



Fact Sheet, 10 April, 2008

Deployment of the armed forces within the context of the UEFA EURO 2008

The mission of the armed forces

The political mission of the armed forces can be summarised as follows:

- The armed forces are to assist the civilian authorities in preparing and carrying out the UEFA EURO 2008 as part of a subsidiary operation.
- The armed forces will ensure airspace sovereignty, in cooperation with neighbouring states when necessary.

Throughout this civil support service, from 2 to 28 June 2008, the armed forces have been authorised to deploy 15,000 military persons at the most.

Subsidiarity principle

According to Article 58, Paragraph 2 of the Federal Constitution, the armed forces are to help the civilian authorities ward off serious inner security threats and master other exceptional situations. Furthermore, Article 67 of the Swiss Military Act stipulates that troops may carry out operations at the request of civilian authorities

- To ensure airspace sovereignty
- To protect persons and objects of particular importance
- Within the framework of the coordinated medical services
- To cope with catastrophes
- To fulfil other duties of national significance, in as far as these are in the interest of the public and the civilian authorities are no longer capable of fulfilling their tasks in terms of personnel, resources or time.

Political approval of civil affairs support operations of the armed forces

According to Article 70, Paragraph 2 of the Military Act, civil affairs support operations must be submitted to the Federal Assembly (meeting of both houses of parliament) if a force greater than 2,000 is to be deployed or if the operation is to last more than three weeks. The 'dispatch concerning the federal decision on the deployment of armed forces for civil affairs support during the 2008 European Football Championship (UEFA EURO 2008)' was discussed and approved by the Council of States on 18 December 2006 and the National Council on 5 March 2007 (approval in the National Council with 111 votes in favour and 51 against, and in the Council of States with 32 votes in favour and 3 votes withheld).

Operational responsibility, command and control responsibility

As with all subsidiary operations of the armed forces, the deployment responsibility for the UEFA EURO 2008 is in the hands of the civilian authorities, while the armed forces are responsible for command and control. The authorities in charge of the operation are authorised to use the services of the armed forces deployed and to give them assignments.

The armed forces' services

The armed forces' current list of duties has been established through intensive talks between the civilian authorities of the host cities and the armed forces. According to the civil requirements, the armed forces shall provide subsidiary services on behalf of the civilian authorities in the following areas:

- Support duties relating to logistics (e.g. material, vehicles, equipment), transports, coordinated medical services, traffic control measures and management services
- Guard duties (facility protection)
- Engineering support (assembly and dismantling)
- Airspace surveillance and air policing in case of restricted air traffic
- Aerial reconnaissance with helicopters and/or drones
- Air transports
- Reinforcement of the Border Guard with members of the Military Security / single term conscripts
- Support of the police with personnel and equipment for escorts and the protection of persons
- Readiness to offer services in the event of B and/or C incidents
- Readiness to provide assistance in the event of a catastrophe.

Law enforcement operations are specifically not part of the armed forces' mission.

Command structure

The commander of the subsidiary security operations (CSSO) during the EURO 08 is the head of the Armed Forces Joint Staff (AFJS), Maj Gen Peter Stutz. He is in charge of:

- Ground operations (GTF)
- Air operations (ATF).

For the provision of interdisciplinary services the following have been assigned to him:

- The Armed Forces Logistics Organisation (AFLO)
- The Armed Forces Command Organisation (AFCSO)
- Military Security (Mil Sec)
- The NBC Competence Centre (NBC CC)
- The instruments and personnel of the Land Forces service for assembly and dismantling work.

Ground Operations, to which the majority of troops used shall be assigned, will be led by Maj Gen Eugen Hofmeister (Commander of Territorial Region 2). Air Operations are to be led by Maj Gen Markus Gyax (Chief of Operations and Deputy Commander Swiss Air Force).

The cantonal territorial liaison staffs (KTVS) are the direct on-site contact partners for the host cities. The deployed forces will principally be assigned to the cantons and cities for collaboration.

Cooperation with the civilian authorities

Up to now, collaboration between the military and the civilian authorities has been exemplary.

Numerous military deployments

The armed forces will be providing engineer support for assembly and dismantling work with about 1,000 servicemen before and after the UEFA EURO 08. According to the current state of planning (April 2008), some 1,000 soldiers will be deployed to assist the host cities during the games. In the 16 to 22 June 08 period, a maximum of 13,000 soldiers will be on duty. The reason for this is the standard 3-week duration of refresher courses for most of the troops involved; replacements will take place in calendar week 25.

Rules of behaviour

In close cooperation with the host cities, specific rules of behaviour were elaborated and approved by the cantonal governments involved for the EURO 08 mission – as for any subsidiary operation. The rules of behaviour and the classified rules of engagement are printed on pocket cards. There are three different types of pocket cards:

- Rules of engagement for unarmed operations
- Rules of engagement for armed operations (weapons only to be used for self-defence or extended self-defence)
- Rules of engagement for armed operations (use of weapons possible for mission accomplishment).

During mission-specific training (EBA), all military personnel will be trained for their specific activities. Application of the rules of behaviour and rules of engagement forms an essential component of this preparatory training.

Whether civil objects are to be guarded, and to what degree, is basically to be decided by the civil client. For objects or infrastructure used by the military, this decision lies with the military commanders in charge. The concrete execution of the assignment will be determined on site and within the parameters of the Rules of Engagement.

Preparation

While the armed forces' deployment at the UEFA EURO 2008 is the largest, it is not the only deployment to be conducted at that time. Other simultaneous assistance service deployments will continue unaltered, such as 'AMBA CENTRO' (protection of diplomatic representatives), 'LITHOS' (support of the Border Guard Corps in securing the national borders), 'TIGER' & 'FOX' (aviation safety), etc.

Because other requirements, such as the provision of assistance in catastrophes caused by storms, floods, etc., and technical catastrophes or changes to the security situation are conceivable at any time, the armed forces will keep additional means available to support the civilian authorities.

What's next?

In the coming days, detailed discussions will be conducted between the host cities and the assigned troop regarding the services to be provided. The first armed forces personnel have begun construction assignments in recent days, though the majority of troops will be deployed at the beginning of June.

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