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### Security officials advise members of U.S. forces community about security precautions during NATO summit in France, Germany

By Bill Roche

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**HEIDELBERG, Germany** – The announcement by NATO of the upcoming April 3-4 summit of heads of state and government marking the alliance's 60th anniversary means members of the U.S. forces community in Europe need to be aware of summit-related and general travel and security measures, say U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe security experts.

USAREUR and IMCOM-E antiterrorism and force protection officials said 10-15,000 anti-NATO demonstrators -- many of whom are also anti-American and police officials believe could become violent -- are expected to protest April 1-5 in and around the conference's locations in Baden-Baden and Kehl, Germany and Strasbourg, France.

A large encampment of protestors is expected south of Strasbourg and many protestors are likely to use public transportation to the centers of all three cities, officials said, noting that police will restrict pedestrian and vehicle movement around train stations and rail lines and possibly roadside rest areas, within several miles of each city.

In a related move they said is designed to ensure the security of the summit, French Immigration Ministry officials announced last week that they are temporarily restoring controls on France's borders with neighboring countries through April 5. German police issued a similar statement that travelers will be checked at Germany's land and sea borders and airports. While travel restrictions among European Union member nations have been relaxed for many years as part of the EU's Schengen Borders Code that allows for free movement of EU citizens, German and French officials said the code also allows for the temporary restrictions.

"It's important that our personnel constantly practice the personal protective measures taught in Level I antiterrorism training and carry the proper documents when traveling in Europe," said Don Grosz, acting chief of the antiterrorism division of the USAREUR operations directorate. "Anyone who cannot reschedule travel to the areas where the

NATO summit is taking place must be extra prepared and extra vigilant to avoid the sites of potential trouble, and to cooperate with law enforcement and security authorities.”

The Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Manual (DoD 4500.54-M, modified March 10, 2009) notes that passports are required for off-duty travel to France at any time, and a visa is required for stays of more than 90 days. Visas may also be required for those traveling on no-fee official passports. While travelers on official duty may be authorized to enter France with official orders and a military identification card, DoD officials recommend that all travelers consult the manual and their organization travel experts for specific guidelines when traveling across any international border. The manual is available online to users on a .mil domain at [www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm](http://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm).

The USAREUR-issued U.S. Forces Certificate of License entitles the bearer to drive within the confines of the country in which it was issued, and driving across international borders in Europe requires an international driver’s license, added Tom Lorenzini of the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles. For example, Lorenzini explained, a USAREUR license obtained in Germany is a privilege granted through an agreement with the German government only and an international license is required to legally drive outside the German borders.

To keep members of the U.S. forces community in Europe safe when demonstrations are expected, antiterrorism and force protection experts recommend that travelers should:

- Avoid areas where demonstrations are expected. The USAREUR home page at [www.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil) offers a link to current demonstration information, and alerts are likely to be made in community newspapers and on American Forces Network TV and radio stations.
- Remain calm and leave the area as quietly and inconspicuously as possible if they come upon a demonstration in progress.
- Travel in small groups and vary their movements to remain unpredictable.
- Never travel alone.
- Always let someone know where they are going and when they expect to depart and return.
- Try to be inconspicuous and not draw attention. Avoid wearing clothing or carrying items that openly identify them as Americans or members of the military.
- Be aware of their surroundings at all times.
- Carry a cell phone if possible and get the emergency numbers for the area where they intend to travel.
- Research the area where they intend to travel to learn the locations of possible “safe havens” such as police or fire stations or embassy and consular facilities.
- Make sure their vehicles are in good working order and keep their fuel tanks full. Consider joining an automobile club that can help in the event of a mechanical breakdown during travel.
- If possible, monitor AFN TV and radio before and during travel for updated alerts and information.

- Get information from their organization travel experts and review U.S. State Department travel alerts and travel warnings before leaving home. State Department information is available online at [travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis\\_pa\\_tw\\_1168.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_1168.html).
- If an incident occurs, notify their organization and chain of command as soon as possible.



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