

Major General, Medical Corps, Dr Ralf Hoffmann was born in Diepholz, Lower Saxony, and joined the Bundeswehr as Medical Service officer candidate in 1983. From 1983 to 1989, he studied human medicine in Munich and Aachen and completed his advanced clinical training at Bundeswehr Hospital Wildbad (Baden-Württemberg).

After a two-year assignment as unit physician with 552 Light Infantry Battalion in Böblingen, he followed his affinity for France and served as medical company commander with the French-German Brigade from 1993 to 1995. In 1995, he underwent special forces training in French Guiana (3 Inf Bn/French Foreign Legion).

In the years that followed, Dr Hoffmann held assignments as brigade surgeon with 31 Airborne Brigade in Oldenburg and as personnel manager at the Bundeswehr Personnel Office in Cologne. In parallel to his regular military duties, Dr Hoffmann undertook to obtain a second degree in health economics and graduated in 2000.

His assignments as Assistant Chief of Branch for International Relations at the Federal Ministry of Defence and as Exchange Officer at the French Military Medical Service Headquarters in Paris, again, underlined Dr Hoffmann's affinity for international assignments.

In addition, he held various commander assignments, including that of Commander, Medical Service Rapid Reaction Regiment, and Commander and Medical Director, Bundeswehr Hospital Ulm. His rich and broad experience gained in Germany and abroad qualified Dr Hoffmann for his subsequent assignment as Commissioner for Deployment-Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorders and Traumatized Personnel at the Federal Ministry of Defence. During the coronavirus pandemic, he was appointed Deputy to the Head of the COVID-19 crisis team at the Federal Chancellery.

After having served as Chief of Staff of Bundeswehr Medical Service Headquarters in Koblenz from March 2023, he was appointed Surgeon General of the Bundeswehr Medical Service in May 2024.

During his career, he was assigned to seven deployments abroad and received numerous awards and decorations. To mention but a few: "Médaille de la Défense nationale" (France), "Médaille d'honneur du service de santé des armées" (France), the Gold Cross of Honour of the Bundeswehr, and the Order of Merit of Ukraine. Furthermore, he is "Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite" (France).

Major General (MC), Dr Hoffmann is married with two children.