



## **Préambule e CdA 2026 for Homepage Association Suisse des Troupes Historiques**

Understanding one's own history is an essential prerequisite for understanding the present and shaping the future. The Swiss Association of Historical Troops makes an important contribution to keeping Switzerland's military historical experience alive and to making it comprehensible for future generations. A culture of remembrance provides orientation. It helps us to view past decisions in their historical context and to correctly assess their significance for our country today.

Since 1847, Switzerland has succeeded in avoiding war on its own territory. This long period of security of 179 years is no coincidence. It is the result of political decisions and of our country's ability to defend itself. It is also sustained by a militia system in which citizens assume responsibility. This militia system is therefore not merely an organizational form, but a central element of Switzerland's model of success. It shapes our politics, our society and, in particular, our armed forces. This interaction between civic responsibility and security has proven its worth over generations. Nowhere is the idea of civic responsibility more tangible than in service to the security of our country. The generations before us carried this responsibility even under difficult security conditions. They deserve our recognition and gratitude.

Today, we are witnessing the return of war to Europe. This reality makes it clear that national defence remains the core mission of the armed forces. At the same time, the security situation in Switzerland's immediate environment is deteriorating in a comprehensive and lasting manner. Threats today are interconnected, multifaceted and often occur below the traditional threshold of armed conflict. Military and non-military means are interlinked. Conflicts are conducted on land, in the air, as well as in the cyber and information domains. What is decisive is not the individual element, but the interaction of all capabilities. Defence today is therefore effective only as an integrated system.

This development places high demands on our country and on our armed forces. The clear distinction between peace and war is becoming increasingly blurred. This makes it more important to consistently adapt capabilities, training and readiness to this reality and to strengthen Switzerland's defence capability over the long term. In doing so, we must learn from the past without clinging to it.

Especially in today's environment, looking back gains in importance. Engaging with military history strengthens understanding of proven principles as well as of change. In this way, the historical troops make a valuable contribution to linking the past, present and future of our armed forces and to demonstrating the responsibility borne by each generation.

I thank the Swiss Association of Historical Troops for its commitment to a culture of remembrance, to the militia principle and to strengthening the link between the armed forces and society. Together, we stand up for security and freedom.

Chief of the Armed Forces  
Lieutenant General Benedikt Roos