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## Public hearing on 27 March 2023

**Topic: “Expansion, escalation and transition 2009-2014: the expansion of German engagement in the context of changes in strategy and a deteriorating security situation”**

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### Key questions for the experts

#### US perspective

**Dr. Barnett Rubin (New York University, former advisor to the US Special Representative AFG):**

- How was the “comprehensive approach” realized? What is your assessment of the implementation and what are your proposals/recommendations for future missions taking the “comprehensive approach”?
- What developments and findings led at the end of 2009 to a change in strategy, particularly from an American perspective, and what is your assessment of the consequences resulting from the change in strategy?
- From a military assessment perspective, how effective were the aid and developmental cooperation projects under the responsibility of the civilian actors and, from a military assessment perspective, how did these contribute to security and tackling corruption?
- What strategic objectives was the Obama Administration pursuing with the implementation of the counterinsurgency-strategy (COIN) in Afghanistan? Was there a clash of interests between local and international partners and what were the results of this strategy?
- For Germany, the mission in Afghanistan was motivated primarily by loyalty to its partner, the USA. What was the USA’s perception of Germany’s role as a partner on the Afghanistan mission? And what is the USA’s assessment of the German interpretation of the respective mandate (e.g. in the context of ISAF – OEF tensions)? Where were the greatest differences in interpretation in this respect?

#### Operational perspective

**Brigadier General Jared Sembritzki (Bundeswehr):**

- How was the networked approach realized? What is your assessment of the implementation and what are your proposals/recommendations for the future networking of German engagement?

- What is your overall assessment of the change in strategy at the end of 2009 and of Germany's role – also towards our alliance partners - in this process?
- How was the COIN strategy implemented by ISAF in the German area of responsibility, how effective/sustainable were the operations and what conclusions would you draw from your experiences as QRF Commander?
- Against the background of the changing strategic and operational framework over the years, what were the biggest challenges for the Bundeswehr?

#### Development policy perspective

##### **Mr. Florian Broschk (GIZ Afghanistan):**

- How was the networked approach realized? What is your assessment of the implementation and what are your proposals/recommendations for the future networking of German engagement?
- What was the relationship between the security situation and security measures, and the civil society work of the GIZ? What role was played by the GIZ's Risk Management Office (RMO) in this context?
- To what extent did the RMO contribute towards minimizing risks for deployed national and international staff and enabling and maintaining the operability and implementation of development policy measures?
- How strongly does the successful implementation or target achievement of a project depend on the ability of development workers to move freely throughout the country?