



British Forces Germany



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FOREWORD

As Europe moves forward into a new Century, with memories of the Cold War and the massed Armies deployed in Germany on either side of the East-West divide fading into the past, British Forces continue to be stationed in the Federal Republic. Along with Bundeswehr and other NATO allies, the British military has adapted to a transformed strategic setting – to a world happily free of the threat of massive military confrontation but one of increased uncertainty and a broader spectrum of risk.

As a part of the reduction of standing forces in Europe, the British Army of the Rhine and Royal Air Force (Germany) – the two main British commands in Germany since 1945 – disbanded in the mid-1990s. Troop levels were reduced by more than half and there was a major reorganisation of those formations that remain.

The British Strategic Defence Review in 1998 brought about yet more changes to British defence and security policies, to the organisation and capabilities of the Armed Forces in general and in the management of defence.

UK Forces are now structured, in Germany and elsewhere, to meet the changes and uncertainties that confront the world in the 21st Century.

While based in Germany, with the support of the German Government, British Forces here now operate substantially overseas, often serving alongside German and other NATO Forces, in operational theatres such as Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

The closure of the Royal Air Force operational air bases in Germany has in no way weakened British commitment to the common defence of Europe. Some 56,000 British Servicemen and women, including their families and civilian supporting staff, continue to be based in Germany and elsewhere on the Continental mainland.



BRITISH FORCES GERMANY



British Forces Germany (BFG) is the composite name for the British Army, remaining elements of the Royal Air Force, family members and supporting civilian personnel stationed in Germany.

The organisation is structured in two major commands, both located in North Rhine Westphalia – United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) (UKSC(G)) at Mönchengladbach-JHQ and 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division (1 (UK) Armd Div) at Herford. UKSC(G) provides administrative and logistic support for Force members stationed all over Germany and in other countries across mainland Europe, while 1 (UK) Armd Div provides the combat troops to meet British and NATO defence requirements.

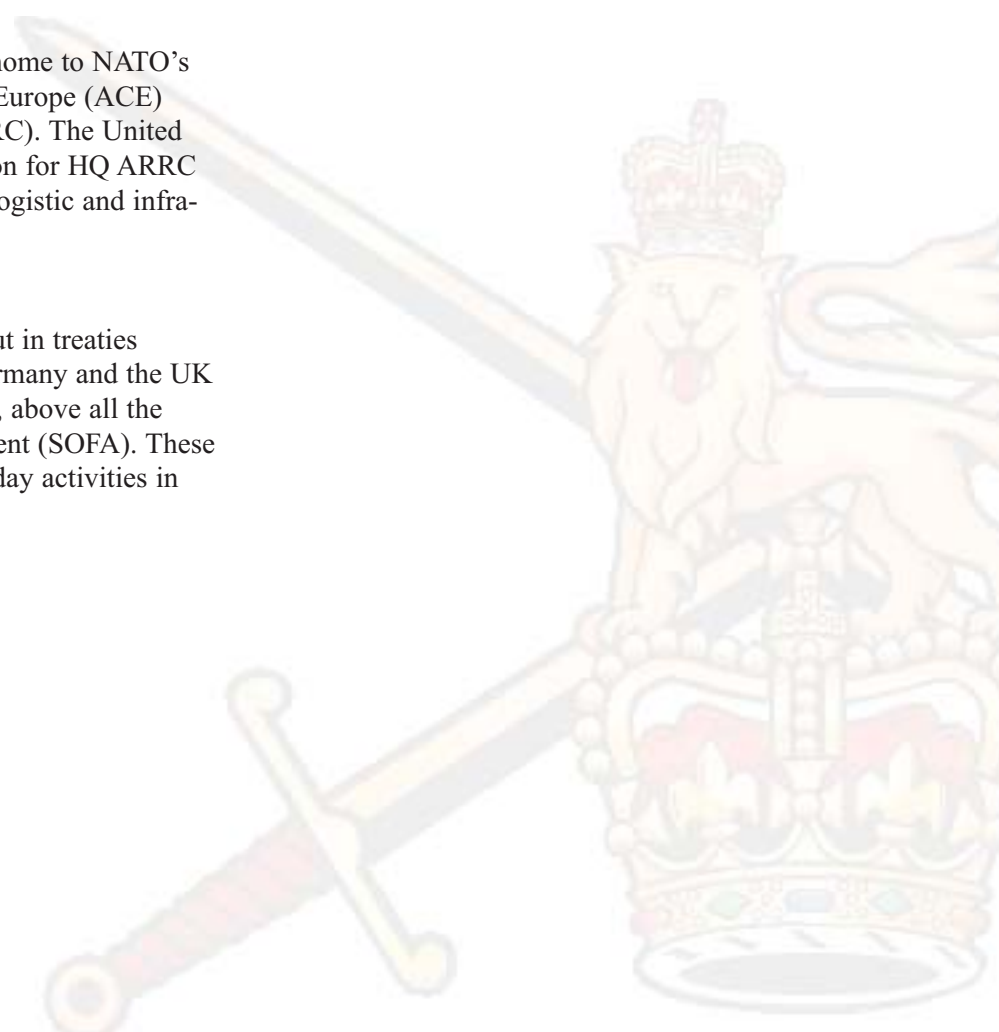
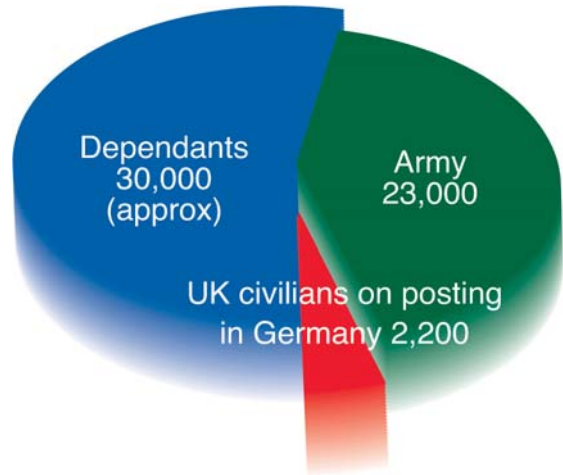
Direct Support to NATO

Mönchengladbach-JHQ is also home to NATO’s Headquarters Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC). The United Kingdom is the framework nation for HQ ARRC and UKSC(G) provides it with logistic and infrastructure support.

Legal Status

The legal status of BFG is set out in treaties between the governments of Germany and the UK and other NATO Sending States, above all the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). These treaties underpin BFG’s day-to-day activities in Germany.

BFG Military and Civilian strengths





UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT COMMAND (GERMANY) (UKSC(G))



UKSC(G) exists above all to provide infrastructure support to 1 (UK) Armd Div and HQ ARRC, ensuring that they have everything they need to live and train in Germany effectively, and to deploy on operations and exercises else-

where in Europe and beyond, swiftly and efficiently. Bosnia and Kosovo are prime examples of such deployments in recent years.

Under direct command of HQ Land Command in the UK, and headed by a Major-General, UKSC(G)'s formal Mission is to 'support operational commanders and dependent units on the Continent in order to contribute to UK and NATO military capability'. In addition, it is responsible for Anglo-German liaison and relations with the German authorities from Federal to local level.

HQ UKSC(G) commands a garrison West of the River Rhine, designated Rhine Garrison, comprising mainly of a signal brigade and logistic support units. It also has administrative control over the four other British Army Garrisons in Germany – at Osnabrück, Bergen-Hohne, Paderborn and Gütersloh.

It has a key deployment role for both the ARRC and 1 (UK) Armd Div which is critical to the success of the peacekeeping and other operations these formations are asked to carry out. It can be likened to an aircraft carrier - providing the life support for its stationed personnel and launching them elsewhere to carry out their tasks when called on to do so.

The Command provides administrative support to members of all three British Armed Services – Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force - serving the length and breadth of Western Europe, in a whole variety of units. This support includes schooling, medical care, housing, construction planning and social services; in many ways it equates to the responsibilities of a civilian local authority in the UK.

As such, UKSC(G) is a unique Command, embracing a wide variety of roles which call for every kind of logistic, administrative, educational and welfare profession among its military and civilian workforce.

Joint Headquarters

The heart of the Mönchengladbach complex is the Joint Headquarters (JHQ) building – “The Big House.” Around it is a small but thriving ‘town’ including barracks, Messes, housing, schools, cinemas, shops, clubs, and sport and leisure facilities of every kind.



1st (UNITED KINGDOM ARMoured DIVISION (1 (UK) ARMD DIV)



1 (UK) Armd Div has had a long and illustrious history. It has existed within the British Army since 1809, when the Duke of Wellington formed it in Portugal from two British brigades and one

Hanoverian brigade of the King's German Legion. It therefore has had strong ties with Germany since its inception. It has been stationed in the Federal Republic since 1960, first at Verden-Aller and from 1993 in Herford.

The Division, the biggest and most powerful in the British Army, has seen significant operational service in recent years, having spearheaded the British land commitment in the Gulf War in 1991 and, subsequently, provided troops for the United Nation's and NATO's peace-keeping commitments in the Balkans. The Division has the charging white rhinoceros - the most heavily "armoured" of all animals - as its insignia.

Commanded by a Major General, it comprises three armoured brigades - 4, 7 and 20 - and combat and logistic support elements. Its teeth-arm units are equipped with the Challenger Main Battle Tank and the Warrior Armoured Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

Although the Division is under direct command of HQ Land Command in the United Kingdom, it relies on UKSC(G) for infrastructure, administrative and welfare support within Germany.

1 (UK) Armd Div is assigned to the ARRC and is capable of undertaking national or NATO operations ranging from peace-keeping duties to high intensity conflict; on ARRC operations the Division can be augmented by the Danish Reaction Brigade.





ARMoured BRIGADES AND COMBAT SUP- PORT



The three armoured brigades under operational command of 1(UK) Armd Div are 4th Armoured Brigade with its HQ in Osnabrück, 7th Armoured Brigade with its HQ in Bergen Hohne and 20th Armoured Brigade with its HQ in Paderborn.



Each armoured brigade is commanded by a Brigadier and contains the following units:

Two armoured infantry battalions equipped with Warrior Armoured Infantry Fighting vehicles and



Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles, as well as Milan anti-tank missiles. Warrior provides the infantry with outstanding tactical mobility, very high levels of protection and significant firepower.

The Brigades are to reduce from two to one armoured “tank” regiments, equipped with the Challenger 2 main battle tank and Scimitar reconnaissance vehicles. The second tank regiment would return in the event of an operational deployment. The mobility, protection and firepower of the Challenger-equipped regiments provide the brigade’s main punch.



Challenger 2

Role	Main Battle Tank
Power	Rolls Royce CV 12 diesel engine.
Speed	Maximum road speed 56 kph; average cross-country speed 40 kph
Weight	60 tonnes (62,500 kgs)
Crew	4 (commander, gunner, loader/signaller, driver)
Armament	120 mm rifled gun, 2 x 7.62 mm machine guns



Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle

Role	Armoured combat vehicle used to deploy and provide close support for infantry.
Power	Rolls Royce CV8 diesel engine.
Speed	Maximum road speed 75 kph. Capable of keeping up with Challenger MBT across country.
Weight	24,500 kgs
Crew	3 (gunner, commander, driver). Carries 7 infantry soldiers.
Armament	30 mm Rarden Canon. Coaxial 7.62mm Hughes Chain Gun.

Combat Support Troops

Combat support troops provide additional firepower and mobility to the Division and consist of:

- One armoured reconnaissance regiment equipped with Scimitar light armoured vehicles.
- Three artillery regiments with AS90 self-propelled 155mm tracked howitzers.
- One air defence regiment with High Velocity Missile (an air defence missile).
- Four engineer regiments with armoured assault and amphibious bridging equipment.
- One aviation regiment with Lynx anti-tank helicopters armed with TOW missiles.



Combat Service Support Troops

These troops sustain the fighting elements before, during and after operations:

- One close support medical regiment.
- Two logistics regiments - to supply food, fuel and ammunition.
- One Royal Military Police Regiment
- Three battalions of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers - to keep vehicles and equipment operating.





LOGISTICS



102 Logistic Brigade

102 Logistic Brigade, with its HQ in Gütersloh, is under direct command of HQ LAND Command in the United Kingdom and comprises five regular units, based in Germany and UK:

- Two transport regiments
- One supply regiment
- One Field Hospital
- One military police regiment

With operational experience in the Balkans, the Brigade's role is to receive troops and equipment into an operational theatre and organise their movement up to the battle area, whether by road or rail, as well as to set up hospitals and evacuate casualties. This highly complicated role involves



detailed logistics and an in-depth understanding of ammunition, fuel and the transport of everything from Challenger tanks to foodstuffs.





COMMUNICATIONS



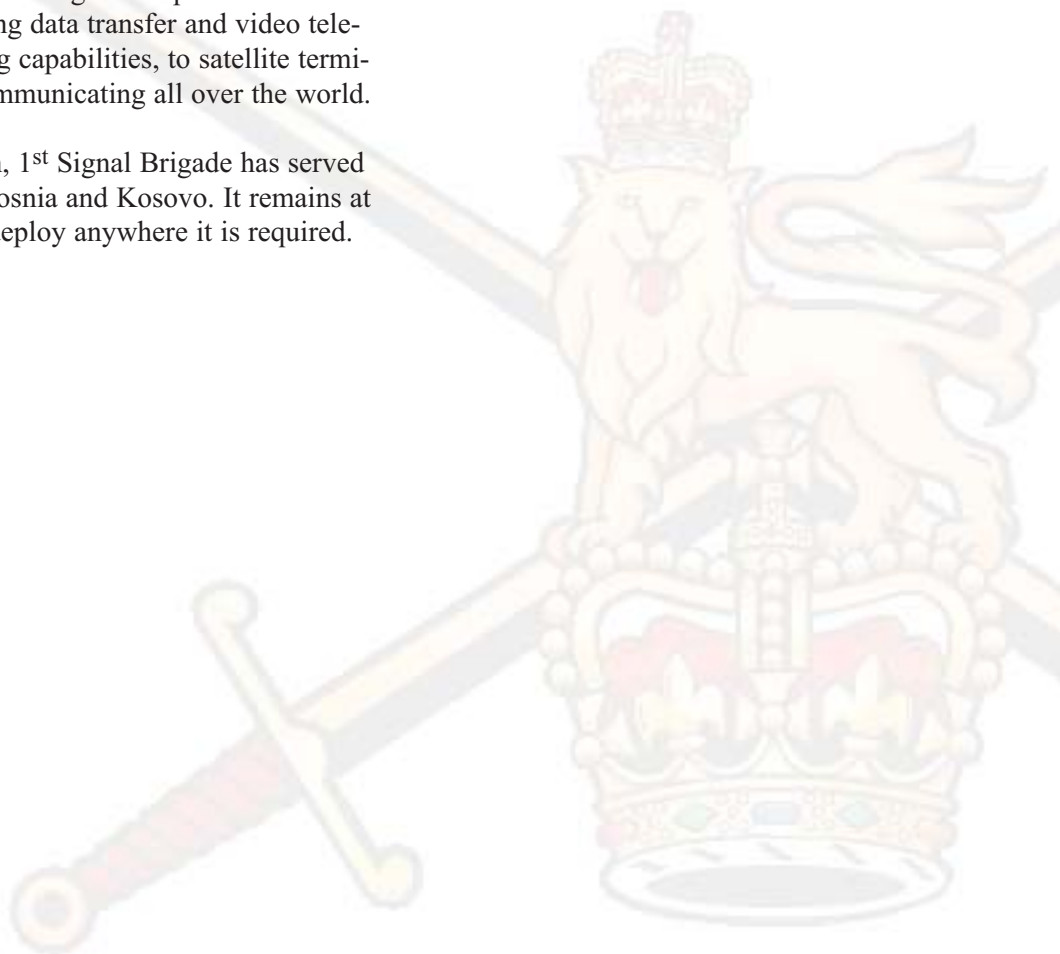
1st Signal Brigade

1st Signal Brigade was formed in April 1995. Since then it has been associated with the ARRC Headquarters, providing its communications and information systems and life support both on operations and training. The Brigade also has a commitment to fulfil UK tasks from Headquarters LAND.

The Brigade comprises two Signal Regiments and a Support Battalion for the ARRC Headquarters. The units are structured to provide communications and administrative support for the ARRC Command Posts and General Communications and Information Systems Support to the Corps' subordinate formations.

It achieves its tasks by using a combination of specialist military equipment enhanced by a plethora of commercial "off the shelf" systems, utilising the very latest advances in technology. These items of equipment range from digital telephones and exchanges providing data transfer and video telephone conferencing capabilities, to satellite terminals capable of communicating all over the world.

Since its formation, 1st Signal Brigade has served on operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. It remains at high readiness to deploy anywhere it is required.





ROYAL AIR FORCE IN MAINLAND EUROPE



The closure in early 2002 of the Royal Air Force's last operating base in Germany - RAF Brüggen - was an important historical milestone, bringing to an end an era of some half-a-century of stationing combat squadrons in the Federal Republic, in the defence of Germany and of NATO.

However, the RAF continues to maintain a firm presence in Germany and elsewhere in mainland Europe, with over 700 personnel stationed in a variety of formations and HQs, great and small, fulfilling a variety of staff and specialist roles.

These include air and other specialist staff with the ARRC in Mönchengladbach, Air Liaison Officers with 1 (UK) Armoured Division in Herford, exchange officers at Luftwaffe bases such as Memmingen in Bavaria and Wunstorf in Lower Saxony, winter warfare experts at the RAF Winter Survival School in Bavaria, aircrew at the NATO E3A 'AWACS' reconnaissance aircraft base at Geilenkirchen, and parachute instructors at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe.

RAF staff are also attached to NATO Commands such as Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers



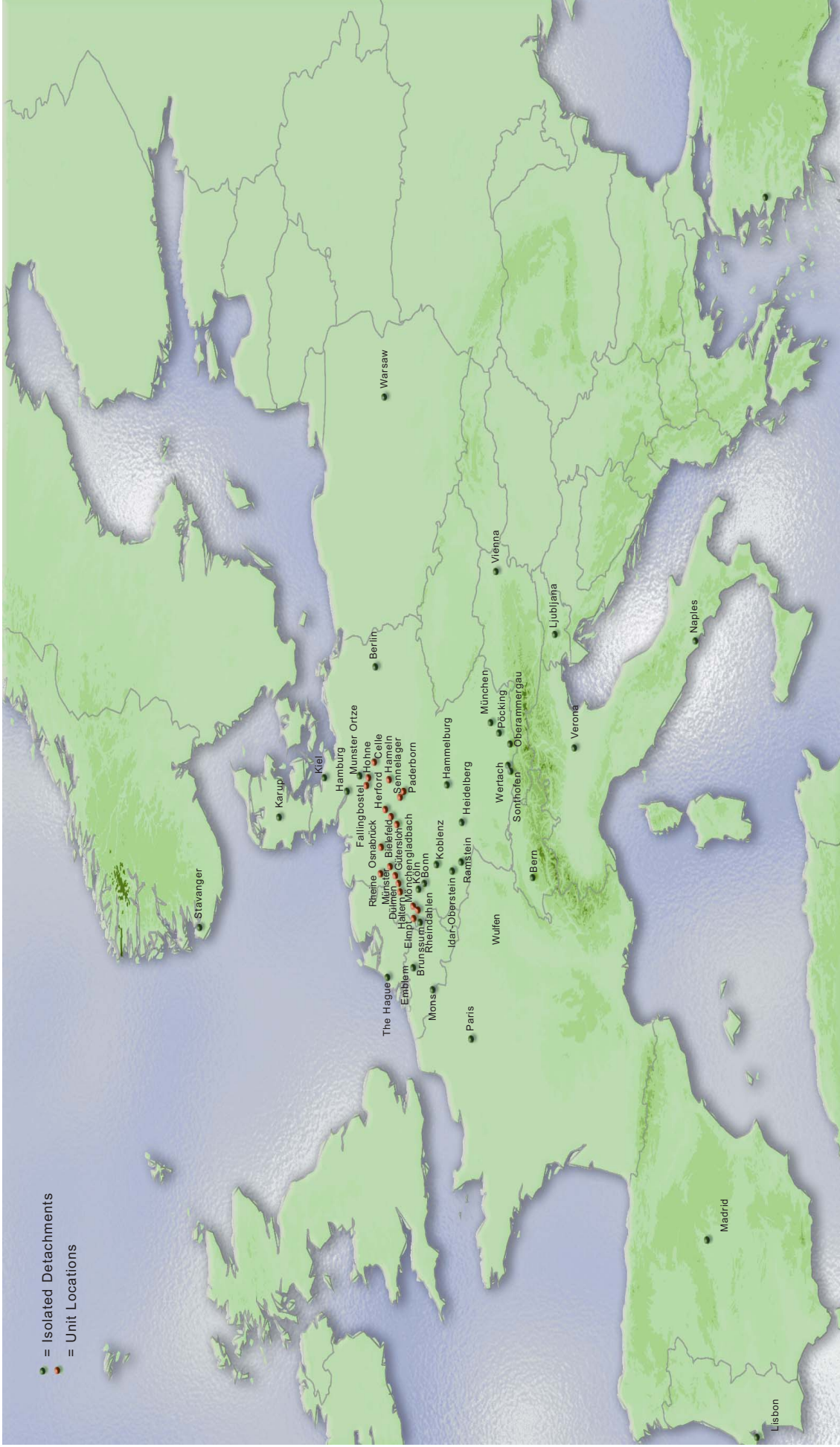


Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium, Regional Headquarters Allied Forces South Europe (RHQ AF SOUTH) in Italy. Regional Headquarters Allied Forces North Europe (RHQ AF NORTH) in the Netherlands, and Regional Headquarters South Atlantic (RHQ SOUTHLANT) in Portugal.

Although RAF aircraft are no longer based in Germany, the long-standing association between the RAF and the German Air Force continues. Besides exchange posts, RAF squadrons regularly visit Germany to train with their German counterparts. Joint exercises and on-going partnerships between RAF and German squadrons ensure the links remain as strong as ever.



UNIT LOCATIONS IN GERMANY AND DETACHMENTS ACROSS EUROPE





MILITARY TRAINING

For any Armed Force to be effective it needs to train, and British Forces Germany is no exception. Military training plays a central part in the work of BFG – without it soldiers would be ill-prepared for today’s operations in places such as the Balkans, threatening both the success of the mission and their own lives.

The German Government fully accepts this need and gives BFG every support. Although it is impossible for this training to be completely unobtrusive, every effort is made to reduce its impact on the local civilian population, while protection of the environment is taken extremely seriously. BFG works alongside the Bundeswehr and other NATO allies to balance such considerations with the need to be ready and prepared to protect European security and interests at any time, and to provide the fully trained forces that NATO requires.

Army training takes place at all levels and different facilities are required to reach the required standards. Individual and sub-unit training normally takes place in barracks or on small local training areas. Larger permanent training facilities are used for a higher level of “dry” (no use of live ammunition) training and live firing takes place on sites such as the British-operated training areas at Sennelager and Haltern and Bundeswehr and U.S. facilities such as Bergen-Hohne and Grafenwöhr.

Occasionally, with the agreement both of the landowner and the German authorities, BFG use private land for “dry” training. This might involve fieldcraft, navigation in open countryside and rehearsal of command and control procedures.

As far as possible, BFG ‘exports’ its large-scale battlegroup training to extensive training areas in lightly populated areas of Canada and Poland. As well as allowing units to rehearse their battle procedures, these training deployments provide the added spin-off of practising the movement of large numbers of troops and their equipment over vast distances by road, rail, air and sea.

Simulation

Increasing use is being made of simulators to lessen the impact of training on the surrounding community and the environment and to reduce costs. Indeed, at brigade level and above, this is now the most common method in use. Highly sophisticated simulation facilities are available within units, while Sennelager Training Centre now boasts one of the world’s most advanced Combat Manoeuvre Simulation Centres, featuring a computerised, state-of-the-art, Combined Arms Tactical Trainer.



Multinational training

In keeping with the concept of multinational forces, BFG train regularly with other NATO allies. This training takes place at all levels through individual and unit exchanges, joint exercises, joint courses in peacekeeping operations and participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme.





SENNELAGER TRAINING CENTRE

Much of the training for British Forces Germany is carried out at the Sennelager Training Centre (STC) near Paderborn.

This is a 120 square kilometre facility in which a wide range of courses and exercises are carried out at all levels, from the training of individuals and small cadres in such skills and disciplines as physical fitness, dog handling and environmental hygiene, right up to combined arms collective training at battlegroup level. Training includes live firing and field manoeuvres. The very latest computerised simulators are used to train commanders in a whole range of realistic scenarios, of the kind that they are likely to encounter in the Balkans and elsewhere. The Centre also boasts urban and ‘close quarter’ battle facilities, an engineer training circuit and a military dog training wing.

Fully acknowledged by all of the NATO forces stationed in Germany as being at the forefront of military training, STC’s facilities are regularly used by the Bundeswehr and other forces. Managed by the Land Warfare Collective Training Group (Germany) (LWCTG(G)), STC carries on a long-standing tradition of military training on this expanse of land dating back to the 1890s.

A wide range of military training teams and schools now come under the control of LWCTG(G), ensuring fully coherent and co-ordinated training using British Army best practice and the latest training techniques. These include Artillery, Armoured, Armoured Infantry and Engineer Training Teams.





ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Adventurous and survival training exposes individual soldiers to challenge, to the need to make rapid decisions and to a degree of danger, and is an essential element of personal training. British Forces Adventure Training centres are to be found in Kiel on the Baltic, the Allgäu Alps in Bavaria and the Harz Mountains, offering sailing, mountaineering, skiing, canoeing and more besides.





CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

As a direct result of the military activity at Sennelager – which has protected the area from damage through modern farming methods, industrial or housing development and uncontrolled public access - a wealth of rare flora and fauna flourish on the training area. Now considered to be the most important conservation area in North Rhine Westphalia and one of the most important in Germany, the ‘Senne’ contains many sites of scientific and botanical interest. The British Army works closely with the German authorities to ensure that this unique national asset remains unspoilt, whilst allowing public access on as many weekends as possible throughout the year, training permitting.

BFG personnel receive careful briefings in the care of the local ecology, flora and fauna in all areas used for training and in the need to abide by German environmental laws. Training areas are managed with the express aim of harmonising defence requirements with those of the local population, who wish to enjoy the environment and scenery. Wildlife conservation habitats have been fostered in a number of areas entrusted to BFG care.



ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS



British Forces are in Germany at the invitation of the German government. Their presence on German soil, along with that of other NATO allies, contributes to the common defence partnership in Europe.



personnel and their families and they are fully encouraged to get to know the country and the people. There are very active Anglo-German organisations on many British bases, while Open Days are laid on whenever possible; these all give



Germany and Britain are political and military allies, sometimes known as the “quiet alliance” because of their excellent, yet rarely boasted, relationship. The two countries share common interests, resting on their fundamental attachment to democratic procedures and structures, to freedom within the rule of law, to liberal economic policies and to social responsibility. And, not least, to a strong NATO Alliance as the foundation of security and prosperity in Europe.

BFG place great emphasis on good Anglo-German relations, on both official and personal levels. German-language courses are available for all BFG





the local German community an insight into the activities and lifestyle of the British Forces and their families living in their midst. The German community readily responds to this hand of friendship, and indeed many units have forged partnerships with their local towns, reinforced by 'Freedom of the City' parades.



British Forces Liaison Organisation

The British Forces Liaison Organisation (Germany) (BFLO (G)) has responsibility for liaison and negotiation with the German authorities at local, state and federal

level. The Commander of UKSC (G) is also Head of the BFLO(G), which has its HQ in Mönchengladbach-JHQ, offices in Berlin and in Bonn, and representatives at the state capitals of North-Rhine Westphalia and Lower Saxony. There is a network of Service Liaison Officers stationed alongside the units in all the Garrison towns, with direct contacts to the German local authorities. Highly experienced and with a deep understanding of German customs, culture and legislation, these individuals provide a key link with British units, ensuring that BFG activities, whether training, building work or sport and leisure pursuits, are legally and properly carried through, taking account of the host nation's views and wishes.





QUALITY OF LIFE

BFG Commanders regard a good quality of life as essential for the well being and professionalism of their Servicemen and women, particularly bearing in mind the difficult conditions they often have to accept on operational tours of six months at a time. Quite rightly, therefore, the investment of staff, resources and funds to promote their welfare, education and amenities when at their home bases is considerable.

Sport and Hobbies

Sport is an essential means of keeping fit and building team spirit. As a young community, members of BFG thrive on keeping busy in their leisure time, and facilities for almost every sport are available in all Garrisons. At the same time a wealth of clubs and organisations cater for most hobbies and interests, from photography and stamp collecting through to bird watching and bowling.

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided for married personnel in family homes, some 15,000 of which are spread across the Garrisons in Germany. Most of this accommodation is in houses with gardens and, increasingly, houses are replacing those flats which are still in use. Single soldiers live largely in shared rooms but a major programme is underway to provide single bedrooms with sharing of other facilities.





ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOPPING

The Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI)

NAAFI is the official trading organisation of the British Armed Forces worldwide, offering retail and leisure services which as far as possible mirror those found in UK. In Germany and elsewhere in Europe, NAAFI run family shops, junior ranks clubs and leisure facilities.

Services Sound and Vision Corporation/British Forces Broadcasting Service

SSVC Retail runs shops on major military bases selling entertainment systems and household white goods and operates 9 cinemas. Its broadcasting branch, BFBS, provides an English-language TV and radio service for the BFG community. Live and recorded television programmes are transmitted on the BFBS Forces Television channel, while BFBS 1 and 2 radio channels broadcast a mix of pop, light and classical music, entertainment and current affairs programmes, with on-the-hour news broadcasts. Although primarily aimed at the Forces audience, BFBS is appreciated by many members of the German community in the transmission areas, who gain an insight into the activities of BFG and also of life in the UK.

Community Entertainment

Variety shows and discos for messes and unit clubs are arranged by NAAFI and SSVC throughout BFG.

Of course, thousands of soldiers, their families and other members of BFG take advantage of the excellent local entertainment and leisure facilities in their German communities.





WELFARE

An enormous investment is made in welfare provision for the whole BFG community, both Service personnel and their families, to ensure that the same standards of medical, pastoral and social services are available to them as they would find in UK.

Medical

The reduction in the number of personnel in Germany has made it impractical to retain the British Military Hospitals of the past. Instead, the highest standards of medical support have been maintained by providing in-patient treatment in local German Hospitals, in Bielefeld, Paderborn, Viersen, Hannover and Osnabrück. British consultants, midwives and Hospital Liaison Officers work alongside German hospital staff. Primary medical care and dental care are still provided at health and dental centres within barracks.

Field medical units are stationed in Germany, training with and supporting the fighting arms on deployment.

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA)

SSAFA is a worldwide organisation of volunteers and professional staff devoted to the welfare of Service families. In BFG it provides a Community Health and Social Work Service using health visitors, midwives, school nurses and social workers.

The Community Health Service contributes to primary health care. The Social Work Service deals with family problems and advises in welfare cases.

Spiritual Welfare

There are Service chaplains across the whole of BFG. Places of worship are to be found in each Garrison. The chaplains provide spiritual and pastoral care for Service personnel in barracks and on field deployments and for Service families.

Other Welfare Organisations

Additional welfare services for the BFG community are provided by, among other organisations, The Service Hospitals Welfare Department (St. John and Red Cross), the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations (YMCA/YWCA), Salvation Army and Help and Information Volunteer Exchange (HIVE).





EDUCATION

Community Adult Education

The Army Educational and Training Services Branch is responsible for education centres throughout BFG. They assist Service personnel to obtain civilian and military qualifications. A wide range of academic and general interest courses are available to Service and civilian personnel and dependants.



Service Children's Education (SCE)

SCE is a Defence Agency whose responsibilities include the provision of education in overseas Commands for the children of entitled MOD personnel. HQ SCE is based at Wegberg, near the HQ UKSC(G) complex at Mönchengladbach-JHQ, and co-ordinates Service children's education throughout the world. Primary schools are sited in the majority of bases and secondary schools are located in JHQ, Rinteln, Gütersloh and Hohne. The majority of special educational needs can be provided for in SCE schools, and a careers service is also available in SCE secondary schools.

Vocational Training Services (VTS)

VTS is a youth training scheme open to dependants in BFG, aged 16 to 19 years (older when places are available). It offers work experience and training, leading to a UK national vocational qualification.



INPUT TO THE ECONOMY

BFG is a significant contributor to the German economy, particularly in North Rhine Westphalia and Lower Saxony. The two Germany-based commands, HQ UKSC(G) and HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, have a combined budget of £800 million (Year 2001/02). With increasing contracting-out of services – property management, vehicle hire and catering are examples – very large sums are being spent directly in the local economy. The 56,000 service personnel, civilian support element and dependants in Germany are themselves a major economic factor in the shops, entertainment facilities, car repair workshops, etc, in the towns and cities in which they are stationed.

British Forces provide employment for 5,500 local civilian workers and for a further 4,700 dependants of members of the Forces.

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES

The following BFG agencies will be glad to offer assistance with inquiries or questions:

Press and Public Information

BFG provides two press offices (Media Ops) to deal with German and British press and public interest. Media Ops HQ UKSC(G) is responsible for all units West of the Rhine, for infrastructure matters throughout Germany, and British Forces issues elsewhere in continental Europe. Media Ops HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div provides a service for all units of the Division.

Points of contact are:

Media Ops, HQ UKSC(G), Mönchengladbach
02161 4722169
E-Mail: bfginfo@bfgnet.de

Media Ops, HQ 1(UK) Armd Div, Herford
05221 9953118
E-Mail: kestral3@bfgnet.de

British Forces Liaison Organisation

Responsible for liaison with all the German authorities and first point of call for local inquiries. Points of contact are:

HQ BFLO(G)
02161 472 3636

BFLO(G) Berlin
030 308 19096

Chief Services Liaison Officer
05221 82351

Services Liaison Officer Gütersloh
05241 842479

Services Liaison Officer Bergen-Hohne
05051 962209

Services Liaison Officer Osnabrück
0541 9602288

Services Liaison Officer Paderborn
05251 282578

Services Liaison Officer Rhine Area
02161 4724683

