

### We need your support

The former US observation post Point Alpha „On Freedom's Frontier“, in which American soldiers performed their duty for over 40 years and which was only saved from being demolished after 1990 by citizens from the region, who were aware of its historical value, is a unique testimony of post-war German-American history. The interstate Point Alpha Foundation has assumed responsibility for maintaining this historical site - at the former border between freedom and repression - for subsequent generations in order to sustain the memory of the American contribution to the security of the Federal Republic of Germany. Please help us to create a German-American place of remembrance, based on our duty to our common history. Help us to finance our new exhibition and the work done by our foundation.



Our donation account  
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### Point Alpha Foundation

The interstate Point Alpha Foundation was established on January 1, 2008 with the aim of developing the Point Alpha memorial site as a place of remembrance of the German separation and for documentation and research of the Cold War in Europe. In addition to caring for and maintaining the memorial site, the Foundation and the attached Point Alpha Academy also see their main responsibilities being the conduct of continuous educational and research work. The endowment capital was provided by the German Federal Government, the States of Hesse and Thuringia, the Rural District of Fulda and the Wartburg District, together with the town of Geisa and the municipality of Rasdorf. The foundation is supported by the "Förderverein Point Alpha e.V." with regard to the contents and the project.



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## POINT ALPHA

PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING A CORNERSTONE OF GERMAN-AMERICAN HISTORY





## Focus of the Cold War – Point Alpha

Point Alpha, as the former US observation post is known, was one of the hot spots of the Cold War. Here, in the so-called „Füda Gap“, where U.S. soldiers confronted the threat of invasion by Warsaw Pact forces continuously until 1989, a reminder now stands of the historical service provided by these Americans on the former inner German border, a service for peace not only for Germany, but also for Europe and the world. Today's memorial site incorporates remaining and partially reconstructed GDR border installations, as well as a museum that reminds visitors of the suffering of the East German population under the communist government's border regime in the "no-go zone" of the former inner German border.

The Point Alpha Foundation was established in 2008 and is responsible for maintaining the Point Alpha memorial site, an incomparable witness to history and a unique place to learn. This is where the forward positions of the NATO Alliance and the Warsaw Pact faced off against each other for four decades. Point Alpha presents the confrontation of the power blocs, the development of the border installations with their security elements, as well as routine aspects of the military presence and a portrayal of life on - and with - the border from the point of view of the local population. The „Point Alpha“ observation post was one of the most important US Armed Forces' locations in Europe and one of the hot spots in the Cold War.

## House on the Border

In the "House on the Border," visitors will find among its offerings, a permanent exhibition on the inhuman border regime of the GDR and the life of the population on - and with - the border. A new permanent exhibition deals, among other things, with potential military scenarios in the region, the so-called "Iron Curtain", the GDR border regime and its evolution, as well as life along the border in the area around the "border towns" of Geisa and Rasdorf.



## The US camp over the course of time

After the war, the world was divided into two blocs: the western democracies, led by the USA in the NATO alliance and the communist states dominated by the USSR in the Warsaw Pact faced off against each other as adversaries. The front line of this conflict ran right through the middle of a divided Germany. At the US observation post „Alpha“, also referred to as Point Alpha, soldiers of the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), and after that, those of the 11th ACR, confronted the threat of an invasion by the troops of the Warsaw Pact. Here – on the Füda Gap – was the westernmost point of this Soviet sphere of influence.

After the peaceful revolution of 1989 and the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, the soldiers of the 11th ACR went on their last border patrol on the 31st of March, 1990. After the American troops withdrew, the former OP Alpha became a home for asylum-seekers in 1991. After being used for this purpose for four years, the camp was slated to be torn down. Protesters by citizens on both sides of the former border, who were aware of its history, were organized. They founded an association to maintain the historical site and began renovating the buildings. In 2007, an exhibition was opened in one of the former barracks that supplements the exhibition in the „House on the Border“.



## US camp

In the US camp, the visitors can take a look at the authentic military installations and equipment from the legacy of the US armed forces. The permanent exhibition is located in one of the former barracks and supplements the permanent exhibition in the "House on the Border". Here, the visitor not only finds information on the history and development of the US observation post, but also on the highlights of the Cold War. There is also a model of the real military confrontation between the NATO and the Warsaw pact, making it clear just how real the danger of war breaking out in the Füda gap region was. The exhibition is founded off by original items of military equipment and attack and defence plans.

## Expansion of the exhibition in the US camp

The permanent exhibition now installed in the US camp illustrates the development of the US observation post since its founding against the background of the historical and political aspects of the Cold War. In the planned extension, a new perspective will be added to the presentation at the former OP Alpha, one that focuses on the topic of „daily life“ and military/civilian cooperation at the regional level. It will be titled „OP Alpha and the Germans - German-American Daily Life in the Shadow of the Cold War“. In addition to the military presence of the American soldiers, it will also scientifically study the daily interactions and cooperation between Americans and Germans in the Füda / Bad Hersfeld region in the shadow of the Iron Curtain, as well as explain and illustrate this story in the expanded exhibition. Using the new permanent exhibition in the House on the Border as a model, the new exhibition will include stories from witnesses from Germany as well as, and especially, from the USA. These stories will point out how well the US Army was integrated into German reality and the daily life of the German population. Objects of German and American origin and media such as old private films will complete the presentation and create a unique German-American cornerstone in the educational concept of this extraordinary learning site of history.

