

DBwV – Corona

The Corona virus has a firm grip on Germany, for the security of the citizens new regulations and restrictions are being put in place almost every day. Of course, the DBwV is also affected.

We reacted quickly. In the DBwV, around 80 percent of the well over 200 employees are working from home. And although a lot about this situation was new, it worked better than expected. This is certainly also due to our modern IT equipment, but in essence because of our excellent employees in the federal headquarters and local offices, who quickly adapted to the new situation. For them as well as for our mandate holders, it goes without saying that we do not cut back on service for our members!

Within the association, communication works smoothly at all levels, from the camaraderie to the local board members to the federal executive board. Communication is currently more important than ever. And our members in the participation committees also keep up the good work. They write emails, make phone calls and help each other. We are particularly impressed by the cohesion within our comradeship of alumni, reservists and survivors. Exactly this camaraderie and collegiality form the foundation of our over 60-year success story.

Also, politically, we are very active. We have had many discussions with parliamentarians recently, with our Minister of Defence and also with management staff at various levels. Especially in the talks with members of the federal government and parliament, we highlighted social framework conditions, mission mandates, but also fundamental decisions on the budget or equipment and infrastructure issues.

Naturally, there are also many questions from our members. Topics include childcare during school or day-care closings, aid processing, protective measures during administrative assistance missions, the framework conditions for quarantine before and after stays abroad or missions, working time or vacation arrangements and much more. The DBwV with its competent legal advisors as well as with the representatives and staff councils is well positioned to deal with these questions. Everyone is ready to help and advice. In the days and weeks to come we will keep members up to date on the homepage and in our protected area.

Even if we cannot yet fully assess how the Corona crisis will affect the economy in particular, we continue to work in Germany as concentrated as we did during the financial crisis. If we follow the trend in Germany, we will be mostly at ease, the confidence in politics has supposedly never been greater in the last twenty years than today. And this in the face of increasing concerns about health and the economic situation! No question: We all know people who don't know what to do next due to the shutdown. And yet we experience - in the DBwV as well as among friends and acquaintances - predominantly confidence and pragmatism instead of panic. The largely positive experiences of the past 75 years have probably made us Germans more resilient. And for the citizens, the crisis is an occasion to learn to appreciate the

work of the Bundeswehr and the wider public services once again despite some challenges.

Despite all the current problems, we recognize the great difference in quality between our healthcare system and that of other countries. We can be very proud and grateful to have such a system; especially with the central medical service of the Bundeswehr as an integral part. And with this pride, trust and pragmatism we come through this crisis together - within Germany and especially within the DBwV. We can orientate ourselves on our founding fathers: Despite some harsh experience, they have never lost course, cohesion or confidence.

Corona – The German Armed Forces

Since the appearance of the coronavirus in Wuhan, China, the Bundeswehr has been closely involved in various federal government measures. The measures taken so far range from preventive measures within the Bundeswehr to the detection of the pathogen in suspected cases to administrative assistance with the provision of accommodation.



The Bundeswehr is responding to numerous requests for assistance related to COVID-19. Nationwide, it has built up a network of reliable contact points for requests and advice on the Bundeswehr's services in the event of a disaster. This network and the forces of the Bundeswehr stand by the corresponding agencies of the federal states.

The Bundeswehr is preparing for assistance above all when the civil authorities and organizations have reached the limit of their capabilities.

Aid so far has mainly focused on the procurement of medical equipment, the provision of beds and storage capacity for civilian facilities. But the Bundeswehr also transferred its own material from the so-called field hospitals to the five Bundeswehr hospitals. In these hospitals, 60 or more percent of the patients are already civilians, meaning that the armed forces are currently already contributing to medical care. With around 3,000 doctors, the Bundeswehr is an important part of the German healthcare system.



The use of voluntary reservists is to be expanded significantly. There are currently around 28,000 so-called reservists, i.e. soldiers who, after leaving the Bundeswehr, have voluntarily declared their willingness to be available for service. Some of them with special training would be targeted by their troops; the rest are called for voluntary reporting.

The Bundeswehr is there when it is asked for disaster relief. It has proven this often enough in the 65 years of its existence. And this despite the fact that it does not have its own resources and resources for disaster relief operations. After all, the armed forces focus on national and alliance defence and on missions abroad.

https://www.dbwv.de/aktuelle-themen/corona-ticker/beitrag/news/32-000-soldaten-verfuegbar-fuer-den-einsatz-gegen-das-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR1sr9skrZmp0I9FXglCF0RK5ToMvUoabDW_TuVtsyzrjuTpisHmyFiA02Y

In this respect, the 15,000-strong force that the Bundeswehr is currently deploying is a first. Because with it, for the first time, a contingent is being set up in anticipation of possible assistance in Germany, and that across the board, with its own management structure, specially tailored skills from the areas of management, security, logistics and NBC-defence. In addition, there are approx. 17,000 soldiers in the medical field.

There are only a small number of people within the Bundeswehr infected with the Corona virus. However, a great deal of effort is required in the course of prevention. Many soldiers are in home office and are waiting for their deployment.

The forces that will fly to various missions next are in quarantine a fortnight before departure so as not to endanger the forces in the areas of operations.



The recruits hired in writing on April 1st will remain at home subject to certain conditions and will begin their basic training on June 1st at the earliest. It would now be too dangerous to summarize the recruits at our locations in a confined space.

The same applies to everyone - wait and see and keep the infection rates down so that the healthcare system can accommodate the infected persons. This will keep us busy for months.