

Mr.  
Rt Hon David Cameron MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Großbritannien

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McA/Gr

### **British Forces in Germany**

the British Forces Germany regularly update us on their plans in Germany for which we are always most grateful. This allows us to hear the long term strategic thinking of British Forces Germany and their long term basing plans here. Liam Fox's article in the Daily Telegraph has caused concern across the country because of the strong divergence from the intentions made public earlier this year by British Forces Germany.

The British Forces are very welcome in Germany, especially in my federal state Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony). As you know 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade is based on the Bergen Hohn training area and there is another Engineer Regiment in Hameln both in Niedersachsen. We know the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade and the Engineers in Hameln have been deploying on operations outside Germany for many years. They led the assault in 2003 on Basra, Iraq and have since returned there for at least one other tour of duty. They are no doubt preparing for further operations now. We genuinely believe they have, and can, very successfully continue to train alongside their NATO allies for operations abroad here in Germany. We would be pleased if the present plans and policies were to continue.

Our experience is that the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade is happy and enjoy high morale living and training on the infrastructure that is available here in Niedersachsen. The British Forces are most welcome guests in Niedersachsen. We also like you to know that the local communities very much value and enjoy their presence, involvement in local activities, along with the economic

benefit they bring to an area which is relatively poor. It was a great disappointment that Osnabrück Garrison in Niedersachsen, after more than 60 years, finally closed this year. Further closures in Niedersachsen would hit us very hard indeed, which is why I am writing to you.

We understand you are planning a Defence review when you come to power after the next general election and that is perfectly understood. It is not our intention to interfere in any way but the article published has caused concern across Niedersachsen, particularly where British Forces are stationed. I would be grateful if you could help clarify the situation for us.

Yours sincerely

David McAllister