

Dear All,

I would be grateful if you could circulate this e-mail and the information enclosed widely to units within theatre and in your Garrisons. The British Services Game Shooting Association (BSGSA) have run courses since 1954 for BFG. The Governments of both NRW and Niedersachsen have granted this right to BSGSA / BFG. Instructors are selected by BSGSA and qualify on the US Forces Hunting Instructors Courses. The rights to allow BFG / BSGSA to run courses and qualify BFG members were granted because qualifying on German courses would have been impossible for BFG members who are not fluent in the German language. This would have prevented members of BFG from accessing this hobby and their HN hosts in this field.

German hunting license courses are open to all Members of BFG as designated under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement and the Supplementary Agreement. Contrary to the belief of some, this is not an 'elitist' officer only activity (the current Paderborn/Guetersloh Jagdgruppe comprises officers, other ranks and civilians in broadly equal numbers) it is a hobby open to all providing that they have sufficient UK experience of Field Sports to undergo the Conversion Course run by BSGSA for BFG. Those who know Germany will be aware that the field sport of shooting is highly regarded and those who own shoots are more often than not 'pillars of their local community', persons of stature and influence in the fields of government at all levels, politics, business and as landowners. Not only does such access enable 'BFG general master messages' to be passed by BFG members attending a German hosted event it also a most convenient conduit for passing focussed messages for BFG projects such as the Senne COE project. In the view of BSGSA this activity is a force multiplier for British/German relations. Participants in this field are also demonstrating a healthy interest in German culture.

The Jagdschein Courses for 2009 will be run as follows:

- a. Course 1/09 – 27 - 29 Mar, Hohne - Final Annex M bids for will be considered on 28 Feb and Joining Instructions (JIs) issued on 02 Mar.
- b. Course 2/09 – 19 - 21 Jun, Sennelager – Bids by 24 Apr
- c. Course 3/09 – 09 - 11 Oct, Sennelager – Bids by 29 Aug

The General Secretary of BSGSA, Mr Tony Domeisen MBE, is the coordinator for all Jagdschein and Defence Deer Management Courses in theatre. The Jagdschein Courses are run three times a year to enable individuals to have the opportunity to have different course options at a time of high operational tempo. This policy is instigated by the BSGSA Committee, well aware of morale, in order to provide an additional hobby outlet for troops based in Germany. The intention has been to run one DDM Level 1 Course in theatre each year but this has in the last three years not taken place for various reasons. Applicants wishing to attend the Jagdschein Courses need to have read the relevant SOBA(G) 5200, completed Annex M and have had it signed by their Commanding Officer before submitting the Annex M to the General Secretary of BSGSA whose details are below. If selected for the Course by the General Secretary successful applicants will need to undertake some pre-training through their local Garrison Jagdgruppe / Syndicate. This involves some language training in the form of terminology / vocabulary; game recognition training and proving their shooting ability and safety with both bolt action rifle and shotgun. Successful applicants will be sent Joining Instructions by the General Secretary and a pamphlet by their Jagdgruppe in good time. The Course is run in appropriate civilian dress over three days. These three days are intended to minimise the impact of the Course on units in BFG by doing them over an intense weekend from Friday to Sunday. Instruction runs from 0800 to 2300 on Fri and Sat and from 0800 to 1500 on Sunday.

Yours aye,

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