

## Ready for action

# LUFTHANSA AS A PARTNER FOR “ZEITENWENDE”

Lufthansa has been a reliable partner for our soldiers for over 60 years. At the ILA Berlin, the company was able to add another chapter to this history: the handover of the third A350 for the German government's fleet. In addition, Lufthansa intends to further expand its cooperation with the German Armed Forces, the Bundeswehr, in the future and contribute to the realization of the turnaround in security policy.

For the Lufthansa Group, acting in a value-orientated and responsible manner is both a mission and an aspiration. The company, which is based in Germany, sees itself as a strategic partner in securing the political and economic sovereignty and resilience of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Group has proven this on several occasions, even in times of crisis: During the corona pandemic, it secured supply chains, transported urgently needed medical supplies to Germany and flew thousands of holidaymakers, business people and citizens home. After the end of the mission in Afghanistan in August 2021, the Lufthansa Group helped to bring the remaining Germans and their local helpers to safety as a partner of the German Armed Forces and the Federal Foreign Office. More than 300 crew members volunteered for the mission as part of the “Kabul Airlift”.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally changed the geopolitical and security situation in Europe, and the peace order has been dissolved. “We are experiencing a turning point,” said Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz three days after the Russian attack. He committed the country to a political paradigm shift, “Zeitenwende”, and announced the 100 billion euro special fund to better equip the Bundeswehr. The Russian attack had tragically shown how important it is to be able to stand up for our values militarily in an emergency. This requires a Bundeswehr that is ready for action. Chancellor Scholz summarized this in his speech on the turning point: “We need aircraft that fly (...) and soldiers who are optimally equipped for their missions.”

General Frank Gräfe (Head of Operations at Air Force Command),  
Sören Stark (Chairman of the Executive Board of Lufthansa Technik AG),  
Colonel Stefan Schipke (Commander Special Air Mission Wing),  
State Secretary Nils Hilmer (Federal Ministry of Defense)  
(from left to right)





The Lufthansa Group, which has special expertise in the areas of aircraft maintenance, logistics and freight as well as in pilot training, can act as a strategic partner to the German Armed Forces. And thus contribute to securing the sovereignty and ability to act of the Federal Republic of Germany in terms of the energy transition.

#### **Lufthansa Technik:**

##### **Long-standing cooperation with the German Armed Forces**

The German Air Force and Lufthansa are already working together on a basis of trust. Lufthansa Aviation Training supports the German Armed Forces in the training of pilots. In the training aircraft, the prospective drone pilots learn, for example, how to handle an aircraft in general air traffic before they fly the unmanned systems. Lufthansa Technik, on the other hand, has been responsible for supporting the German government fleet for more than 60 years. At the Berlin International Airshow (ILA), the company handed over the third and last fully equipped A350 to the Air Force of the Federal Ministry of Defence – on time and on budget.

The global market leader in the maintenance, repair and overhaul of civil aircraft now also offers its core competences for the support of flying weapon systems such as the F-35 fighter aircraft, the P-8A “Poseidon” maritime patrol aircraft and the CH-47F “Chinook” heavy transport helicopter. The company operates under the brand name “Lufthansa Technik Defense”.

As the Bundeswehr is procuring numerous aircraft from the USA as part of the 100 billion euro special fund, Lufthansa Technik can support the long-term maintenance of these aircraft and helicopters as a national partner. This is an important contribution to the development and expansion of technological expertise in Germany and to ensuring a high level of fleet availability for the German Air Force. According to Sören Stark, CEO of Lufthansa Technik, the company will do everything in its power to ensure that soldiers have the best possible and safest equipment at their disposal to successfully carry out their missions.