

Follow-up audit on outstanding recommendations concerning the Land Forces  
command information system  
Defence Sub-Department

Key facts

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In 2014, the Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) audited the project "Land Forces command information system" (Land Forces CIS) at the Defence Sub-Department as instructed by the Confederation's finance delegation. The aim of the audit was to assess the status and management of the project, as well as the implementation of the lessons learned from the previous analyses carried out in relation to the Land Forces CIS project. The SFAO presented the corresponding audit findings and nine recommendations based on those in the report of 20 October 2014<sup>1</sup>.

The SFAO reviewed the implementation status of the recommendations from 29 February to 2 March 2016, and on a daily basis in July 2016. The project was not reassessed. The SFAO found that all except one of the recommendations had been implemented or were no longer relevant.

Recommendation 9 has largely been implemented. Militia and operational fitness at deployment level 3b (cp level) have been confirmed and the added value of the Land Forces CIS demonstrated. According to statements by the Land Forces, the Land Forces CIS has successfully been in permanent use for managing ground troop deployment and readiness since January 2016.

The benefits and practicability at deployment level variant 5 were reviewed using civilian networks in tests. The conclusions regarding further deployment, long-term use and possible further developments have not yet been communicated as a firm basis for policy-related decision-making on subsequent projects. It is planned to make significant decisions on subsequent projects between 2019 and 2023. The subsequent project "Land Forces command information system technology adjustment" is already under way at present.

The still outstanding part of recommendation 9 is dealt with in more depth below:

The SFAO recommended that the Defence Sub-Department get confirmation of militia fitness and security within the framework of the review of compliance with the fit-for-mission and fit-for-training criteria. The additional benefits of the Land Forces CIS in practical deployment relative to the communication and command tools used earlier were also to be shown in the most objective and conclusive manner possible. This evidence must be suitable as a firm basis for policy-related decision-making on subsequent projects.

As already outlined in the original SFAO report dated 20 October 2014 on the Land Forces CIS project, it is trained on and used at deployment level variant 3b. The partially planned mobile deployment of combat troops at deployment level variant 5 is possible only with additional telecommunications tools.

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<sup>1</sup> The report "Audit of the ICT project Land Forces Command Information System – Defence Sub-Department" (audit mandate PA 14383) was published in December 2014 and is available on the SFAO's website.



These additional tools could currently be procured from civilian providers according to network availability and requirements. A later use of the project Telecommunications of the army (TC A) for this purpose is being examined. It is not yet possible to make binding statements with respect to the possibility, costs and benefits.

Based on its audit actions, the SFAO found the following:

- Evidence has since been provided in many training and deployment cases with regard to troop suitability at deployment level variant 3b as well as the additional benefits of the Land Forces CIS relative to communication and command tools used earlier, and it has been illustrated in detail. Within the framework of the established Land Forces change service and the material replacement programme "Land Forces command information system technology adjustment", consolidation and value preservation of the deployed Land Forces CIS should be ensured at deployment level variant 3b up to the planned end of use in 2025.
- According to the Defence Sub-Department, the further development of the command capability has already commenced and should materialise within the scope of a capability concept by the end of 2018. This concept will be a firm basis for policy-related decision-making on corresponding subsequent projects.

In 2019, the Land Forces staff section is planning to use a development, testing and procurement preparation credit to launch the procurement plan for the replacement of the ground situational picture in order to start implementing the software on the TC A communication platform in 2025.

Consequently, the SFAO believes that the implementation of recommendation 9 has not yet been completed.

Addition following DDPS decision on Land Forces CIS on 10.1.2017:

With the decision of the DDPS on 10 January 2017 to refrain definitively from adding mobile telecommunications to the Land Forces CIS, the necessary clarity has since been achieved. The recommendation is thus implemented.

**Original text in German**