



WG B – Impact on national defense policies

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GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF DEFENCE IN GERMANY

- The federal government, represented by the Ministry of Defence, is responsible for organizing defense, but final decisions can only be made with an absolute majority of the Bundestag (parliamentary army)
- The role of the Bundeswehr is described in the [Constitution of Germany](#) (Art. 87a) as absolutely defensive only. After a ruling of the [Federal Constitutional Court](#) in 1994 the term "defence" has been defined to not only include protection of the borders of Germany, but also crisis reaction and conflict prevention, or more broadly as guarding the security of Germany anywhere in the world
- Following concerns from the [2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine](#), Germany announced a major shift in policy, pledging a €100 billion special fund for the Bundeswehr – to remedy years of underinvestment – along with raising the budget to above 2% [GDP](#) (Last years between 1.3 and 1.5 %)
- Regional authorities are not able to instruct the Bundeswehr, but there are connection commands on every national level (Bundesländer, Regierungsbezirke, Landkreise) to work together in the case of crisis.



IMPACT OF WAR IN UKRAINE

- Managing refugees from Ukraine (at the moment 1.1 million people in Germany).
- 80.000 in Hessen
- Expanding living spaces, schools, day care centers etc.
- Critical infrastructure protection has been strengthened
- More practice of courses of action in the event of a crisis
- From 1945 – 1990 Northern Hesse was „front area“, now military action is possible once again
- Energy dependency must come to an end. Faster expansion of renewables
- Defence companies in our region need opportunities to expand

