



Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,  
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines  
and on their Destruction

Meeting of the Standing Committees  
21-25 June 2004  
Geneva

Presentation on the



Federal Armed Forces  
Verification Center  
Germany

Mr / Mrs CoChair , Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Major Jörg Schlickmann from the German Verification Center and I'm the head of the evaluation and reporting branch of the department responsible for the Ottawa Convention as well as the Vienna Document and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

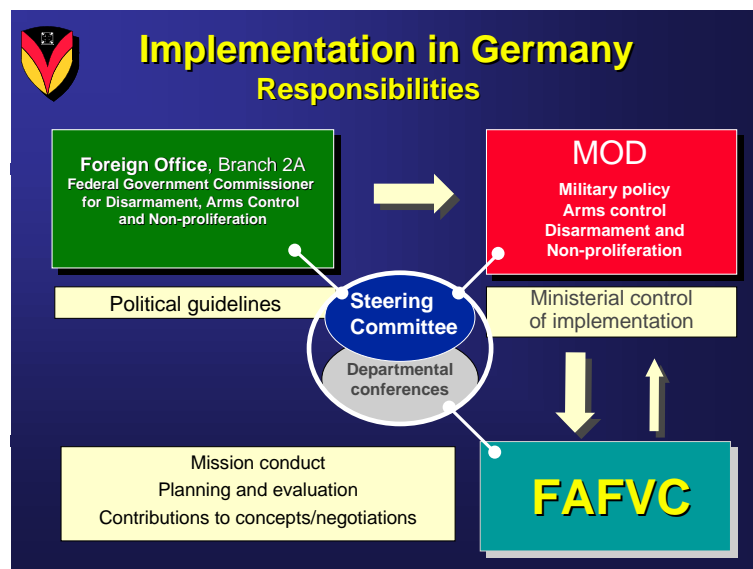
Today, I have the honor to give you an overview of the tasks of the German Verification Center, of course with a special focus on the tasks to be fulfilled by our center with respect to the Ottawa Convention.

Let me start by giving you some general information on the German Verification Center.

Our center is administratively subordinate to the Armed Forces Office and belongs thus to the Joint Support Service (JSS). While our regular work is characterized to a large extent by the technical cooperation with the ministerial level, our center is an example of the vast variety of tasks which can be found in this new organizational area.



The German Verification Center was established at Geilenkirchen in April 1991 in order to take care of the rights and obligations resulting from the arms control treaties and agreements.



The implementation of arms control agreements was delegated from the Foreign Office to the Ministry of Defense, while the non-ministerial implementation activities are to be conducted by the German Verification Center. This called for the establishment of a coordinating steering committee responsible for determining the principles of implementation work. The resulting responsibilities are shown on this slide. It seems to be clear, however, that the smooth interaction of all participating agencies is an indispensable precondition for the success of our work.



The German Verification Center is responsible for very diverse treaties and groups of treaties of which I would like to mention just the most important ones here by order of subject.

In the group of the traditional arms control treaties, the CFE Treaty still plays the central role for us. The implementation of the CFE Treaty was once one of the reasons to establish our verification center.

The second group of treaties and agreements we are dealing with comprises the so-called confidence-building measures, which are undoubtedly dominated by the Vienna Document 1999 and the Treaty on Open Skies.

A third group of treaties and agreements covers the weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

This group consists of the following treaties and agreements:

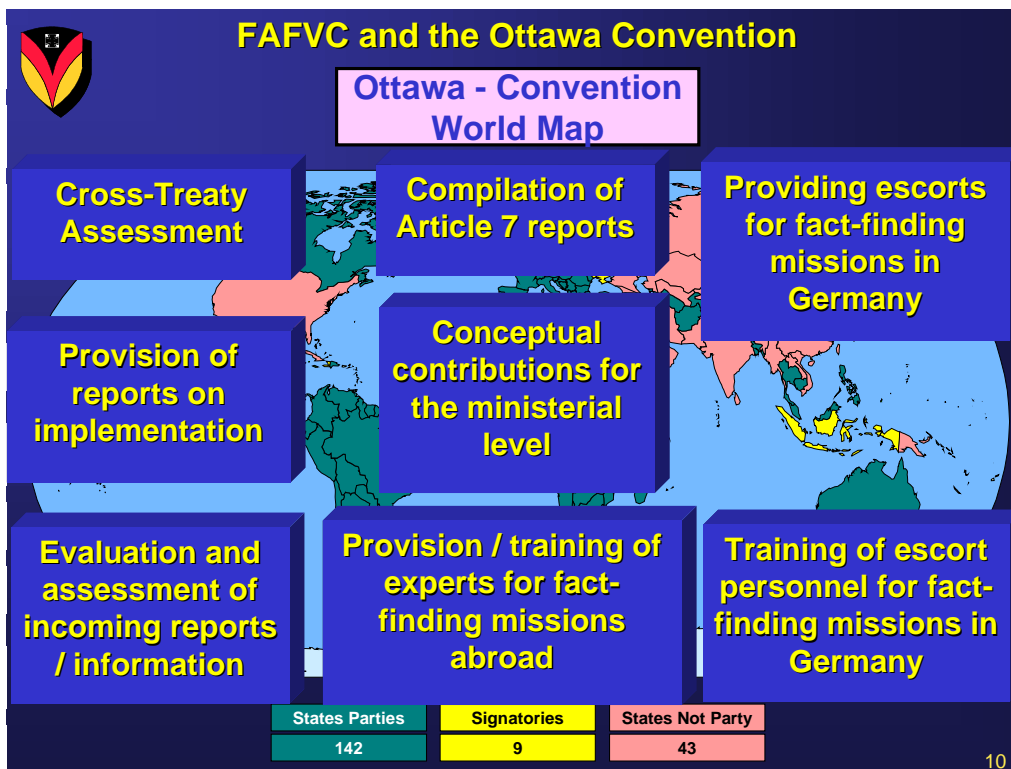
- the Chemical Weapons Convention,
- the Biological Weapons Convention,
- the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty,
- the Missile Technology Control Regime, and
- the Hague Code of Conduct, which is closely related to the aforementioned agreements and aims at providing information about missile launches on a mutual basis.

The excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms, mines and other categories of ammunition gives an increasing importance to this field of our responsibilities.

While the Ottawa Convention is in the center of our attention, I would also like to mention in this context

- the UN Program of Action on Small Arms,
- and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.





The tasks of our center in the field of the Ottawa-Convention differ clearly from those fulfilled in the framework of the classical arms control treaties presented earlier.

The German Verification Center was assigned specific tasks based on the Act of 1998, called "Implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction". Thus, our center, on behalf of the Ministry of Defense, is responsible for the implementation of the Ottawa Convention in the FAF.

As you know, we are dealing here with a unique mixture of international law and disarmament and arms control. The provisions of the Convention are focussed on confidence building and encourage compliance with the provisions through transparency, openness and cooperation on a mutual basis.

Although the term "verification" comes up nowhere in the text, the States Parties' own reporting is the core of the Convention's "verification system" and, at the same time, the essential source of information for our evaluation activities besides the information which is placed at our disposal mostly through the Internet by the many actors well known to you.

The German Verification Center is responsible for the national task of thoroughly reviewing and evaluating all reports transmitted pursuant to Article 7. For this purpose, all available reports are downloaded from the United Nations website and saved in the Center's own file system. On this basis, it is possible to prepare a country sheet for each State Party containing the aggregate essentials of the Article-7 reports. Additional information, such as that distributed informally at the Geneva-held intersessionals like this one, is also included.

The objective of this work is to have topical knowledge of a State Party's status of implementation as fast and reliably as possible. This way, it is also possible to

establish the States Parties' need of assistance pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention. The responsible German authorities can, thus, look into which assistance Germany is able to render and take specific measures.

In future, the Article-7 reports and other data on the subject of anti-personnel mines of all States Parties will be collected in a database at our Center. This database is at present in the final stages of its development. It is planned to store the relevant information in the database starting in the autumn of this year. This will make possible a largely automated evaluation of the States Parties' status of implementation and the compilation of regional summaries.

The results of the evaluation are reflected in the reports on the status of the implementation of the Ottawa Convention to be compiled regularly by our Center for the Ministry of Defense and the Foreign Office.

The section at the Center responsible for the evaluation also has the task of comparing the information gained this way with the data supplied in the framework of other agreements, such as the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

To comply with the German reporting obligations, our center supports the annual compilation of the German Article-7 report by gathering and compiling the data to be updated in connection with specific contents of the reports. This concerns primarily the data on the anti-personnel mines retained for training and testing purposes pursuant to Article 3 and on the previously produced and used anti-personnel mines in Form H of the report. To fulfil this information obligation German Verification Center cooperates closely with the military agencies retaining anti-personnel mines for training and the development of modern clearance techniques. One example is the FAF Guard Dog School which also trains mine-detection dogs.

And, last but not least, the German Verification Center has the task of ensuring the smooth conduct of potential fact-finding missions pursuant to Article 8 at the German armed forces and the foreign armed forces stationed in Germany. Our Center has organic, specially trained and available escort personnel and is prepared for this obligation arising from the Convention; it also has written an escort handbook for fact-finding missions.

German Verification Center regularly trains German escorts to enable them to perform their tasks.

Furthermore, to assist United Nations fact-finding missions with expert personnel when necessary, EOD personnel of our center is on the list of German experts that has been provided to the United Nations Secretary-General.

Besides implementing the Ottawa Convention, the German Verification Center is involved in further developing arms control in the area of anti-personnel mines and assists the ministerial level with expert evaluations of relevant matters and developments – even beyond the limits of the Convention.

This includes the participation of German Verification Center personnel, in an advisory role, together with ministry experts in meetings of international bodies like on this occasion.



## Status Report

- I) Executive summary
- II) Universalization
- III) Objectives of the first review conference
- IV) Compliance with the reporting obligations (Article 7)
- V) National implementation measures (Article 9)
- VI) Stockpiled, retained and destroyed anti-personnel mines
- VII) Mined areas and emplaced anti-personnel mines
- VIII) Assistance
- IX) Regional developments

To give you an example of how our verification center works for and on behalf of the German Ministry of Defense, I would like to give you a rough outline of the contents of the status report on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention which was compiled by our Center to brief the German participants in this meeting. To the German Ministry of Defense, these reports are an essential contribution to the assessment of the arms control political situation, and so they also influence, inter alia, the Federal Republic of Germany's evaluation of the implementation of the Ottawa Convention and of the activities connected with it. Let me briefly mention the essential points by looking at how the report is organized:

After giving an executive summary, the state of the Convention's universalization is described and assessed. Besides naming the most recent accessions, the report mentions deficits and shortcomings concerning the global acceptance of the Convention. Recognizable reasons for the non-accession of individual states are identified, followed by recommendations on how the goal of universalization can be reached.

The report does not only serve as a means to prepare for the forthcoming review conference. This conference and its agenda are themselves addressed in the report.

Based on the analysis of the States Parties' information policies, starting points are identified for strengthening the information exchange, and the additional national need for information is determined.

With regard to the national implementation measures pursuant to Article 9, we are limited to assessing the information provided by the States Parties from a statistical point of view. The subsequent evaluation highlights the need for full implementation by the States Parties pursuant to Article 9.

**We are striving to precisely cover the current status of stockpiled, retained and destroyed anti-personnel mines. And, as I have mentioned earlier, this subject in particular is connected with other tasks of the German Verification Center.**

**Besides contributing to the situation assessment, the information processed under items VII and VIII make it possible to recognize and evaluate needs for assistance and, where applicable, to ensure the best possible allocation of resources through coordination on a higher level. The contents and, thus, the significance of the Article 7 reports are of course essential for this purpose.**

**The report ends with a regional overview which provides more specific details and evaluations of essential aspects of the individual regions.**

**Together with its comprehensive appendix containing different statistical tables, this product, which is tailored to the needs of the German Ministry of Defense, is the essential result of our analysis and evaluation activities. From our point of view, the comprehensive national analysis by the States Parties is an essential element of implementation because it makes possible national evaluations which are the only way to fulfil the obligations contained in the Ottawa Convention in a target-oriented way.**

**With my brief presentation on the status report on implementation, I wanted to give you a good idea of this important field of our tasks.**

**To sum up, we may therefore claim that, while the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control is responsible for the civilian sector, our center is the central German body below the ministerial level that is responsible for all questions in connection with implementing the Ottawa Convention within the Federal Armed Forces. For this purpose, the German Verification Center invites interested verification agencies of the States Parties to engage in dialogue, exchanges of experience and further cooperation.**

**My colleague and expert on the Ottawa Convention, Mr. Kaltenborn, who some of you have probably met before, and myself will be pleased to answer any other questions you might have during the remainder of this week.**

**Mr/Mrs CoChair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It was my intention to give you an overview of the activities and responsibilities of German Verification Center with the focus on our common concern, the Ottawa Convention.**

**I hope that I have realized this objective and would like to thank you for your attention.**