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Army announcement

*Soldiers and civilian colleagues
of the German Army!*

Today, the Chief of Defence transferred command authority of the German Army to me. I take on this responsibility with great respect and humility for this office – and at the same time with full confidence in the professionalism, passion, and capability of our soldiers.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to my predecessor Lieutenant General Alfons Mais. For more than five years, he has led the German Army with clarity, purpose, and a keen eye for tactical and technological developments, but mostly with a great sense of dedication to all of us serving in the German Army. We will honour his legacy!

Challenging tasks lie ahead of us. We have to keep on improving our readiness. We want to finally fully equip our forces. We also have to increase our personnel. We will form new units and major formations, first and foremost our 45 Armoured Brigade in Lithuania. We will also adapt our training structures to the new model of military service. We will re-establish our army air defence artillery and immediately pick up the pace and expand the development of urgently needed capabilities, for example drone and anti-drone warfare.

All this is happening under immense time pressure, because the global situation does not wait for us to be ready – and neither does our enemy.

Many of the tasks ahead of us will have to be tackled at the same time. At times, we will not have everything available we may want or need to accomplish our mission. More often than not, we will have to rely on radio orders rather than extensive operations orders. Because we have to get things done faster. Making quick progress is more important than finding the perfect solution. In battle, the simplest solutions are the best. We will adapt to the situation as it unfolds. We know, how to do that!

Our level of ambition for tomorrow must go hand in hand with our willingness to engage in battle and to win it today, when duty calls and we need to defend ourselves and our allies – the way we are and with what we have.

In this very spirit, I want to work with you towards building an Army

- that is marked by the unwavering determination to jointly accomplish our mission,
- that wants to get better every day because our work is never finished,
- that will quickly and successfully build up both its active-duty and its reserve forces,
- that pursues innovation as a leadership task across all levels and keeps integrating new technologies,



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- that continuously develops tactics and procedures, that is willing to experiment and learn from its missteps, that takes risks as it goes along – all in pursuit of progress,
- that bestows upon its members a sense of fulfilment, meaning, and growth through challenge,
- that measures the quality of its leadership by mutual trust, exemplary behaviour, authenticity, and unwavering camaraderie,
- in which each and every service member embodies our liberal order through their actions, and
- that is a reliable and esteemed multinational partner.

In short: I want to work towards an Army that is both capable of warfighting and of defeating our enemies. An Army, that contributes to preserving peace and freedom. I cannot ask for more. I cannot ask for less.

Over the coming weeks, I will discuss with you how we can achieve this as we get together in those places that are the beating heart of the Army: the units and formations, the training facilities and schools, our military training areas, and our theatres of operation.

Because it is right in these places that we find what needs to distinguish us: Military excellence, the willingness to fight, and standing up for our free and democratic values.

*I'm very much looking forward to our Cooperation!
Yours. Dr. Christian Freuding*

Dr. Christian Freuding
Lieutenant General