

## Communications, electronics and optics, information technology

In the last hundred years, communications technology has developed in a revolutionary way from simple optical or electro-mechanical devices to highly complex systems. The exhibition of telephone and telegraphic equipment, together with electronic data transmission and wireless communication devices, documents the progress in this field of defense technology. Further sections focus on intelligence collection through radio reconnaissance and analysis, on information technology such as tactical situation display devices and also on optics, where the items on display illustrate the development from binoculars to thermal imaging devices and laser-based systems.



## Ammunition technology

The exhibition on ammunition (firing material for artillery guns and small arms) with its collection from the 20th and 21st centuries focuses on developments for the Bundeswehr, which also includes those in the context of NATO. The items in the exhibition are from many sources and range from finds by explosive ordnance disposal forces and items submitted by police or Bundeswehr agencies to ammunition returned by the Allied armed forces. For safety reasons, all ammunition is inspected to ensure that it no longer contains explosives. This process is followed by identification of the objects and taking them into inventory.



High-explosive antitank grenade fired from 60 cm mortar »Karl«

## Historic moments

One particular find discovered by the explosive ordnance disposal forces - a British 4,000 lb blockbuster bomb displayed in the WTS entrance area - made worldwide headline news and caused the biggest evacuation in Germany since the Second World War: 45,000 people were evacuated from Koblenz.



### How to get to us:

#### By car

**Autobahn A 61:** From the A 61/A 48 interchange »Koblenzer Kreuz« take the A 48 towards Koblenz. From the A 48 junction »Koblenz Nord« take the B 9 towards Koblenz. Take the right-hand turn towards Mayen/Cochern before you reach the »Europabrücke« (bridge crossing the river Moselle, »Wehrtechnische Studiensammlung« signposted). Turn right into federal road B 416 and take the left-turn lane. Turn left into the WTS premises.

**Autobahn A 3:** From the A 3/A 48 interchange »Dernbacher Dreieck« take the A 48 towards Trier up to junction »Koblenz-Nord«. Follow the route described above.

#### By public transportation

Take bus line 5 or 15 from Koblenz railway station (bus terminal on the opposite side) to Langemarckplatz.



# WEHRTECHNISCHE STUDIENSAMMLUNG KOBLENZ

(Scientific Collection of Defense Engineering Specimens)



The Scientific Collection of Defense Engineering Specimens (WTS) with its 7,200 square meters of exhibition space is one of the big technically-oriented collections in Germany. Founded in 1962, it was moved to Koblenz in 1982 and is integrated into the organizational structure of the Federal Office of Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw).

The aim of the WTS is to keep the exhibits of the collection in a functional state to the maximum possible extent. This is the most significant difference to the exhibits of a museum. None of the weapons and weapon systems have been demilitarized.

### The core tasks of the WTS are:

- to provide corporate archives of BAAINBw and a collection of items for defense technology documentation including functional demonstrators,
- to support preparatory training of the Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Forces) for missions abroad and international armaments control tasks,
- to contribute to the training of Bundeswehr personnel working in the armaments sector,
- to provide technical expertise for tasks of other Federal Government ministries

### The collection and exhibition focuses on:

- hand-held and automatic weapons
- artillery technology
- ammunition
- missile technology
- antitank weapons
- wheeled and tracked vehicles, engineer equipment
- aircraft and naval technology
- communications equipment, electronic and optical devices
- clothing and individual equipment

A **specialist library on military technology and military history** with more than 18,000 books and 70,000 technical manuals and equipment descriptions is available to all visitors upon advance notification.

The permanent exhibition comprises approximately 2,500 selected items and covers all three military services, i.e. Army, Navy, and Air Force. The items on display range from personal equipment to entire weapon systems.

### Infantry weapons

Currently, the WTS owns a total of approximately 9,000 hand-held weapons, of which 500 are on display. It is one of the most significant collections in Europe and illustrates the development of small arms from the hand cannon (Tannenberg hand gun) up to the ultramodern OICW prototype (Objective Individual Combat Weapon).



*Wheellock carbine used by the bodyguards of Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau, Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, around 1600*



*MP 5 SD cutaway model*



*OICW (Objective Individual Combat Weapon) comprising an assault rifle, a grenade launcher (20 mm) and a fire control system*

### Armored weapon systems



The cross-sectional model of the Leopard 1 main battle tank in the exhibition gives a good insight into the tank layout with engine compartment and crew compartment, also showing the spatial arrangement of the crew tasks. As such, it is a valuable training asset.

### Aviation equipment technology

The exhibition of aviation equipment technology mainly displays experimental aircraft, combat aircraft of the Bundeswehr and the former National People's Army as well as engine technology, aircraft armaments, and air rescue systems.



### Wehrtechnische Studiensammlung des BAAINBw

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### Opening hours:

Open all year, daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm (closed on Carnival Monday and between 24 December and 1 January). Admission fee: 3 euros (free admission for military and federal defense administration personnel upon presentation of official ID).

Bundesamt für Ausrüstung, Informationstechnik und Nutzung der Bundeswehr (BAAINBw)  
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Design: Rolf Bayer, Photos: WTS, Holger Weinandt (bomb find)



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