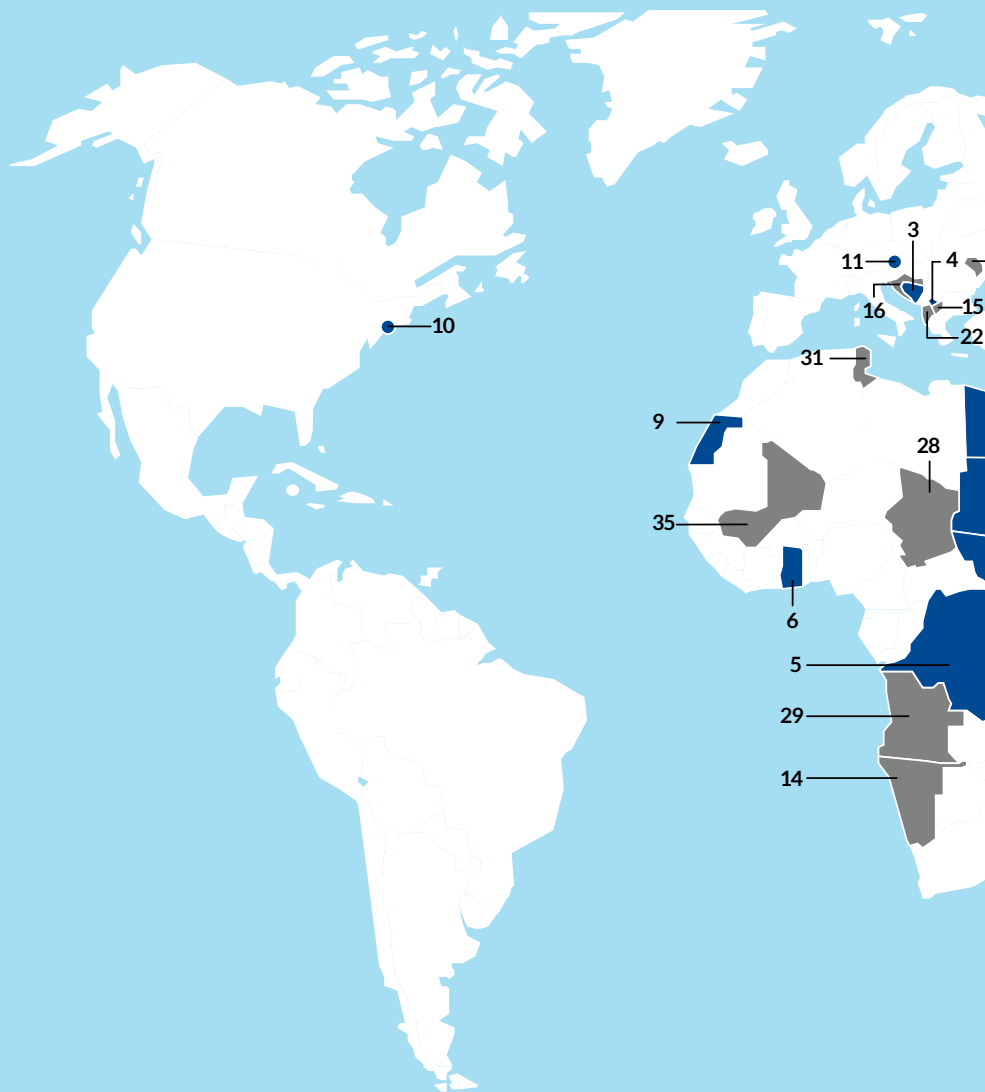


SWISS ARMED FORCES INTERNATIONAL COMMAND SWISSINT

Peacekeeping – a mission of the armed forces

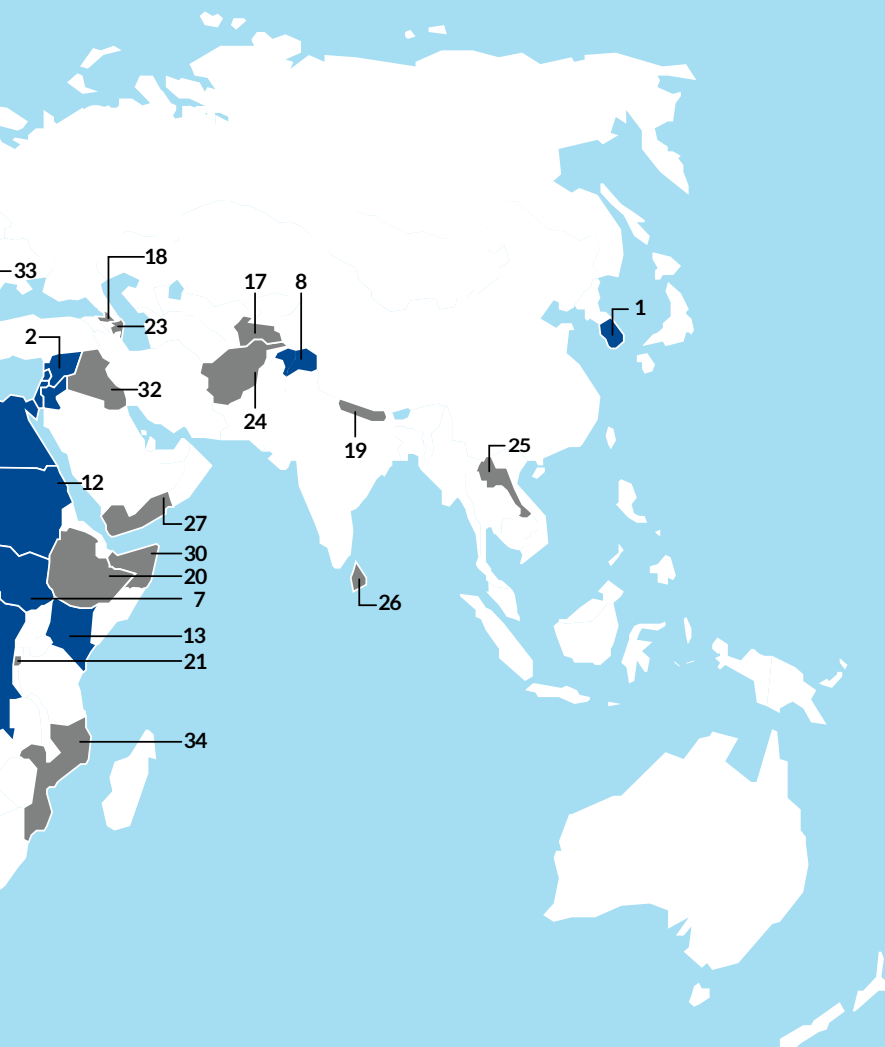


**THE SWISS
ARMED FORCES**



CURRENT MISSIONS

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



Peacekeeping in an international context is one of the three missions of the Swiss Armed Forces and as such enshrined in the Federal Constitution and the Military Act. The Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT is responsible for carrying out the Armed Forces' peacekeeping mission at the operational level.

This includes recruitment, mission-related training, logistics, command support, personnel, finances, the operational planning and command of missions, and public relations. The SWISSINT staff ensures that the approximately 300 volunteer soldiers are appropriately trained and equipped for their missions all over the world.

In its wide range of tasks, SWISSINT can count on the expertise of its partners within the Armed Forces and the Federal Administration, and other partners in Switzerland and abroad.

Military peacekeeping offers many interesting opportunities for deployment in different missions and positions. You can find out more in this brochure or on our website at 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 stylized letter 'A'.

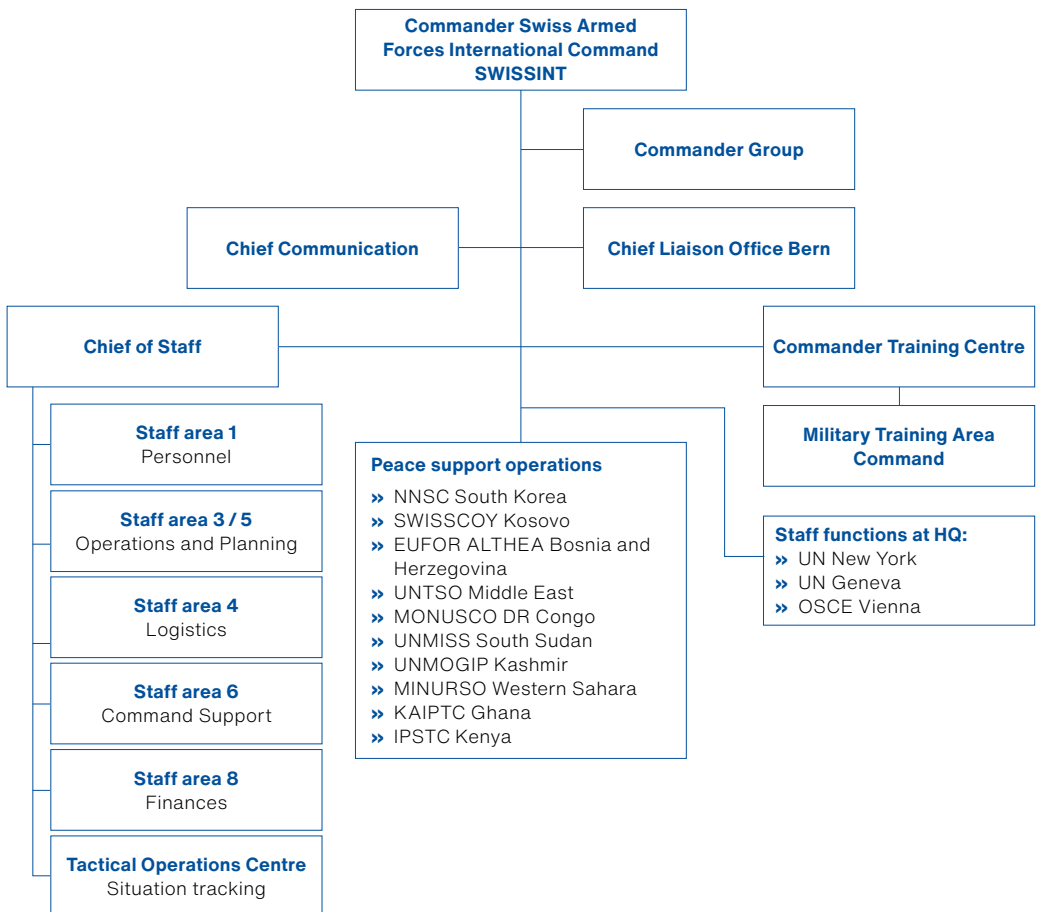
Commander Swiss Armed Forces International
Command SWISSINT



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

Communications

The communications team is the point of contact for media representatives and is responsible for providing information about peacekeeping missions abroad, coordinating and preparing visits by journalists in Switzerland and to the deployment locations, and drawing up press releases on current topics. It also trains all deployed personnel in media awareness and gives presentations about military peace support and deployment options. It maintains a number of its own communication channels, including websites and social media, and manages a media and advertising planning schedule to support sustainable staff recruitment. SWISSINT Communications is also the editorial director of the Swiss Peace Supporter magazine.

Personnel marketing

Participation in peacekeeping operations of the Swiss Armed Forces is voluntary. One of SWISSINT's key tasks is therefore to recruit a sufficient number of persons who are able to meet the demanding requirements. SWISSINT Communications includes a personnel marketing team, which travels around Switzerland giving presentations on peacekeeping at public events, at major exhibitions, at virtual information events, at various events in towns, cities, universities and colleges as well as at numerous recruit and cadre school open days and other military events. The events aim to attract suitable candidates for missions by explaining the wide range of opportunities available in peacekeeping. The personnel marketing team is supported by competent men and women who share their experiences from serving in various missions around the world.

The purpose of SWISSINT's public presence is not only to recruit personnel, but also to raise public awareness for the Swiss Armed Forces' third mandate, namely international peacekeeping.

You can find application forms and information on SWISSINT's peacekeeping missions on the website www.peacekeeping.ch.



Media visit to the SWISSCOY in Kosovo.



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

STAFF AREAS / TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTRE

The five staff areas fulfil the following tasks:

Staff area 1 Personnel

The human resources section is in charge of all efforts involved in recruiting and employing personnel. Each year, it invites around 500 candidates to a personal interview in order to permanently staff or replace about 300 posts within the various missions. Taking account of those who extend their period of service within the contingent, around 1000 training and deployment contracts are issued each year. Up to a fifth of those employed commit themselves to a further mission, some even after a longer interval. The human resources section seeks to fill key positions through multi-year career planning, if possible and as required.

Staff area 3/5 Operations and Planning

Basic operational area 3/5 is responsible for all cross-divisional coordination and is in constant communication with the other basic operational areas, partners in Switzerland and abroad and missions in order to ensure that current operations run smoothly, to develop them further and to plan new missions. Basic operational area 3/5 acts as a steering and control body for the implementation of all requirements.

Staff area 4 Logistics

The largest peacekeeping operation by the Swiss Armed Forces is SWISSCOY in Kosovo. We deploy 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. Our staff operate 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 2 200 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 is responsible for all command support to the Swiss Armed Forces at home and abroad in their peacekeeping operations. This includes ensuring that deployed personnel, SWISSINT and our partners have ready access to functional and state-of-the-art ICT. It also provides targeted training, is the point of contact for cyber issues and is responsible for implementing the necessary preventive measures in this area. Other areas of expertise include the maintenance, development and integration of systems, and the design and implementation of innovative projects in support of deployment and peace support. We recognise that digital technologies are constantly evolving, and therefore aim to ensure that our systems are kept up to date.

Staff area 8 Finances

The budgeting, supervision and control of funding for peacekeeping amounting to around CHF 62 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) continuously monitors the situation in military peace support operations, and ensures that all units involved receive the same information. The intelligence officers and operations specialists in the TOC collect, assess, process and categorise the information needed to produce operational pictures. Both internally and externally, the TOC is the first point of contact for information, coordination and support. The TOC monitors the location of Swiss peacekeepers and the security situation in the areas of operation at all times.



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 military 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 and explosive ordnance disposal team.

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. As part of the mission, a mobile training team of up to six Swiss small arms and ammunition specialists are training the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of ammunition and weapons management.

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

Swiss officers are stationed at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana and the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Kenya. They work as course instructors, training members of international armed forces, police officers and civilians in peace support.

Since 2016, the Swiss Armed Forces have been involved in the UN Triangular Partnership Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (UN TPP ARDEC), which trains African military engineering units in engineering work for camp, road and air base construction as a part of peacekeeping missions. Every year, professional NCOs from the Engineer/Rescue/NBC Training Unit provide «Training for Trainers Courses» and advanced training courses for construction machine operators in several African countries.

Postings at UN and OSCE headquarters

Swiss officers also 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 military peace support.



Since the Swiss Armed Forces became involved in peacekeeping, more than 14 600 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.

THE TRAINING CENTRE SWISSINT

The Training Centre SWISSINT is responsible for the pre-deployment training of all members of the Swiss Armed Forces on voluntary peacekeeping missions abroad.

Twice a year, the Training Centre conducts pre-deployment training for the Swiss contingents of the KFOR and EUFOR ALTHEA missions in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Depending on the role and responsibilities, this training can take up to three months. In addition to these two courses, the Swiss United Nations Military Observer Course (SUNMOC) and the Swiss United Nations Staff Officer Course (SUNSOC), both certified by the UNDP, prepare prospective UN military observers and staff officers from all over the world for their demanding tasks.

The Training Centre SWISSINT also offers courses in tactical combat casualty care, basic and advanced peace support operations in Switzerland and abroad, and security training for civilian partners of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations. In addition, the Centre provides host nation support in the form of courses and seminars several times a year to organisational units of the Swiss Armed Forces, the UN (on the basis of a framework agreement) and the Geneva Centres (GCSP and GICHD).

To ensure focused and effective training, the Training Centre is staffed by multi-lingual professional and conscript personnel with operational experience, supported in some cases by external experts. Training content is continually reviewed and adapted to the changing operational environment.

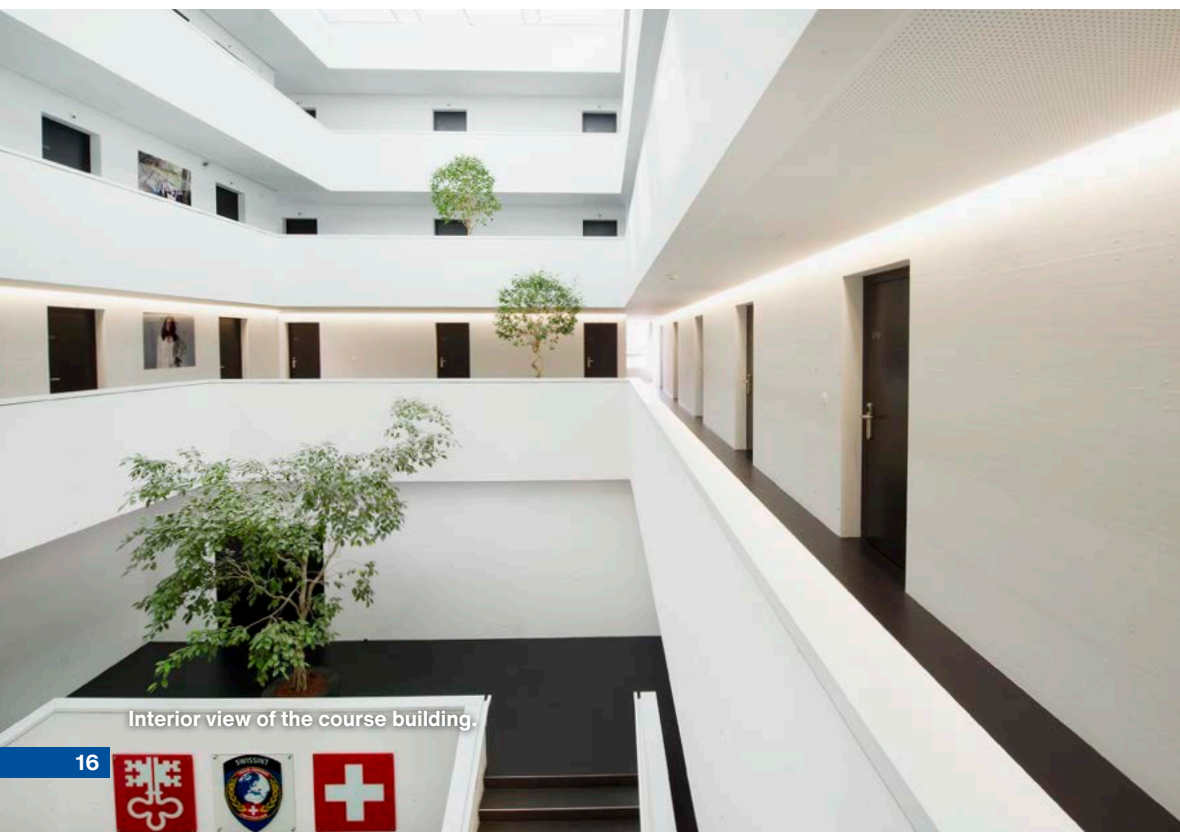
SWISSINT is also an accredited NATO Partnership Training and Education Centre (under the Partnership for Peace Programme) and a member of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC). Together with the Netherlands, Germany and Austria, the Training Centre SWISSINT also founded the 4-PCE (Fo(u)r Peace Central Europe) initiative, a partnership of four training centres that consult each other on training content and conduct a joint military observer exercise in the tri-border region around Lake Constance every year.

Current course outlines can be found on:

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:

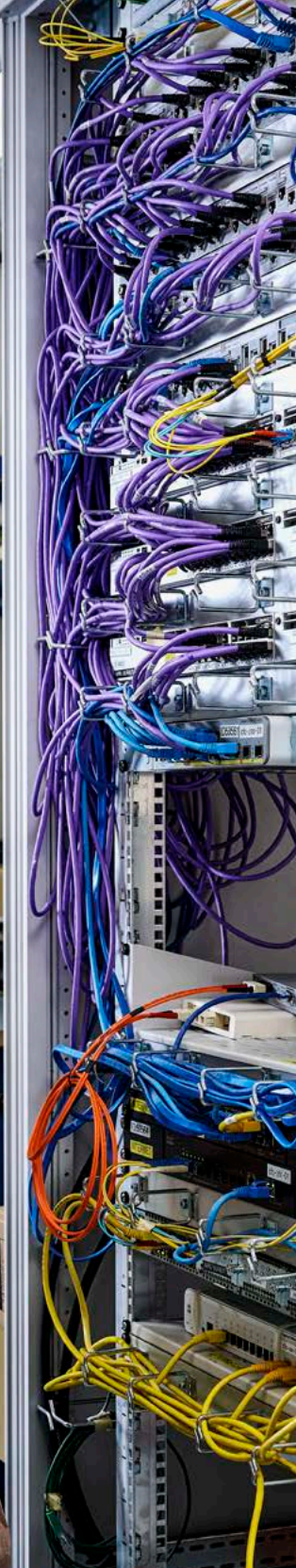
Partners within the DDPS and the armed forces

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.



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.

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

Men and women who are interested can apply to Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT for a term of service abroad with the Swiss Armed Forces. Specialists are sought from a variety of professions. More information on vacancies and application forms can be found on our website at www.peacekeeping.ch. As soon as the completed applications have been received by the human resources section and the basic requirements listed below have been met, the specific selection process begins (recruitment).

The requirements vary depending on the mission and type of deployment, but always include Swiss citizenship, a completed apprenticeship or degree and basic military training. Women are also allowed to serve in certain capacities in SWISSCOY and EUFOR ALTHEA even without having done basic military training.

The first recruitment day is held at one of the regional recruitment centres of the armed forces. Candidate will be given a medical check-up, and their German and foreign language skills as well as driving ability may also be tested depending on their prospective function.

If all goes well on the first recruitment day, candidates are invited to the SWISSINT in Oberdorf near Stans. During this second recruitment day or the assessment, the men and women called up are advised on what forms of service are open to them and of the conditions of employment. Information can also be given on the salary where the specific post is known. A selection board assesses, based on a variety of criteria, whether the applicants are suited for a peacekeeping mission, and what the best options are for each applicant.

If the decision is positive they are invited to attend a multi-week training course at the Training Centre SWISSINT.



Workplace of the Swiss NNSC delegation: The Joint Security Area in Panmunjom.

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE FIELD

Hans, 38, KFOR SWISSCOY staff officer

«Especially as career officer this operation enabled me to experience on a one to one basis, how a first deployment works and is affected by a changed security situation. I have been able to see that the military structures and procedures as well as operation specific training really work.»

Béatrice, 30, Observer EUFOR LOT

«During my six-month deployment in favour of EUFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I not only grew as a person, but was also able to deepen my knowledge of past events. I see the various encounters and the camaraderie that characterise the deployment in the Liaison and Observation Team as a great enrichment in many respects and am very grateful for this experience.»

Jan, 33, Observer SWISSCOY LMT

«The mission abroad was an all-round experience for me: I experienced situations and emotions that made me grow as a person. On a professional level, I was able to expand my social network and acquire soft skills that were useful after my return from the mission to complete my university studies and that help me today in my daily life as a professional non-commissioned officer.»

Sarah, 27, UN Military Expert on Mission UNTSO

«The operation enables me to gain valuable experience in a multi-national environment. Daily contacts with the local population give me deep insights into a foreign culture. Such valuable experience is only possible through this mission.»

Christian, 51, operations officer NNSC

«The experience gained during my modest contribution to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula has left me with lasting memories that will linger in my mind for many years to come.»

SWISS ARMED FORCES INTERNATIONAL 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



Peacekeeping – our mission