CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

German Police and Armed Forces Abroad since 1945

Deployments and International Missions

Academic conference of the German Police University (DHPol)
and the Bundeswehr Center for Military History and Social Sciences
(ZMSBw)

25–27 November 2026 | Münster

On patrol: German police officers in Afghanistan were accompanied by the Bundeswehr Military Police. Marmal, 24 January 2009. Photo credit: © 2009 Bundeswehr / EinsFüKdo

ORGANISATION

Gundula Gahlen (DHPol)
Haydée Mareike Haass (DHPol)
Thorsten Loch (ZMSBw)
Silvia-Lucretia Nicola (ZMSBw)

VENUE

German Police University

University of the Police Services
of the Federation and the Federal States

Zum Roten Berge 18–24
48165 Münster

Wednesday

25 November 2026

From 12:00 | Registration

13:00–13:45

Opening

Welcome addresses

Introduction

Gundula Gahlen (DHPol) and
Haydée Mareike Haass (DHPol)

13:45–14:00 | Coffee break

PANEL 1 | 14:00–15:45

Exporting Security – Training, Advice and Conceptions of Statehood

Chair: Martin Reese (ZMSBw)

Haydée Mareike Haass (DHPol)
Between Democratisation and Othering: Narratives of Foreignness in Personal Accounts of the First German Police Deployments to Afghanistan

Yves Müller (Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences)
"Deployment of Experts Within the Realm of Possibility": The Overseas Deployment of Members of the German People's Police as Postcolonial Police Assistance

Silvia-Lucretia Nicola (ZMSBw)
Between Security Export and State Consolidation: Germany's Military Relations with the Kurdistan Region of Iraq since 2014

Discussion

15:45–16:15 | Coffee break

PANEL 2 | 16:15–18:00

Legitimising and Processing Deployments – Mandate Debates, Aftercare and Institutional Learning

Chair: Günther Freisleben (retired Police Commissioner and Head of Mission)

Peter Buchner (Institute of Sociology, University of Koblenz)
Between Social Technology and Jurisprudence: Police and Military – Together, but Not (Always) in Step

Gerlind Kirchhof (Head of the Crisis Intervention Team, Working Group on International Police Missions)
Stress and Psychological Support during International Police Missions

Michael Cassens (Lower Saxony Central Police Directorate)
German Police Capacity-Building Missions: Expectations, Experiences and Institutional Learning Processes among German Police Officers

Discussion

18:00–18:30 | Dinner (canteen)

EVENING EVENT

Honoured for Service – In Conversation with the 2026 Award Recipients

19:30–21:15 | Officers' mess

Chair: Haydée Mareike Haass (DHPol)

Stephanie Königs (Rhein-Kreis Neuss District Police Authority)
"German Female Police Officer of the Year" – UN Award

Experiences from UNMISS/South Sudan

Thomas Hofmann (Center for International Peace Operations, ZIF)
Recipient of the "Peacekeeper Award 2026"

Experiences from International EU Missions, Currently EUBAM Rafah

Thursday

26 November 2026

PANEL 3 | 09:00–10:20

Afghanistan as a Shared Arena of Experience – Police and Military between Mandate, Experience and Evaluation

Chair: Haydée Mareike Haass (DHPol)

Christian Hartmann (formerly ZMSBw)
Afghanistan – The Operational Environment

Uwe Marquardt (Steinfurt District Police Authority)
Strategic Evaluation of Germany's Police Engagement in Afghanistan: Findings of the Interministerial Evaluation of the Federal Government's Civilian Engagement

Discussion

10:20–10:45 | Coffee break

PANEL 4 | 10:45–12:05

Between Evacuation and Peacekeeping – German Security Actors amid International Upheaval

Chair: Silvia-Lucretia Nicola (ZMSBw)

Emma Nentwig (University of Hamburg)
Evacuation without Deployment? West German Plans to Rescue German Nationals during the Iranian Revolution of 1978/79

Daniel Lange (German-Namibian Society)
Namibia Case Study: A Turning Point in South West Africa, 1989/90 – Three German Perspectives on the First and Only Joint East-West German UN Patrol

Discussion

12:05–13:00 | Lunch break (canteen)

PANEL 5 | 13:00–14:20

Current Overseas Deployments of the Police and Bundeswehr – Mandate, Practice and Experiences between Continuity and Change

Chair: Fabian Hönicke (DHPol)

Aylin Sözen (Neuss District Police Authority)
Police Experiences from the Kosovo Mission

Günther Freisleben (retired Police Commissioner and Head of Mission)
Practical Experience from Various Missions: A Police Perspective on the Bundeswehr

Discussion

14:20–14:45 | Coffee break

14:45–16:15 | Session to be confirmed

PANEL 6 | 16:15–17:35

Exporting Security – Knowledge Transfer and International Security Cooperation

Chair: Gundula Gahlen (DHPol)

Fabian Bennewitz (Institute of Contemporary History Munich–Berlin, Federal Foreign Office Division)
Training Assistance between Democratic Renewal and Repression: West German Police Experts in Guatemala (1986–1991)

Noura Chalati (Leiden University)
Knowledge Circulation between the GDR's German People's Police and the Syrian Police: SIGINT Training and Security Cooperation

Discussion

17:35–18:30 | Dinner (canteen)

Friday

27 November 2026

ROUNDTABLE | 08:30–10:30

International Missions of Police and Armed Forces – Experiences and Perspectives

Chair: Oliver Bossert (German Police University, DHPol)

Stephanie Königs (Rhein-Kreis Neuss District Police Authority)
Police Experiences from UNMISS/South Sudan

Thomas Hofmann (Center for International Peace Operations, ZIF)
Civilian Experiences from International EU Missions

Günther Freisleben (retired Police Commissioner and Head of Mission)
Experiences from International Police Missions

Nick Almstädt (NATO Mission, Bosnia)
Changing Military Roles: Responsibility, Scope for Action and Learning in International Missions

10:30–11:00 | Coffee break

11:00–11:45

Concluding Remarks and Final Discussion

Concluding remarks: Thorsten Loch (ZMSBw) and Silvia-Lucretia Nicola (ZMSBw)

11:45–12:30 | Lunch (canteen)