



Thomas Suessli

Former Chief of the Armed Forces
Entrepreneur and Former Financial Sector CEO
Expertise in Geopolitics, Cyber Security, Digitalization and Defence

Personal Data

Nationality: Swiss
Date of Birth: Sept. 24, 1966
Marital Status: Married
Mail Address: P.O. Box 2663
CH-6210 Sursee
E-Mail: thomas@suessli.com
Mobile: +41 79 659 21 21
LinkedIn: thomassuessli

Education

2012 General Staff Officer Training
2011 Executive MBA; FHGR
1994 Federal Diploma in Information Technology
1992 Federal Certificate as Programmer and Analyst
1982 Apprenticeship

Languages

German	native
English	fluent (C1)
French	intermediate (B2)

Personal Interests

- Books and Blogs
- Politics (currently no active mandate)
- Technical Diver and Instructor (PADI 957310)
- Aviation (former holder of Commercial Pilot Licence)

Professional Summary

- Former Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces, led the Armed Forces and military administration through six years of continuous transformation and strategic repositioning. Proven military and business crisis manager.
- Seasoned transformation leader with a track record in visionary thinking, strategy development and execution, and large-scale organisational change.
- Experienced CEO and entrepreneur with full P&L responsibility, successful company sale, international market entries and hands-on product, technology and business development expertise.
- Deep background in banking, finance and information technology, including managerial roles in global banks (UBS, Vontobel, Credit Suisse) across Europe, Asia and the U.S.
- Skilled communicator with extensive experience in public speaking, media relations and stakeholder engagement, strengthening public trust and institutional visibility.
- Board-ready advisor for geopolitical and corporate risk, strategy oversight, cyber and technology risk, human capital & culture governance, financial oversight, international expansion and stakeholder management.

Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces

Experience

2020 - 2025 Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces
2018 - 2019 Major General, Chief of the Armed Forces Support Organisation
2015 - 2017 Brigadier General, Commander Logistic Brigade 1
1995 - 2015 Company Commander, Battalion Commander, G4 Brigade

Results

- Led the Swiss Armed Forces through six years of continuous transformation, operations and positioned it for future challenges. Direct report to Department Head of DDPS. Political exposure to parliament and parliamentary commissions, responsibility for a CHF 5.4bn budget.
- Authored the Black Book, a strategic blueprint to restore and enhance Switzerland's defence capability and refocused the Armed Forces on national defence.
- Developed, together with the Armed Forces leadership, the Vision 2030 and the corresponding strategy for the military administration, and oversaw its step-by-step implementation.
- Established an Innovation System to accelerate the introduction of new technologies, digital solutions and modern operational procedures, enabling deployment of new technological solutions within weeks.
- Strengthened the visibility and public perception of the Armed Forces among the population, the economy and service members through keynotes and media appearances.

Entrepreneur and CEO

Experience

2022 - Self-employed, Board Member | Senior Advisor | Public Speaker
2014 - 2015 CEO, Vontobel Financial Products Asia Pacific, Singapore
2001 - 2007 Co-Owner and COO, IFBS AG, Zurich

Results

- Defined the vision and strategy for IFBS together with the management team, led to the successful sale of the company seven years after its founding to Swisscom.
- Led pre-sales, development and support for FINACE and built a market-leading securities-finance solution from the ground up.
- Managed sales and pre-sales for the FINACE trading solution and achieved 12 installations in Switzerland, resulting in de-facto market coverage.
- Designed and executed the market-entry strategy for Vontobel Structured Products in Asia Pacific, including marketing and sales activities.
- Delivered consistent consulting results through successful system integration, back-office process reengineering and market-potential assessments.

Management of Banking, Finance and IT

Experience

2011 - 2014 Head Investment Advisory International, Credit Suisse, Zurich, London, Asia Pacific
2007 - 2011 Head of Processing, SLB and Repo Trader, Bank Vontobel, Zurich
1989 - 2001 Various Roles in IT, UBS AG, Zurich, London, New York

Results

- Defined and implemented the strategy for External Asset Manager (EAM) investment advisory, reducing costs through automation and increasing revenues through clearer accountability of investment advisors.
- Served as senior advisor to External Asset Managers across all asset classes and ensured the successful rollout of a new strategy for sophisticated clients with high advisory demand.
- Pioneered the introduction of Agile Software Development methodologies.
- Reengineered securities back office processes, increasing straight-through processing and reducing operational costs.