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### **U.S. Army Europe Provost Marshal officials recommend ways to protect ID cards**

**By Robert Szostek**

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

**MANNHEIM, Germany --** Keeping your Department of Defense ID card safe at all times is clearly a good idea, say U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal officials. Losing one can reduce the security of your military community and make you vulnerable to scams and identity theft.

“Your ID card is U.S. government property and a very valuable document,” said Lt. Col. Lon Walker, Chief of Law Enforcement Operations at the USAREUR OPM.

Walker offered five tips for keeping ID cards safe:

- Keep the card on your person when you are out of the house. Never leave it in your car.
- Keep the card in a wallet or a special ID pouch on a lanyard that goes around your neck. Don't just stick it in your pocket.
- Make it a habit to always put your wallet or ID card in the same place when you are in the office or at home so you know where it is when it is time to leave.
- Never surrender your ID card to anyone except law enforcement or base security personnel. Never give it to club or gym personnel as a security.
- Always check all pockets before throwing clothes into a dirty washing basket. You may be surprised at what might turn up -- even a missing ID card.

If you find an ID card, Walker said, turn in to the nearest military police station as soon as possible.

ID card holders must report the loss of an ID card to the MPs to get a new one. The report involves filling out some forms and making a statement at the MP station. “With this paperwork you can go to the ID card section for your new card,” Walker explained. He

added that the cardholder must then go to their local Installation Access Control System section to register the new card.

“This process can take many hours and some garrisons also make you go to mandatory classes on the value of ID cards if you lose one,” Walker said. “So treat your ID card as if it’s a \$50 bill and you will be less likely to lose it.”



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