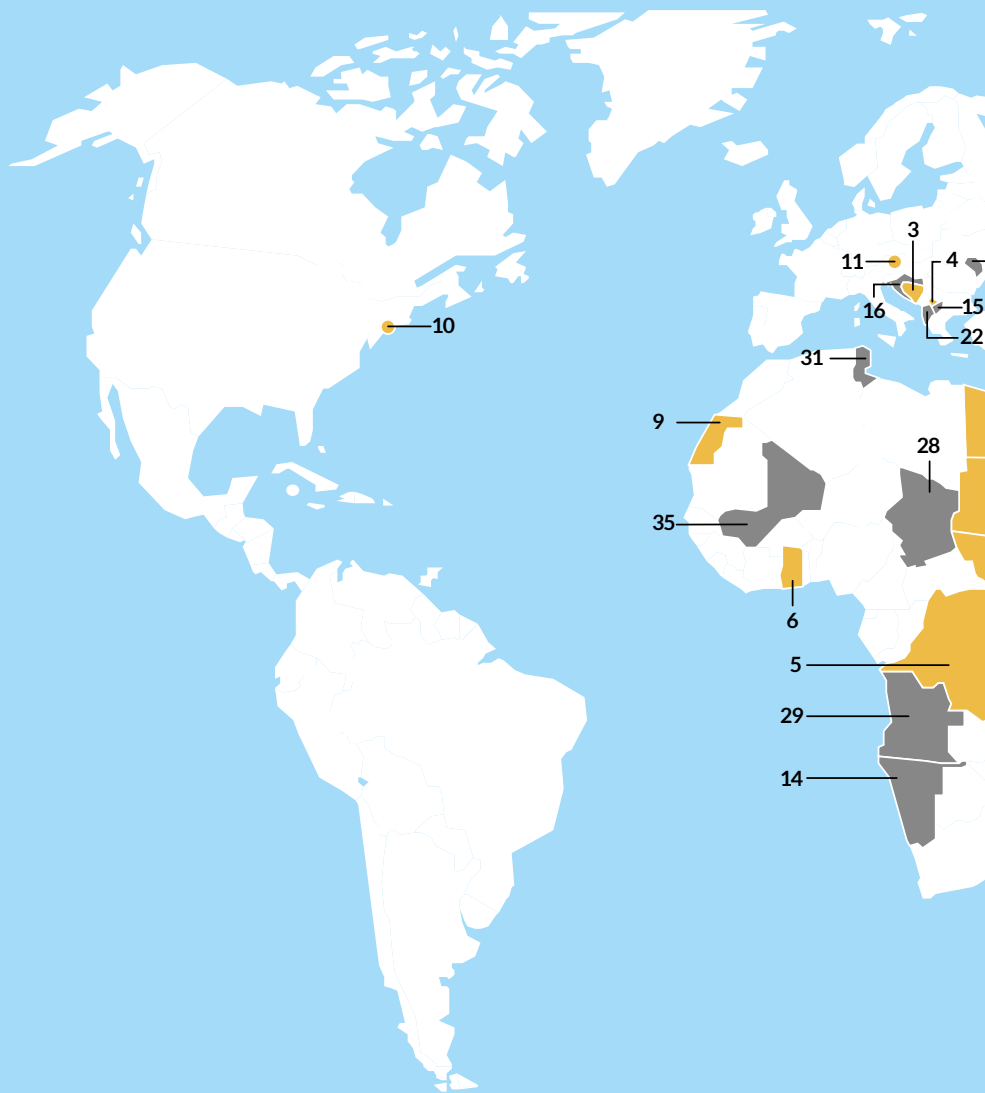


# SWISS ARMED FORCES INTER- NATIONAL COMMAND SWISSINT

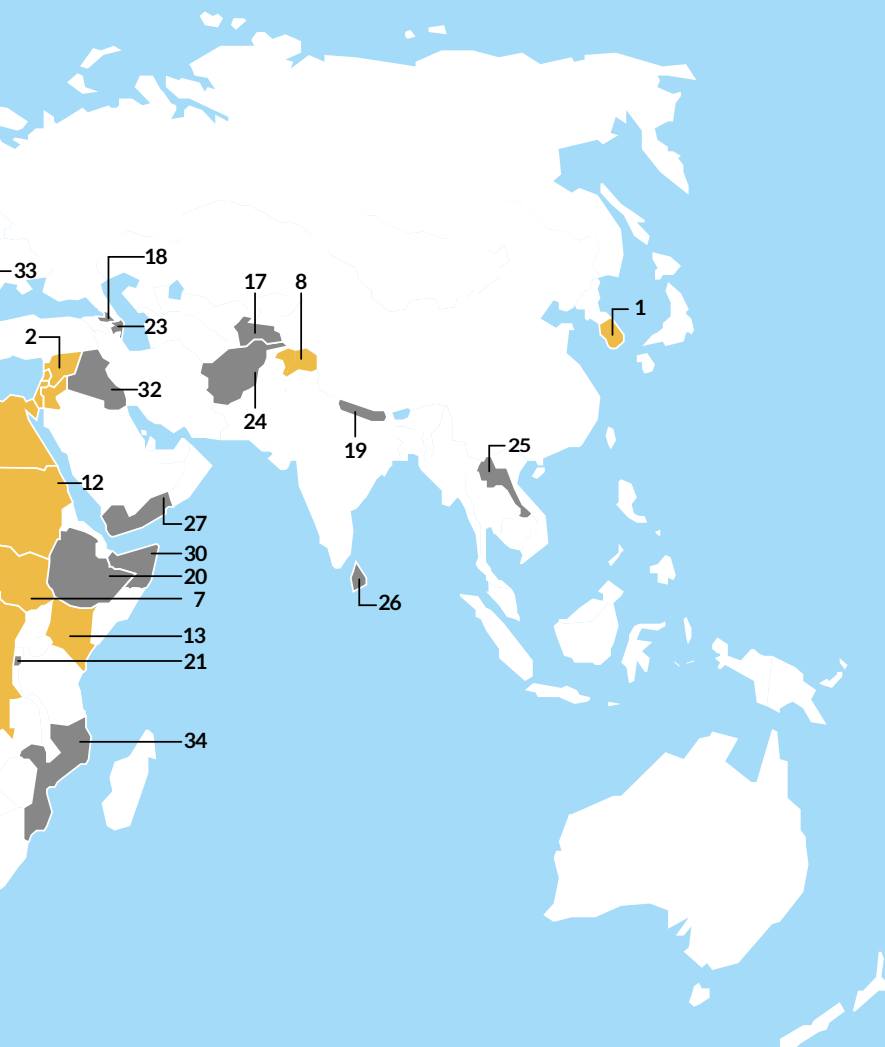
Peace support mission of the armed forces





## CURRENT MISSIONS

- |   |   |    |                |
|---|---|----|----------------|
| 1 | South Korea   | 7  | South Sudan    |
| 2 | Middle East:<br>Israel, Syria, Lebanon,<br>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      |                        |

# LIST OF CONTENTS

Preface	1
Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT	3
Communications and personnel marketing	4
Staff areas / Tactical Operations Center	6
Peace Support missions abroad	9
The SWISSINT Training Centre	15
Partners	17
Working as a peacekeeper	21
Impressions from the field	23
Command SWISSINT Viewpoint of the Chief Armed Forces Operations Command	24
How to find Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT	25

## Imprint

Publisher	Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT, 6370 Stans-Oberdorf
Premedia	Armed Forces Digital Media Centre AFDM, 82.036 e
Size of edition	500 copies
Date	January 2024

# 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' peacebuilding 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.peace-support.ch](http://www.peace-support.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 'X'.

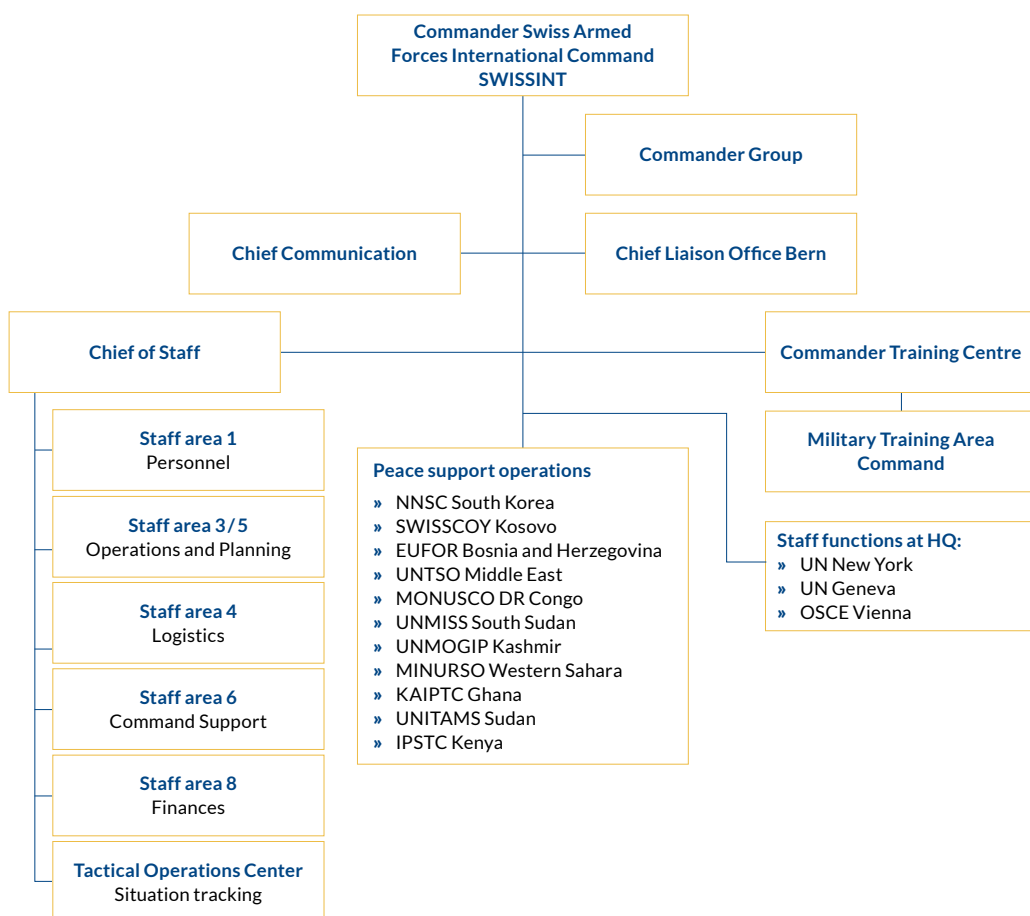
Commander Swiss Armed Forces International Command  
SWISSINT



Entrance area to SWISSINT's command building.

# SWISS ARMED FORCES INTER-NATIONAL 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 peace support 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 military peace support 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 peace support. 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 peace support.

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





Media visit during the military observer course.



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

# STAFF AREAS / TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER

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 750 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 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**

SWISSCOY's mission in Kosovo is the Swiss Armed Forces' largest peace-keeping operation. Up to of 215 soldiers as well as around 580 containers, 260 of which are built into operational infrastructure, and more than 190 emergency vehicles are on site. SWISSCOY also has its own maintenance workshop on site. Logistics is responsible for more than 25 infrastructures worldwide (including rental objects). Goods and, in some cases, passengers are supplied and returned in all mission areas by air, road and water. From Korea to New York, the supply of all material and mission-related equipment is guaranteed at all times.

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

Staff area 6 is responsible for the entire command support of the Swiss Armed Forces' peacekeeping missions. This includes ensuring the availability, operability and applicability of all information and communication technology (ICT) systems used by personnel deployed abroad and at SWISSINT, as well as providing special training for these systems. It is also the designated contact point for cyber-related issues and is responsible for implementing preventive measures. Staff area 6 also supports and develops the systems, taking into account the ongoing transformation process of digital technologies.

### **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 Center**

The Tactical Operations Centre (TOC) monitors the situation in areas where military peacekeeping missions are being carried out, and is responsible for ensuring that all the units involved have the same level of information. The TOC records, evaluates and triages incoming information and daily correspondence. The TOC acts as the first point of contact and coordination, both internally and externally. It maintains an overview of where Swiss peacekeepers are stationed and of the security situation in the areas of operation. Operations and Planning comprises multilingual staff with years of operational experience, who ensure mission fulfilment and the safety and well-being of our volunteers in the field. It cooperates with the intelligence officer to continuously assess the safety of military personnel and to define and manage any need for action.





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 health-care 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 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.

### **Humanitarian demining**

The Swiss Armed Forces are also engaged in humanitarian demining 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 peace support, more than 14 100 military personnel, including 1200 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 SWISSINT TRAINING CENTRE

The SWISSINT Training Centre is in charge of mission-specific training of Swiss military personnel for voluntary service abroad in peacekeeping missions.

For the contingents that are sent to the KFOR mission in Kosovo and the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Training Centre conducts two mission-specific training courses a year. Depending on the function and duties of the personnel concerned, the courses take up to three months. In addition to these two courses, prospective UN military observers and staff officers from all over the world receive extensive training in the UN-certified Swiss United Nations Military Observer Course (SUNMOC) and the Swiss United Nations Staff Officer Course (SUNSOC), both United Nations Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO)-certified courses.

The Training Centre also offers a Tactical Combat Casualty Care Provider Course (TCCC) and an international Introductory Course to Peace Support Operations (ICPSO) and Peace Support Operations Refresher (PSOR). The Training Centre furthermore offers a specific security-training course once a year to civilian partners such as international organisations (IOs), governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations (GOs / NGOs). Certain courses are also open to non-military personnel. In addition, based on a framework agreement, the Training Centre and the Oberdorf NW Military Training Area provide the UN with personnel and parts of its infrastructure for additional courses every year or support the Geneva Centres (GCSP and GICHD) in the organisation of training courses.

To ensure appropriate training, the Training Centre maintains an operationally experienced and multilingual staff, with full-time and part-time members. The training content is continuously reviewed and adapted to the changing operational environment.

The SWISSINT Training Centre is an accredited NATO Partnership Training and Education Centre of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme, and a member of the 4-PCE (Fo(u)r Peace Central Europe) along with the Netherlands, Germany and Austria.

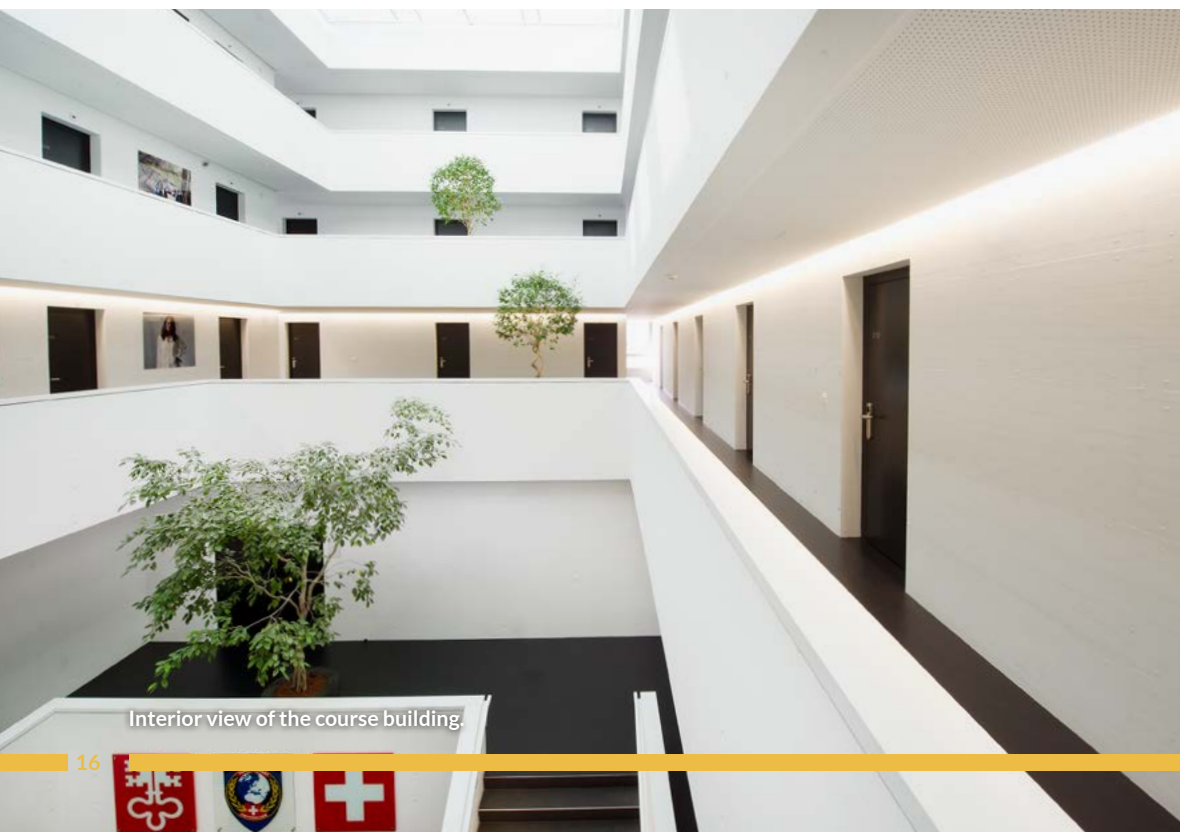
A summary of current courses can be found on our website:

[www.armee.ch/peace-support](http://www.armee.ch/peace-support).





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' peacekeeping 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 talking to local people in Kashmir.



# 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.peace-support.ch](http://www.peace-support.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 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 Stans-Oberdorf. 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 SWISSINT Training Centre.



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 INTER-NATIONAL COMMAND SWISSINT: VIEWPOINT OF THE CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND

Peace support is one of our Armed Forces' three constitutional mandates.

Since 1953, Swiss men and women in uniform have been committed to promoting peace around the world. The war that has been raging in Ukraine since 2022 and the recurring conflicts in the Middle East serve as a reminder of just how precious and fragile peace is.

However, these high-profile wars should not distract us from the many other ongoing conflicts and existing tensions in many other parts of the world, that do not seem to draw the same level of political and media interest.

These simmering conflicts require constant attention. For 70 years we have been sending soldiers on peace support missions abroad, in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. The commitment of our military personnel is part of our country's long humanitarian tradition and contributes to the security and wellbeing of local communities.

Our military personnel are recognised for the role they play in supporting peace, and both their military and civilian skills are valued. Our Armed Forces have established themselves as a reliable and capable partner, whatever the environment or context of the mission. The work we do in the service of peace around the world not only benefits local communities: it also reaffirms our country's commitment to the international community and its role as an impartial player in the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In addition, it provides us with important learning opportunities so that we can improve interoperability and evolve.

The work done by SWISSINT is vital to the success of our peace support missions. By contributing to the training of the men and women deployed under our flag, SWISSINT helps create the right conditions for their success.

For seven decades, we have been fulfilling our mandate to support peace. We owe our success mainly to the joint commitment of volunteer soldiers, the staff of SWISSINT, and military and civilian personnel from other organisations of our Armed Forces. Thanks to them – and perhaps also to you, dear reader – the Swiss Armed Forces contribute to peace and security in the world.

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

**Swiss Armed Forces International Command SWISSINT**  
Kasernenstrasse 4  
CH-6370 Stans-Oberdorf

Telephone 058 467 58 58 (choice 1)  
Email [info.swissint@vtg.admin.ch](mailto:info.swissint@vtg.admin.ch)

[peace-support.ch](https://peace-support.ch)

 [@ peace\\_support](https://www.instagram.com/peace_support)

 [@ peace\\_support](https://www.tiktok.com/@peace_support)

 [@peacesupport](https://www.facebook.com/peacesupport)

 [@SWISSINT](https://www.linkedin.com/company/swissint)

