

Self-conception

The German Basic Law defines the parliamentary control and the command authority over the Bundeswehr. It emphasizes the primacy of politics which subordinates military leadership to political leadership. There is a special relationship of loyalty and trust between the armed forces and the state. In this context, the self-conception of the members of the German Army is based on their commitment to loyally serve the Federal Republic of Germany and steadfastly defend the rights and freedom of the German people.

The Characteristics of the Army's Self-Conception:

- The German Army is the core component of the land forces and the mainstay of land operations conducted within the framework of missions for the protection of Germany and its citizens, international conflict prevention and crisis management, support of allies, rescue and evacuation operations, and other forms of assistance.
- The German Army must be able to fight, protect, assist and mediate on a global scale in regions that vastly differ from one another in terms of geography, climate and culture.
- The German Army implements the values and norms of the Basic Law by using the concept of "Innere Führung" (leadership development and civic education) and accomplishes its tasks by applying the principles of mission-type command and control.
- The German Army follows the tradition of the army reformers around Gerhard von Scharnhorst, the resistance fighters of July 20, 1944, and its own history, which goes back for more than 50 years. Also, it greatly values instances of virtuous conduct and exceptional individual feats in its long military history. This becomes evident in its units, branches, and military tradition.
- The German Army is always characterized by diversity which is reflected in the different service branches.
- The German Army never stands alone but accomplishes its mission in cooperation with other members of the Bundeswehr and the allied armed forces.

The Guiding Principles of the Members of the German Army

As Army servicewomen and men, we

- Serve our country with loyalty and discipline. In pursuance of our duty, we are prepared to make sacrifices and risk our lives;
- Are proud of our military expertise and endeavor to continuously advance in our development – operational readiness and capability are the guiding principles of our actions;
- Assert ourselves on operations, either alone or as a team, in a spirit of bravery, courage, competence and level-headedness;
- Show tolerance and esprit de corps. We are open-minded and respectful of foreign cultures;
- Are modest, critical of ourselves, and strive to be an example to others. We declare our support for our tradition and our military custom.