

War Preparations in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) Going Largely Unnoticed

Online Conference Lecture: "The Baltic Sea – A Sea of Peace"
June 14, 2025 – Niki Müller

First, I'd like to briefly make a personal statement and firmly condemn Israel's ongoing genocide and war crimes—especially since some of the murderous weapons being deployed come from Schleswig-Holstein. I also wish today's peace demonstrations in Berlin and elsewhere great success!

About me: I am politically active in the ZAA (Cooperation Committee of the Schleswig-Holstein Peace Movement) and the Central Peace Commission of the DKP (German Communist Party).

My question is:

Is the war preparation hotspot of Schleswig-Holstein being sufficiently highlighted and addressed in anti-militarist debates?

I believe the answer is **no**! That's why I want to discuss the expansion of the military-industrial complex, troop concentrations, and military deployments here.

The Military-Industrial Complex in Schleswig-Holstein

Schleswig-Holstein has a heavily developed military-industrial complex, particularly in Kiel and Flensburg. Due to the otherwise weak industrial structure, the arms industry receives intense support and dominance—further exacerbated by the ongoing shipyard crisis. Arms production is running at full speed as an extremely profitable alternative to sluggish civilian production. Conversion to peaceful industry? Out of the question.

"Schleswig-Holstein, along with the Munich region, is one of the hotspots of the military economy," states the Federal Association of the German Security and Defense Industry (BDSV), the most important lobbyist for the war economy. The arms lobby is thrilled

about the €100 billion debt-financed military boost but demands even more—and faster implementation.

With "rifle at the ready", Schleswig-Holstein's Economics Minister Madsen immediately launched an initiative with Defense Minister Pistorius to establish a Maritime Bundeswehr Innovation Center. Madsen: *"Currently, an innovation center for air and space projects is being built near Munich. The goal is to make civilian technologies usable for the military and vice versa. That's exactly what we're pursuing here in Schleswig-Holstein for the maritime sector."* Quickly, the Kiel initiative "MAIN" (Maritime Accelerator and Innovation Network) was founded to accelerate innovations, identify synergies, and promote dual-use (civil-military) applications.

Key Arms Manufacturers in Schleswig-Holstein

There are about **30 arms companies** in Schleswig-Holstein. The main beneficiaries of the military-industrial complex include:

Flensburger Fahrzeugbau-Gesellschaft (FFG) and **Rheinmetall** in the far north.

- According to former NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg, FFG is the **largest European supplier of armored vehicles to Ukraine** (Leopard, Biber, Wisent). FFG, like Rheinmetall, is building a factory and repair center in Ukraine and plans a new large tank plant near Flensburg by 2026.
- Rheinmetall** (Germany's largest arms conglomerate and Europe's biggest ammunition producer, including tank shells for Israel) operates **four sites** in Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel, Flensburg, Wedel, Trittau). It has also entered a strategic partnership with Ukraine, building facilities there.

Diehl Defense (partners: Rheinmetall & Israel's Rafael)

- Since 2023, it has operated a training center for the **IRIS-T SLM** air defense system at the Todendorf military base.
- Ukrainian soldiers were trained here first, followed by NATO forces for the "European Sky Shield."

- **17 more IRIS-T systems** have been ordered for Ukraine—for now.

It should also be noted that over **20,000 Ukrainian soldiers** have been trained in Germany as of May 2025.)

Shipyards: Heavyweights of Arms Production

The Baltic shipyards are key players in arms production, with orders surging:

Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) in Kiel has order books filled until **2040**.

- It supplies submarines to **Israel** (currently at war) and potentially "**war-addicted**" states (e.g., the Philippines, positioning against China).
 - Israel, a state violating human rights since its founding, is a **profitable business partner** for German arms companies.
 - The German government is considering **taking a financial stake** in TKMS, backed by the **IG Metall Union**.
- Struggling shipyards in **Flensburg and Rendsburg** also see their future in state-monopolized arms production.

Profits of Rheinmetall and others are exploding.

"Thyssenkrupp stock: A jewel for the stock market!" (Finanztrends).

Expanding Military Bases in Schleswig-Holstein

NATO is focusing on the "**Baltic Sea combat zone**", integrating and realigning all military forces there.

- **German Foreign Minister Wadehul** recently stated: *"It's clear that Schleswig-Holstein has strategic importance... That's why the Defense Ministry is considering strengthening Bundeswehr bases in the north."*

Navy Expansion

- The **German Navy** is traditionally anchored along the Baltic coast.

- **"Navy Vision 2035+"** demands rapid expansion and modernization of the submarine fleet, plus **massive drone acquisitions** (operational by 2029).
- Kiel's eastern shore hosts the **only Baltic Sea ammunition depot** for the German Navy (classified stockpile).
- **Marine Special Forces Command (KSM) in Eckernförde** (elite combat divers, sabotage experts) has been **doubled in size**.
- Parts of the **GSG 9** (paramilitary police) are also stationed on the Baltic coast, equipped with speedboats and combat divers.

Air Force Upgrades

- **Tactical Air Wing 51 in Jagel/Schleswig** is expanding for **Heron TP drones** (Israeli-made, armed reconnaissance).
- Possible future stationing of **Arrow 3 missile defense systems** (part of NATO's "Air Shield").
- **Todendorf** (between Kiel and Fehmarn) hosts the **Air Defense Missile Group 61**, equipped with the **latest missile defense systems**.
- **Husum/Schwesing**: Another key air defense base, where Ukrainian soldiers are trained.

Electronic Warfare & Cyber

- **EloKa 911 in Stadum** (electronic warfare unit) supports NATO's eastern flank and Ukraine war assessments.

Conclusion: Preparing for Offensive War

The extensive military-economic changes and infrastructure expansions in Schleswig-Holstein lead to **only one conclusion: Germany and NATO are preparing for a potential offensive war.**

- By **2026**, the deployment of **"Dark Eagle" hypersonic missiles** will further optimize NATO's aggressive posture.
- The **nuclear arms race is accelerating** (UK's new nuclear submarines, Trump's "Project 2025" plans for more ICBMs and missile defense).

To gain public support for a **war against Russia**, systematic propaganda and a **pretext** (like the 1939 Gleiwitz false flag) will be needed. The **Baltic Sea scenario** is a potential trigger—NATO wants full control, restricting Russian shipping, while **Kaliningrad becomes a target**.

Schleswig-Holstein, as a heavily militarized staging area, plays a key strategic role. The risk of escalation—whether reactive or preemptive—is **very real**. We must do everything to prevent it.

Niki Müller

(Note: Some German terms like "EloKa" and "KSM" were retained for specificity.)