

Wildflecken Training Area



HISTORY OF WILDFLECKEN TRAINING AREA

The History of Wildflecken Training Area (WTA) began in 1936 with the German Supreme Army Headquarters decision to construct major training areas for the IX Corps. Construction began in 1937, and more than 8,000 men were employed to complete the project in one year. The first round for the opening of the training area on 8 February 1938, and numerous German army units trained at WTA during World War II. Due to the densely wooded vegetation and effective camouflage, WTA was never discovered by allied aerial reconnaissance throughout the War. On 6 April 1945 elements of the Third U.S. Army occupied the area and at the end of the war, the caserne became a displaced persons camp under the direction of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). In April 1951, WTA became a major training area for U.S. and other NATO forces.



*Oct. 1959 - The King at WTA
Elvis Presley served the US Army
at Wildflecken Training Area!*

On 2 July 1967, WTA was assigned to the 7th Army Training Command in Grafenwoehr. The training area remained under this headquarters until October 1982, when control of the military community was transferred to V Corp; On 1 October 1990, control and supervision of both the community and training area was again assumed by 7th Army Training Command. Over the years, more than 4.5 million soldiers from U.S. and NATO units have conducted training at WTA to maintain their combat readiness. The training area has also hosted the following USAREUR level competitions: the Infantry Skills, the Engineer Sapper Stakes, the Air Defense Stinger Shoot-out, and the Cavalry Cup.

In 1994 the U.S. Army returned WTA to the German government. The German Army (Bundeswehr) assumed control of the place shortly after the U.S. forces had left. Today the German Army Center of Tactical Simulation plus several army units found a new home in the large complex. The training area is still used by NATO Forces. U.S. Army units, now as guests of the German Army, still train regularly at, what formerly had been known as WTA. Unfortunately in 2002, due to the new structure of the German-Army, all units except the GUPPIS Simulation-Center will become deactivated. What then will happen to the vast military installation in the Rhoen-Mountains - nobody knows...



WHAT GUPPIS IS AND DOES?

Gefechtssimulationszentrum des Heeres (GUPPIS) Warfighting Simulation Centre of the German Army GUPPIS was opened on April 9, 1998. It is designed to assist the training of Commanders and staffs at the level of the Army-Corps. This means that army-manuevers of the size of the former REFORGER field-training-exercises (FTX) which involved about 80.000 soldiers, can now be simulated in computer-assisted-exercises (CAX) in Wildflecken. During a GUPPIS CAX (computer assisted exercise), brigade, division and corps command-posts will be deployed in cities and villages in the Wildflecken area, and the Training-area. The commanders will make their tactical decisions just as they would in a FTX and give their orders and reports via regular communication-systems to the troops, with the exception, that no real troops are there to act upon their staffs orders. Instead all data will be fed in the computers, operated by the GUPPIS personnel in Wildflecken.

The simulation system runs on the KORA-software which is used in advanced officers training for several years and updated on a regular basis. GUPPIS generates a new situation based on the data fed to the system in real-time, which is forwarded to the command-posts, directly. The simulation-center uses about 50 buildings in the now called Rhoenkaserne up to now and is operated by 70 military personnel, most of them commissioned and non-commissioned officers.

