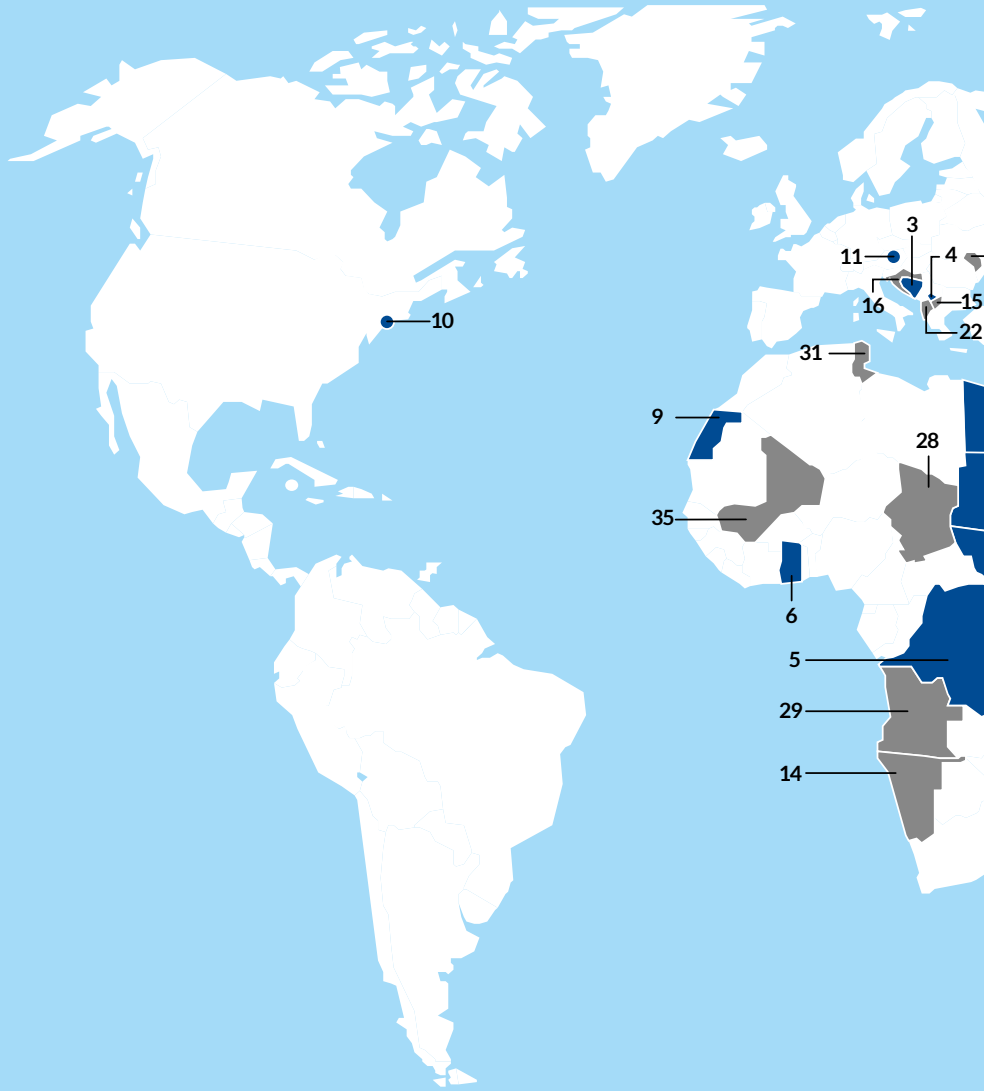


# SWISS ARMED FORCES INTERNATIONAL COMMAND SWISSINT

Peacekeeping – a mission of the armed forces

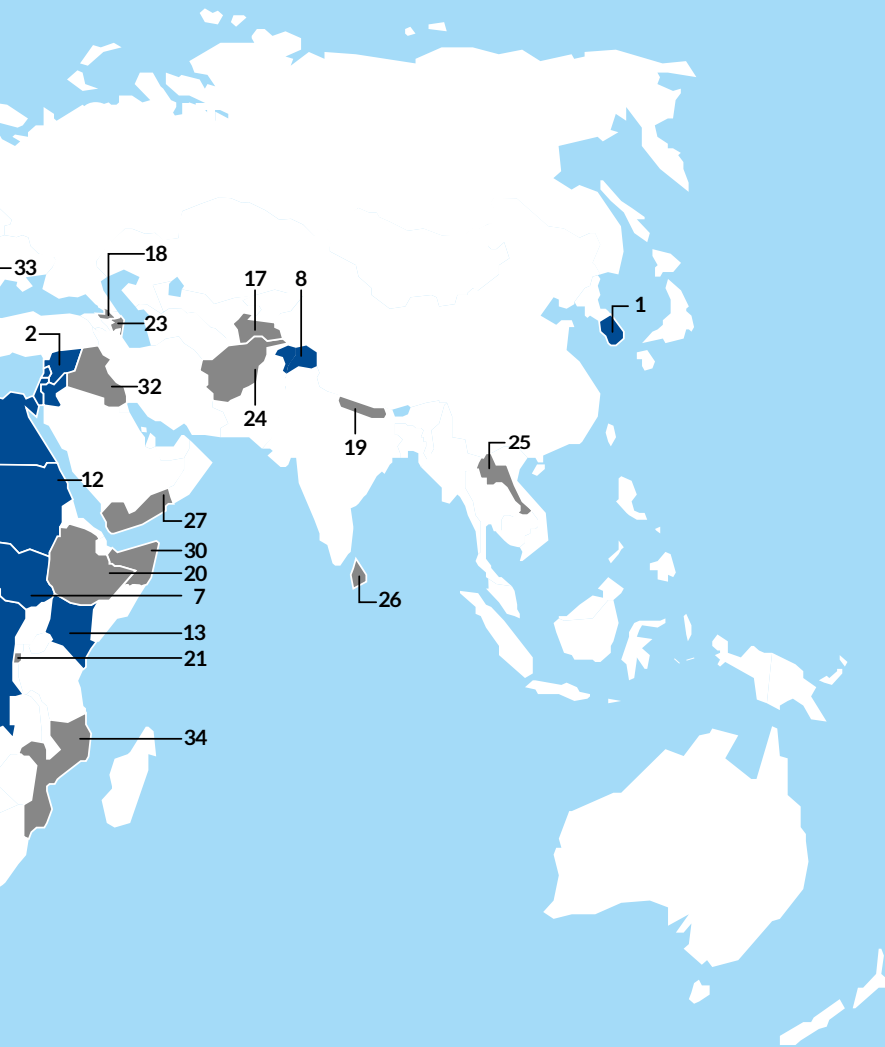


 **THE SWISS  
ARMED FORCES**



## CURRENT MISSIONS

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>1</b> South Korea   | <b>7</b> South Sudan    |
| <b>2</b> Middle East:<br>Israel, Syria, Lebanon,<br>Jordan and Egypt | <b>8</b> Kashmir        |
| <b>3</b> Bosnia and Herzegovina                                      | <b>9</b> Western Sahara |
| <b>4</b> Kosovo  | <b>10</b> New York      |
| <b>5</b> DR Congo  | <b>11</b> Vienna        |
| <b>6</b> Ghana   | <b>12</b> Sudan         |
|  | <b>13</b> Kenya         |



## COMPLETED MISSIONS

- |                     |                |                        |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 14 Namibia          | 22 Albania     | 30 Somaliland/Puntland |
| 15 North Macedonia  | 23 Azerbaijan  | 31 Tunisia             |
| 16 Croatia          | 24 Afghanistan | 32 Iraq                |
| 17 Tajikistan       | 25 Laos        | 33 Moldova             |
| 18 Georgia          | 26 Sri Lanka   | 34 Mozambique          |
| 19 Nepal            | 27 Yemen       | 35 Mali                |
| 20 Ethiopia/Eritrea | 28 Chad        |                        |
| 21 Burundi          | 29 Angola      |                        |

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# PREFACE



International peacekeeping is one of the three mandates of the Swiss Armed Forces. As the national operations command centre, the Swiss Armed Forces International Command (SWISSINT) is responsible for implementing the Armed Forces' peacekeeping mandate. The staff at SWISSINT ensure that the approximately 300 volunteer soldiers are highly trained and equipped for their deployments so that they can carry out their tasks in the various peacekeeping missions.

In this regard, SWISSINT can rely on the valuable expertise of partners within the Armed Forces and the Federal Administration, as well as of other national and international partners.

Deployments on peacekeeping missions strengthen Switzerland's defence capabilities, while also contributing to its security policy objectives: experience gained from multinational operations increases interoperability, improves leadership and technical skills, and feeds directly into the further development of the Armed Forces. This results in a clear return on investment, for example in the form of expertise and increased operational readiness, but also in terms of valuable experience in relation to materiel and logistics.

Peacekeeping operations offer many interesting opportunities for deployment in a variety of missions and roles. You can find out more in this brochure or on our website [www.peacekeeping.ch](http://www.peacekeeping.ch).

Colonel GS Christoph Fehr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Fehr', written over a stylized graphic element that resembles a triangle or a signature flourish.

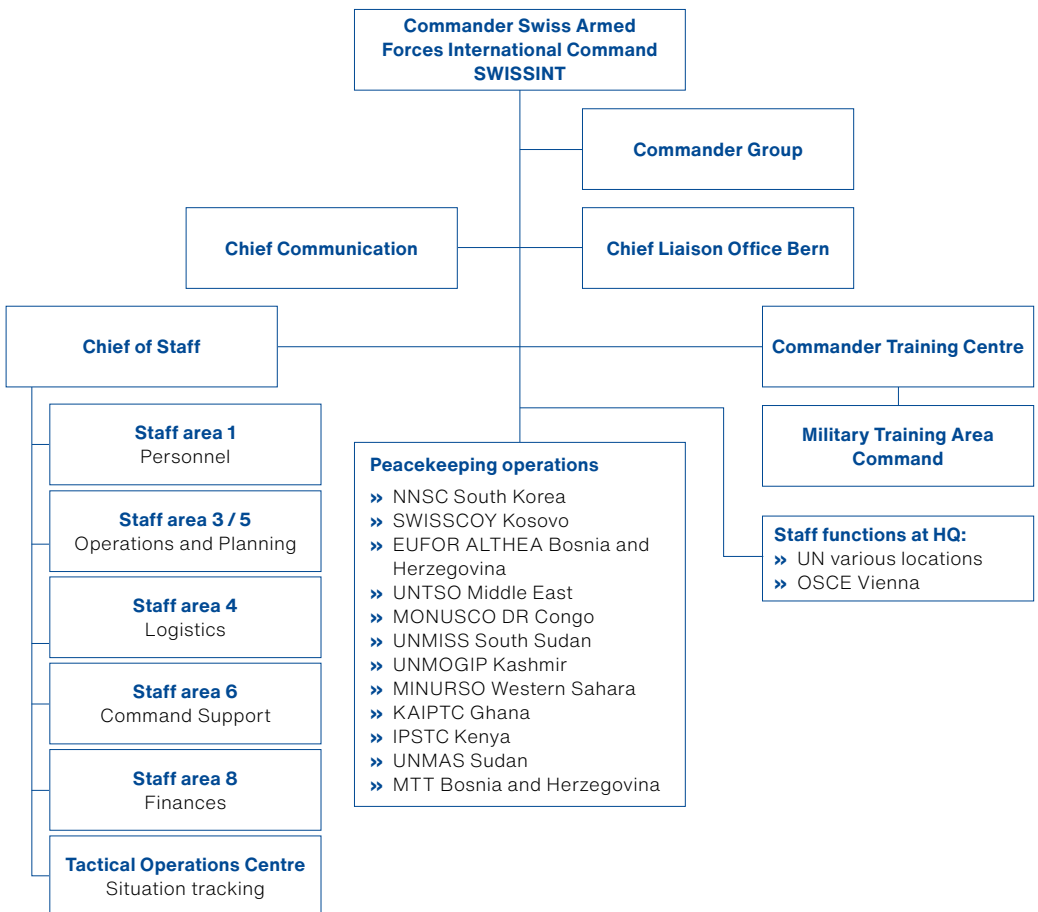
Commander Swiss Armed Forces International  
Command SWISSINT



A Swiss Military Observer in Kashmir.

# SWISS ARMED FORCES INTERNATIONAL COMMAND SWISSINT

SWISSINT is the national operations command and control centre for military contingents and individuals deployed by the armed forces on peacekeeping missions. SWISSINT is directly subordinate to the Chief of the Armed Forces Operations Command. Its wide range of tasks is explained in detail on the following pages.



# COMMUNICATIONS AND PERSONNEL MARKETING

## **Communication**

SWISSINT Communications is responsible for all communication aspects of the Swiss Armed Forces' peacekeeping missions. It ensures consistent, coordinated and transparent communication both internally and externally. To this end, it coordinates communication activities with partners within the Federal Administration and with international organisations and missions. As the point of contact for journalists, it provides information on peacekeeping, coordinates media enquiries and arranges journalist visits in Switzerland and in the mission areas. Through its own communication channels, it offers the public a transparent and authentic insight into peacekeeping missions. SWISSINT Communications is also responsible for the editorial management of the interdepartmental magazine 'Swiss Peace Supporter', thereby contributing to the objective perspective of missions and their security policy context. In addition, SWISSINT Communications provides all mission personnel with training in media awareness, preparing them for dealing with the media and the public in a professional manner.

## **Personnel marketing team**

Participation in the Swiss Armed Forces' peacekeeping missions is voluntary. Part of SWISSINT's communication activities therefore include personnel marketing. As a public relations instrument, it supports the recruitment of suitable deployment personnel, raises the profile of the Swiss Armed Forces' peacekeeping engagement and contributes to a positive perception of the Swiss Armed Forces as a whole. The personnel marketing team is present in all regions of Switzerland and informs interested individuals about the wide range of deployment opportunities and prospects in peacekeeping. It appears at major public fairs, civilian and military events and in cities as well as at universities and universities of applied sciences. The team is supported by competent, deployment-experienced women and men who share first-hand insights from their experiences in missions around the world.

You can find application forms and information on SWISSINT's peacekeeping missions on the website [www.peacekeeping.ch](http://www.peacekeeping.ch).



Media visit to UNTSO in Israel.



Experienced personnel provide information at public events about opportunities to take part in peacekeeping missions.

# STAFF AREAS / TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTRE

## **Staff area 1 Personnel**

Staff area 1 provides comprehensive support to deployment personnel, from recruitment and contract processing to case management, career planning and re-deployment support. Each year, more than 500 candidates are invited to a personal interview in order to continuously fill and systematically rotate approximately 300 positions across the various missions. Taking into account those who extend their service, Functional Area 1 issues around 1,000 training and deployment contracts per year. Up to one fifth of peacekeepers choose to volunteer for a further mission after their initial deployment, in some cases even after a long break. To fill key positions in a targeted manner, a multi-year career path planning approach is pursued whenever needed and feasible.

## **Staff area 3/5 Operations and Planning**

Staff area 3/5 is responsible for interdisciplinary coordination and maintains constant exchange with the other functional areas as well as with national and international partners and missions. The aim is to ensure that ongoing operations run smoothly, to continually improve them and to plan new missions. In addition, various project teams work in specialised fields to support the different missions. Operations and Planning thus acts as a steering and control body for the implementation of all requirements.

Multilingual staff with many years of deployment experience ensure mission accomplishment as well as the safety and well-being of the volunteer women and men in the mission areas. The safety situation for members of the Swiss Armed Forces is continuously assessed in close cooperation with the intelligence officer, where necessary, required measures are defined and managed.

## **Staff area 4 Logistics**

The largest peacekeeping operation by the Swiss Armed Forces is SWISSCOY in Kosovo. SWISSINT deploys up to 215 members of our Armed Forces and maintain around 580 containers (260 of which have been converted to be used as infrastructure in operations), and over 180 vehicles in Kosovo. The staff operates a maintenance workshop in order to ensure operational readiness 365 days a year – now for over 25 years without interruption. Worldwide, logistics is responsible for more than 25 infrastructures (including leased properties). Goods (more than 600 tonnes per year) and passengers (more than 2200 seat bookings per year) are transported to and

from all mission areas by air, land and sea. From Korea to New York, the supply of all materials and mission-related equipment is guaranteed.

### **Staff area 6 Command Support**

Staff area 6 bears overall responsibility for command support in Switzerland and abroad in relation to the Armed Forces' peacekeeping mandate. This includes ensuring the provision of a high-performance, secure and modern information and communication infrastructure, managing information and communications and adapting continuously to technological progress. In addition to providing the required technology, Functional Area 6 conducts training courses to ensure that users have the required skills. It serves as the central point of contact for data and information protection and is responsible for implementing preventive measures. As part of the ongoing development of the Swiss Armed Forces and the peacekeeping service, Functional Area 6 is also actively involved in the definition and implementation of innovation projects. In doing so, it pursues the strategic objective of actively shaping technological change, identifying relevant trends at an early stage and integrating new technologies into existing structures.

### **Staff area 8 Finances**

The budgeting, supervision and control of funding for peacekeeping amounting to around CHF 65 millions is the responsibility of the finance sector. It entails managing the accounts (financial accounting, accounts payable/receivable), with a total of around 5000 invoices. The finance sector is also the training and auditing agency for three individually-managed accounting entities in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Korea.

### **Tactical Operations Centre**

The Tactical Operations Centre (TOC) ensures continuous monitoring of the situation in the peacekeeping mission areas and is responsible for maintaining a common operating picture among all involved entities. The information required for the operational picture is obtained, assessed, processed and triaged within the TOC by the intelligence officers and operations management specialists. The TOC thus serves as the primary source of information, point of contact and coordination hub, both internally and externally. It keeps real-time awareness of the deployment locations of all Swiss Armed Forces personnel and remains fully apprised of the security situation in the mission areas.



As part of the United Nations Triangular Partnership Project (UN TPP), Swiss Armed Forces personnel are engaged in improving engineering capabilities for UN missions in Africa.

# PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS ABROAD

The Swiss Armed Forces are actively engaged in peacekeeping. Some 300 Swiss soldiers currently serve in various capacities around the world. Swiss peacekeeping began in 1953, when the Federal Council sent 146 armed military persons to Korea. Today, five officers are still serving in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission – NNSC in Panmunjom on the inner-Korean military demarcation line.

## **Military observers and staff officers**

Since 1990, Swiss military observers have been deployed in various regions on behalf of the UN. One of the tasks they perform in international teams is to observe and report on incidents that violate the mission's mandate. They also patrol the area where operations are carried out in order to monitor sensitive regions and obtain information from the local population relevant for assessing the security situation. Under the mandate, they may also conduct meetings with the authorities and local armed forces or inspect their troops, weapons and ammunition in order to gain a comprehensive overview of the situation on the ground. Swiss military personnel also participate in various missions as staff officers, performing challenging tasks related to situation assessment, operations, logistics and planning. Swiss military observers and staff officers are deployed in the Middle East, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Kashmir and the Western Sahara.

## **Missions in the Balkans**

SWISSCOY's mission in Kosovo is the largest of the Swiss Armed Forces' peacekeeping missions to date. Since 1999, up to 215 soldiers have been deployed per contingent in support of NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR). These men and women support the KFOR in its mission to ensure a safe and secure environment and to maintain freedom of movement for everyone in Kosovo. SWISSCOY soldiers have a wide range of tasks and functions, including working in liaison and monitoring teams, in the engineer branch or as staff officers in the regional commands or at KFOR HQ. SWISSCOY also provides healthcare services, logistics support for road and air transport as well as support for the military police.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina up to 20 members of the Swiss Armed Forces have been supporting the EUFOR ALTHEA mission in liaison and observation teams since 2004. They are stationed at well-known or potential hot spots and work in close collaboration with the local population, local authorities and international organisations working in the same region. The teams gather and pass on information to EUFOR ALTHEA headquarters for the purpose of assessing the nationwide security situation and compiling threat assessments.

### **Mine action**

The Swiss Armed Forces are also engaged in mine action operations. They deploy specialists around the world on behalf of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), providing expertise in various UN missions, for example in the fields of logistics and information database management. Their tasks include managing and maintaining the equipment of the international demining teams, evaluating data, analysing demined areas and preparing mine maps.

### **Capacity building**

The Swiss Armed Forces contribute personnel and financial resources to a wide range of capacity-building activities, which have become a central element of international peace support. Security, stability and the rule of law are promoted through training, providing advice and exchange of expertise.

Capacity building includes security sector reform (SSR) as well as disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR). SSR aims to support local security actors such as the military, police and judiciary, helping them to act efficiently, in line with the rule of law and in the service of the population. DDR focuses on disarming, demobilising and sustainably reintegrating members of non-state armed groups into society.

Swiss officers are also deployed at the Kofi Annan International Peace Support Training Centre (KAIPSTC) in Ghana and the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Kenya, where military, police and civilian personnel are trained for international peace support operations.

Capacity building includes the United Nations Triangular Partnership Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (UN-TPP-ARDEC). It trains engineering units from African states for deployment on peacekeeping missions, where they carry out horizontal engineering tasks such as building camps, roads and airfields.

As an element of capacity building, the safe handling of weapons and ammunition and their storage (Physical Security and Stockpile Management, PSSM) is becoming increasingly important. The aim is to ensure professional planning and execution, as well as the correct handling and secure storage of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Since 2011, for example, the Swiss Armed Forces have deployed small arms and ammunition experts to Bosnia and Herzegovina. This has enabled the local armed forces to significantly reduce their weapons and ammunition stocks, and to safely store and manage the remaining stocks.

#### **Postings at UN and OSCE headquarters**

Swiss officers currently work at the UN headquarters in New York and at the UN office in Geneva as well as at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, where they provide Swiss expertise in the field of peacekeeping.



Since the Swiss Armed Forces became involved in peacekeeping, more than 15 000 military personnel, including 1300 women, have been deployed on peacekeeping.





As a certified independent training centre, SWISSINT TC uses its own instructors to train medical personnel and emergency services in the Tactical Combat Casualty Care course in the care of the wounded under extreme conditions.

# TRAINING CENTRE SWISSINT

The main task of the Training Centre is to provide mission-specific training for the two Swiss contingents in KFOR in Kosovo and EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as for individual personnel deployed primarily in UN and OSCE missions.

The courses teach practical skills in fields such as advanced self-help and comrade assistance, weapon handling, conflict understanding, intercultural communication, dealing with stress and needs-based risk mitigation. The aim is to produce capable and responsible experts who can work effectively in multinational missions.

In addition, courses are held in tactical combat casualty care (TCCC), specific security training for military and civilian partners from the Federal Administration, international organisations, governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as basic peacekeeping training for future professional soldiers in the Swiss Armed Forces. The course content is continuously reviewed, with the UN certifying its own training courses.

Furthermore, the Training Centre runs Host Nation Support courses several times a year for units of the Swiss Armed Forces and the UN, as well as for the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, creating ideal conditions for these partner organisations.

Cooperation is a key to success. That is why the Training Centre works closely with partners in Switzerland and abroad and is involved in several international training networks. It is a member of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres and the European Association for Peace Operations Training Centres, and as a NATO partner nation, it is part of the Partnership Training and Education Centre network. Particularly noteworthy is its active participation in the Framework 4-PCE (Fo(u)r Peace Central Europe) with Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. This format enables the joint development of teaching content, mutual benchmarking, course recognition and the exchange of specialist staff.

Current course outlines can be found on:

[www.armee.ch/peacekeeping](http://www.armee.ch/peacekeeping).



The command building of SWISSINT in Stans-Oberdorf.



Interior view of the course building.



# PARTNERS

To ensure that SWISSINT is able to implement the armed forces' peace-keeping mission at a tactical level, it relies on cooperation with a variety of agencies within and outside the armed forces:

## **Partners within the DDPS and the armed forces**

The State Secretariat for Security Policy and the organisational unit International Relations Defence in the Armed Forces Staff provide the political or military-strategic assessments for any new deployment of the Swiss Armed Forces. The Operations Command Staff then carries out an operational assessment of the deployment. As part of the Armed Forces Operations Command, SWISSINT assesses military feasibility, including issues such as recruitment sustainability. This is done after the UN, the OSCE, the NATO or the EU has asked the Federal Council whether Switzerland is able to participate in a peacekeeping mission.

The implementation of a peacekeeping missions is only possible if all organisational units of Group V work together. Within the Armed Forces Operations Command, the Air Force, the Land Forces and the military police all contribute to the operations. Specialists from the Armed Forces Cyber Command, the Armed Forces Logistics Organisation and the Training and Education Command – currently with a significant contribution from the Engineer/Rescue/NBC training units and the NBC EOD Centre of Competence – guarantee that the international obligations are met. The Armed Forces Staff, the Training and Education Command and the Armed Forces Operations Command, provide military and civilian professionals for key positions. More than 90% of the soldiers, NCOs and officers are conscripts who have been recruited on the open labour market.

## **Partners within the Confederation**

Cooperation is institutionalised with all federal departments that are operationally involved in peacekeeping, safeguarding human rights and humanitarian aid. These are the FDFA (foreign affairs), the FDJP (justice and police) and the FDF (finance). Collaboration is particularly close with the FDFA, especially in the deployment locations. It assesses the foreign policy situation in the deployment locations and establishes contact with the relevant diplomatic missions and cooperation offices.



People with expertise in various areas are in demand at SWISSCOY.

### **National partners**

With regard to training, SWISSINT also collaborates with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), and swisspeace and the Geneva Graduate Institute.

### **International partners**

All peacekeeping missions carried out by the Swiss Armed Forces are based on United Nations or OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) mandates. As NATO and the European Union have also been entrusted with implementing UN mandates recently, they have also become important partners, particularly when it comes to deciding what peacekeeping activities are required. Depending on the mission, Switzerland collaborates with other armed forces – in the past, primarily those from Austria, Germany and the Netherlands. Switzerland also cooperates with these three nations in the area of mission-specific training.



A Swiss officer in discussion with international colleagues at the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Kenya.

# WORKING AS A PEACEKEEPER

Interested woman and men can apply to SWISSINT for a deployment abroad with the Swiss Armed Forces. Specialists from a wide range of professional fields are sought. Detailed information on the vacant positions and all relevant application documents can be found at: [www.peacekeeping.ch](http://www.peacekeeping.ch).

If the basic requirements listed below are met and the complete application documents have been received by the HR department, Functional Area 1 Personnel, the specific selection process begins.

## Basic requirements

Requirements vary depending on the mission and the job to be done.

However, the basic requirements are:

- Swiss citizenship
- Completed vocational training or a university degree
- Basic military training
- For women, deployment in certain roles within SWISSCOY and EUFOR ALTHEA is also possible without basic military training.

## Recruitment process

The first recruitment day takes place at one of the Armed Forces' regional recruitment centres. In addition to a medical examination, and depending on the position applied for, foreign language skills, German language skills and driving ability are tested.

After successfully completing the first recruitment day, candidates are invited to SWISSINT in Oberdorf near Stans. During this second recruitment day, or assessment, applicants receive detailed information on deployment opportunities and the terms of employment. If a specific position has already been identified as the preferred option, salary details can also be provided. An interdisciplinary selection committee assesses the personal, professional and medical suitability for an peacekeeping deployment.

Following a positive decision, candidates are instructed to attend the relevant multi-week training course or the Swiss United Nations Military Observer Course (SUNMOC) at SWISSINT.



Five Swiss officers are on a peacekeeping mission in South Korea.



# SWISS ARMED FORCES INTER-NATIONAL COMMAND SWISSINT: VIEWPOINT OF THE CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND

Peacekeeping is one of the three constitutional missions of our Armed Forces. Since 1953, we have carried out this mission not only on our own territory through our defence and deterrence capabilities, but also every day through our men and women in uniform who are deployed in peacekeeping operations or working for international organisations around the world.

Wars with global implications, such as those in Ukraine and Israel, or those feared in the China Sea, tend to monopolise media and political attention. But more than a hundred other conflicts are simmering around the globe today, many of them escalating in intensity, fuelled by the return of power politics. In the Sahel, for example, France's withdrawal in 2023 following the coups in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso will encourage terrorist groups to take root and other players to become increasingly involved. This brings with it a real risk of long-term destabilisation of already failing states and major migratory consequences for Europe. In Kashmir, too, the pressure on minorities is causing ever-increasing tensions in a region where a border conflict is being played out between the nuclear powers of India, Pakistan and China. These are just two examples of regions where Swiss military personnel are involved. The security situation is deteriorating worldwide. This is evidenced by the increasing number of protection and evacuation operations carried out by the Swiss Armed Forces.

These tensions require constant attention, and our military peacekeepers are actively working to address them. Their efforts, although remote, to minimise the consequences of conflict not only benefit the local population and Switzerland's security, but also directly contribute to the development of our forces: they help us to improve expertise and processes, and to introduce and test new systems, making our defence capabilities stronger and more interoperable.

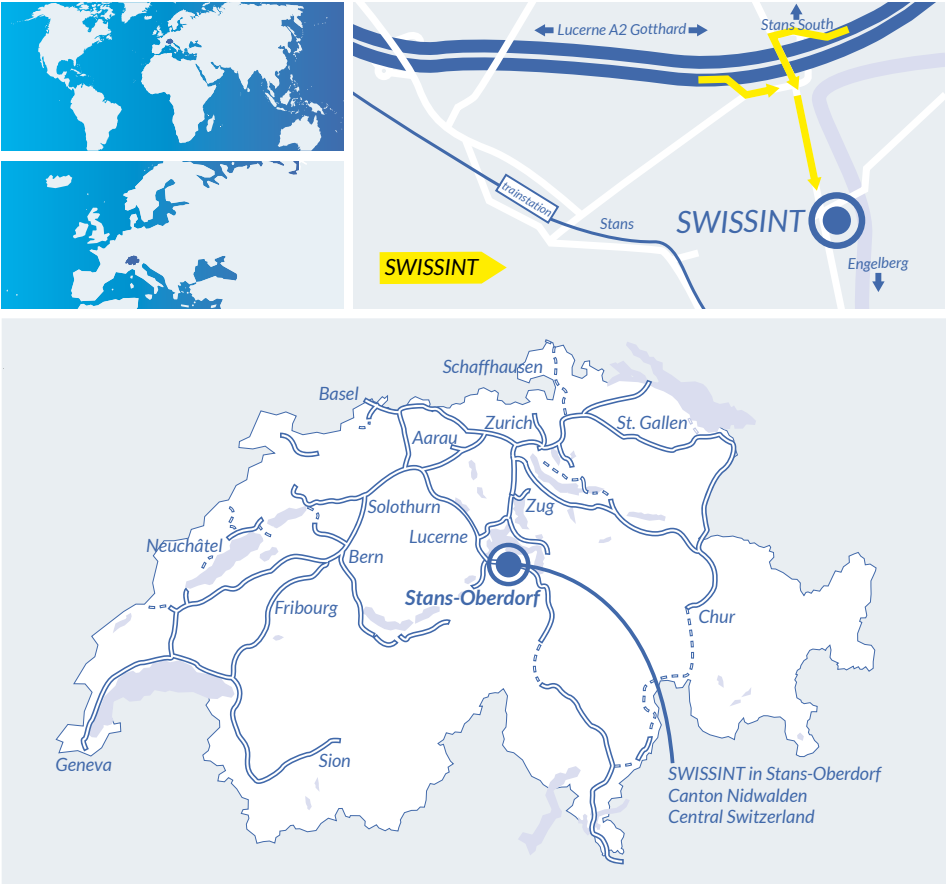
This success is first and foremost the result of the joint commitment of volunteer soldiers, SWISSINT personnel and soldiers and civilians from other units of the Armed Forces. Thanks to them – and perhaps to you – the Swiss Armed Forces have been fulfilling their mission in the service of peace for seven decades and have established themselves as an impartial, reliable and skilled partner, whatever the environment, context or mission.

Lieutenant General Michaud  
Chief of Joint Operations Command





# HOW TO FIND SWISS ARMED FORCES INTERNATIONAL COMMAND SWISSINT



Drive to Stans-Oberdorf via the A2, E35 motorway.  
After leaving the motorway, at the 'Stans Süd' (south) exit, please follow the yellow SWISSINT signs.

# CONTACT

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Command SWISSINT**

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[www.peacekeeping.ch](http://www.peacekeeping.ch)



Peacekeeping – our mission