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## Mission in the East The Building of an Army in a Democracy in the New German States Naval War College Newport Papers 7

By Naval War College Press

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Paperback. 62 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in. At midnight on 2 October 1990 the German Democratic Republic (GDR) ceased to exist. The following day the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Bundeswehr, took control of the personnel, equipment, and installations of what had been the National Peoples Army (Nationale Volksarmee or NVA). By any reckoning this was a massive undertaking and one of great historical significance. Securing, inventorying, and disposing of this materiel was to be a major mission for the Bundeswehr throughout its first years in the new states. Complicating this mission was the almost immediate need to support the liberation of Kuwait through materiel shipments and support of departing U. S. ; units, the additional responsibility to assist the Western Group of Soviet Forces in an orderly withdrawal from German territory; and the longer-term requirement to reduce the Bundeswehrs size by almost 30 percent. Of more lasting significance, however, will be the human impact of the union of the two Germans. If the changes for West Germans have not been as dramatic, the effects have certainly been felt intensely. In...



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