

A black and white photograph of a large, three-dimensional sign for the Emmich-Cambrai-Kaserne. The sign features a stylized eagle emblem on the left and the words "EMMICH-CAMBRAI-KASERNE" in large, block letters on the right. The background is a textured wall.

The Bundeswehr Military Police and Headquarters Service School

By Lieutenant Colonel Wolfgang Bayer and Captain Simon Allgoewer

In 2009, the Bundeswehr (or German Federal Defense Force) Military Police and Headquarters Service School moved from Sonthofen, Germany, to newly renovated and modernized barracks in Hannover. Although the actual movement of cadre and equipment was completed within four months, it took three years of rebuilding, renovation, and modernization of the Hannover barracks to convert them into some of the most modern facilities within the Bundeswehr. But the school is now equipped with the latest in classroom technology, and realistic military police and headquarters staff training is conducted across the full spectrum of operations. In addition, the school leads the way in developing advanced distance learning programs and courses. These improvements provide soldiers of all ranks with the best training opportunities available and have made the Bundeswehr Military Police and Headquarters Service School the most modern school in the German Armed Forces.

Shortly after the Bundeswehr was founded in 1955, the Bundeswehr Military Police and Headquarters Service School was established at the Generaloberst-Beck-Kaserne in Sonthofen—a castle-like installation in the picturesque Bavarian Alps. In 2001, the German Department of Defense decided to move the school from Sonthofen to Hannover. But it was clear from the outset that this move would involve more than just a simple relocation; the leaders agreed that the move represented an opportunity to build the most modern school in the German Bundeswehr. The German government spent about 90 million Euros (currently the equivalent of about 135 million U.S. dollars) to achieve that goal.

Hannover, a city with a population of more than 500,000, is the capital of the federal state of Lower Saxony in northwestern Germany. From 1974 until 1997 (when the Army Officer's School moved to Dresden), German army officers received their Army Officer Training at Emmich-Cambrai-Kaserne, located in northern Hannover. The first part of this double-name barracks was designated in honor of Albert Theodor Otto von Emmich, a Prussian general who participated in the German-French War from 1870 to 1871 and attained the rank of general of infantry in 1909, when he took command of the 10th Army Corps in Hannover. He successfully led the first real battle of World War I and, in 1914, was awarded the first *Pour le Mérite* of that war—the highest military order of the Kingdom of Prussia until the end of World War I. He died one year later. The second part of the barracks name refers to a small city in northern France known for the World War I Battle of Cambrai, which took place in late 1917. The battle was significant in that it marked the first successful use of tanks.

Following the 1997 departure of the Army Officer's School, Emmich-Cambrai-Kaserne remained mostly unoccupied until the arrival of the Bundeswehr Military Police and Headquarters Service School in 2009. More than 250 distinguished guests, including key military and political leaders, attended the official opening of the new school in Hannover on 23 October 2009. In addition to operating the Hannover location, the school conducts training in the cities of Stetten am kalten Markt, Garlstedt, and Strausberg; however, the Bundeswehr intends for those courses to also be moved to Hannover within the next couple of years.

All military police career courses (ranging from advanced individual training to precommand courses) and functional courses covering all Feldjaegertruppe (German Military Police Corps) missions are taught by the Bundeswehr Military Police and Headquarters Service School. As the name indicates, the school is also the center for headquarters staff training within the Bundeswehr; and as such, personnel from all military branches—including the army, air force, and navy—are trained there. Each day, a total of 300 military instructors and 100 civilian cadre train an average of 1,400 students who represent all components of the Bundeswehr.

The school consists of three main elements:

- **Headquarters Staff.** In addition to traditional staff functions, the Headquarters Staff organizes meetings and conferences and establishes and maintains contacts with foreign schools and training facilities.
- **Support Group.** The Support Group provides logistical and material support and other crucial services such as library, visual information, and media services.
- **Directorate of Training.** The Directorate of Training is split into two divisions:
 - **Training Division A.** Training Division A conducts all course-based, military police-specific training at the school. This includes a total of 167 iterations of 48 different types of courses each year. Course types include branch-specific, professional military education courses that range from advanced individual training to precommand courses, including Reserve Component courses. In addition, the school offers a wide variety of branch-specific, functional courses that cover all military police functions and missions such as civil disturbance operations, special-reaction team operations, protective services detail operations, criminal investigations, and convoy operations. Because English language skills are important in today's contemporary operational environment (in which multinational forces are deployed worldwide), Training Division A also offers military police-specific English language courses. And the division hosts international military police courses and meetings to provide professional forums for the exchange of ideas, best practices, and lessons learned and to foster relationships with allied nations. In addition to providing training for military police soldiers, Training Division A also provides training to soldiers from other branches that have been tasked to conduct civil disturbance operations downrange.
 - **Training Division B.** Training Division B serves as the center of headquarters staff training for the entire Bundeswehr. A joint team of instructors conducts 270 iterations of 27 different types of courses per



German military police investigators participate in crime scene training at the new facility.

year for a joint group of students. A large portion of these students are first sergeants and human resources personnel. Other students receive training on Standard Application Software Product Families (SASPF)—a standard Bundeswehr software application. Training Division B also leads the Bundeswehr in the development and implementation of modern distance learning programs and concepts, including the training of instructors for distance learning courses. Distance learning is not characterized by simple, online classes in which students merely click through slides or follow linear learning programs. And distance learning students are not passive recipients of the information presented; rather, their active participation is critical to the process. While distance learning courses are led by an instructor, the students do not sit in an actual classroom; rather, they meet (via a series of webcams and the Internet) in a virtual classroom, where they directly interact with each other and the instructor in an online forum. The instructor, or “teletutor,” organizes and presents the training; so in addition to subject matter proficiency, the teletutor must also have a firm understanding of the technology involved and how to use it to enhance the training. The online forum provides students with a large database of information and the opportunity to remain in contact with other students, exchanging information long after the course is completed.

The new school in Hannover contains facilities for training all aspects of military police duties, including those conducted in garrison and during deployments. The new, state-of-the-art classroom equipment offers an entirely new set of training opportunities. Therefore,

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instructors must assess all courses and training materials to fully capitalize on the new assets available and achieve new standards of training. For example, each classroom is equipped with an active board that communicates with a computer, allowing the instructor to write on the screen during PowerPoint presentations, engage the students in the training, and conduct timely checks on learning. In addition to the classroom facilities, the school contains new, outside-the-classroom, “advanced skills trainers.” For example, a mock military police station allows realistic, daily business and special-situation police training. Buildings and facilities that resemble hotels, housing areas, or factories can also be used to train military police soldiers. And advanced-skills trainers for military police investigators allow instructors to set up fake crime scenes. The school gymnasium, which is equipped with a special floor to allow the training of soldiers in combat boots and full gear, is used to conduct combatives and officer survival training. Light, sound, and fog effects can be applied to scenarios that are displayed on a big screen; students are expected to react to the simulated situations just as they would in an Engagement Skills Trainer or shoot house. Infrared cameras allow instructors to record the training and conduct thorough, after-action reviews.

In addition to the Bundeswehr Military Police and Headquarters Service School, Hannover also serves as the home of the national office of the Kameradschaft der Feldjaeger (German Military Police Association) and Feldjaegertruppe museum, where branch history is taught.

The Bundeswehr Military Police and Headquarters Service School in Sonthofen provided quality training



A student uses a virtual shoot house with typical military police scenarios.

to soldiers, but its relocation from there to the Emmich-Cambrai-Kaserne in Hannover allowed a good school to be transformed into a great one. It also allowed the creation of the most modern training facility in German Armed Forces.

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