

The wolves are back

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Old field and village names such as Wolfsrangen, Wolfsgrube, Wolfslegel, Wolframs and last but not least Wolf Hunters Chapel prove that the wolf was common on the training area and in the region for centuries. Stories, letters and proven reports dating back to the 18th century talk about man's fear of the wolf and document damages done by it. Wolves were intensely hunted and by the end of the 19th century totally extinguished in our region.

However, the wolf is back and since the fall of 2016 at home again in the training area, like it is in many other regions in Germany. Many photos from camera traps, several live observations and the wolf monitoring prove that. For a large predator like the wolf, the training area with its large amount of deer is a perfect living environment. Old weak stags and

calves as well as beavers were already killed by the wolf on the training area. However, it respects royal stags.

The fact that Germany is turning into a homeland for wolves again has legitimately caused a discussion among conservationists and the owners of grazing animals. The Bavarian "Action Plan Wolf" seeks to combine the protection of the species and the protection needs of the people and the farmers.

Experts of the Federal Forest Office are relaxed when evaluating the return of the strictly protected wolf to Grafenwoehr. For them, it signifies joy about the powers of nature but also poses a great challenge. However, they do not see any danger to the soldiers at the training area. The wolf is a very sensitive and shy animal. If man keeps its distance from the wolf, does not feed him or tame him, the relaxed co-existence will continue, say the forest rangers.

As in the rest of Germany, the Federal Forest Office in Grafenwoehr also conducts an encompassing wolf monitoring which is part of a Europe-wide monitoring program. Random discoveries of fresh excrements or professionally secured swabs of saliva from killed prey are the basis for genetic testing that provides information about the gender and parentage. Obviously, one couple of wolves is active in the center of the training area. Another male wolf crossed the training area once in February 2017, as proven by the monitoring. Afterwards, he the summer and fall in Hohenfels. In January 2018, he joined a female wolf in Veldensteiner Forest where the first wolf puppies were detected in the summer of 2018.

In 2018, the wolf couple on Grafenwoehr Training Area, was still without any offspring. It remains to be seen how the wolf population on the training area will develop. Due to the nature protection status of the wolf, the Wolf Hunters Chapel might as well be renamed today to Wolf Protection Chapel.

| by **Gerald Morgenstern**

NEW EDITION IN DECEMBER 2018

"Grafenwoehr Training Area, Yesterday - Today" is the title of the bi-lingual book written by Reserve Sergeant Major Gerald Morgenstern. On 288 pages with more than 800 photos, he does not only tell the history of the training area since 1910 but also covers the development of the training area in recent years. Military and Nature is one of the book's chapters. Nature on the training area is diverse and species-rich. Apart from the deer and the eagles, one chapter is dedicated to the wolves that have returned to the training area. A new edition of "Grafenwoehr Training Area, Yesterday - Today" will be published in December 2018. It is available in bookstores and at various locations on and off post. For more information, visit us on Facebook at "Grafenwoehr Training-Area Book."



Stuart Langelaan (born 4 June 1974), stage name Lange, is a British DJ and record producer. Lange was born in Shrewsbury. His career began in 1997, signing his first recording contract with Additive Records in the UK. Early popularity was achieved with a collection of releases attracting the attention of industry leaders such as Paul van Dyk, Sasha, Paul Oakenfold and Judge Jules. He's been wearing Lange since his very first turn, and knows they will react to his every movement, locking him into the trajectory he's envisioned through the course. On the right, 22-year-old Clément Noel. Winner of 3 World Cup Slaloms last year, Clément is the next star of the discipline, positioned amongst the next generation of champions in the sport. Lange is recognised as one of the most influential dance artists of the past two decades; as well as See more. CommunitySee all. 308,383 people like this. 305,106 people follow this. Page transparencySee More. Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of a Page.