THE COMMUNITY OF THE CYBER RESERVE OF THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES

WORKING GROUPS

CYBER

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The Association of Reservists (Verband der Reservisten der Deutschen Bundeswehr e.V. – VdRBw) supports the German Armed Forces in the training of its reservists, serves as a mediator in society and operates as an agent of security policy. Following the establishment of the new military organisational unit Cyber and Information Domain Service of the German Armed Forces, the association has undertaken to cooperate closely with it on the basis of service agreements in order to confront the hybrid threat in the Cyber and Information Domain Service dimension within the framework of national security measures.

For that purpose the association has set up a Cyber Unit, which is currently coordinating the state cyber officers in their search for IT experts for the German Armed Forces and promoting the establishment of local cyber reservist committees, currently in Munich and Berlin. Besides IT experts, personnel from the media sector are also required for the Cyber Reserve, as well as legal support personnel, communications personnel and earth science personnel, among others.

THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES’ CYBER RESERVE

A further focus of the collaboration is the cooperation in currently six technically and thematically oriented working groups, which are characterised by equal representation and are headed by one active soldier and one reservist. These working groups cooperate in the optimisation of the processes for appointing and training reservists and persons who have not served for the German Armed Forces.

They deal with areas related to information security, discuss specific legal issues with experts, develop serious gaming for IT awareness, provide information on that work and extend technical means of collaboration for the cooperation between active soldiers and reservists.

On the following pages you will find information on the individual working groups of the Cyber Reserve and contact addresses, if you are interested in this community and/or deployment in the German Armed Forces.

Your commitment and technical expertise within these working groups makes an important contribution to our country’s national security measures, even outside a military service relationship or as a person who has not yet performed military service, and is very much needed!
In view of the commonality of the subject matter and in order to take advantage of the synergy effects, at the beginning 2017 the joint working group “Personnel & Training” was initiated. The cooperation involves direct communication with the working groups in the Cyber and Information Domain Service Headquarters.

The core theme of the working group is, among other things, the integration of the reserve’s needs into the new Cyber/IT Service careers concept. Cooperation takes place with regard to the development of personnel measures for reservists to cover the demand, particularly taking into account their existing civil professional qualifications and experience, but also the limited availability of such technical personnel. For that purpose, the working group participates in the development, implementation and further development of the Cyber/IT Evaluation Center (CITEC).

In addition the working group supports the work of the military organisational unit Cyber and Information Domain Service with regard to a rethinking of the training landscape. A key objective here is to establish a uniform understanding of the Cyber and Information Domain Service dimension which is consistent right across the Bundeswehr. In this context work is done on achieving the integration of content into existing course-related training/appropriately adapt existing courses and training. The working group particularly emphasises a possible modular design of courses and training programmes, using and combining a wide range of e-learning and “traditional” educational formats.
The working group for information security has set itself the task of networking interested members of the Cyber Reserve with those responsible for this area in the German Armed Forces. One of the intended results of such networking is to recruit qualified applicants for an assignment and reservist services and thus put the civil/military cooperation relationship on as long-term a foundation as possible. Within such a framework, IT projects relating to security can then be handled and supported in an ongoing manner. The know-how and expertise of reservists will be enlisted and exploited.

As the culmination of any active reservist work a further goal is to participate in military exercises in order to apply acquired and practised knowledge and skills in practice and consolidate them. Such exercises in the cyber context already take place today in the international context, bi-nationally (for example with the Netherlands) or within the framework of NATO. With regard to instructing active troops in the area of secure handling of IT (cyber awareness), the Cyber Reserve already provides support locally with training services.

Finally the working group helps with the use of secure communication and collaboration equipment within the Cyber Reserve and with the German Armed Forces, in accordance with the principles of information security.
The working group CIR Law deals with the legal framework of cyber operations and the relevant legal issues. This concerns national, international and European law. The objective of the working group is to discuss current legal issues relevant for cyber operations, identify legal problems and develop practical solutions. For that purpose the working group provides all interested reservists with previous legal knowledge with a discussion platform on which current incidents can be analysed and legally classified on the basis of officially available information.

The topics range from constitutional issues through data protection law to the applicability of international humanitarian law and the violation of the intervention prohibition under international law. For example, the subject of one discussion was how to handle the hacking of an Israeli water supplier by an allegedly state-sponsored player.

At the same time the working group aims, in close consultation with the Cyber and Information Domain Service Headquarters, to recruit young legal professionals and qualified personnel (e.g. data protection experts) and inspire them to consider possible reserve activities, including by brokering courses.

Lastly, the working group is also working on a database/learning module in which the main features of CIR Law will be made available in a simple and user-friendly form as a reference work.
INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING ELEMENTS

At a time of digital transformation increasingly digitalised armed forces operate in a rapidly changing civil environment, whose digitalised critical infrastructures are becoming the central focus of security strategies.

CIR and manager training
The digital transformation requires, within the framework of the education and training of managers, particularly from the Staff College of the German Armed Forces, the development and extension of skills for integrating the cyber and information space into military operations. The Faculty of Deployment, Cyber and Information Domain Service, Armed Forces Base cooperates in holistic manager training with other faculties and partners from the areas of teaching and research both in Germany and abroad.

The working group Planning Exercises is a new unit of the Staff College of the German Armed Forces for innovative educational and training elements, with which the integration of the Cyber and Information Domain Service into the planning and implementation of operations is communicated. One focus is new exercise and war gaming formats.

The working group thus provides a field of activity for experts from different areas such as cyber technologies, media science, gaming, systems and organisational science, didactics, critical cyber infrastructure and project management.
In our working group we jointly discuss and develop possibilities and measures for placing the Cyber Community in the Association of Reservists (VdRBw) and in the target group in terms of content (Marketing), as well as raising awareness of it amongst a broader public (Communication Work). In all the communication measures that have hitherto been implemented we have successfully communicated, always in close consultation with the players responsible for the information work in the association and the German Armed Forces, that the Cyber Reserve/Cyber Community offers those interested with a very attractive pathway into or within the German Armed Forces.

Specifically: We take care of the narrative, design and the development of digital and analogue information materials. These are then distributed at trade fairs, for example cyber community summits, cyber forums, careers fairs or IT trade fairs. The association’s website “Cyber” also has to be maintained.

The third pillar of the working group is performing typical public relations work, with the aim of familiarising a broader public with the Cyber Community, the aim being to increase the Cyber Community’s public presence and raise its profile, whether through statements by representatives of the cyber community in well-known public media, in the IT press or business press or through specialist articles in Internet business networks.

We need creative minds to help us implement all these ideas: whether your background is the editorial office, media design or public relations, we will warmly welcome you as our comrade and colleague!
The working group Administration has set itself the objective of providing technical support for the work of the other working groups and ensuring collaboration. It endeavours to base itself on existing standards and best practices in order to speed up and efficiently implement processes of cooperation and information management.

The Link and Learn platform acts as an entrance door to the German Armed Forces’ community (PCCBw). The Cyber Community meets virtually on that platform and when and as required also for workshops or meetings held in German Armed Forces’ premises. The work is based on profiles approved in workshops with the German Armed Forces and under the management of the German Armed Forces’ Deputy Inspector CIR and CISO. Its progress is coordinated via regular meetings in the form of web conferences.

Collaboration
Besides the PCCBw for rapid contacting of and connecting with the community, other tools, some of them popular tools available on the market, are used in the work of the working groups, which also require administrative and logistics support. This support is provided by the working group Administration as a support service for the other working groups. Furthermore, on that basis requirements are defined that arise from the point of view of the reservist for the purpose of using externally in the future also communications systems of the German Armed Forces.
On the website of the German Armed Forces’ Community those interested will find, following registration and regardless of their status, access to the for all accessible working groups of the Association of Reservists (VdRBw) and the Cyber Reserve, for which they can apply for membership.

On this information and collaboration platform provided by the School for Information Technology of the German Armed Forces (ITSBw) for actively serving personnel and the reserve, different groups and areas of interest are set up for the purpose of jointly working through both general and specialised topics virtually and on an interdisciplinary basis. The aim is to support the German Armed Forces’ work in a focused, contemporary and flexible manner through external expertise.
CONTACT INFORMATION

You would like to be involved in the working groups of the Cyber Reserve of the German Armed Forces:

- Reservist Working Community
  Cyber/Cyber Community
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  Cyber Reserve Advisor
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- You’re interested in a deployment in the organisational unit Cyber and Information Domain Service:
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  Cyber Reserve Interested Persons Management
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You can find an initial overview of the possibilities, requirements and facilities in the organisational Unit Cyber and Information Domain Service in the current information brochure.

LEGAL NOTICE

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WE DO IT

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Find out from us your options and entry pathways with regard to providing personnel support for active cyber personnel in the organisational unit Cyber and Information Domain Service.

YOUR EXPERTISE IS IN DEMAND! PLEASE CONTACT US!

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