in Germany



BUNDESWEHR

When armed forces of friendly nations are staying in or transiting through Germany, the Bundeswehr provides advice, logistics and personnel. This interministerial task also involves the emergency and rescue services, civil authorities, and commercial companies. This contribution is one of Germany's most important obligations to its NATO allies. A wide range of support services is summarised under the term 'host nation support' – including entry permits, transport escorts, provision of rest areas, and protection against sabotage.





EXTENSIVE SUPPORT

From advice on German regulations for heavy transport to loading and unloading ferries and freight trains or accommodation and messing – Germany supports the allied armed forces in a variety of ways. Host nation support is only provided upon request. Foreign armed forces are not allowed to enter German territory without permission. The Bundeswehr Joint Force Command in Berlin processes about 1,000 applications per year. In this context, it receives support from all Bundeswehr agencies, including the 16 regional territorial commands in the federal states.

GERMANY'S CENTRAL LOCATION IN EUROPE

In international conflict and crisis management in the past, military personnel, weapon systems and ammunition were usually airlifted to remote mission areas, while supplies were procured locally. Military transport operations were barely noticeable in daily life in Europe. Today, national and collective defence requires different dimensions in terms of military forces and materiel. Their deployments are now very visible, in Europe and especially in Germany. Due to its geostrategic location in the centre of Europe, almost all transport routes to NATO's eastern and southeastern flanks run across German territory. Germany therefore serves as the first point of contact and as a central (logistics) hub, especially for transatlantic reinforcements from the United States and Canada, but also for British, Dutch and French troops, for instance.

IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME – FROM ANY DIRECTION

Coordinating host nation support is a complex task and requires close regional coordination with the interior authorities of the federal states. This particularly applies to large-scale deployments involving several thousand military personnel and multinational exercises where foreign troops require full-service support. Accurate planning is essential in this respect: The soldiers of allied armed forces usually arrive by plane, while their vehicles, weapon systems and supplies are transported by ship or rail. In the end, however, everything must be in the same place at the same time and in the correct order, so that the troops can continue to move by road without delay.



THE SPECTRUM FROM PEACETIME TO CRISIS TO WAR

It is important to note that host nation support is provided in times of peace, crisis and war. And the transport routes do not only lead into mission areas, but also back from them. The supply lines for reinforcements, weapon systems, ammunition and supplies into the mission area are the same as the return transport routes for injured or wounded personnel as well as damaged materiel. Refugees also move along these routes. In case of an emergency, all allied partners coordinate closely to ensure that they remain jointly effective and that operations can be sustained in the long run. This is also part of host nation support.



NATO'S REINFORCEMENT AND SUSTAINMENT NETWORK

One of Germany's most important obligations to its NATO allies is to support the troops of allied nations staying in or transiting through its territory. If there is a threat to NATO's external borders, it must be possible to deploy up to 800,000 troops of the NATO partners to their respective mission areas across Germany as quickly as possible and within 180 days, together with their weapons, vehicles and supplies. This personnel also needs to be accommodated and supplied with rations. The Reinforcement and Sustainment Network provides a firm foundation for achieving this. It is a network that can be activated at any time, not only in a state of tension or defence. The network serves to reinforce and (follow-up) supply the armed forces of NATO partners during exercises and operations throughout the entire Alliance territory. The network comprises the whole range of host nation support services for the armed forces of friendly nations.



CONTRIBUTION TO NATO – TASK IN THE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR GERMANY

By ensuring a responsive and sustainable Reinforcement and Sustainment Network at home, Germany makes an important contribution to credible deterrence and an effective defence of NATO. Germany's contribution to the RSN is a combination of host nation support services and its role as a central hub. As a task for the government and society as a whole, it is reflected in the Operational Plan for Germany. The OPLAN DEU is a response to the aggravated security situation in Europe and an operationally viable plan that brings together the key military elements of national and collective defence in Germany and the required civilian support services.



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