



ABSTRACT

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The Role of the Military in Civil Security – a Transatlantic Perspective

This presentation will focus on the the role that armed forces and militarized police forces (Gendarmeries) play in homeland security contingencies. Given the scale oaf the many homeland security crisis, many states naturally look to their armed forces to provide forces capable of managing these contingencies. Armed forces are, in many cases, ideally suited for dealing with these crises, because they are often already in being, can provide for their own communication, logistics and security, and frequently have significant stockpiles of supplies useful in emergencies. But there are circumstances under which military forces, due to their mind-set, training and equipment, are not well-suited to these tasks, but are called upon to execute them because they are often viewed as a "cheap" alternative.

This presentation will explore the European and American traditions for the employment of armed forces and attempt to provide answers to the question, what roles can, should, must and must not be played by armed forces?