

NBC Defence Corps of the Bundeswehr — Adaptation to New Challenges

In no way did “perpetual peace” break out after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact. Rather, it became clear with increasing length of time that operations — in contrast to the era of the Cold War— became more likely and that the Federal Republic of Germany can consequently not forgo to maintain armed forces for Defence in future either. But the employment of armed forces has considerably changed. The Bundeswehr has undergone a transformation from a pure Defence army to an Army that can be employed within the scope of international alliances for peacekeeping and, if necessary, for peace— enforcing missions. Presently, the main effort is placed on the peacekeeping missions. These are not conducted in the face of an imminent danger threatening directly the existence of Germany, however. As a consequence, presumed exception regulations which would have taken effect within the scope of the Defence of German territory cannot be applied with missions and operations abroad — exceptions in case of a war are given in only very few laws; in general, the means of weighing objects of legal protection will be applied in a war. This entails also that special significance must be attached to the protection of the servicemen and servicemen. The duty of the state in respect of care and welfare of military personnel commands that particular precautions be taken for that.

Aside from this general change of the situation, a new situation has also developed with regard to the threat posed by nuclear, biological, and chemical agents and weapons. It is thus evident that no nation would be willing and capable at present of attacking the Federal Republic of Germany extensively with weapons of mass destruction and to endanger it in its continued existence. Although the Bundeswehr should not rule out this option for plannings, it is presently not the determining factor for the organization and structures of the NBC De-

fence of the Bundeswehr. But in the past years a danger has developed which — although not comparable with an employment of weapons of mass destruction — poses nonetheless a threat which impairs the public order and whose psychological consequences in particular can be really grave. I’m talking about the use of radiological, biological or chemical munitions or agents, which can be employed within the scope of terror attacks. To be mentioned as examples here are the Sarin attacks of the AUM sect on the subway in Tokyo or the anthrax letters in the USA after the attack of 11 September 2001. Industrially available hazardous substances comparable in their effects with chemical agents as well as the growing knowledge, which is internally spreading exponentially, are also made use of by criminals and terrorists. The continuing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to Germany and to the armed forces employed. Terror networks have no fixed structures, which necessitate a constant adaptation of the structures and capabilities of the armed forces to counter this threat.

in six so— called capability categories. The “Survivability and Protection” capability also comprises the “NBC Defence” capability. This capability is described in the sub— concept “NBC Defence of the Bundeswehr” which defines basics for the discharge of tasks and functions. The paradigm change in the discharge of functions was initiated with the issuance on 14 November 2006 in consequence of the new threats and the new mission profile. One of the major changes in the sub— concept of the NBC Defence of the Bundeswehr is the consistent allocation of capabilities to the different levels of the organization of the armed forces. The seven individual capabilities of NBC Defence are defined as:

- Individual protection
- Collective protection
- NBC reconnaissance
- Decontamination
- NBC Defence consultation
- Medical NBC protection
- NBC hardening.

The individual capabilities are performed in up to three proficiency/qualification steps.

The basic qualification is aimed at ensuring the survivability of the soldier in an NBC event. Procedures and equipment must be designed in such a way that they can be learned, trained and used with limited effort. This reduced effort allows basic qualification in NBC Defence to be imparted despite the generally high training requirements in the special tasks of each individual soldier.

Goal of the extended qualification on company and battalion— size unit levels is to ensure both the protection of the troops after an NBC event and the mission accomplishment in NBC conditions. The soldiers will be enabled

Reaction to New Challenges

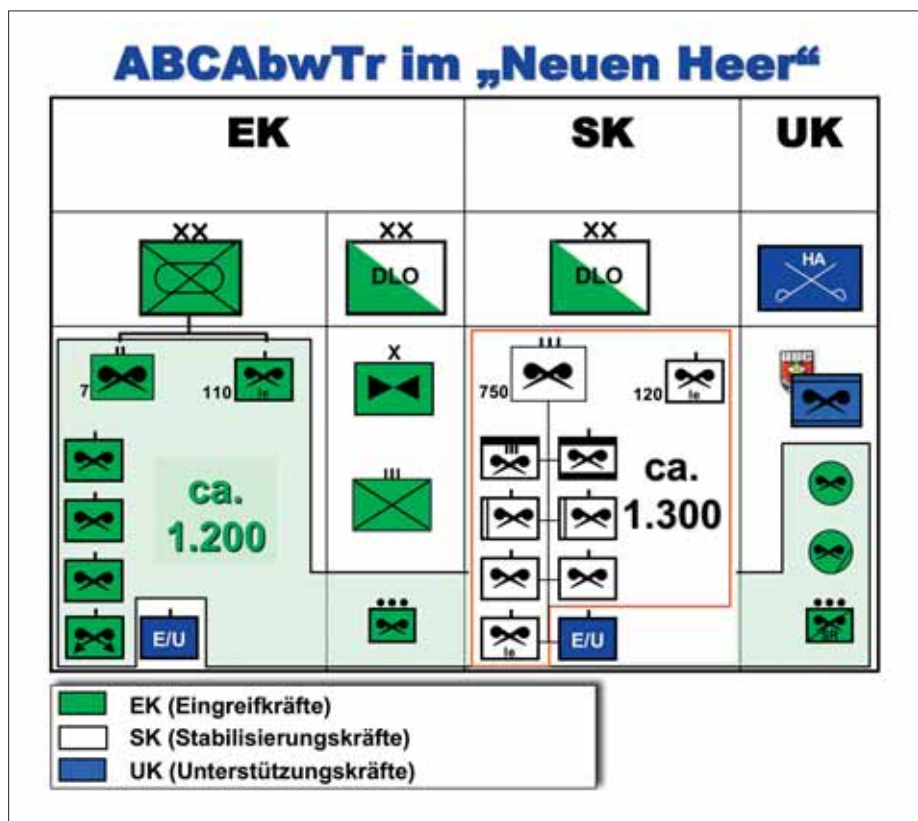
The concept of the Bundeswehr has reacted to these new challenges. With the capability— oriented approach it departs from the static commitment to organization, forces, and equipment. In a very flexibly kept approach, capabilities are described which have to be provided by the Bundeswehr in advance in order to be capable of accomplishing the mission of the Bundeswehr. The capabilities are summarized

	Individual Protection	Collective Protection	NBC-Recon	Decontamination	Medical NBC-Protection	Medical NBC-Protection	NBC-Hardening
Basic-Qualification	X	N/A	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
Extended Qualification	N/A	N/A	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
Qualified Proficiency	X	N/A	X	X	X	X	N/A

Capability Stages in Bundeswehr NBC Defence.

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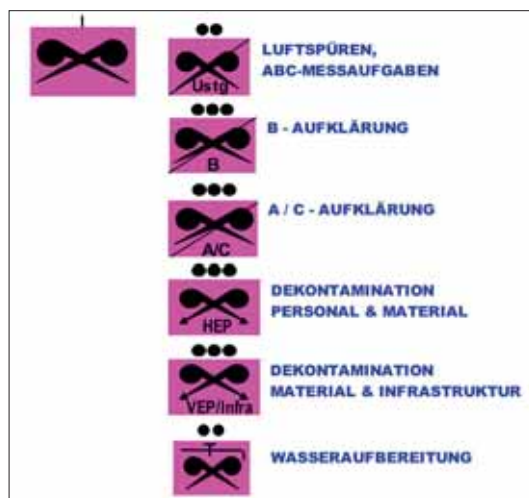


Structure of the NBC Defence Corps in the New Army.

to carry out NBC Defence tasks to a limited extent. To that end they will be given respective training—generally course—based—and weapons. Measures of the extended qualification in connection with measures of the basic qualification ensure the survival after an NBC event and guarantee the continued performance of the mission. This level of proficiency differs from the former “secondary NBC Defence function” because of the fact that tasks in NBC Defence after an NBC event can no longer be carried out independently. In principle, “secondary” and “primary” forces had to do the same tasks; they differed only in the scale of performance. The primary forces provided no basically new quality, though.

This is now done with the introduction of the qualified proficiency level. A higher level of task accomplishment will be determined which will pose special demands on personnel, training, and equipment. The personnel in the qualified proficiency level has better qualifications which are acquired by taking recourse to respective previous professional experience and scientific—technical training. The personnel will perform these tasks on a permanent basis and receive regularly extension and advanced training. The requirement regarding the quality of task accomplishment forbids doing this as a secondary or further technical function since the necessary training as well as sustenance training cannot be ensured.

The personnel of the qualified proficiency level are consolidated in special organizational elements. These are assigned to the organizational areas “Army”, “Air Force” and “Central Medical Service”; their entirety is designated “NBC Defence Forces of the Bundeswehr”. The difference between extended and qualified proficiency will be shown by the examples of NBC reconnaissance and decontamination. Forces with extended proficiency in NBC reconnaissance are going to have warning and alert devices in future, which can detect the presence of NBC munitions or agents. These will allow them to prompt the necessary warning and alert measures. An analysis of the detected substance will not be made, as



Inner Structure of a NBC Company.

this can normally not be done in an automated way and therefore always requires the availability of a capacity for assessment and interpretation. This necessitates a considerable volume of training, which can no longer be provided in a secondary function.

On the level of the qualified proficiency, the identification as well as the analysis of the substance is effected in addition to the detection. This is done through the stages “provisional”, “confirmed”, and “beyond doubt” by application of different scientific methods. The results must also meet forensic requirements, since they must, in case of doubt, be utilizable in court and, as for missions abroad, be also utilizable in international law, if necessary. This, too, shows that these tasks can no longer be performed in a secondary function.

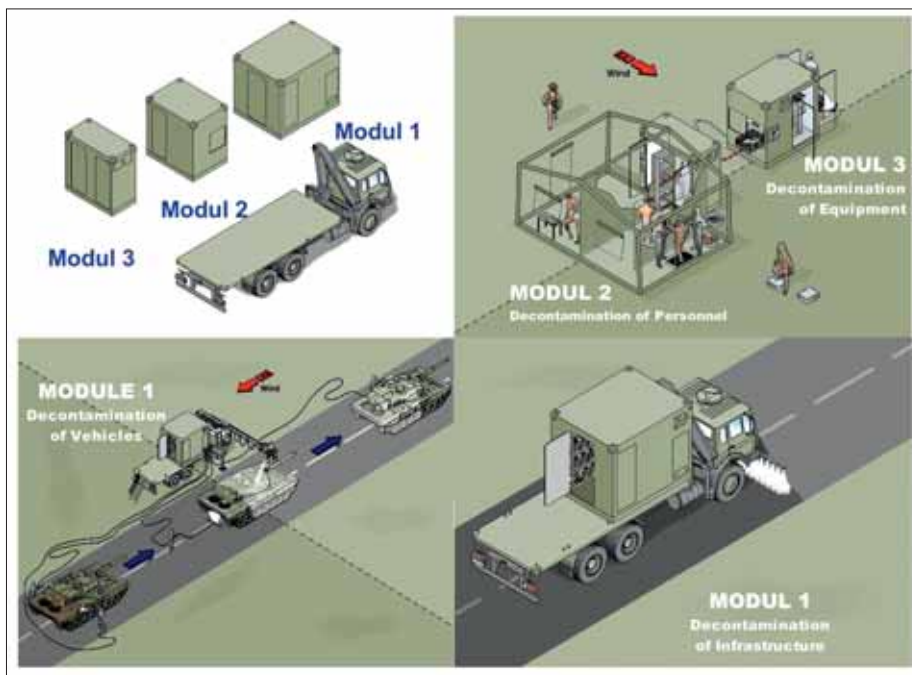
The “hasty decontamination” in the extended proficiency level is aimed at preventing contact contamination and to minimize contamination dispersal. The affected system can continue to be used, but the NBC protection will not be lifted. This will only be done after decontamination by the NBC Defence forces, i.e. forces of the qualified proficiency level. The continued use of the military materiel after the “thorough decontamination” requires that decontaminated equipment is fully and absolutely useable. Following the decontamination control it must be ensured in future that all legal requirements, e.g. of the occupational safety or the hazardous cargo law, will be met.

NBC Defence Corps of the Bundeswehr

The NBC Defence Corps of the Bundeswehr includes the NBC Defence forces of the Army, the NBC Defence forces of the Air Force Ground Combat Support Regiment as well as the medical NBC protection forces of the Central Medical Service of the Bundeswehr, which will be briefly described in the following. According to the definition of the sub—concept “NBC Defence of the Bundeswehr”, the NBC Defence cells in the headquarters upwards of the brigades and comparably the NBC Defence and Self—Protection School, the Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protective Technologies and NBC Protection as well as the institutes of the Central Medical Service with Bundeswehr Medical Office (Institutes for Radiobiology, Microbiology and Pharmacology and Toxicology) belong formally also to these forces. But since their role is primarily a supporting one, I am not going into it in more detail.

The Army is still the mainstay of the forces of the NBC Defence of the Bundeswehr. With an NBC Defence regiment, an NBC Defence battalion and two independent light NBC Defence companies it provides, inter alia, the forces in the stabilization and response forces categories.

The NBC Defence regiment is assigned to the stabilization forces; the determining task is the support of all stabilization missions of



Decontamination, Field Decontamination Station 90.

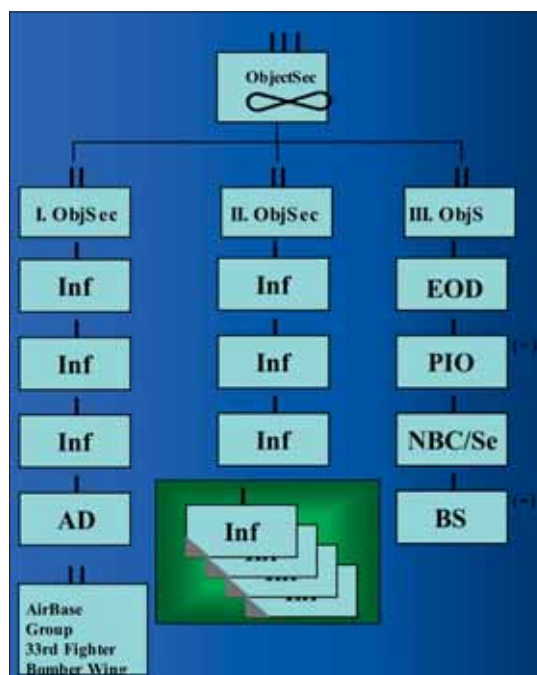
the Bundeswehr. The regiment has more than five differently tailored NBC Defence companies. All NBC Defence companies are capable of carrying out NBC reconnaissance (N/C reconnaissance; B reconnaissance in future), decontamination of personnel, materiel, and infrastructure, water purification for the decontamination and participating in NBC Defence consultation. Primary system of the companies in reconnaissance is the Armoured NBC Reconnaissance System FUCHS (NBCRS Fox); in decontamination the decontamination equipment/apparatus Field Decontamination Station 90 will take that place.

The NBC Defence battalion is assigned to the response forces; it is thus capable of participating in operations of high intensity. In its basic organization it has three NBC Defence companies as well as one decontamination company. The latter one makes sure that the NBC Defence Corps of the Army can support all organizational areas in the decontamination. The tasking and materiel and equipment of the NBC Defence companies of the battalion correspond to that of the regiment.

Since the inception of the NATO Response Force (NRF) the NBC Defence battalion as the core of the Multinational NBC Defence Battalion is called in when Germany is the main troop provider (this happened with NRF 4 (2005), NRF 7 (2006), NRF 10 (2008) and will in future occur with NRF 15 (2010)). The capabilities for rapid deployment, commanding of multinational elements, and for supporting a multinational NRF contingent in NBC Defence constitute a special challenge to the training, the

language profile and to command and control. The NBC— specific capabilities do not differ, however, since NBC munitions and NBC agents react neutral to force categories.

The light NBC Defence companies take account of the fact that the Bundeswehr must be capable of responding quickly to suddenly appearing challenges. Two of the three light NBC Defence companies are independent ones; the third company is integrated in the regiment. Primary mission of the light NBC Defence companies is the support of special and specialized forces in NBC Defence tasks within the scope of all operation options. The light NBC De-



Air Force Object/Facility Security in the Air Force Ground Combat Support Regiment.

fence company has three NBC Defence platoons that are each capable of conducting NBC reconnaissance and decontamination. Two of the three platoons have also the capability for water purification including potable water treatment in mobile accommodations. For the support of airmobile operations, the light NBC Defence companies need equipment that is adapted to the mission. The light decontamination apparatus is presently undergoing troop tests; the light NBC reconnaissance equipment is presently under development.

A new capability in NBC Defence is the Special NBC Defence Response Platoon. It is a highly specialized sub— unit for rapid worldwide deployment whose main purpose is to give the commanders at the scene of action fast and qualified advice. To that end, this platoon is provided with scientifically qualified personnel, which is particularly trained and competent in the basics of the respective specialized field. In order to be able to get an own impression of the situation at the scene of action, this platoon is furnished with reconnaissance equipment. This equipment includes special, portable, highly sensitive, commercial measuring instruments and analysers for sampling. The platoon constitutes a particularity, since it is a mission element belonging to NBC Defence and Self— Protection School at the same time.

Required for both the confirmed identification and analysis of NBC munitions/agents in the total mission spectrum of the Bundeswehr is the “Mobile NBC Analysis Station” as an air transportable element for field— type NBC laboratory reconnaissance that can be employed in every area of operation. In addition to the necessary mobility and the required protection it must also have the essential scientific layout of the operator personnel for executing this task as well as the respective equipment.

Within the scope of the qualified proficiency for NBC reconnaissance it is the task of the NBC laboratory reconnaissance team to analyse and confirmatively identify NBC munitions/agents at the scene of action in an area of operations. This is a basic prerequisite for estimating the impacts on friendly forces, but especially for the military leader responsible for giving technically sound and time— optimal advice in respect to NBC Defence to allow him to initiate protective measures in due time and in line with demand.

The NBC Defence forces of the Air Force are organically integrated in the object/facility security forces of the Air Force ground combat support regiment. According to the mission concept “Object/Facility Security, Air Force” their primary mission consists in protecting assets and objects of the Air Force within the scope of the enlarged task spectrum against effects of conventional weapons, NBC munitions, and comparable dangers (such as effects of industrial accidents) by suitable measures of the NBC Defence forces. Equipment and organization are optimised for that objective. For that purpose, four active NBC and self— protection platoons

as well as a non— active one are organized in the NBC self— protection squadron of the Air Force ground combat support regiment. The NBC/self— protection platoons are not organized in the same modular way. The platoons are subdivided into eight specialized, capability— related sub— elements. The mission of medical NBC protection is to maintain and restore the health of personnel exposed to NBC munitions and to ensure the technical counselling of the decision makers as well as of the doctors/physicians treating patients in NBC hazard situations. The Medical NBC Protection Task Force is a permanently available, mobile and globally employable group of experts for medical tasks in the field of medical NBC protection. In addition to the command and decontamination capabilities, personnel from the scientific institutes of the Bundeswehr Medical Office are called in depending on the situation and mission to form special diagnostic groups. The Task Force (TF) is — similar to the Special Response platoon — an advisory element that is provided with diagnostic capabilities. Thorough and gentle decontamination of walking wounded and stretcher patients is carried out in the casualty decontamination facilities of the medical and hospital regiments, the Command NBC Defence and Self— Protection School and the Task Force Medical NBC Protection. The Medical Service is presently refurbishing/modernizing these facilities. The troop test of the new equipment will be continued in this year.

Further Development

The capabilities of the Bundeswehr NBC Defence Corps are to be harmonized according to the standards and stipulations of the “Bundeswehr NBC Defence” sub— concept in a way to allow joint and combined and multinational employment. The presently depicted capabilities do not fulfil the requirements yet, but the necessary steps in reaching this target have been made. Thus, the harmonization of the NBC Defence training is currently being worked on. In future, the NBC Defence personnel will receive technical training on a joint and interservice basis so that they can be employed across and beyond the jurisdictional bounds of organizational areas. And Army and Air Force will bring their equipment in line with each other, too. It is thus planned that the equipment for the light NBC Defence companies be also introduced in the Air Force. The same equipment and the same training are the keystone for a joint and combined discharge of functions without ignoring the particularities of the individual organizational areas. The armed forces are currently making a concerted effort to implement this approach in order to increase and improve the Bundeswehr NBC Defence capability. ■

By Henry Neumann, Colonel (GEA), Chief of Branch NBC Defence, Fire Prevention, Self— Protection, Joint Support Command.