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U.S. Army Europe military police officials warn firearms owners in Germany about storing weapons

By Robert Szostek

U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal Public Affairs Office

MANNHEIM, Germany – U.S. forces personnel with firearms at home must strictly meet the terms of German firearms storage and registration laws, warn U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials.



Gun owners must list all their privately owned firearms on a valid *Waffenbesitzkarte* (German weapons registration) and store them in containers that meet German standards, officials say. Violators of the law face severe fines and confiscation of the firearms.

“Following the recent school massacre in Winnenden, German authorities have become very sensitive about the subject of firearm storage,” said Dan Saavedra, policy adviser at the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles, which also registers the privately owned firearms of U.S. forces personnel in Germany.

He advised gun owners to stick to the letter of the law and store their firearms in accordance with German regulations.

Stuttgart Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Schuster said in a recent letter to the city’s gun owners that the weapon used in the Winnenden school massacre had not been stored properly, and appealed to gun owners to ensure they are securing their firearms in accordance with the law.

Schuster added that Stuttgart city inspectors would do spot checks to make sure gun owners are storing firearms correctly. These inspections could also affect U.S. personnel, OPM officials said, and other towns in Germany may carry out similar checks later.

Saavedra said rules for handgun and rifle storage safes for Germany and other useful references can be found on the European Morale, Welfare and Recreation web site at https://public.euromwr.army.mil/mwr_hunt.htm (available from the .mil domain only).

More information on firearms ownership in Germany is available by calling the vehicle registry at 386-7123 or 0621-718-7123. Information on shipping firearms Stateside is available from the U.S. European Command Customs Executive Agency at 381-7466 or 0621-730-7466.



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