



**THE SWISS
ARMED FORCES**



Impact of Geopolitical Changes on the Swiss Armed Forces Logistics

BRIGADIER GENERAL MEINRAD KELLER, COMMANDER 1st LOGISTICS BRIGADE



Agenda

- **Starting Point – Swiss Armed Forces’ legacy**
- **Geopolitics – global security environment**
- **“The Swiss Armed Forces defend”**
- **Rethinking Logistics**
- **1st Logistics Brigade – our path to the future**





Starting Point – Swiss Armed Forces' legacy

- Today's Armed Forces are the product of the Armed Forces XXI project (A XXI).
- Decision at the time: focus on deployments that are most likely; maintain defense capability only. Capability maintenance has been largely successful.
- A XXI envisaged 6-8 brigades for defense – today, we have only 2.5.
- Currently large capability gaps in ground-based air defense.
- With Logistics XXI, logistics processes were organized according to economic principles.
- Underground C2 and logistics infrastructure has been dismantled.
- Munitions stockpiles are geared toward training needs.





Geopolitics – global security environment





A new era

- The world order is becoming increasingly polarized. Certain nations and organizations are calling for a 'multipolar world order'.
- Russia's integration into the European security structure has failed.
- The rules-based security order of the West is coming under growing pressure.
- In this security policy context, military means grow in importance and are the currency of security policy.
- In Europe and all over the world, armaments and military potential are being built up.
- Switzerland's security environment will remain volatile, unpredictable and dangerous for a long time to come.





“(...) but we do not expect Switzerland to be directly attacked in the next six months either.

(...) we have to be prepared for a new range of threats, while the old, conventional ones have not diminished.

It has become more likely in the last two years that Switzerland will be attacked.”

Federal Councilor Viola Amherd, Head of the Federal Department of Defence, 23 February 2024 (Neue Zürcher Zeitung)





The Swiss Armed Forces defend

Adaptive development of
military capabilities

Exploiting the
opportunities of
technological progress

Strengthen international
cooperation

 **SCHWEIZER
ARMEE**
VERTEIDIGT



**Strengthening defense
capabilities**





The Armed Forces' defense doctrine

- Temporally and spatially more broad definition of defense introduced in the 2016 Security Policy Report.
- New approach in zones-based defense.
- Protecting Switzerland's territory and population against threats even before the outbreak of armed conflict.
- Deterring the enemy from launching attacks, or from conflicts spilling over onto Swiss territory, by demonstrating credible defense capabilities.
- Defending against attacks also outside Swiss territory, if necessary in cooperation with our neighbors.





Strategic priority 3 of 3 – international cooperation

Increase level of international cooperation:

- The Armed Forces have been making important contributions to the Partnership for Peace since 1996. The Air Force and Special Forces train with foreign forces.
- Create cooperation options for the Federal Council in case of an attack on Switzerland and violation of neutrality. Interoperability requires preparation.
- Benefit from foreign forces' experience in systems and projects. Contribute to 'user groups'.
- The Armed Forces need more training opportunities for urban and joint combat.
- Combined Logistics





Peace support

- The Armed Forces are planning to expand peace support, as stated in the Federal Council's report from 2021.
- With Swisscoy in Kosovo, the Armed Forces are making an increasingly important contribution to stability in the Balkans.
- The Armed Forces are examining further options for deploying detachments or smaller contingents



- Security interests and regional stability
- Common defense within the framework of collective security agreements
- International solidarity and responsibility
- Diplomatic influence
- Protection of human rights and humanitarian aid

- Historical tradition of neutrality
- Humanitarian tradition
- Safeguarding national interests
- International reputation and credibility
- Avoidance of escalation and conflict



- Strengthening interoperability
- Closer cooperation with neighboring countries / joint defense strategies
- Peacekeeping and humanitarian aid in conflicts / international legal framework / conflict prevention
- International cooperation in cyber security / hybrid threats

- Military strengthening / investments, factor X-GDP (X = 3-5)
- Alimentation / compulsory military service and training
- Strategic defense planning
- Infrastructure and logistics
- Research and development, own defense industry



Rethinking logistics



Rethinking logistics



Business economics

- Dependence on civilian services
- Utilization of national potential
- Focus on basic logistical processes
- Dismantling of infrastructures



Realities of war

- Focus on defense capabilities
- Multi-dimensional threat
- New intensity of war
- Military thinking in administration
- Logistics from production to the front line



Consequences

Decentralization

Mobilization

Stockpiling

Challenges

Rethink leadership

Ensure staffing

Accelerate digital transformation

Focus on international cooperation "logistics combined"



1st Logistics Brigade – our path to the future





1st Logistics Brigade

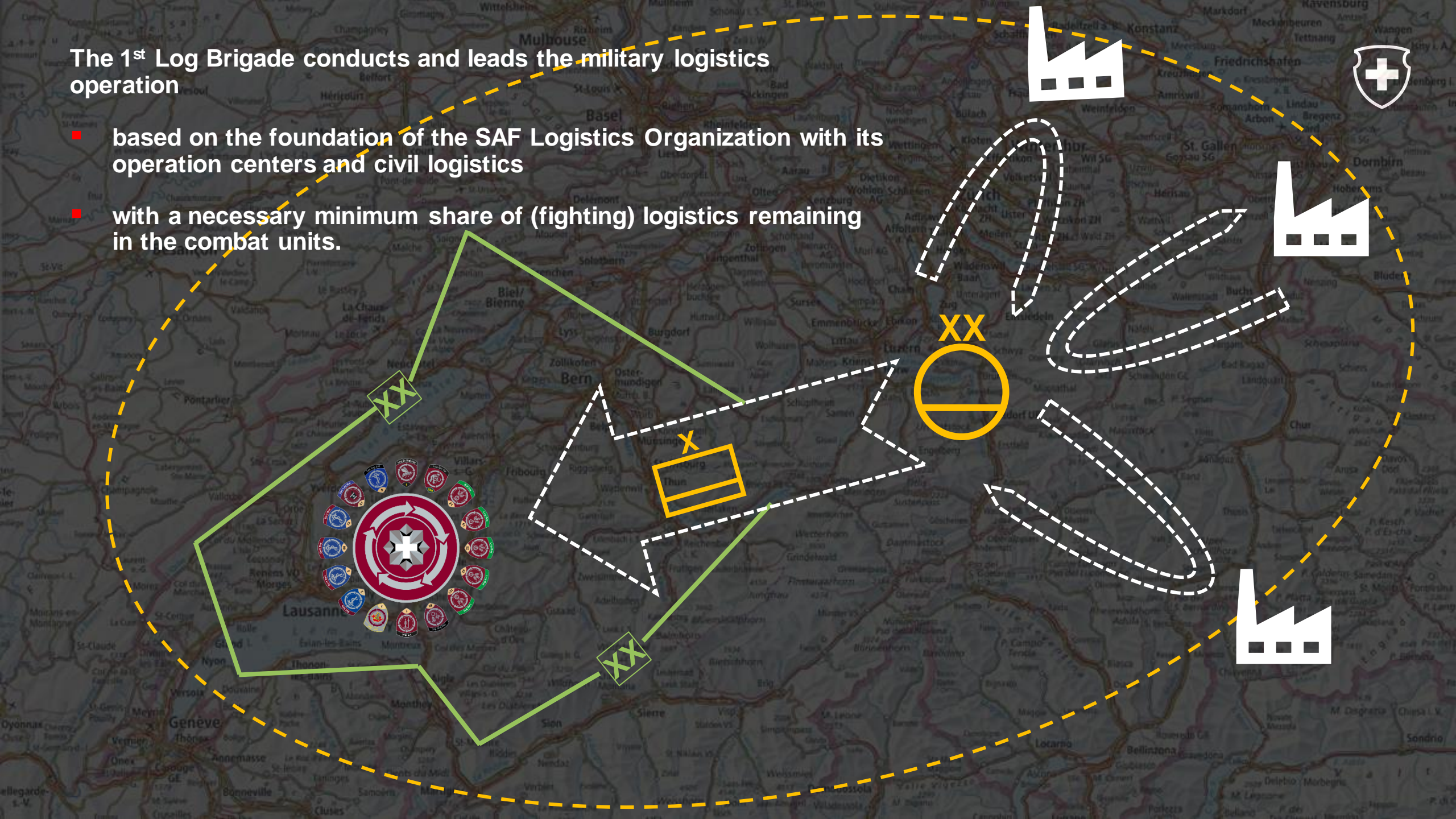
The 1st Log Brigade conducts and leads the military logistics operation

- based on the foundation of the SAF Logistics Organization with its operation centers and civil logistics
- with a necessary minimum share of (fighting) logistics remaining in the combat units.



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1st Logistics Brigade



**Strengthening defense
capabilities**

Combined Training
Focus on self-protection

Training alongside
operational units

Integrity
Loyalty
Diversity
Agility

Combined Logistics





“COMBINED LOGISTICS” refers to the coordination and integration of logistics resources and functions between two or more armed forces of different nations working together in a coalition or alliance-based military operation. This form of logistics aims to maximize efficiency, effectiveness and interoperability in support of joint military efforts. It encompasses a wide range of activities including, but not limited to, the supply of ammunition, food, fuel, equipment, maintenance of equipment and vehicles, transportation services, medical support, and the establishment of communications infrastructure.

It is important to emphasize that any decision by Switzerland to keep open or provide transfer routes is made in accordance with its neutrality policy, legal framework and international obligations. Switzerland strikes a careful balance between maintaining its neutrality and supporting international humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts.





The Value system of the 1st Logistics Brigade – ILDA

“Mastering the brutality of war requires ethical and moral foundations that are strictly human, solid, uncompromisable and non-negotiable. The horror calls for the noble leader and warrior who will not allow himself or his comrades to sink into the abyss of moral decay.”

- INTEGRITY
- LOYALTY
- DIVERSITY
- AGILITY





"ZEUS" 1990



2'000 permanent explosive objects.

4'000 robust undying tank obstacles.



Regional military hospitals with **25'000** beds.

12 wartime airfields.

2'700 buildings for war mobilization material.

Civil defense: shelters for the civilian population and emergency hospitals. **1:1** Concept 71: a place in a shelter for every inhabitant.

16'000 prepared positions and bunkers, protected living quarters, dugouts and command posts, **7'800** nuclear shelters.

80 km underground ammunition caverns.

600 underground supply facilities with 650'000 tons of supplies.

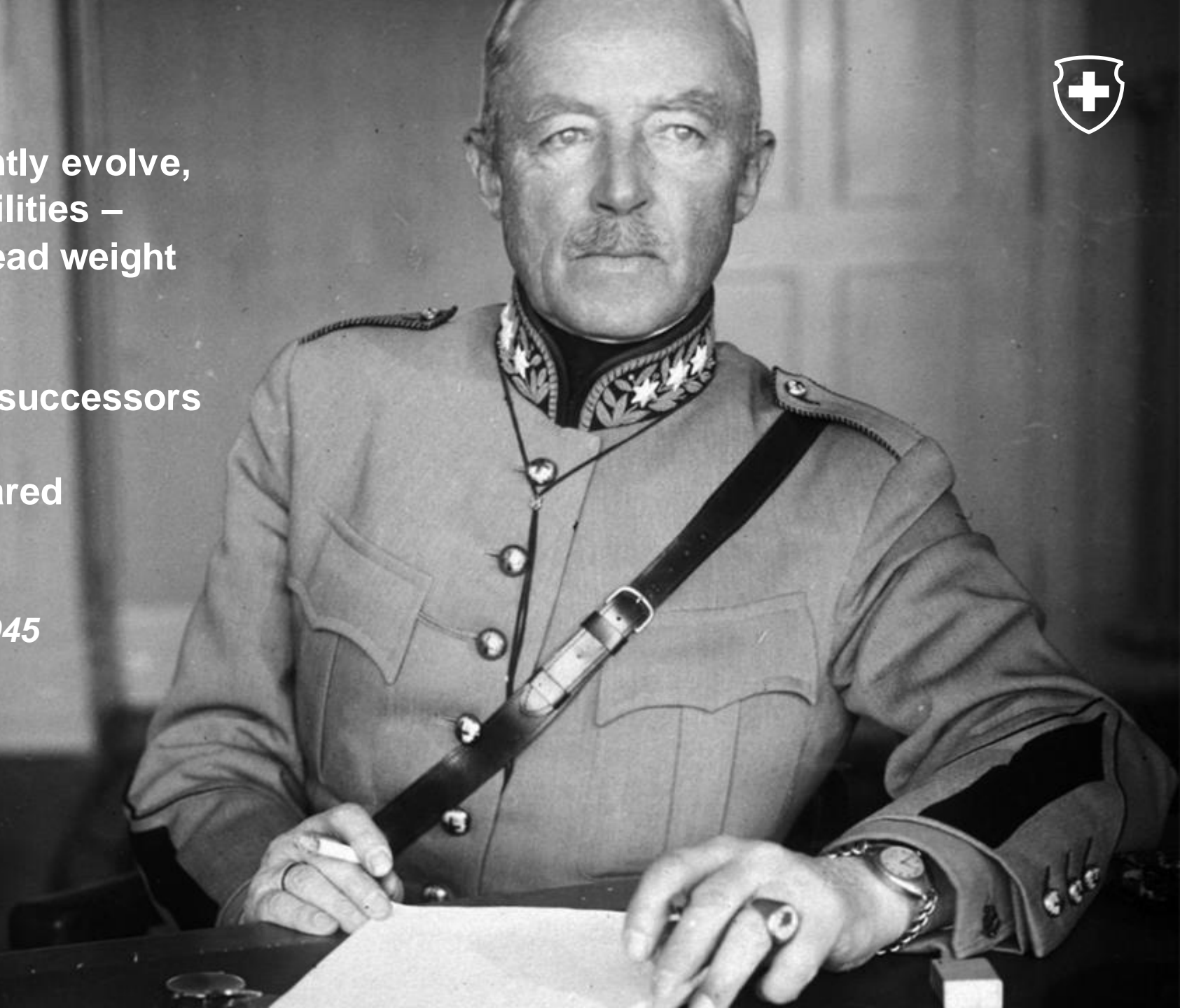


“Tradition alone is not enough.

The Armed Forces must constantly evolve, improve and acquire new capabilities – otherwise, they will become a dead weight on our shoulders.

The most important task for my successors will be to ensure, ceaselessly, that our Armed Forces are prepared to fulfil their tasks at all times.”

General Henri Guisan, 20 August 1945





THE SWISS ARMED FORCES

DEFEND

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