

DRIVING

DRIVING IN GERMANY
Getting around on the roads



FOOD

GERMAN CUISINE
Learn how to eat well in Germany



THE CITY

ABOUT STUTTART
Information about our host city



The Citizen

GERMANY

HISTORY, CULTURE

With many options only a few hours away by car, Stuttgart is a gateway to the rich culture and history of Germany.

Special Welcome Edition Sustaining & Supporting the Stuttgart U.S. Military Community Garrison Website: www.stuttgart.army.mil Facebook: facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart stuttgartcitizen.com

WELCOME TO STUTTART

SPECIAL EDITION



Eberhard im Bart Monument at the Altes Schloss (Old Palace) – Photo by R. Slade Walters



Neues Schloss (New Palace), Schlossplatz – Photo by Julian Herzog



Stuttgart TV Tower – public domain photo



Photos by R. Slade Walters: Hohenzollern Castle



Waiblingen Illuminated



Birkenkopf



Weil der Stadt Fasnet parade

SOFA: GET COMFORTABLE

STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT
Understand your legal status as a U.S. military-affiliated service member, civilian or family member under the SOFA between the U.S. and Germany

THE HUNT FOR HOUSING

“WHERE ARE WE GOING TO LIVE?”
Find your new home away from home with a guide to housing in Stuttgart, whether you're going to live on the installation or out in one of the nearby German communities

STUTTART SCHOOLS

“WHERE WILL OUR KIDS GO TO SCHOOL?”
Your guide to the American Department of Defense Dependents Schools located throughout the Stuttgart U.S. military community

GOOD TO KNOW

A CORNUCOPIA OF INFORMATION AWAITS
Loads of important tips and tricks for living here in Germany that don't necessarily fit in with the other topics covered elsewhere in this special edition



LENDING CLOSET

*ITEM AVAILABILITY VARIES FROM GARRISON TO GARRISON

POTS & PANS, KITCHEN APPLIANCES, DISHES, STROLLERS, HIGH CHAIRS & MORE!

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United States Army Garrison Stuttgart

www.stuttgart.army.mil
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U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander
Col. Glenn K. Dickenson

Director of Public Affairs
R. Slade Walters

Editor
Kevin S. Abel

Staff Writers
Laura Cambiagio-Spangler
Holly DeCarlo-White
Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office
Building 2949, Panzer Kaserne

Army Post Office Mailing Address:
Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

German Mailing Address:
Panzer Kaserne, Geb. 2949, 3rd Floor, Panzerstrasse,
71032 Böblingen

Telephone: +49 (0)7031-15-3105, DSN 431-3105
Fax: +49 (0)7031-15-3096, DSN 431-3096

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John Thompson
Managing Director

Newspaper Layout/Designer
Alexander Pütz
Graphic Designer

Display Advertising Contact
Jaqueline Samad
Telephone: +49 (0) 631-30 3355 37
Email: ads@stuttgartcitizen.com

Classified Advertising Contact
Isabell Smith
Telephone: +49 (0) 631-30 3355 31
Email: admin@FindItGuide.com
Website: www.FindItGuide.com

Mailing Address:
AdvantiPro GmbH
Europaallee 3
67657 Kaiserslautern

Welcome to the Stuttgart military community

On behalf of the Stuttgart military community, Welcome!

What an awesome opportunity you are about to embark on. Stuttgart is a great place to work and live! With a dynamic joint military community of approximately 23,000 spread across five installations, Stuttgart is the home of multiple tactical, operational and strategic-level Department of Defense organizations. The U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, Special Operations Command Europe, Special Operations Command Africa, Marine Forces Europe and Africa, and Defense Information Systems Agency Europe are all headquartered here.

This operational environment, coupled with all of the off-duty activities the greater Stuttgart area has to offer, should make this a professionally and personally rewarding assignment.

Whether you have already landed, or are just beginning your Permanent Change of Station, the "Welcome to Stuttgart" edition of the Citizen is your guide to a smooth transition. This issue



Col. Glenn K. Dickenson
Commander, USAG Stuttgart

includes tools, tips, and resources offered by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and our partner units to service members, civilians, contractors and their families.

With this guide and the assistance of your sponsor, your transition overseas into our community is met with a lot of excitement and little stress.

In the following pages you will

find information on housing, schools, medical and dental care, and other aspects of life in the Stuttgart military community. An introduction to life on our installations and the surrounding local communities will help give you an idea of everything available in your new home.

There is a lot for you and your family here in Stuttgart, take advantage of this awesome opportunity; whether engaging at work with members from all four services, the State Department and other agencies, or heading out in your leisure time. Stuttgart, the capital of the Baden-Württemberg region, offers you endless possibilities for adventure. From historical museums and international festivals to world-renowned companies and music performances, I'm sure you'll find excitement around every corner and down every Autobahn.

Again, welcome to Stuttgart — I hope your PCS goes smoothly, and you're able to get out and enjoy living in Germany. Pretty soon you too will be saying, "I'm glad I live here!"



The "Altes Schloss" or Old Castle, is one of many historic sites scattered throughout the Stuttgart metropolitan area, making this city a popular travel destination. — Photo by Carola Meusel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

ICE comments recognize good, bad of Stuttgart services

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Have your voice heard! Submit an Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) form to share accolades and suggestions to service managers.

The web-based customer feedback system, founded in 1998 at the U.S. European Command here, is used across the Department of Defense to enhance the communication of customer wants and needs to the service provider.

ICE submissions recognize people

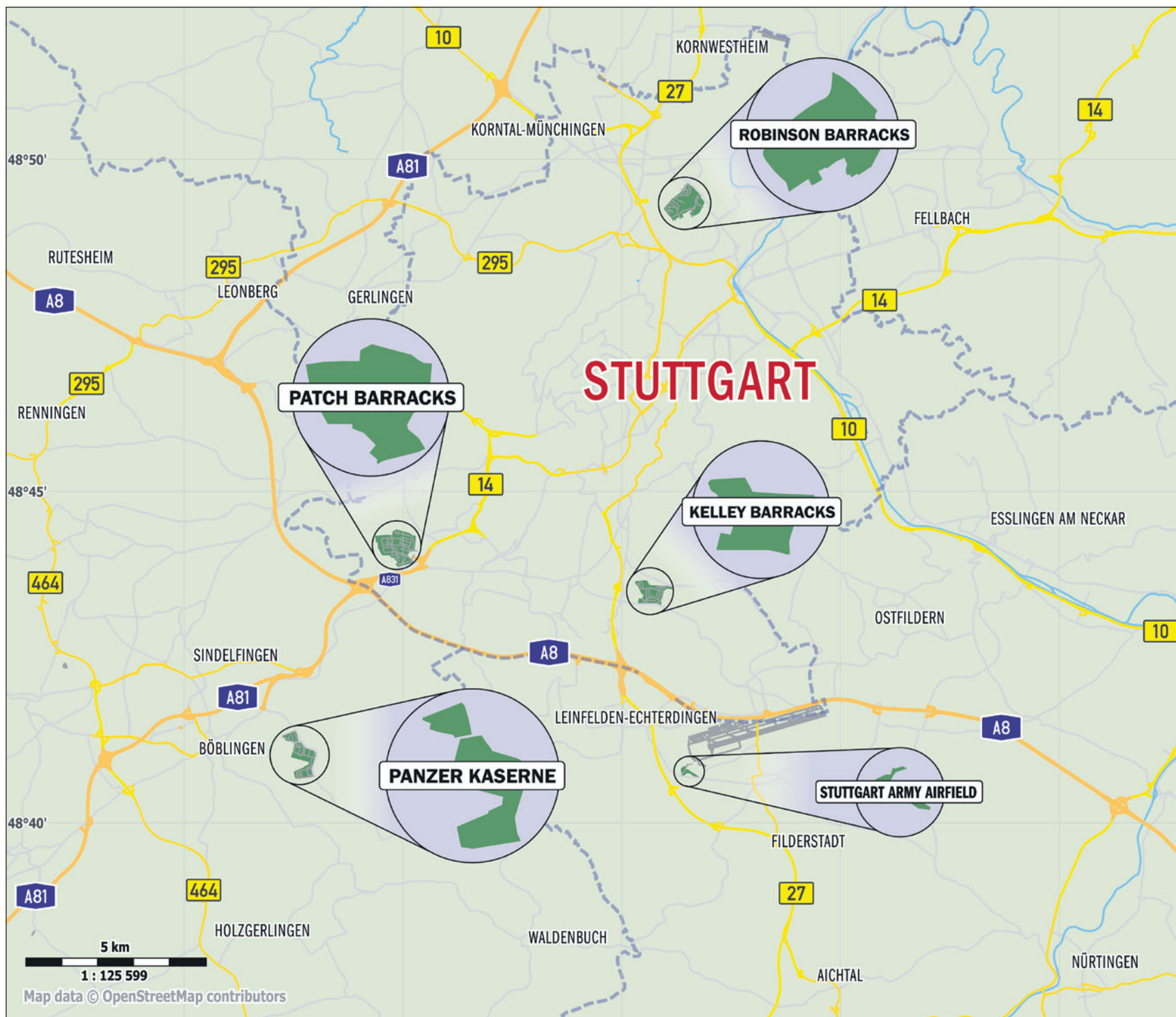


that do good things and highlight areas that can be considered for improvement allowing customers to comment on services at any of the five USAG Stuttgart installations — Panzer Kaserne, Patch Barracks, Kelley Barracks, Robinson Barracks

and Stuttgart Army Air Field.

People can share details of their experiences by logging on to www.stuttgart.army.mil and selecting the "ICE" logo at the bottom of the page. A list of all service providers is available there. If customers aren't sure which service category is correct, put in a "General Site Comment."

People in need of emergency response or assistance should not use ICE, contact the Military Police Help Desk at 0711-680-5262, or for emergency housing issues, call 0711-7228-6200.



There are five installations in the Stuttgart military community: Panzer Kaserne in Böblingen; Patch Barracks in Stuttgart-Vaihingen; Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart-Möhringen; Robinson Barracks in Stuttgart Bad-Cannstatt and Stuttgart Army Airfield in Filderstadt. Housing, work centers and services can be found throughout four of these installations, with just a few work centers at SAAF.

The Stuttgart military community

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The Stuttgart military community is composed of five installations throughout the greater Stuttgart metropolitan area and comprises a U.S. population of about 23,000 service members, civilians and families representing all four military services and other federal agencies. The Stuttgart metropolitan area, with a population of about 5 million people, is a thriving major German population center with a wide variety of industry and tourism.

Panzer Kaserne, located in Böblingen is home to the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart and most in-processing and out-processing needs as well as a number of customer service

locations. For a full listing of services and locations see our website at www.stuttgart.army.mil. Of the over 1,300 housing units in Stuttgart, Panzer Kaserne and Kelley Barracks combined hold approximately 40 percent of the family housing units, and 50 percent of the unaccompanied housing and the main Exchange. Panzer is also home of the Stuttgart and Patch (temporarily) Elementary and Stuttgart High School.

Patch Barracks is located in Stuttgart-Vaihingen and is home to the U.S. European Command. Patch and Robinson Barracks are the two main residential installations in Stuttgart with approximately 60 percent of the family housing and 50 percent of the unaccompanied housing. Patch is also

the home of Stuttgart's current Patch Middle School.

Kelley Barracks is located in Stuttgart-Möhringen and is home to U.S. Africa Command. Facilities on Kelley Barracks include a gym, the Kelley Theatre, the Staff Judge Advocate, a commissary, the Kelley Club, Kelley Hotel for inbound and outbound personnel, and a child development center.

Robinson Barracks, located in Stuttgart Bad-Cannstatt is primarily a residential installation. It is also the home of American Forces Network Stuttgart, and features a commissary and Exchange furniture store. Robinson Barracks is also the home of Robinson Barracks Elementary School.

Finally, Stuttgart Army Airfield in Filderstadt is the home of the aviation arms of each respective Combatant Commands as well as the primary platform for military cargo. While no services are provided from this installation, it is etched in history as one of the main locations for aircraft used during the Berlin airlift.

Stuttgart and the surrounding area

Stuttgart is in the state of Baden-Württemberg in the southern part of Germany. There are 13 states in Germany and three cities that carry the same status as states. With a population of more than a half-million in the city.

In-Processing the Stuttgart Community

By Marion E. Bruce
CPF In-Processing Specialist

Welcome to Stuttgart!

Sponsors of incoming personnel should be aware that all personnel assigned to Panzer Kaserne, Kelly Barracks, Patch Barracks, Robinson Barracks, Stuttgart Army Airfield, or the International Special Training Center-Pfullendorf should fly directly to Stuttgart International Airport. Personnel arriving to Stuttgart should be picked up by their officially assigned unit/agency sponsor. If a Soldier does get routed to Ramstein Air Base, they will automatically be overnighed there and put on a shuttle the next day to Stuttgart. The Central Processing Facility (CPF) will call the unit when they arrive. Personnel flying in to Frankfurt because they are traveling with pets should take the train to Stuttgart unless the unit/sponsor arranges to meet them.

All Service Members (Army, Airforce, Marine Corps, and Navy in the rank of private (E-1) through Colonel (O-6), including Reserve component and those on temporary change of station orders who are assigned, attached, or otherwise performing duty in Stuttgart), DOD Civilians, DODEA employees, and Contractors will report for initial In-Processing to the Central Processing Facility (CPF) on Panzer Kaserne, Building 2913, (DSN: 314-431-2599; 011-49-7031-15-2599). Hours of operation are 0800-1130 and 1300-1630. Sponsors should escort incoming personnel to the CPF during these times to fill out a questionnaire to be scheduled for In-Processing.

According to AE Reg 612-1, Unit Commanders and Supervisors will ensure that newly assigned military personnel and DA civilian personnel report to the CPF on the first workday after arriving in the community, attend all required community In-Processing before being released by the CPF to the unit, and are not assigned duties until CPF processing requirements are completed.

Civilian employees will initially report to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC). When CPAC processing is complete, they will immediately report to the CPF to complete the appropriate briefing modules and other required in-processing tasks as applicable before starting their new jobs.

The CPF is your one-stop In-Processing center. In-Processing begins on every day of the week.



The Central Processing Facility (CPF) located in Building 2913 on Panzer Kaserne is where you will start your in-processing to the Stuttgart community.

Newcomers will be scheduled for a 10 day in-processing period beginning one or two duty days after arrival.

On your first or second day you will attend a half-day Community Briefing consisting of the following: CPF Overview of the schedule and in-processing checklist, Transportation Briefing including information on dates of arrival of your shipments, and Housing Office Briefing which is required BEFORE you are assigned to quarters or given a statement of non-availability for off-post housing and provided with approved addresses. Contractors are not authorized to use housing services. Immediately afterward, Army personnel will remain at the CPF to settle any travel and PCS vouchers with Army Finance.

Two hours of required SHARP/SAPR, ASAP, and Suicide Prevention training are given that afternoon. CPF will record your mandatory attendance and provide it to your unit.

The schedule contains two full days of mandatory ITC (In-processing Training Center) briefings covering everything from Anti-Terrorism to USO trips to Tricare to Legal Landlord/Tenant Briefings and the Garrison Command Brief.

Then two days of mandatory Resiliency Training covers seven modules of organizational and behavioral topics with the aim of improving teamwork, especially in the joint environment.

You will be scheduled for one day of Host Nation Orientation which is an overview of German language and customs with a half day bus trip to learn what to expect in restaurants and how to operate the local public transit systems. Bring euros!

A half-day is reserved for driver's training and testing. All personnel assigned to Germany must have a USAREUR driver's license before renting, driving, or registering a vehicle on post. On-line testing is also now an option through Joint Knowledge On-line.

There will also be an opportunity to sign up for a seat on the bus for the highly popular half-day Hospital Tour. Although not required by regulation, most newcomers do wish to accompany the Tricare Patient Liaison on a visit to German Hospitals in Stuttgart where they may be taken in an emergency or referred to for specialty care since the Patch Clinic has no after hours or emergency care and the nearest military hospital is Landstuhl

which is 2.5-3 hours driving time.

There are also approximately three days built in to the schedule to allow time to complete the in-processing checklist and accomplish unit check-in. The mandatory portion of the in-processing checklist ensures that personnel are properly physically in-processed at all necessary stations.

Spouses of incoming personnel are welcome to attend any or all training but must sign up for a seat on the bus for both the Hospital Tour and the Host Nation Orientation. No children under 16 are allowed on the tours or in the training classes.

Please contact the CPF at us-army.stuttgart.imcom-europe.mbx.cpf@mail.mil to receive the standard In-Processing Email which includes sample two-week schedules, bus schedules, kaserne maps, driver training details, and other information usually contained in an In-Processing packet as well as the In-Processing Questionnaire.

Hopefully, at the end of the ten days you will feel informed, oriented, In-Processed, over your jetlag, ready to hit the ground running in your new job, and most of all welcomed to Stuttgart!

GOOD TO KNOW...



USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Life in Germany can be very different than in the U.S., and often it's the little things that make the big difference. These tips may help to ease some of those little daily challenges.

APPLIANCES

Germany uses a 220-volt electrical system, which means many appliances from the U.S. may not work on the German electrical system. Electrical transformers are available that will convert 220-volts to 110-volts, but even with these transformers, some appliances do not work properly. Microwaves do not work well, and digital clocks do not keep proper time. Exchange stores usually mark their electrical items with 110-volts or dual voltage. Also, using transformers tends to use more energy than using 220-volt or dual-voltage appliances. Some 220-volt appliances are available for long term loan from the Furnishings Management Office.

COMMISSARIES IN STUTTGART

Commissaries offering a wide variety of American brand name foods, fresh produce, beauty and health products and other groceries can be found throughout the Stuttgart military community. The largest commissary in the community is found on Patch Barracks but there are smaller commissaries on Panzer Kaserne, Kelley and Robinson Barracks.

TELEPHONES AND INTERNET

Landlines and cell phones are both readily available throughout Germany and are offered by a variety of service providers, as is Internet. Contracts are usually initially two years and automatically renew unless cancelled well in advance. Unless specifically included in the rate plan, all calls incur fees, even local calls. Rate plans called flat rate plans may include local and national calls throughout the German landline network. Cell phones in Germany are available with a variety of rate plans for outgoing calls, messages and data downloads. Most incoming cellular calls do not incur a charge for the receiver of the call, but calling a cell phone from other cell phones, or landlines does incur a fee unless included in a given flat rate plan. Internet is available from

many of the major telephone or cable companies, as well as TKS, located in the Exchange on Panzer Kaserne. Availability of Internet can vary widely depending on location. In larger cities, broadband access is very common and compares to broadband access found in the U.S. In smaller outlying villages, Internet access, if available, can be much slower. If living off base, it is often a good idea to look into the Internet access available when choosing a location in which to live.

TELEVISION

Finding English language programming in Germany takes a little effort, but is far from impossible. In addition to the American Forces Network programming available, TKS, located at Exchange, offers cable television services on base and to some off-base locations. German cable and satellite providers may offer some limited programming in English, but many off-base residents also look to online sources for streaming video programming. Be aware, because of country copyright restrictions, some of the U.S.-based subscription online services may not work on German Internet connections. Do your research before signing up for an online video streaming or movie download service. Also, be sure not to participate in any illegal downloading or uploading of copyrighted material.

COMMUNITY QUIET HOURS

Most cities and villages have ordinances concerning loud noises on certain days and times. In some areas these are enforceable laws, and in others, simply courtesy guidelines. Regardless of whether or not they are legally enforceable, they are considered a cultural norm to follow. Though specifics may vary from town to town, a good general rule is to observe quiet hours nightly from around 8 or 9 p.m. until about 8 or 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and all day on Sunday. During these times, try to keep loud noises to a minimum and do not engage in activities that inherently create loud noises, such as lawn mowing, using power tools or playing loud music. To find out the specific ordinances in your town or village, visit the local government offices.

BANKING

Banking services are offered to the Stuttgart military community by both Service Credit Union and

Community Bank. Payment of many German bills, and occasionally retail purchases, are often accomplished through a direct bank transfer system or "Überweisung." Outgoing or incoming German transfers can be processed through both SCU and Community Bank, both of which are connected to the German banking system.

U.S. MAIL AND CUSTOMS

As a command-sponsored service member or civilian employee, you will get an Army Post Office mail box, which is part of the U.S. mail system, and is intended for your personal use and the use of your command sponsored family members. Because it is part of the U.S. mail system, U.S. mailing rules apply and some things may not be mailed through the APO. Prohibited items include Kinder eggs (a popular chocolate treat that has a toy surprise in it), alcohol, many nutritional supplements and medications, and hazardous materials. This list is not all inclusive, so check with your APO before shipping any questionable items, and visit the U.S. Postal Service website, www.usps.com. Also, as a service member, employee or family member under the Status of Forces Agreement, you may be exempted from customs fees when importing items from the U.S., even when shipped through non-U.S. means. Those considering importing items for personal use not through the APO should check with the customs office for more information.

CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

Germany observes a "quiet day" on Sundays. Most retailers, including grocery stores and many times even fuel stations and other conveniences, are closed on Sundays. In larger cities and on the autobahns, fuel stations will often be open, though may have limited hours. Restaurants and some bakeries may also be open on Sundays, but will often have limited hours.

WEAR OF UNIFORMS OFF BASE

Regulations and policies concerning the wear of the uniform off-base vary slightly from service to service, and sometimes among organizations within a given service. Generally the rules are more restrictive here in

Europe than the U.S. because of increased force protection measures. Make sure to become familiar with your organization's policies and follow them.

TIPPING IN GERMANY

Tipping of service personnel is handled differently in Germany than in the U.S. At restaurants and bars, a set-rate tip is not generally used. Tipping in Germany is based on the quality of the service, and a good rule of thumb is to round to the next even euro amount. For example, if the bill is € 14, a tip of about €1 for a total of €15 might be appropriate. Also, tips are usually given directly to the receiving person as part of the payment transaction, and are not left on the table. If paying with a credit card, be sure to tell the server the full amount to be paid, including tip, as many credit card machines in Germany do not provide a receipt that allows for a write-in gratuity.

EUROPEAN UNION

Germany is part of the European Union, which is a collection of European nations that have extensive legal agreements with one another. Travel across borders in Europe is usually not restricted, and is similar to travel between states in the U.S., though anyone on leisure travel (not official orders) should be sure to have a tourist passport on them at all times. Service members should also be aware of their organization's policies on cross-border travel. A leave or pass status is often required when crossing borders.

BICYCLING IN GERMANY

Germany is ranked the fifth most bike-friendly nation in Europe by the European Cycling Federation (27 total nations ranked). Getting around by bike is safe and easy throughout Germany and makes a great way to stay healthy as well. Cycling paths are abundant and well-marked. While Germany does not have a bicycle helmet law, most U.S. installations do have a mandatory helmet policy for all cyclists. German law does require safety items such as lights, two brakes and reflectors. For more information check The Citizen website at <http://www.stuttgartcitizen.com>, which has information applicable throughout Germany by searching for "bicycle."

Where's the Wi-Fi? How to get connected on USAG Stuttgart

Photo by phloxil/Shutterstock.com

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Wi-Fi and/or computers are available for community use at the following locations:

Commissaries (all installations)

Panzer Kaserne:

- USO (Building 2915)
- Army Community Service (computer work stations only)
- Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center and Irish Pub
- Panzer Hotel
- Starbucks (inside the Main Exchange)

Patch Barracks:

- Library
- Java Café
- Patch Community Club
- BOSS/Warrior Zone (inside the Swabian Special Events Center, lower level)

Kelley Barracks:

- Broadway Café (inside Kelley Theater)
- Kelley Hotel

Robinson Barracks:

- Library

Free Wi-Fi in downtown Stuttgart

Free Wi-Fi connection in downtown Stuttgart is available at Marktplatz, Schlossplatz and Schillerplatz squares, as well as at the i-Punkt Tourist Information (Königstrasse 1a).

Select the "Unitymedia Wifi" network and request your login credentials via text message to start "surfing."

The "Walled Garden" is an information portal of the Stuttgart-Markting office providing users with information on Stuttgart's history, landmarks, tourist attractions, restaurants, public transportation, opening hours and much more. The Walled Garden is available at the user page when applying for WLAN. Accessing the information portal doesn't require WLAN registration.

Mobile Phones in Europe

Calls, data and texts to a cell phone or landline can be extremely expensive from Europe. Especially if you or your dependents like to call and text frequently, you may be better off with a pre-paid cell phone balance that can be topped up at the Exchange and on-post gas stations.

If you do choose to have a contract, read the fine print carefully to make sure that the fees are what you consider reasonable. Army Community Service and the Stuttgart Law Center can also help to review the contract for you before you sign to be sure you know what you are signing up for.

Popular apps for calling the U.S.

On Wi-Fi, there are countless popular apps for free calling and texts to back to the U.S. with video chat options such as Viber, Skype, WhatsApp, Kik, Google chat,

Facebook chat etc.

Having your family and friends communicate through the same app of your choice is the best way to go for free app-to-app contact. However, for those with family members who only have land lines in the U.S., look at the app's "call out" options and rates. Many allow you to dial land lines from your German cell phone back to the U.S. for less than 2 cents per minute equating to about 1 dollar for every hour which is really inexpensive compared to calling internationally where depending on you plan of service, the charge could be five times that rate.

Computers

If your computer is dual voltage, you can plug it into both 220v and 110v; the latter requires a plug adapter for 220v sockets. You will likely have to flip a switch (from 110v to 220v) on your computer before you turn it on. Do NOT forget to check this before powering up; otherwise, you can instantly fry your computer.

You can usually plug monitors directly into 220v outlets with only a plug adapter, but again, check for a switch first. Printers and speakers normally require a transformer. Check the output volts on your setup before buying a transformer, to make sure the one you choose can handle the amount of voltage you need.

Travel Apps and Websites

In addition to using the on-post SATO travel office or local travel agency services to book leisure travel

in Europe, as well as the extensive German rail system (see page 28 for information on German Transit) there are several websites and apps to help you find great deals to travel. Popular sites include Skyscanner, Kayak, Travelocity and TripAdvisor just to name a few. Going directly to the airline's website is another option for finding great deals on direct travel from Stuttgart Airport. Some of the airlines that fly direct from Stuttgart to neighboring countries at affordable prices include Eurowings, which has a blind-bookings option to pick your destination for you on your selected dates at a set price, Air Berlin, TUI, Vueling, EasyJet, Swiss Air and more. Checking your options at nearby airports is another tip too. Low cost airline Ryan Air operates out of Baden-Baden, Munich and Frankfurt airports are about two hours by train with additional connection options.

Family and MWR's Outdoor Recreation and other organizations (see page 29 for private organizations within the installation) arrange travel excursions monthly. Visit stuttgart.armymwr.com for details to get off-post and see Europe. The garrison news site, www.stuttgart-citizen.com, also hosts a Culture and Leisure section with information on local events happening in the Stuttgart area.

Editor's Note: The content of this article is for informational sharing purposes only. No endorsement implied.

Exchange services across Stuttgart

EUCOM Consolidated Exchange

The Exchange (formerly Army and Air Force Exchange Service) offers a wide variety of shopping and services throughout the Stuttgart military community.

The Stuttgart Exchange shopping mall in Building 2903 on Panzer Kaserne boasts 63,000 square feet of retail space. This Exchange, built in 2007, includes a food court offering American fast food favorites such as Burger King, Charley's Grilled Subs, Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen, Pizza Hut and Starbucks.

In addition to the traditional personal services offered at most Exchanges (barber, beauty and nail salon), many

concession stores bring a variety of local and international products, foods, and services to Exchange customers in Stuttgart. Sehne Bakery serves a daily variety of fresh and authentic German baked goods. Shop at Käthe Wohlfahrt and find unique handcrafted gifts and souvenirs. Rental vehicles are available at Enterprise Car Rental for those wanting to explore the region's many historic castles and famous sites such as the Black Forest or the Bavarian Alps.

On Patch Barracks, the Exchange food court offers Burger King, Subway and Taco Bell. Sehne Bakery also serves a variety of German baked goods. Concessions include barber, beauty and alteration shops,

and a laundry/dry cleaner. Enterprise Car Rental also has an office.

For home furnishings, the expanded furniture store at Robinson Barracks offers ready to assemble desks and chairs; dining room, living room and bedroom sets; rugs; lamps; mattresses and box springs; stationary; automotive; video rental and some seasonal items. Brand names include Bassett, Ashley, Steven Silver, Lane, Franklin, Jackson, United, American Furniture and Coaster.

At the Panzer Car Care and Auto Parts Store, a professional staff of sales and service techs will keep the family mobile by offering basic oil changes, and services on brakes, exhaust, suspension and tires.

At each installation in Stuttgart, there are local Express shops that offer convenient hours of operation and a broad selection of basics for the military and their families.

On-base gas stations at Kelley Barracks and Patch Barracks are co-located with the Express shops.

The Patch Reel Time Theater features weekday, evening and weekend matinee showings of the latest in cinema entertainment, including 3D films.

To discover all the Exchange opportunities throughout the Stuttgart area, movie listings and information on services and hours, visit www.shopmyexchange.com or call civ. 07031-20420.

Food and dinner ideas available across U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart installations

Compiled by the USAG Stuttgart
Public Affairs Office

Kelley Barracks

Commissary — Bldg. 3316

Fare: A U.S. grocery store overseas. Special services includes: custom cakes, fresh sandwiches to-go, lunchtime salad bar and sushi.

Hours:

Early Bird: 9:30 to 11 a.m., Monday to Friday

Normal: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday

Exchange Roving Concession

Hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday

Kelley Club — Bldg. 3300

Specialty: Weekday all-you-can-eat lunch buffet.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Friday and 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday to Friday.

The Broadway Café — Bldg. 3320

Fare: Coffee, cappuccino, latte, hot chocolate, and tea, as well as a delicious selection of bagels, cakes and freshly baked cookies.

Hours: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Commanders Mess

Available for breakfast and lunch services Monday-Friday, for reservation, contact Sgt. First Class Jason Seighman, at DSN:421-2961. Breakfast Hours 7 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Lunch Hours 1130 a.m. – 1 p.m.

German Kantina

Open for breakfast and lunch services, Monday – Friday from 6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN: 421-2023

Panzer Kaserne

Commissary — Bldg. 2957

Fare: A U.S. grocery store overseas. Special

service includes fresh sandwiches to-go.

Hours:

Early Bird: 9:30 to 11 a.m., Monday to Friday

Normal: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday

1/10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Dining Facility

Hours: Monday to Friday 7:30 - 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Exchange Food Court — Bldg. 2903

Burger King: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Breakfast is served to 10:30 a.m.

Charley's: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday

Popeye's: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Thursday; 10:30 to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday

Pizza Hut: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday

Sehne Bakery: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday

Starbucks: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday

Roving concessions: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday

German American Kantine

— Bldg. 2913

Fare: German-American daily breakfast and lunch specials, including coffee to-go.

Hours: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Irish Pub — Bldg. 2998

Full service bar.

Hours: 6 to 10 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday and 4 p.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday.

Strike Zone Snack Bar — Bldg. 2998

Fare: Salads, burgers, cheese steaks, chicken,

hot dogs, pizza, combo meals, and much more.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday.

Patch Barracks

Commissary — Bldg. 2350

Fare: A U.S. grocery store overseas. Special services includes: bakery, custom cakes, deli, fresh and made-to-order sandwiches to-go, rotisserie chicken, lunchtime salad bar, and sushi.

Hours:

Early Bird: 8 to 10 a.m., Sunday to Saturday

Normal: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday to Saturday

Deli: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday to Saturday

Eatery — Bldg. 2301

Fare: Italian

Hours: 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Exchange Food Court — Bldg. 2330

Burger King: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

Taco Bell: 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday to Friday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

Subway: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Saturday

Sehne Bakery: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday

German Cantine — Bldg. 2913

Fare: International

Hours: 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday to Friday

Java Café — Bldg. 2325

Fare: Starbucks coffee, smoothies, sandwiches, wraps, soup, and much more.

Hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday

Kebab Stand — outside Bldg. 2337

Fare: Turkish Kebab along with grilled chicken and other delicacies.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Backlot Bar — Bldg. 2345

Full service bar.

Hours: 4 to 11 p.m., Monday to Thursday; 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., Friday; 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday; and 4 p.m. to midnight, Sunday.

Patch Community Club — Bldg. 2345

Fare: Burgers, chicken, mozzarella sticks, egg rolls, and much more.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Friday; 4 to 11 p.m., Monday to Thursday; and 4 p.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday.

Robinson Barracks

Commissary — Bldg. 146

Fare: A U.S. grocery store overseas. Special service includes custom cakes.

Hours:

Early Bird: 11:30 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday

Normal: Noon to 8 p.m., Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday

Off-installation facility

Golfer's Garden Restaurant (at The Stuttgart Golf Course)

975 Aldingerstrasse, 70806 Kornwestheim

Fare: A variety of German-American-Greek-Italian cuisine.

Hours: 1 to 8 p.m., Monday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday.

Status of Forces Agreement and legal status

By Stuttgart Law Center

As a newly-arrived member to our community, it is important to understand your legal status in Germany and your protections. For instance: Germans living in Germany without some nexus to the military or U.S. government are German citizens without special status. Americans living within Germany that do not have a military or U.S. government affiliation may live in Germany as legal residents if the German government has provided permission. The last category are Americans travelling in Germany for less than six (6) months are considered short-term tourists.

However, personnel on military orders (whether a civilian, service member, or family member) fall into an entirely separate category and are governed by the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

Understanding how the SOFA affects you as well as some basic differences in law between the U.S. and Germany will make for a more enjoyable overseas tour, and it will prevent unpleasant and potentially costly mistakes.

NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

The NATO SOFA provides the basis for the legal status of military, U.S. civilian employees, and dependents living in Germany on orders. Under an additional supplementary agreement, personnel in Germany also enjoy privileges not granted to others Service members stationed elsewhere in Europe. These agreements affect status, entry and departure from the host nation, military training within host nation territory, jurisdiction, law enforcement, taxation, import and export laws, driving privileges, employment, mail, schooling, housing and much more.

You can read about the SOFA and the Supplemental Agreement at <https://aepubs.army.mil/ae/public/references.asp>.

German Law Applies to Everyone

Although the SOFA determines your legal status, it is important to understand that German law applies to U.S. personnel both on and off base. U.S. installations are not U.S. soil. Additionally, while there are many similarities between German and U.S. law, there are also many stark differences. For example, spanking or paddling children as a means of



German law applies to service members, civilians and families residing in Stuttgart, whether on or off base. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

punishment for disobedience is prohibited under German criminal law. German law considers it “physical punishment,” which makes it tantamount to child abuse. . German civil law also differs quite a bit from what most may be familiar with in the U.S. Read on to learn about key differences between German and U.S. law and if you have questions please contact the Legal Center on Kelley Barracks. Additionally, make sure you attend the Legal in-processing brief offered weekly on Panzer Kaserne at the Central Processing Facility.

Contracts

While that brand new smart phone might be an attractive incentive to get a cellphone contract, be careful. Too often, Americans sign German documents without properly reviewing them.

When considering a contract, do not sign it until you can have a German-speaking friend or someone at Army Community Service read over the documents. Do not sign the contract if you do not understand your obligations. Second, in Germany, many service contracts automatically renew for one-year increments after the initial two-year expiration. You must give proper written notice to terminate the contract. If you fail to give proper written notice of termination before PCSing, you could be on the hook for an extra year of cellphone service, even after leaving Germany. It is possible to send the notice with an effective date that is well in the future. For instance, notice could be sent as early as a month after service begins,

but have an effective date that is two years in the future.

Finally, keep a copy of termination notices and the company’s response. Army Community Service can help with proactively terminating such services.

Remember, an alternative to signing up for that fancy cellphone contract is to get a prepaid plan. That way you know exactly how much money you’re spending and can cancel at any time.

Renting Off-Post Quarters

For those who reside off-post, you must be extremely thorough and businesslike when establishing a contract and moving into the premises. Landlord-tenant laws are very different in Germany and are, in many ways, pro-landlord. Keep all meetings with the landlord, at least the initial ones, strictly businesslike. One key difference between U.S. landlord-tenant law and Germany landlord-tenant law is that you can form an oral contract to rent property in Germany. This means you must watch what you say to a prospective landlord or realtor when discussing a property.

Once you find a place, note all preexisting damage on the inspection sheet provided by the Housing Office. Do not rely on anyone else to note deficiencies. Anything you do not annotate on your initial inspection will be attributed to you when the time arrives for your departure date. You will be personally responsible for repairs that are not notated on the initial inspection sheet. You can pay for the repairs out your own pocket or from your

security deposit. Although many landlords can be very friendly, it is critical to remember that renting property is a business transaction. Please note that personnel must check-in at Housing Services Office within two days of arrival in Stuttgart and keep the Housing Office informed of their housing search status at all times.

Also, be careful when dealing with realtors. Realtors technically work for the potential renter seeking the property, but they are very familiar with the local Landlords. Landlords often have more than one rental property and if their tenants are Americans, new tenants rotate through their properties every two to three years. This reality means realtors often take sides with the landlord during landlord-tenant disputes. Additionally, there may be hefty realtor fees associated with a property. In almost all cases, realtor fees are not reimbursable. . The bottom line: check with the housing office before contacting a realtor.

Traffic Laws

Speed cameras are much more common in Stuttgart and throughout Germany than they are in the U.S. Unfortunately, the Law Center lacks legal authority to assist drivers who received a speeding ticket or other traffic citation. Prompt payment of the fines is highly recommended.

The U.S. Army in Europe vehicle registry records German traffic violations and assigns traffic points. Drivers who get 12 or more traffic points in a one-year period face a mandatory license suspension under the Army in Europe Regulations. Those caught

driving on a suspended license face a five-year revocation of driving privileges.

Downloading Media Online

German copyright laws are strictly enforced and our community has seen a surge in demand letters from law firms for illegal downloading or protected material. Such demand letters can involve heavy fees or fines imposed on those caught downloading or uploading media in violation of German copyright laws. The best practice is not to engage in any illegal downloading or uploading of copyrighted materials. The consequences are simply not worth the risk.

Those who receive a document that appears to be a legal notice concerning downloading or uploading copyrighted materials are encouraged to contact the Law Center prior to responding to the letter.

Tax-free Privileges

The SOFA affords some very nice tax breaks to personnel under orders to be in Germany. Sharing these tax breaks with non-SOFA protected persons are strictly prohibited. Violations can cost a person their SOFA privileges, or worse, result in federal criminal convictions. Specifically, misuse of

the fuel ration system or Value Added Tax exemption can create trouble very quickly. Also, anything acquired under the provisions of the SOFA at the Exchange, commissary, or tax-exempt purchases made with a VAT form, are for personal use and are not allowed to be used in private business ventures. Do not allow landlords to use VAT forms to repair or improve their property. Those interested in getting involved in a personal business while overseas under the SOFA are highly encouraged to consult the Installation Commercial Affairs Office.

Host-Nation Relations

Our office sees a number of issues that could have been avoided with a little deference to our German hosts and awareness of host-nation law.

For instance, in German culture, German citizens are encouraged to report inappropriate behavior parking in a no-parking area for instance. If someone tells you that you are parked in the wrong spot, it would behoove you to move. Our office has seen small confrontations combined with a language barrier quickly escalate, resulting in police involvement, hefty fines, and court costs.

Additionally, in the United States it is not uncommon to see someone

being “flipped off” or to hear one person using vulgar language toward another in public. Such gestures and acts, while uncomfortable, are not illegal in the U.S. However, in Germany, if you flip someone off or use aggressive language toward someone else, you can be sued and forced to pay what is known as “Schmerzensgeld” or “pain money.”

Finally, in the United States it is also not uncommon to see someone carrying around a pocketknife. In Germany, there are restrictions on carrying certain knives. Specifically, folding, locking-blade knives, and all knives with a blade longer than 12cm (4.7 inches) are generally banned. For more information, you can visit the German government’s English translation of their weapons laws at their website www.bmjv.de. Click the top menu link for the English page, then scroll down and find the link to Translations of Statutes and Ordinances. The laws affecting knives are under WaffG, or Weapons Act. If you choose to carry a pocketknife, never carry it to a local fest, large public gatherings, places where alcohol is consumed, and where there will be a police presence.

Marriage

Carefully consider your decision

to marry or divorce while in Germany. Both marriage and divorce in Germany can be quite different than the U.S., Marriage or divorce documents are not easily transferred or mutually applied between German authorities and various states in the U.S. Any divorce, whether overseas or back in the U.S., can be very complicated and could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars for alimony, child support, division of marital assets, and legal fees. Former spouses could seek a court order for money, call your commander to enforce a separation agreement, or any obligation under military regulations to support families. Since the Law Center cannot represent personnel in divorces, you will have to seek services from a German attorney.

Your PCS tour in Germany can be a very enjoyable experience. Make the most of it by staying out of legal trouble. Know the laws. Understand how they apply to service members, civilians, and family members. Last but not least, respect our German hosts and their laws.

For more information, contact the Stuttgart Legal Assistance office at DSN 421-4152 / 2609, or Civ. 0711-729-4152 / 2609 or by email at usarmy.stuttgart.21-tsc.mbx.slcla@mail.mil.

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Your home away from home

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

One of the top things on the minds of the entire family during a permanent change of station move is the new residence. Where will we live? How big will it be? What's the neighborhood like?

For those coming to Stuttgart, the answers to these questions can vary widely.

Approximately 30 percent of the Stuttgart military community lives in the 1,300 on-base housing units, with the remaining 70 percent residing on the economy.

On-post family housing units throughout Stuttgart are stairwell apartments ranging from two to five bedrooms. They are located on Panzer Kaserne, Kelley, Robinson, and Patch Barracks. Most five bedroom units are located on Kelley Barracks.

In-home amenities for on-base housing include a laundry room with U.S. appliances for each unit, individual storage space, and 110 and 220-volt outlets for both U.S. and German appliances.

Community services include fitness centers, a club for social events, elementary, middle and high schools, and libraries within walking distance.

Upon receipt of permanent change of station orders, uniformed members and U.S. government civilians are strongly encouraged to complete the application for assignment to housing Department of Defense Form 1746. This is the official form used to create a customer housing record and is updated within 48 hours after the customer arrives in Stuttgart.

For those living off-base, the variety of homes is nearly endless. Everything from modern homes and apartments with art nouveau architecture, to centuries-old half-timber converted barns and everything in between are available here. While rental prices throughout the area vary slightly, as a general rule of thumb the areas closer to Stuttgart/Böblingen city center are higher in rent. Those properties located further out in the suburbs/countryside tend to be lower in rent and larger in size.

Start finding your home by searching www.HOMES.mil the military home finders' tool even here in Europe. This site contains listings of rental homes in and around Stuttgart, most within the school zones, and all are free of realtor fees.

There are many home types in



The 1,300 family housing units available in USAG Stuttgart are stairwell apartments with two to five bedrooms that are spread throughout four of the five installations (there are no housing units on Stuttgart Army Airfield).

Germany. Apartments, penthouses, maisonette apartments (which are two-floored apartments), townhouses, duplexes and free-standing houses can be found for rent, as well as large homes or free-standing single houses with multiple bathrooms, large yards and five-plus bedrooms. Though these latter types of homes are harder to find, apartments, townhouses, and duplexes are easier to find and are generally less expensive.

The cost of rent needs to align with the uniformed member's overseas housing allowance rate and living quarters allowance for U.S. government civilians or the cost of additional rent is an out-of-pocket expense. Financial overseas housing entitlements are listed on the Department of Defense overseas allowance calculator webpage at www.defensetravel.dod.mil.

Housing referral services

The Housing Referral Office offers home-finding services to U.S. government civilians and service members



Most of the USAG Stuttgart housing units have been recently remodeled and feature modern amenities, such as this convenient breakfast bar.

who are authorized to live off-post. Contractor personnel are not eligible for housing referral services in accordance with Army Regulation 420-1, "Army Facilities Management."

Pervin Estates is the housing referral contractor. The office manages the HOMES.mil listings website and provides up to three escorted home tours, home inspections and individual counseling to discuss rental units found on HOMES.mil.

All homes listed on HOMES.mil guarantee a furnished kitchen and light fixtures. Be aware that homes found on other home rental websites in Stuttgart may not include kitchen cabinets, appliances or light fixtures and some require payment of a realtor fee.

On or off-post administrative steps

USAG Stuttgart offers two types of housing briefs to assist customers in finding the most suitable rental for their needs.

The Central Processing Facility (CPF) offers a newcomers brief that is mandatory for both uniformed members and U.S. government civilians. The CPF housing brief provides an overview of the housing office services and highlights off-post housing processes.

Housing's in-processing brief is a one-on-one between a housing counselor and the uniformed member. This brief is mandatory for uniformed members and optional for U.S. government civilians.

At the housing brief, civilian sponsors will receive a Pervin Estates

customer routing form, and unit detail request form. After 24 hours, Pervin Estates will return the landlord details by email. For the initial request, the routing and detail request forms are emailed to Pervin Estates. All subsequent requests for unit details will require the return of each comment card for each new landlord request listing. Comment cards are included in the unit detail request form.

Rental contract process

The USAG Stuttgart Housing Office-approved contract is a legally-binding agreement between the landlord and the tenant, and is in both English and in German.

The first step in this process is when the prospective tenant submits a completed copy of the contract cover sheet after the contract is signed by the landlord or property manager. This must be sent via official U.S. government encrypted email to the housing office at offpost@usagst.net to the attention of Pervin Estates and off-post housing. "Make sure to complete and send the coversheet as soon as possible because it's your guarantee that the property will be removed from the HOMES.mil website, which means its closer to being yours." The next step is when the prospective tenant schedules a contract review with the housing office no later than two business days from the date the landlord signs the contract.

"As soon as the landlord's signature is on the contract, schedule an appointment immediately," said Konrad Herzig, USAG Stuttgart housing lead customer service counselor.

A housing counselor can save the customer time.

"I wouldn't wait until the contract review appointment. Email the contract to the housing office in advance of the contract review appointment and if time permits a housing counselor will review the contract," said Herzig.

Personnel on TDY or deployment orders

In the absence of the sponsor, a power of attorney is required for the housing office to approve a garrison off-post rental contract. For on-post housing services, copy of the sponsor's temporary duty order or deployment order is required and the requirement for a power of attorney is waived. For housing contact information and a list of services, go to the USAG Stuttgart website at www.stuttgart.army.mil and select the Housing Services Office.

A message from your School Liaison Officer

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

The School Liaison Office will provide the information necessary to help ease your family's transition, and we look forward to answering any of your questions. The information below is primarily about the DoDEA schools in the area. We can also assist if you are interested in homeschooling, international schools, or German schools.

The DoDEA schools include: Stuttgart High School serving grades 9-12, Patch Middle School serving grades 6-8, and three elementary schools serving grades K-5: Patch Elementary, Robinson Elementary, and Stuttgart Elementary School.

Enrollment takes place directly at the school in the zone where you live, and is ongoing throughout the summer and into the school year. When you enroll, you will need to complete specific school registration

paperwork. You will also need to provide a copy of assignment orders, immunization record, physical address, birth certificate (only grades K-1), and a sports physical (to participate in high school sports). You can also hand-carry school records in a sealed envelope. If you do not have sealed school records, the school registrar will request them from your child's previous school.

If you are temporarily staying at the Panzer Hotel, you can choose to enroll your elementary-age child at either Stuttgart or Patch Elementary School. If you are residing in any other hotel, including Kelley Hotel, your child's school is determined by the zone where you live.

The first day of school for students for grades 1-12 is Monday, August 29th. The first day of school for kindergarteners is Tuesday/Wednesday September 6/7th. All kindergarten classes will have staggered starts (half

children start on the 6th, half on the 7th, and all on the 8th).

Prior to the start of school, both parents and students will have the opportunity to attend school orientations. Specific information about the schedule will be provided later this summer.

Supply lists for elementary students are available at each elementary school, as well as at the Panzer Exchange. Middle and high school students will receive their supply lists after school begins.

All student meals are subsidized by the USDA. The rate of support varies by qualifying category.

Free and Reduced Applications are now completed online making the process easy and quick! Only one annual application per family required. Simply go to the following link to apply starting July 1, 2016. www.aafes.com/about-exchange/school-lunch-program

Once you submit your online application, you will receive confirmation of application status typically within 24 hours. Your child's lunch account is automatically updated to reflect the free or reduced price status for the remainder of the current school year. Applications must be made annually.

If you have other questions or concerns, or if there is anything that the School Liaison Office can do to ease your transition to USAG Stuttgart, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you and will do our best to connect you with your schools and community.

Brian Pappas, brian.n.pappas.naf@mail.mil DSN: 4307465 CIV: 0711-6807465, Cell: 0174-2489905

Joe Holder, wayne.j.holder.naf@mail.mil DSN: 4307465 CIV: 0711-6807465, Cell: 0172-7559242

Stuttgart High School

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401, APO, AE 09107

Telephone:

DSN 431-4000

Civ 0703-115-4000

Website:

<http://www.dodea.edu/Europe/Bavaria/Stuttgart/StuttgartHS/index.cfm/>

Principal:

Danny Robinson

Assistant Principals:

Dr. Marshall Blankenship and

Tessa Moss-Beaman

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Located at the newly constructed Stuttgart school complex across adjacent to Panzer Kaserne, Stuttgart High School serves a student population of about 750 students with 55 teachers and administrators.

The school offers a variety of courses under the Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum, including English (advanced placement and honors courses are also offered), mathematics (algebra

through advanced placement calculus), science (physics, chemistry, anatomy, biology, etc.), foreign languages (German, French, Spanish), computer courses, fine arts (humanities, band, art, chorus), history (government, U.S. history, etc.), business and career and technical electives, as well as other activities. The school has an active Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, as well as extracurricular programs in football, golf, tennis, cross-country running, volleyball, wrestling, basketball, rifle

marksmanship, swimming, cheerleading, track, soccer, baseball, softball and military drill team.

This school runs on a split eight period schedule with alternating days. Gold Days are periods one through four, and Black Days are periods five through eight.

Originally founded as the Alexander M. Patch American High School in 1979, it was in that facility through the end of the 2014-2015 school year. From 1979 until 2006 the school operated for grades seven

to 12. With the 1992 closure of the Stuttgart American High School, Patch High School became the only American high school in the Stuttgart area. After 2006, the school changed to grades nine through 12. Stuttgart High School opened its doors in their brand new facility in August 2015.

Stuttgart High School boasts the largest number of AP course offerings in DODEA, and the highest average AP scores in DODEA, according to school officials.

Patch Middle School

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401 APO, AE 09107

Telephone:

DSN 430-7191

Civ 0711-680-7191

Website:

<http://www.dodea.edu/Europe/Bavaria/Stuttgart/PatchMS/index.cfm>

Principal:

Rick Renninger

Assistant Principal:

Mynda Massey



Alexander M. Patch
Middle School

← Bldg. 2388



Home of the
Wolves

Bldg. 23

The building which previously housed Patch High School serves as the home for Patch Middle School Wolves.

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Located in building 2388 on Patch Barracks, Patch Middle School opened for the first time this past school year in what previously served as the high school, this is the only middle school serving the entire

Stuttgart area with approximately 650 students and 65 staff members.

Patch MS offers a diverse set of classes. In addition to the core subjects of Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies, they offer many classes in art, music and technology to students in grades 6-8.

Students will have the opportunity to take advanced classes in Foreign Language and in Mathematics. This challenging and engaging curriculum will ensure that the students of Patch Middle School are on the path to be college and career ready

Although extracurricular activities

vary from year to year, in the 2015-2016 year the middle schools offered art, astronauts, band, chess, debate, drama, jazz, robotics, and more.

This school runs on an alternating daily schedule with A Days and B Days.

Robinson Barracks Elementary School

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

Telephone:

DSN 430-9337

Civ. 0711-680-9337

Website: <http://www.dodea.edu/Europe/Bavaria/Stuttgart/RobinsonBarracksES/index.cfm/>

Principal:

Kenneth Younkin



USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Robinson Barracks Elementary School, in Building 148 on Robinson Barracks, services a student population of about 280 in kindergarten through fifth grade, with a staff of approximately 45 teachers and administrators.

The school offers the standard Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum for the grades

listed and also hosts extracurricular activities.

Robinson Barracks Elementary School values strong community school relationships that are essential to high academic achievement. They believe that successful schools include parents and community members that are involved and supportive. This community recognizes the value of educational and extracurricular

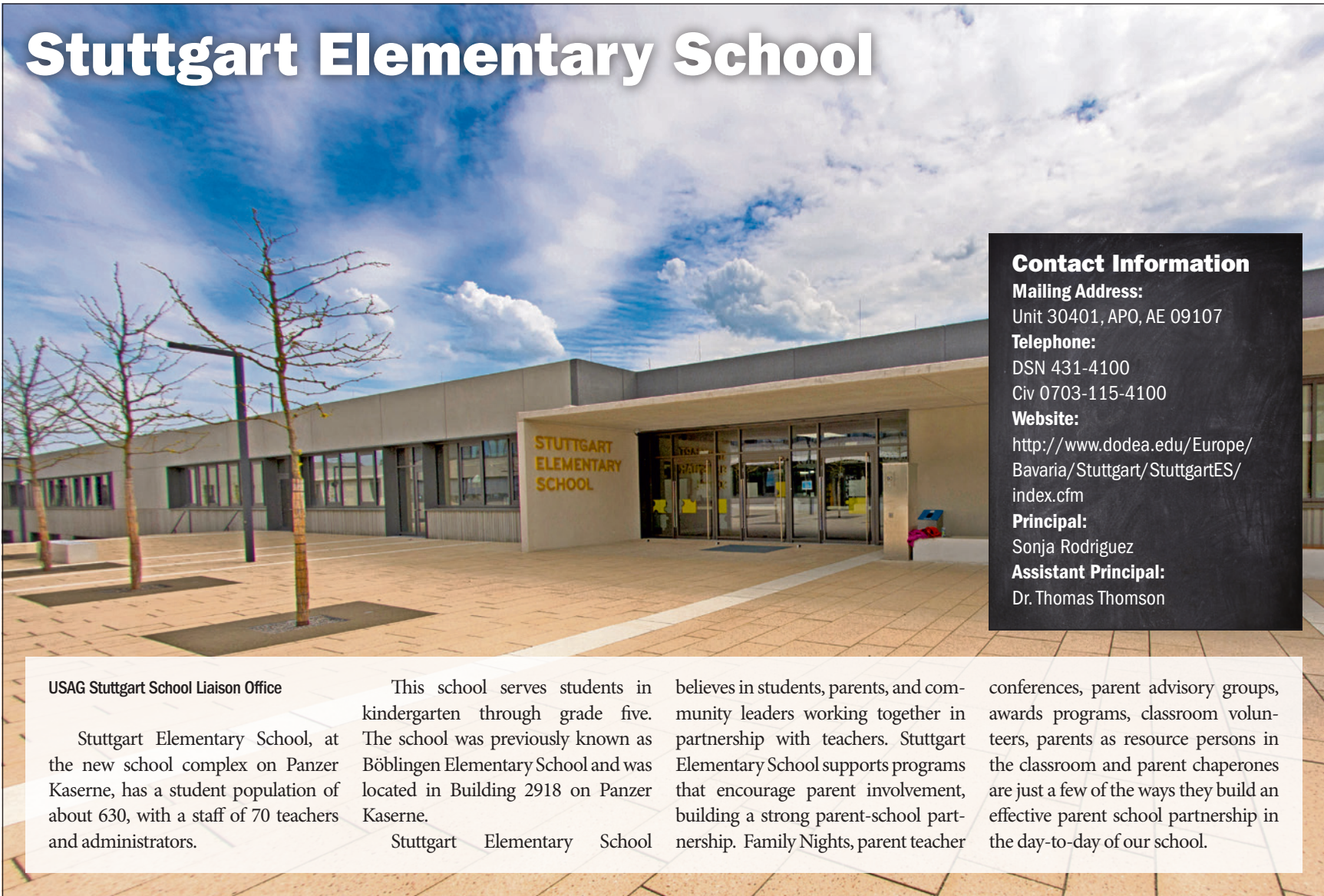
activities, and RBES expects their students to excel both inside and outside of the classroom.

The school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.

The school opened in 1953 in a building that previously held a military hospital for U.S. forces after World War II. The school has undergone several changes to its academic structure over the years, alternating

between strictly an elementary school and an elementary and middle school at various times. Renovations and modernizations occurred in the late 1980s and early '90s. After having been an elementary school for many years, in 2006 the school incorporated a middle school population as well, until the 2015-2016 school year, when it returned to being only an elementary school.

Stuttgart Elementary School



Contact Information

Mailing Address:
Unit 30401, APO, AE 09107
Telephone:
DSN 431-4100
Civ 0703-115-4100
Website:
<http://www.dodea.edu/Europe/Bavaria/Stuttgart/StuttgartES/index.cfm>
Principal:
Sonja Rodriguez
Assistant Principal:
Dr. Thomas Thomson

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Stuttgart Elementary School, at the new school complex on Panzer Kaserne, has a student population of about 630, with a staff of 70 teachers and administrators.

This school serves students in kindergarten through grade five. The school was previously known as Böblingen Elementary School and was located in Building 2918 on Panzer Kaserne.

Stuttgart Elementary School

believes in students, parents, and community leaders working together in partnership with teachers. Stuttgart Elementary School supports programs that encourage parent involvement, building a strong parent-school partnership. Family Nights, parent teacher

conferences, parent advisory groups, awards programs, classroom volunteers, parents as resource persons in the classroom and parent chaperones are just a few of the ways they build an effective parent school partnership in the day-to-day of our school.

Patch Elementary School



Contact Information

Mailing Address:
Unit 30401, APO AE 09107
Telephone
DSN 431-4900
Civ 0703-115-4900
Website:
<http://www.dodea.edu/Europe/Bavaria/Stuttgart/PatchES/index.cfm/>
Principal:
Beverly Erdmann
Assistant Principal:
Sheree Foster

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Temporarily located in Building 2918 on Panzer Kaserne, Patch Elementary School serves a student population of about 470 students with 75 teachers and administrators. The school is set to return to its previous

location on Patch Barracks once the new school project is complete.

This school offers the standard Department of Defense Education Activity K-5 curriculum, including a robust special needs program for both students with special needs, and gifted and talented students.

Although extracurricular activities vary from year to year, in the 2015-2016 school year, Patch offered Running, Yearbook, Art and Robotics Clubs, as well as Yoga, Chorus, Just Dance and Student Council.

Patch Elementary School current building was built in the 1930s and

its mascot is the stallion. The school prides itself on a very active Parent-Teacher Association and School Advisory Committee, and emphasizes the partnership between the school and parents.

School runs from 7:55 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Guide to supervise your child: USAREUR Child Supervision Policy

Guidance from the U.S. Army Europe Child Supervision Policy Jan. 13, 2016

NOTE: Parents of children with an identified attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), behavioral problem, developmental delay, impulsivity, psychiatric problem, or other physically or emotionally disabling condition that could inhibit their children's ability to make appropriate choices should not give those children the degree of self-management and responsibility described in this policy

May be left alone at home less than 2 hours

- Newborn through Age 9: No
- Age 10 & 11: yes; with ready access (phone number) to an adult supervisor
- Age 12 through Age 17: yes

May be left alone at home for more than 2 hours

- Newborn through Age 4: No
- Age 5 & 6: No. At age 6 may walk to and from school.
- Age 7 through Age 9: No. May walk to and from school
- Age 10 through Age 14: Yes; with ready access (phone number) to an

- adult supervisor, no more than 6 hrs
- Age 15 through Age 17: Yes

May be left alone overnight

- Newborn through Age 14: No
- Age 15 through Age 17: Age 15 with access to adult supervision; sponsor in local area. Age 16/17 may be left alone not to exceed 5 consecutive days. Parents must designate an adult official point of contact that will make daily face to face contact.

May be Left Outside Unattended (to include playing)

- Newborn through Age 4: No
- Age 5 through Age 9: Yes; playground or yard with immediate access (visual sight or hearing distance) to adult supervision
- Age 10 through 17: Yes

May be left in vehicle unattended

- Newborn through Age 6 : No
- Age 7 through Age 9: Yes; except in hot weather; keys removed and handbrake applied; 10 minutes adult within sight
- Age 10 through Age 11: Yes; keys

- removed and hand brake applied
- Age 12 through Age 17: Yes

May babysit siblings

- Newborn through Age 10: No
- Age 11 yes up to 2 hours*
- Age 12 through Age 14: Yes* up to 3 hours max
- Age 15 through Age 17: Yes*

May babysit others

- Newborn through Age 10: No
- Age 11 Yes* May babysit only siblings or close Family friends for up to 2 hours
- Age 12 through Age 17: Yes*

*Refer to country-specific guidance available at the Army community Service, Family Advocacy Program. It is highly recommended that youth who wish to babysit (siblings or others) complete the Red Cross Babysitters Course.

Questions? Call Family Advocacy Program: DSN: 590-1616 /civ. 06371-9464-1616. To read the full policy, visit www.stuttgart.army.mil/pdf/policies/ChildSupervision.pdf

Photo by Daria Filimonova/Shutterstock.com

AFN offers hometown TV, radio programming overseas

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Since 1943, the American Forces Network Europe has been providing American service members, families and Department of Defense civilian employees stationed in Europe with the best of American radio and television services.

AFN Stuttgart

The local AFN station, AFN Stuttgart, broadcasts out of a new, state-of-the-art facility on Robinson Barracks and offers a variety of live and pre-recorded programming. AFN Stuttgart's "The Eagle," (FM 102.3) broadcasts live Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6

p.m. These broadcasts can also be heard on AFN 360. Visit AFN Stuttgart's website: <http://stuttgart.afneurope.net> for more programming and contact information, and to tune in to the station via AFN 360 online streaming radio.

AFN Stuttgart regularly features interviews and other special events with community leaders and organizations throughout the area to bring important current information to its listeners. To engage with AFN directly, check out their Facebook: www.facebook.com/afnstuttgart.

Receiving AFN Television Programming

Service members and families

residing on base can get AFN through cable services offered by TKS. For more information on the services offered, visit www.tksable.com.

American television programming is now available virtually anywhere. It's a streamed service that delivers live American television programming to your home, right over your internet connection.

You may also use an AFN decoder and a satellite dish to receive AFN programming. The equipment is available at the main exchange, and satellite dishes and some of the equipment can also be found at local electronics retailers. Used decoders and equipment are often sold by departing



personnel. Additionally, many of the houses and apartments rented to Americans come already equipped with satellite dishes and other equipment, and tenants may only need to provide an AFN decoder.

AFN decoders must be registered to operate correctly. For more information and setup instructions for receiving AFN via satellite, check out www.afneurope.net.

Pet ownership in Germany

USAG Public Affairs Office

For many people, moving to an overseas installation can be a uniquely stressful event. Household goods have to be carefully packed, vehicles need to be cleaned and shipped, plenty of paperwork is needed, and family members have to be prepared for the long flight.

One added stressor can be the family pet and what their life in Germany will be like. Will there be a good veterinarian there? Will there be dog parks? Can pets travel with the family on vacation? For those with four-legged family members to consider, the following tips may make the transition easier for all involved, even the family pet.

Finding veterinary care providers

Upon arrival to Stuttgart, finding suitable veterinary care is simple. The Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF), located in building 2996 on Panzer Kaserne, offers space-available routine annual exams and services, even dental/surgical procedures and over the counter pet health product sales.

Military members, Department of Defense civilians and their dependents are authorized to bring their pets to the clinic during their tour in Stuttgart.

For some families, it is more convenient to have their animal seen at a host nation veterinary clinic. Here in Stuttgart, pet owners can find several great clinics in the local area, including 24-hour emergency facilities, specialty hospitals where pets can receive advanced diagnostic and surgical care, and some excellent general practice veterinary clinics. Many German veterinarians speak English, so there is no need to worry about a language barrier disrupting a pet's medical care, and some also accept the VAT form.

In addition to veterinary clinics, Stuttgart also has a good selection of boarding facilities, pet stores and dog groomers. While not all-inclusive, a short list of host-nation veterinary clinics and other information is available at the veterinary clinic and on its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Stuttgartveterinaryclinic

Know the rules

Living with pets in Germany can be a rewarding experience, as many local businesses allow well-behaved dogs inside their establishments. Dogs are often allowed to ride on the public transportation system at a discounted fair.

However, there are some laws



The Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility, located on Panzer Kaserne, offers space-available routine annual exams and vaccinations, sick call appointments, and dental and surgical services. — Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

governing animal ownership that might be new to people coming from the U.S. Certain breeds (for example, American Staffordshire terriers and bull terriers) are completely banned from entering Germany, and those attempting to import them can be fined or imprisoned while the animal can be deported or seized. Other breeds are restricted, meaning that they are permitted to be in Germany, but special precautions could be required, such as the dog wearing a muzzle when in public, undergoing temperament evaluation, or the owner may be required to take out a special liability insurance policy on the pet. The list of breeds varies by city and state, so owners are encouraged to contact their local German town halls for additional information.

It is important for American personnel to understand that traditionally, pets in Germany have a high level of obedience training. Many regular pet owners, not just hobby pet-show competitors, take their dogs to a number of

extensive training sessions. Obedience training is offered by several local dog clubs and many of the members speak English. Pets are often expected to be as self-disciplined and quiet as a very well-behaved child. An out of control pet is looked down upon in Germany. Additionally, leash laws and other pet-related ordinances in Germany can be more extensive and vary from town-to-town or county-to-county. Again, the local German town hall can be a good source of information on local ordinances and pet clubs that offer training.

Traveling with a pet

Pet owners looking to travel with their pet while in Europe may be surprised to find just how easy and fun it can be. Within the European Union, an EU pet passport has been established that contains a brief history of a pet's vaccination records and important lab work. This passport allows the pet to move with the owner within most

nations of the EU with ease. In most cases, travelers will not need to see a veterinarian for a health certificate like the one needed when traveling from the U.S. to Germany. As long as the passport is up-to-date and contains all of the necessary information, travelers can usually just get in the car and go. EU pet passports are highly recommended as they greatly simplify the vacation travel process and help alleviate stress. A pet passport can only be obtained by visiting an off-base veterinarian, however, the Stuttgart VTF can and will annotate, in them, exam dates and immunizations received during an appointment.

For additional questions, contact the Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility at 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681, via email at usarmy.rheinland-pfalz.med-com-ph-e.list.vtf-stuttgart@mail.mil, or by visiting their office, located in Building 2996, next to the dental clinic, on Panzer Kaserne.

Medical care in Stuttgart



Stuttgart Army Health Clinic

The System for Health for service members, retirees, civilians and their families in Germany consists of three main elements

- local military community health services on Patch Barracks and Kelley Barracks
- Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC)
- local host nation medical facilities for inpatient and outpatient primary and specialty care.

Stuttgart on-base health care

The Stuttgart military community is served by the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic on Patch Barracks (satellite buildings for Army Wellness Center, Physical Therapy, and Public Health), the Kelley Barracks Clinic annex and the Stuttgart Dental Clinic located on Panzer Kaserne.

Dental Clinic

The dental clinic's primary mission is to provide dental treatment to U.S. military service members. Other than active duty, or "OTAD" such as family members, retirees and others are seen on a space-available basis.

The Tricare Dental Plan was implemented to assist with dental care for family members and retirees. The plan is available worldwide both in and outside the continental U.S. Presently,

MetLife is the insurance carrier. More information can be found at mybenefits.metlife.com/tricare.

The dental clinic provides general dentistry, as well as specialty care for pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, prosthodontics, periodontics and endodontics. Some oral surgery support is available at the clinic, but complex surgery is referred to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

The health clinics provide health care using the patient-centered medical home model which is a team-based health care delivery model, led by a physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner, that provides comprehensive and continuous medical care to patients. The services offered at the health clinic include: primary care, pediatrics, behavioral health, optometry, physical therapy, wellness center, Telehealth, and Public Health.

The Telehealth Program directly connects geographically separated patients at U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart with specialty care providers at LRMC via the use of video-teleconferencing. Patients can expect that advanced medical devices such as otoscopes, stethoscopes and general exam cameras to be used if applicable. This service can alleviate the need to travel to LRMC while still receiving the same specialty care. You may initiate a Telehealth referral by either obtaining

a referral from a clinic provider or by self-referral.

Kelley Clinic Annex offers adult primary care and limited Tricare services.

How care is provided

Care is provided based on enrollment status. Active Duty and their family members and retirees/retirees' eligible family members enjoy full access to military treatment facilities in Stuttgart. Retirees must physically enroll in Tricare Plus in the Tricare Service Center in Patch Clinic. Tricare Plus for retirees grants them Tricare Prime status within the clinic and Tricare Standard status outside the clinic. This same group of beneficiaries is also eligible to be seen at LRMC based on their capabilities. Civilians, contractors and their families may be seen on a space-available basis through third party reimbursement. For primary care appointments, all space-available patients may call after noon Monday to Thursday to be scheduled into any open appointments for that afternoon. Other services such as optometry, behavioral health, physical therapy or the wellness center, may offer space available care depending on current staffing levels. Space available patients are encouraged to establish a relationship with an off-base primary care provider.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) is about a two and a half hour drive from the Stuttgart area. LRMC offers a wide variety of specialty clinics and is a U.S. Level 1 trauma center verified by the American College of Surgeons. Major surgeries, specialty services and most other services not available at the Stuttgart clinics are available at LRMC. Visiting the specialty clinics at LRMC starts with a referral from Stuttgart's primary care providers.

Host nation medical care

For some services, primary care providers may refer patients to host nation facilities, and the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic maintains relationships with an extensive network of English-speaking providers for specialty care on the German economy.

Tricare Prime beneficiaries should contact International S.O.S. for all off-post referral and billing issues. ISOS can be reached by telephone at civ. 0800-5891599 (toll-free from Germany) or Europe-wide at 0044-20-8762-8384 (international rates apply).

Those who are referred off-base should be aware that host nation medical clinics and hospitals have much in common with those in the United States. However, the general approach and care, to include, but not limited to,



A medical technician at the Sindelfingen Hospital monitors a patient's vital signs. The Sindelfingen Hospital provides specialty orthopedic care, as well as procedures and care for other musculoskeletal injuries and conditions. — *Photo courtesy of the Klinikverbund Südwest*

how pain is addressed after a surgery, can be quite different than the care you are accustomed to in the States.

Language: Though many host nation doctors may speak English, their staff may not. If you do not speak German, take a bilingual dictionary with you.

Asking questions of physicians: During rounds, junior physicians often accompany attending physicians. This can make it difficult for patients to feel comfortable asking questions. Write down your questions. During rounds, it is appropriate to ask if the doctor has time to address all questions. If not, ask when the doctor can return. Host nation Patient Liaisons should be able to assist. Some German physicians may not be in the habit of explaining details to patients. They will answer all questions when asked, but sometimes do not volunteer all results or information. Be sure to ask doctors and nurses about the treatment plan.

Privacy: German privacy standards may differ from what many Americans are used to, so please keep in mind that we are in their country. Host nation physicians may not always use a chaperone when examining patients of the opposite sex. Ask for a chaperone

if you feel uncomfortable. Generally, there are no privacy screens between beds. Do not wear transparent clothing during an upper body exam. Patients may be asked to undress while nursing staff is passing through the area. This is considered proper. Please be respectful of their standards.

Online services

The Stuttgart health clinic uses the online "Relay Health System", in addition to online services offered by Tricare, to maximize the health care services provided. Relay Health is an online messaging service that allows patients to contact their primary care provider and ask those questions, or receive advice that may not require an in-person appointment. This system is a secured messaging system and is a great way to get lab results, prescription refills or ask non-urgent medical questions. If you are out of refills on any of your medication, please know that your primary care manager may want to see you in the clinic before placing a new order for medications.

Tricare Online offers a way for eligible patients to schedule and cancel

appointments at any time. Patients can even look at their lab results online. For more information go to the Tricare website at www.tricareonline.com

Upon arrival in Stuttgart

Active duty and their family members: After you have enrolled in Tricare Prime, you should schedule a welcome appointment with your primary care manager to establish a relationship with your provider and ensure all preventive services are up to date. Active duty military need to in-process through Medical Readiness to ensure all immunizations, periodic health examinations, etc. are up to date.

Military retirees, civilians and contractors eligible for care: If you plan to use the health clinic, you need to register through the Patient Administration Division office before using any of the clinic's services. [Retirees must also go to the Tricare Service Center if they wish to enroll in Tricare Plus].

Emergency services

Stuttgart Army Health Clinic does not provide emergency services. We rely on our host nation German hospitals to provide emergency care. For this reason, in case of an emergency, do not

contact the Stuttgart clinic or go to the Stuttgart clinic. Dial 112 from a civilian phone to reach the German emergency services. From on-base DSN phones, dial 116 for the Military Police desk. They can then contact additional emergency services as needed.

For more information check out the clinic on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StuttgartHealthClinic or visit the clinic's website: <https://ermc.amedd.army.mil/stuttgart/> or call DSN 590-2900 or civ. 06371-9464-2900.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN GERMANY:

112 from civilian phones, for ambulance and fire

110 from civilian phones for police

From DSN phones dial 116 for the MP desk and they can contact all emergency services

Tax relief under the Status of Forces Agreement

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

As a Service member, civilian employee or family member, personnel on orders and falling under the Status of Forces Agreement (see related article on Page 8) are eligible for a variety of tax relief. This can be quite a break and provides a significant savings as taxes in Germany can be much higher than many Americans may be used to.

Value Added Tax

The first and most common form of tax relief is from the tax known as Value Added Tax. VAT is a tax imposed by Germany on a wide variety of goods bought or sold in Germany. While amounts can vary for certain items, most retail goods are taxed at 19 percent. This tax is already calculated into the advertised price of retail goods, so the amount on the price tag includes the tax, and is what most customers pay for the item at the register. Those eligible for tax relief can save significant money from the advertised price by taking steps to have the tax removed through VAT forms available at the Stuttgart VAT Office located Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

Purchases €2,499 and below

For purchases less than €2,500 net price (after applying the VAT form to remove the Value Added Tax), a simple VAT form NF-1 is used. This form consists of several layers of carbon copy worksheets that the customer and the retailer fill out together. The customer keeps the top two pages of the form (pink and white) and the retailer or vendor keeps the remaining pages of the form. Customers then reconcile the

forms by providing the white copy to the VAT office while keeping the pink copy for their own records. Retailers are not required to accept the form or offer tax relief, but many do. Typically retailers near military installations are more familiar with the forms, while those farther away from a U.S. military population are less so, if at all. For retailers who have not used the form before, the VAT Office offers an information sheet in German that explains the retailer's use of the form.

These forms can be purchased at the VAT office for \$5 per NF-1 form, and each sponsor may only have 10 open VAT forms out at any one time. VAT forms are "closed" by reconciling the white copy as described above. VAT forms can be used for most goods and services that fall under the €2,500 limit, but there are some things for which they cannot be used.

VAT forms cannot be used for costs related to buying or selling real estate, or for the purchase of automobiles that will not be registered in the U.S. Army in Europe vehicle registration system. They also cannot be used for any items used in a commercial activity, such as a home business. VAT forms cannot be used for long-term utility or telephone and Internet contracts; however, there is a program for relief of certain taxes related to utilities that will be discussed later. Finally, VAT forms are not to be used to provide tax relief to personnel not entitled to VAT relief.

VAT relief for purchases of €2,500 or more

For purchases over €2,499, consumers must get a VAT form specific to that individual purchase (\$65 for a NF-2



Service members, civilian employees or family members, who fall under the Status of Forces Agreement are eligible for a variety of tax relief including the use of Value Added Tax forms. — Photo by Kevin S. Abel, USAG Public Affairs Office

VAT form). There are more restrictions on these VAT forms, and there is a process that must be followed correctly or the consumer may end up not being able to get tax relief for the purchase in question. Most importantly, before making any legal commitment to purchase an item over €2,500, contact the VAT Office to start the process. These forms cannot be used after the purchase has been made or ordered, and in most cases, the purchase is actually made by the buyer in conjunction with the servicing VAT Office. Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Services must actually be named on the purchase documents (they may be listed as 'FMWR services'). Those considering large purchases should contact the VAT office for more information, prior to making a purchase.

Utilities Tax Avoidance Program

In addition to relief from retail VAT, some personnel may be eligible for tax relief from utility taxes through the Utility Tax Avoidance Program. Enrollment in this program may be mandatory for some personnel receiving housing or living quarters allowances and can save enrollees significant money over the course of several years. The UTAP office has established relationships with most of the regional service providers, and can help customers enroll in the program. There is a fee of \$99 for enrollment. The application form should be filled out ahead of time and is available for download at <http://stuttgart.armymwr.com/europe/stuttgart/programs/utap>.

Avoid these common VAT prohibited practices:

Use of VAT forms is a privilege extended to personnel under the SOFA, but while the program is based on rules that were provided to the US Forces by the German Government authorities, there are restrictions on the use of VAT forms. To avoid losing VAT relief privileges, avoid the following prohibited practices:

- Using an un-priced purchase order (NF-1) for any amount of €2,500 or more.
- Using an un-priced (NF-1) or priced (NF-2) purchase order that has an issue date after the designated agent (customer) "order date," vendor's delivery date, or date of invoice (A VAT form must be obtained prior

to initiating/ordering a service or buying an item).

- Splitting invoice amounts between two or more un-priced (NF-1) purchase orders to avoid using a priced (NF-2) purchase order for an amount of €2,500 or more.
- Purchasing goods or services that benefit ineligible persons.
- Buying used automobiles, repair parts or services for resale. This activity is considered "trading in the commercial sector" and is illegal, regardless of who buys the automobile, parts or service.
- Buying items for resale or other commercial purposes. This activity is considered "trading in the commercial sector" and is illegal in conjunc-

tion with tax relief, regardless of who buys the items or services offered.

- Buying new or used automobiles from German vendors for registration in the German (or other non-U.S. Forces) vehicle registration system (Kfz-Zulassung).
- Using VAT forms for costs related to buying or selling real estate.
- Using VAT forms for construction, renovation or home repair costing €2,500 or more without IMCOM-Europe prior approval, and for unauthorized repairs or renovations below €2,500.
- Using VAT forms for utilities or telecommunication services based on long-term contracts.
- Making other purchases that are

prohibited by AE Regulation 215-6/ USAFE Instruction 34-102.

- Returning VAT forms that are not completed properly (for example, amount in Box 4, signature in Boxes 7 or 10, dates in Boxes 8 or 11, Box 12, Box 13).
- Using an expired VAT form (VAT forms are valid for two years from the date of purchase). Issue/expiration dates are identified in block 3, on the top-right side of the purchased VAT form, (AE Form 215-6B).

Opening Hours for the Panzer Tax Relief Office:

VAT: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 17:00 p.m., Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
UTAP: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Pedestrian or "Fussgänger" zones can be found in many cities and towns throughout Germany and usually offer a variety of specialty stores and retail outlets. The larger the pedestrian zone, the larger the variety of shopping, and Stuttgart's Königstrasse, pictured here, is one of the longest and most popular shopping streets in Germany. — Photo by Kevin S. Abel USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Upon arrival to Europe one of the first things many like to do is get out and do some shopping. Shopping in Stuttgart and elsewhere in Germany can be a very positive experience, and shoppers can get most of the things that they're used to back in the States, but there are some important differences to be aware of.

Clothes

Clothing sizes in Germany are sometimes different to those in the U.S., and it helps to know some of the different clothing size systems. There are applications for smartphones that can help with size conversion as well as online resources, though the size conversions can vary significantly from brand to brand and even within the same brand. While some clothing now comes with tags that list both U.S. and European sizes, it's important to be aware of the differences, so not to end up buying pants that won't even fit on one leg, or shirts that can double as sails. Most clothing stores offer changing rooms just like in the U.S., so the best practice is to always try clothing on before purchasing it.

Malls

One thing most Americans have to adjust to a little in Germany is the

way in which Germans shop. Most shops are smaller, and in general, most towns have a central, downtown shopping district where most of the specialty stores are located. Larger department stores are gaining popularity in Germany, and at least one or two can be found in most sizeable German cities. However the sprawling shopping malls with hundreds of shops, food court and a movie theater that dot towns across the U.S. are still somewhat rare in Germany, though they can be found in larger cities. Luckily for personnel here in Stuttgart, there are several large shopping centers throughout the Stuttgart area. One thing most German cities do have is a pedestrian zone, or Fussgänger zone, which offers a shopping experience that more than makes up for the lack of malls. Think of them as large open-air, cobble-stoned, mile-long shopping malls. Specialty stores, restaurants and other services line these pedestrian streets, offering just about anything the average shopaholic might desire.

Grocery shopping

Grocery shopping in Germany in recent years has become a much more convenient experience. Franchise grocery stores that offer the full range of basic everyday grocery needs can be found throughout Germany in most cities and towns. Small villages may not

have these facilities, but they are usually not far away in a neighboring village or town.

Grocery stores in Germany are laid out similar to U.S. stores, and though the product names and some of the packaging may be different, the basics are still the same. There is fresh produce, canned goods, frozen foods, and yes, frozen pizza and breakfast cereal, as well.

Just like the clothing sizes, the measurements used in Germany differ from the U.S. Here in Germany, as with most of Europe, the metric system is used. The information on this page will help with some of the most common conversions.

Also, most German grocery stores do not provide bags for free. Most have plastic bags available for purchase for around 10 euro cents each, and a very common practice among Germans is to bring in their own bags.

Cash and carry!

Cash is still much more widely used in Germany than in the U.S. and many stores do not take credit cards or bank cards, and sometimes those that do require a minimum purchase. It is not unusual for a German to go to the store with several thousand Euros in cash to buy a full kitchen. While larger department stores, home furnishings stores and other larger shopping

venues are starting to accept credit cards, the smaller stores, and especially grocery stores, often do not. A good rule of thumb if you are buying food, or shopping in a store where most of the purchases would be below €100, is to be prepared to pay with cash. For stores where the average purchase is much higher, ask if they take credit cards.

The Giro-card, the German equivalent to an American debit card, is gaining popularity as well. Most American credit and debit cards are not compatible with this system, which is used at retailers such as Ikea, Aldi and Lidl. Service Credit Union's overseas branches, however, do offer a Giro-card for your SCU account. SCU Account holders can pick one up at any Service Credit Union branch in Germany.

Returns

Return policies are another area in which shopping has changed in recent years in Germany, but they are still a little different than in the U.S. Most large department stores will have return policies, but these policies may be more restrictive than those that Americans are familiar with. It is important to ask about the store's return policy before making large purchases, and always keep the receipts. German retailers that do accept returns almost never accept them without a receipt.

Clothes and shoes conversion sizes



Children		Dresses, Blouses, Skirts	
US	GER	US	GER
NewB.	56	6	34
3 mo	62	8	36
6 mo	68	10	38
9 mo	74	12	40
12 mo	80	14	42
18 mo	86	16	44
2	86-92	18	46
3	92-98	20	48
4	98-104	22	50
5	110		
6	116		
8	128-134		
10	140-152		
12	152-158		
14	158-164		
16	164-170		
18	170-176		

Men's Shirts		Shoes	
US	GER	US	GER
14	36	2 Child	19
14.5	37	3 Child	20
15	38	4 Child	21
15.5	39	5 Child	23
16	40	6 Child	24
16.5	41	7 Child	25
17	42	8 Child	26
17.5	43	9 Child	27
8	44	10 Child	28
		11 Child	29
		12 Child	30
		13 Child	31
		1	32
		2	33
		3	34
		4	35
		5W	36
		6W	37
		7W	38
		8W	39
		9W/7M	40
		10W/8M	41
		11W/9M	42
		12W/10M	43
		11M	44

Men's Suits	
US	GER
36	46
38	48
40	50
42	52
44	54
46	56
48	58
50	60

Welcome to the Metric System

In Germany, and throughout Europe and much of the world, the system of measure known as the metric system is used. This system is based on base measurements in weight, distance, volume and area are measured in increments of 10, 100 and 1,000.

For those using the metric system for the first time, it can be confusing, but the charts below will help with converting most of the commonly used measurements. There is also a list of common measures such as room temperature, in town and out of town driving speeds, freezing water and more common everyday use measurements.

Common quick approximate conversions:

One gallon is a little less than four liters

One liter is just over four cups

One kilometer is a little more than half a mile

Plastic bottled drinks in Germany are typically .5 liters or 1.5 liters

Glass bottled nonalcoholic drinks (water, fruit juices) are typically one liter, and bottled beer is typically .5 liter

130 kilometers an hour (highest recommended speed on the autobahn) is about 80 miles per hour

100 kilometers an hour (speed for non-autobahn highways unless otherwise marked) is about 60 miles per hour

50 kilometers an hour (in-town speed limit throughout most of Germany) is about 30 miles per hour

— Graphics by Shutterstock.com

Converting Temperatures

$^{\circ}\text{C} = (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \div 1.8$
 $^{\circ}\text{F} = (^{\circ}\text{C} \times 1.8) + 32$

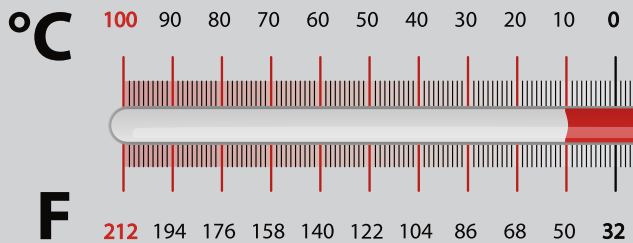
Celsius	Fahrenheit
110°C	225°F
120°C	250°F
140°C	275°F
150°C	300°F
160°C	325°F
180°C	350°F
190°C	375°F
200°C	400°F

Converting U.S. to Metric

When You Know	Multiply By	To Find
inches	25.4	millimeters
inches	2.54	centimeters
feet	30.48	centimeters
yards	0.91	meters
miles	1.61	kilometers
teaspoons	4.93	milliliters
tablespoons	14.79	milliliters
fluid ounces	29.57	milliliters
cups	0.24	liters
pints	0.47	liters
quarts	0.95	liters
gallons	3.79	liters
cubic feet	0.028	cubic meters
cubic yards	0.76	cubic meters
ounces	28.35	grams
pounds	0.45	kilograms
short tons (2,000 lbs)	0.91	metric tons
square inches	6.45	square centimeters
square feet	0.09	square meters
square yards	0.84	square meters
square miles	2.60	square kilometers
acres	0.40	hectares

Converting Metric to U.S.

When You Know	Multiply By	To Find
millimeters	0.04	inches
centimeters	0.39	inches
meters	3.28	feet
meters	1.09	yards
kilometers	0.62	miles
milliliters	0.20	teaspoons
milliliters	0.06	tablespoons
milliliters	0.03	fluid ounces
liters	1.06	quarts
liters	0.26	gallons
liters	4.23	cups
liters	2.12	pints
cubic meters	35.32	cubic feet
cubic meters	1.35	cubic yards
grams	0.035	ounces
kilograms	2.21	pounds
metric ton (1,000 kg)	1.10	short ton
square centimeters	0.16	square inches
square meters	1.20	square yards
square kilometers	0.39	square miles
hectares	2.47	acres



Common Temperatures

Common Temperatures	Fahrenheit	Celsius
Boiling water	212°	100°
A very hot day	104°	40°
Body temperature	98.6°	37°
A warm day	86°	30°
A mild day	68°	20°
A cool day	50°	10°
Freezing water	32°	0°



SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?

German is a West Germanic language, thus related to and classified alongside English and Dutch. It is one of the world's major languages and the most widely spoken mother tongue in the European Union. Around the world, German is spoken by approximately 105 million native speakers and also by about 80 million non-native speakers, according to Army in Europe Pamphlet 611-1-1.

As a long-term visitor in Germany, it is very useful to learn some of the local language. German can be an intimidating language to learn, but most folks won't need a degree in linguistics to learn enough to get around. Also, just trying to learn German will help build good will.

Below is a chart with some helpful basic phrases, and there are more resources referenced at the end of this article. Learning to speak German can be a part of a positive long term experience in this nation.

A couple of tips will help those learning German for the first time:

First, German has many sounds that are different than English and approximating them can be very difficult. Don't get frustrated by an inability to sound exactly like a German when speaking in German, the accent takes years to develop. Learning proper German pronunciation will make communication more effective, but for beginners, it's fine to just to get "close enough" with pronunciation and focus on learning a

few key phrases.

Also, German grammar is much more complicated than English. It includes more cases than those found in English, and also has gendered nouns affecting articles and prefixes or postfixes. German grammar can be quite daunting but in most cases, it's not necessary to have the grammar perfect to make yourself understood. So in the beginning especially, don't worry about getting the grammar just right. Instead focus on the basic pronunciation and building a basic vocabulary. The German Headstart Orientation Manual Student Study Guide (Army in Europe Pamphlet 611-1-1) provides additional basic German

language instruction: https://aepubs.army.mil/pdfpubs/AEP611-1-1_1003938!.pdf (Common Access Card or Army Knowledge Online login required). Also check out the language learning resources available at the libraries.

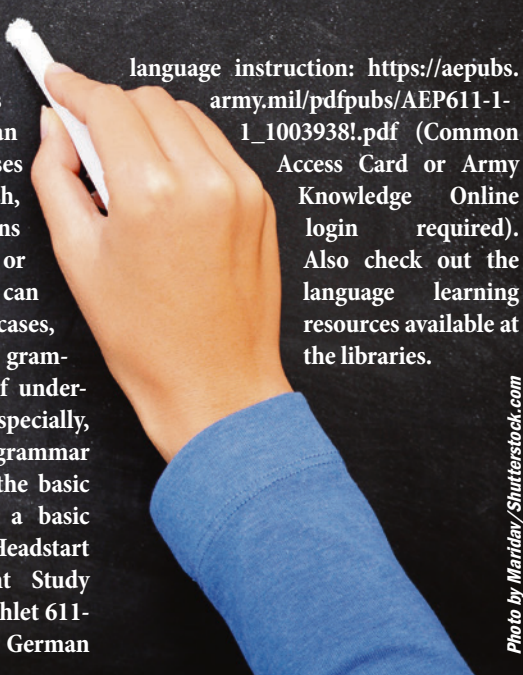


Photo by Maridav/Shutterstock.com

Basic Phrases

Guten Morgen, Guten Tag, Guten Abend
Good morning, day, and evening; respectively.

Gute Nacht **Good night** — Only used as a farewell in the evening, while the others are used primarily as greetings.

Ich heiße ... **I am called, or my name is ...** (followed by your name).
Most Germans tend to use last names in the way Americans use first names. In most cases it is expected to use the last name, generally with Herr (Mister) or Frau (Miss) with all but very close friends and family.

Wie heißen Sie? **What is your name?**
NOTE: The "Sie" used here is the formal direct address. Upon invitation to use "du" or after some time, most acquaintances can be addressed as "du" which is informal and familiar (another distinction not really used in English). It is expected to use the formal "Sie" when first meeting someone in all circumstances.

Was ist ...? **What is ...?**
This can be used to ask for further explanation of a number of topics. Depending on the noun that follows, there are different forms of the verb "ist" that proper grammar calls for, but for beginners, sticking to "ist" universally will be good enough to get by.

Wo ist ...? **Where is ...?**
Usefull in asking directions. Again, there are grammar rules that might change the "ist" but in the beginning stick to this phrasing to get by.

Ich möchte ... **I would like ...**
Used in ordering items like food or retail goods. Also can be used to state a desired activity or outcome. For example Ich möchte bezahlen (I would like to pay).

Sprechen sie Englisch? **Do you speak English?**
NOTE: When talking to strangers, it is advisable to ask if they speak English prior to speaking English to them. Most speak some English, but asking first is considered more polite.

Counting

0	Null	8	Acht
1	Eins	9	Neun
2	Zwei	10	Zehn
3	Drei	11	Elf
4	Vier	12	Zwölf
5	Fünf	13	Dreizehn
6	Sechs	14	Vierzehn*
7	Sieben	20	Zwanzig

21.....	Einundzwanzig.....	One and Twenty**
30.....	Dreißig.....	Thirty
40.....	Vierzig.....	Forty
50.....	Fünfzig.....	Fifty
60.....	Sechzig.....	Sixty
70.....	Siebzg.....	Seventy
80.....	Achtzig.....	Eighty
90.....	Neunzig.....	Ninety
100.....	Hundert.....	Hundred
1,000.....	Tausend.....	Thousand
1,000,000	Million.....	Million

*Numbers 14 – 19 follow this same convention with the exception of 17 (Siebzehn).
**Digits above 20 are indicated in this same manner. Beginners who confuse this, especially in large numbers such as telephone numbers, can also simply say each digit individually to avoid confusion.

Common Words

Yes	Ja
No	Nein
Please	Bitte
Thank you	Danke or Dankeschön
You're welcome	Bitte
Excuse me	Bitte
<i>(used to get someone's attention and engage in conversation)</i>	
What? or I don't understand?Wie Bitte? (literally 'How Please?)
Sorry (apologetically)Entschuldigung
Good	Gut
Bad	Schlecht or Schlimm
Large	Gross
Middle or Medium	Mittel
Small	Klein
Hello	Hallo
Goodbye	Auf Wiedersehen orTschüss
Today	Heute
Tomorrow	Morgen
Yesterday	Gestern
Now	Jetzt
Late	Spät
Early	Früh
More	Mehr

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Fests in Stuttgart offer more than just German beer and “Bretzeln” or pretzels. Year long, families and people of all ages can enjoy various activities while visiting a fest. Typically, entrance is free while food, beverages and activities, such as fun rides, have to be purchased. Taking public transportation to the event site is strongly recommended as parking in and around downtown Stuttgart can often times turn into quite a challenging endeavor.

When purchasing beverages at some German fests, customers may notice a

“Pfand,” or deposit, fee tacked onto the total charge. This fee is refundable when the glass is returned back at any time during the fest days. Patrons can also opt to pay the fee and simply keep the glass as a souvenir. Beer tents however, have different rules, so make sure to check with the staff before taking a glass.

For more information on fests and events in the greater Stuttgart area, visit www.stuttgartcitizen.com, “Culture and Leisure” and click on the “Off—Post Events” tab, or follow us on the USAG Stuttgart Facebook page.

Tip: ‘Prost’ or ‘Zum Wohl’ means cheers!



Stuttgart's annual “Frühlingsfest,” one of the largest spring fests in Europe, begins in April and runs through early May. — Photo courtesy of in.Stuttgart/Thomas Niedermüller

Fests in Stuttgart

Fasching: Street parades, witches, celebrations

There are five seasons in Germany: spring, summer, fall, winter and Fasching (carnival). Fasching or “Fastnacht” originates in the word “fasting” and marks the week leading up to Ash Wednesday, where the 40-day Lent before Easter begins.

For many Germans, Fasching represents the most cheerful time of year, when citizens let off steam

and live it up before Lent. Typically, Fasching week is celebrated with fests, parades, music and many “foolish” events.

The Swabian word “schmotzig” means lard or grease and refers to the opulent food eaten during Fasching, such as “Fasnetsküchle” (Fasching doughnuts).

The Fasching season officially begins Jan. 7, one day after Epiphany, or Three King's Day. In some areas, however, Fasching guilds commemorate the beginning of Fasching on Nov. 11 at 11:11 a.m. with local and ceremonial events that prepare for the official start of the foolish season in January. The main events and parades peak during the traditional Fasching week before Ash Wednesday, starting on “Schmotziger Donnerstag” (Greasy Thursday) or “Weiberfasching,” women's carnival, followed by Fasching Saturday and Sunday, Rose Monday and Fat Tuesday.

On Weiberfasching, women have the right to freely cut off men's ties with scissors and kiss any man they wish to during the day. It's also an opportunity for women to enjoy a girl's night out and symbolically take control for a day.

In Stuttgart Bad Cannstatt's

“Kübelesmarkt” Fasching association kicks off Stuttgart's first Fasching events on Greasy Thursday by setting up the “Narrenbaum,” or fool's pole, at the market square (Marktplatz), followed by a parade throughout the downtown area.

Neuhausen, just 15 kilometers outside of Stuttgart, is one of the most popular Fasching metropolises in the area. The town celebrates Greasy Thursday with the “Hexentanz,” or witch's dance at Schlossplatz (Schlossplatz, 73765 Neuhausen auf den Fildern). During the event, Neuhausen's Fasching fools storm the town hall and force the mayor to hand over the keys to the city. In order to celebrate this symbolic event, a huge fire is lit. One of the largest Fasching parades in the greater Stuttgart area is also held in Neuhausen the Sunday following Greasy Thursday.

During the various Fasching parades in Southern Germany, “Narren,” or Fasching fools, with wooden masks and grotesque animals can be seen in many towns. In Swabia and Southern Germany, the costumes are called “Häs.” Be on the lookout for Narren walking up to you to either ruffle your hair or drop you a piece of candy.

On the evening of Fat Tuesday, the “Fastnacht” or witch, is buried in a casket and the wild celebrations and parades in costume that happened through the week, end at midnight.



A witch poses during a “Fasching” parade in Stuttgart—Hofen. During the various Fasching parades, “Narren,” or Fasching fools, wear wooden masks carved to resemble witches, devils and grotesque animals. — Photo by Carola Meusel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Members of the “Gräbler” Fasching Society Neuhausen participate in the parade in downtown Neuhausen. Every year, some 5,000 fools from all over Germany participate in the parade, which is known as the largest Fasching parade in the greater Stuttgart area. — Photo by Carola Meusel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office



The “Cannstatter Volksfest,” or people’s fest, in Stuttgart is the world’s second largest to Munich’s Oktoberfest. Typically, the event runs from the end of September through the second week of October. — Photo courtesy of in.Stuttgart/Thomas Niedermüller

Enjoy Swabian way of life at Stuttgart’s ‘Weindorf’

Stuttgart is in one of Germany’s largest wine growing regions. Each year, the city of Stuttgart celebrates Baden-Württemberg’s centuries-old wine tradition during its annual “Stuttgarter Weindorf,” or wine village, from late August to

early September in in downtown Stuttgart. More than 500 wines from the Württemberg and Baden regions can be accompanied with traditional fresh-made Swabian dishes such as “Maultaschen” (meat and vegetable-stuffed noodles), “Zwiebelrostbraten” (roast beef with sautéed onions) and “Bubaspitzle”

(potato noodles mainly served with sauerkraut). The middle Neckar region has always been known for cultivating fine wines, ranging from Trollinger red to white Riesling to rosé Schiller wines. According to legend, there was more wine than water in Stuttgart during the 14th century, which resulted in Swabia adopting wine

as the national drink. The menus throughout the various booths will also be available in English and reservations are possible if you plan to have dinner there with a group. For information, visit: <http://www.stuttgarter-weindorf.de/english>.

Spring and Fall Fests

Stuttgart’s “Frühlingsfest,” or spring fest, and the “Cannstatter Volksfest” fall fest mark the most popular fests in the area. Both fests are held annually — Frühlingsfest from mid-April to the second week of May, Cannstatter Volksfest from the end of September through the second week of October — at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Stuttgart’s largest and oldest city district Bad Cannstatt. In addition to its famous beer tents, each fest offers fun rides such as a Ferris wheel, roller coasters, wild water rafting, bumper cars, carousels, haunted houses and much more.

A variety of markets offer unique wares ranging from traditional dresses, called “Tracht,” consisting of a “Dirndl” for women and “Lederhosen,” or leather breeches, for men to dust brooms, household goods, jewelry, clothing, herbs, candy, and souvenirs.

Food ranges from hearty Swabian meals to Asian, Italian and Greek cuisine, along with festival goodies such as cotton candy, chocolate—covered fruit, candied almonds and

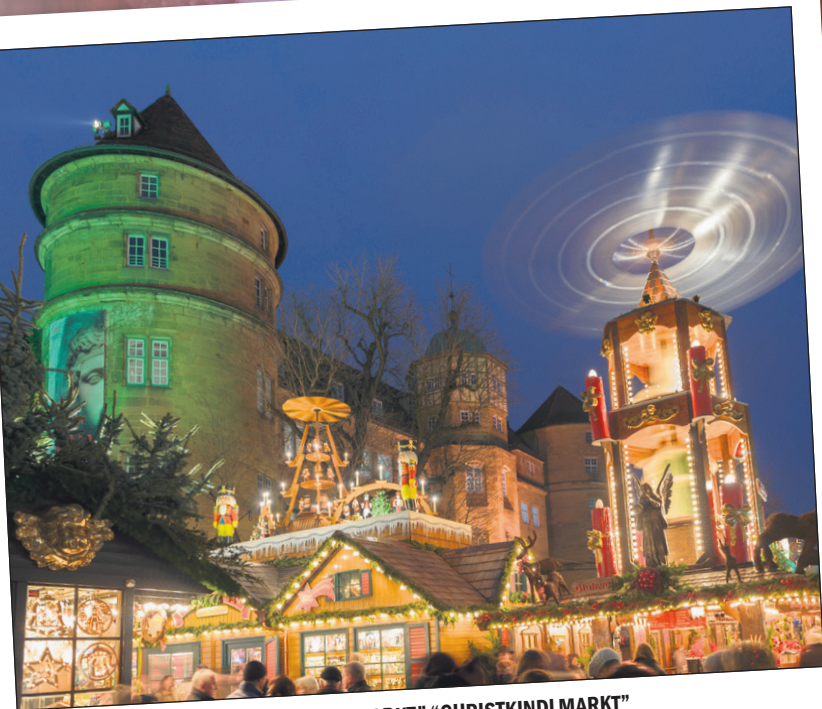
“Lebkuchenherzen” or gingerbread hearts.

Inside each tent, taste traditional fest foods such as the popular grilled chicken or “Göckele,” or try a large port knuckle, popular from Bavaria with freshly brewed beer. Each tent features live bands that entertain the crowds with “Volksmusik,” or German folk music, and familiar country and rock tunes.

A reconstruction of a Bavarian-Austrian Alp village, the “Almhütten-dorf,” is set up in the middle of the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds. It is considered one of the festivals main attractions. Here, visitors can find rustic booths offering “Schweinshaxe” (ham-bone) or a “Jause,” a snack consisting of bread, cold cuts, radishes and cottage cheese.

Each fest concludes with a 15-minute firework set to music which can be seen not only from the fest ground area and König-Karls-Brücke, or bridge, adjacent to the fest grounds, but also from Robinson Barracks.

A full schedule of events is available in English for both fests at www.wasen.de.



CHRISTMAS MARKETS: “WEIHNACHTSMARKT,” “CHRISTKINDLMARKT”

The Christmas season is one of the most treasured seasons in Germany and Europe and is celebrated with “Weihnachtsmärkten” or “Christkindlmärkten.” These Christmas or holiday markets are typically open from the end of November until Dec. 23, with some markets extending into January.

Visitors will find season inspired decorations, “Glühwein,” or hot mulled wine, candied almonds, grilled sausages, or brats, potato cakes with apple sauce and much more.

Stuttgart’s Christmas market boasts more than 250 booths and attractions. It is considered one of Europe’s largest Christmas markets and the one with the most beautifully decorated stands. — Photo by Hal Pand/Shutterstock.com

Spring and Fall Fests Tent Table Reservations

Reservations for tables in the beer tents are typically made months in advance. Without a reservation, a visitor may encounter long lines and wait times, and a possible rejection to enter a tent, especially during the weekends. To see if reservations are still available, visit www.wasen.de (available in English or German) then go to the “Festzelte” tab on the left, select the respective beer tent by clicking on the image, proceed to the tent meister’s website and click on the “Reservierung” tab.



The Best and Wurst of German Food

The traditional Bavarian Weisswurst (white sausage) and pretzel seen here is emblematic of German cuisine, but is only the starting point of what Germany has to offer. — *Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com*

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

While the world-renowned bratwurst and beer is certainly a common staple of German cuisine, there's a lot more variety in German food than that simple image conveys. It is true that certain universal elements of German food unite this nation of 16 proud states, each boasting their own unique cuisine. But, from roasts to schnitzel, to breads, cheeses and wine, the idea that German

food is basic or simple is simply not accurate.

Meat, bread and potatoes

Hearty German cuisine usually focuses on a main meat dish. German men eat, on average 1,092 grams of meat per week with German women consuming on average about half that, according to the German Society for Nutrition. While vegetarian dishes and products are certainly available, the "wurst" is still king!

To add to the solid heartiness of a good meat dish, potatoes are usually served in some form with every large meal. From Kartoffelpuree (mashed potatoes), to Kartoffelsalat (potato salad), Germans serve potatoes in every manner imaginable, and some rather less imaginable, but none-the-less appetizing, like potato pancakes.

Next in priority for the German palate is bread. A wide variety of bread products, from standard loaves of bread to pastries and more, make up a large portion of the traditional German diet.

Big meal at lunch, bread in the evening

The traditional German manner of eating is to eat a big hearty warm meal (or warmes essen) at midday and have some bread, cheese and sausages or lunch meats in the evening (often called Abendbrot or evening bread). In recent years this has changed somewhat and a wide variety of dishes are available at restaurants throughout their normal operating hours. There are still offerings that range from a simple bread plate to a full, multi-course meal.

Regional dishes

Each region in Germany prides itself on certain foods or dishes, and there can be a wide variety in the food offered from region to region. Bavaria is known for the ubiquitous pretzel, sausage and beer, while regions along the Rhine river valley often take great pride in their fine wines and foods that go along with them, such as cheeses and breads. While there are common

themes found throughout Germany such as Schnitzel, french fries and various roasts or "Braten," the variety of these dishes and others from region to region make traveling throughout Germany a culinary delight.

Also, as a centrally located European nation, Germany has a wide variety of foods from other nations. Italian, Asian, French and eastern European restaurants are common, and other varieties of international fare can be found as well.

Beer and wine

Germany has long been associated world-wide with beer, and with good reason. With well over a thousand breweries producing several thousands of brands of beer in Germany, there is plenty to choose from. German beer is typically a little stronger than most American domestic lagers, ranging from around 5 percent to as high as 16 percent alcohol by volume.

Wine also has been developed to a high art form in Germany, and different regions produce a variety of wines, many of which can be enjoyed right at the vineyard. From red Dornfelder to sweet Spätlese (late-harvest) German wine can be found to please most any palate.

It is important to remember to enjoy alcohol responsibly in Germany. Drinking and driving laws are very strict here, and many of the alcoholic beverages offered can be much stronger than what many Americans are used to. There are very few laws limiting public consumption of alcohol, and alcohol is readily available, so self-control and responsible consumption is the key.



German cuisine varies greatly by region. Swabian Maultaschen are a favorite in the Stuttgart area. These pastries are filled with meat (usually pork) and often served with gravy or as part of a soup. — *Photo by Bernd Schmidt/Shutterstock.com*

Trash and Recycling



Photo by kzenon/Shutterstock.com

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Figuring out how to sort trash and recycling in German can be quite complicated with different color bins and rules depending on the area of Stuttgart you live.

German has a very thorough waste sorting system with up to five or six different categories of waste and practices that vary from county to county, and occasionally from city to city, so things can quickly get confusing.

To help residents sort out all of the mess (quite literally), U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart has an in-depth guide to recycling that outlines specific procedures for all of the three major counties in the Stuttgart area and also on-post.

Download the Recycling Handbooks at www.stuttgart.army.mil/services-trash.html.

This guide, along with the general overview provided here, should arm most residents to recycle properly and help do their part to contribute to our host nation's impressive recycling efforts.

Practices vary between counties

In each of the three major counties in the Stuttgart area, there are differences in how trash and recyclables are handled. The main difference is in the various bins and how the items are sorted. Glass is handled

much the same at various recycling points, while hazardous materials and bulk trash have their own, specific requirements. For more information on these, check the recycling guide on the garrison website.

In Böblingen County there are four bins, all black, but with color-coded lids. A black lid is for trash, an orange lid is for recyclables, a green lid is for organic and a blue lid is for paper.

The city of Stuttgart uses three bins and the yellow sack. A grey bin is for trash, a green bin is for paper, a brown bin is for organic waste and yellow bags are used for recyclables (see our online guide for information on where to get yellow bags).

Although specific procedures vary, most programs divide trash and recyclables into six categories: trash/rubbish, recyclables, paper, organic waste, glass and hazardous waste. For explanations of these categories and what is included in each of them, see the side bar on the opposite page.

Ludwigsburg County uses two bins and groups recyclables and paper together. A green bin is used on a rotating schedule for "flat" and "round" recyclables (including paper). Flat paper and recyclables includes most normal paper products, books, magazines and similar items, as well as flat plastics like plastic bags, and flat pieces of plastic and Styrofoam. Round paper and recyclables includes plastic

bottles, cans and similar products. For a more detailed description, see the online recycling guide.

Sperrmüll or bulky trash

This is residual waste that is too big for the regular trash bin, but does not exceed a given size. For example, in Böblingen, it cannot exceed 2 meters by 1.2 meters by .8 meters, and must weigh less than 60 kilograms per piece. Mattresses, cupboards, bed frames, furniture, carpets, mirrors, suitcases, skis and surfboards are all examples of common bulk trash items.

Larger trash cans may be available

One of the most common frustrations for Americans is having a trash bin that is much smaller than they are used to. Often, this is a frustration that does not have to be endured. Trash cans are supposed to be based on family size, and should usually be adequate as long as recyclables and other trash are being properly sorted and not put into the regular trash bin.

Families with children, and especially larger families who find themselves constantly overfilling their trash bins, should consider talking to their landlords about getting larger cans. Be forewarned, this may affect the monthly trash fee, and a landlord will likely pass that cost on to the renter, depending on the specifics of the rental arrangement.

County waste management offices:

Böblingen

Landratsamt Böblingen
Abfallwirtschaft
Gebäude D
Parkstrasse 16
71034 Böblingen
Tel. 07031-663-15 50
Email: awb@lrabb.de
Website (German only):
www.lrabb.de/start (click on "Abfallwirtschaft")

Stuttgart

Eigenbetrieb Abfallwirtschaft
Stuttgart
Heinrich-Baumann-Strasse 4
70190 Stuttgart
Tel. 0711/216-88700
Email: poststelle.aws@stuttgart.de
Website (German only):
www.stuttgart.de/umwelt

Ludwigsburg

Abfallverwertungsgesellschaft
des Landkreises Ludwigsburg mbH
Hindenburgstrasse 30
71638 Ludwigsburg
Tel. (0 71 41) 144 56 56
Email: info@avl-ludwigsburg.de
Website (German only):
www.avl-ludwigsburg.de

Residents may inquire for more information about a larger trash can at local city offices, but usually it will ultimately have to be the homeowner or landlord who orders the larger bin.

On-Post trash and dumping

For on post residents, things are relatively simple. Clearly labeled containers are available in all housing areas, and the online guide details what items can and cannot go into each container.

Residents living off post should note that bring trash on post to dump is prohibited unless you are taking items to the Re-Use Center on Panzer Kaserne for re-use or proper disposal. (See page 33 for more on the Reuse Center).

Getting rid of extra trash is not costly

In fact, it's sometimes free, but does take some effort and coordination. Some areas have recycling centers and city dumps where residents can take their trash, and almost all areas have procedures for residents to request pick-up of bulk trash and other non-standard waste. Often these pickups are free of charge, but usually are only offered a limited number of times per year. Contact the agency for your area for more information.



USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Among the things Germany is well-known for is the world famous autobahn. The autobahn, of course, is not one single roadway, but a network of roadways very similar to the U.S. interstate highway system. While speeds are typically much higher on the autobahn, it is not the free-for-all raceway many Americans envision.

Incoming personnel to Germany may be anxious to get behind the wheel and start zipping across Europe on this famous highway system, but before they do, there are a few steps that must be undertaken.

Getting a U.S. Army in Europe license

The U.S. Army in Europe driver's license allows service members, civilians and their family members to drive in Germany and much of Europe without going through the process of attaining a local driver's license. Although people visiting Europe from the U.S. can usually drive for short periods on a driver's license from the U.S. and an international driver's license, personnel arriving on permanent change of station orders cannot because they fall into a different category based on the Status of Forces Agreement.

Personnel on PCS orders must obtain a USAREUR driver's license. Fortunately, obtaining this license is part of in-processing. To get a USAREUR driver's license, personnel must take an orientation class followed by a test that consists of road sign identification and a series of questions pertaining to German and European traffic laws. The fee for the class and test is \$10, and an appointment is not necessary (see box for location and hours). Personnel must present a stateside driver's license to take the test and are advised to keep their stateside driver's license with them, as well as their USAREUR license, when driving. The testing station in Stuttgart can be found on Panzer Kaserne, Building 2913.

More information, including the USAREUR driving manual and a practice test that can help prepare personnel for the test, can be found at the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles' website: <http://www.eur.army.mil/rmv/>.

Registering a vehicle

Once personnel have that USAREUR driver's license in hand, they

can register a vehicle in the USAREUR Vehicle Registry. Whether bringing a vehicle from the U.S. or registering a new or used vehicle purchased here, the process is essentially the same. The first step is usually obtaining temporary license plates and registration. This requires a \$30 fee for each year registered (some newer vehicles may be eligible for multi-year registrations).

Customers must bring their U.S. forces identification card, USAREUR driver's license and proof of insurance, as well as proof of ownership or title when registering a vehicle.

These temporary plates are good for 30 days and are intended to give vehicle owners some time to prepare the vehicle to meet the requirements of the USAREUR safety inspection, which is the next step in the process.

Car owners take their cars to the inspection station where the vehicle will be put through an extensive safety inspection that checks the general mechanical condition of the vehicle, brakes, muffler and exhaust system, safety features and many other components of the automobile. Most vehicles must be re-inspected whenever the registration is renewed, which is usually annually, while brand new vehicles may be exempted from the inspection entirely; contact the vehicle inspection office for more information.

If the vehicle passes the inspection, the temporary plates can be exchanged for regular plates. There is no additional fee when exchanging the temporary plates for regular plates. If the car fails inspection, the defects will be shown and explained to the owner, who can then have the car repaired on or off base. The vehicle can be taken through inspection several times before passing, and there is not a set restriction on number of inspections, but there is no extension beyond the initial 30-day period.

More information on the inspection, including forms that can be filled out ahead of time, can be found at: www.stuttgart.army.mil/services-vehiclereg.html.

Fuel ration card

So, now with license in hand and a registered vehicle, folks may be ready to hit the autobahn, but there is another step in the process; getting a fuel ration card. The fuel ration card is another benefit derived from the SOFA.

This card permits personnel to purchase fuel on base and at select

stations off base at prices comparable to stateside prices, instead of the standard European price, which is typically much higher. Most cards are good for up to 400 liters of fuel monthly, though some vehicles will be allowed a larger ration. The card can be obtained at most on-base gas stations, and many Exchange and Express stores.

In Stuttgart, drivers can get the cards at the Express gas stations on Patch and Kelley Barracks, as well as the main Exchange on Panzer Kaserne. The card can be pre-loaded with money at almost any Exchange store and acts essentially as a pre-paid cash card at select off-base Esso stations. Most German Esso stations participate in the program, but it is usually a good idea to check with the attendant before fueling up. On base, the card can be used as a pre-paid card as well, or drivers can opt to pay with cash or credit card instead, and keep the card's balance for off-base use. In any case, the card is needed any

time the vehicle is fueled in order to avoid paying European prices for fuel.

Drivers should maintain awareness of the remaining balance of their fuel rations. Each time fuel is purchased, a receipt can be provided that shows the remaining monetary and fuel ration balance on each card. Multiple vehicles of the same owner (and multiple vehicles registered to the same sponsor, regardless of the primary user) share from a single monetary balance on the card, but each vehicle draws from its own ration balance. The gas card and the associated ration are intended for those personnel listed on the registration only, and cannot be shared with others, even other U.S. personnel who are entitled SOFA benefits.

Know the roadways and signs

With a roadworthy car and a full tank of gas, the autobahns await! Before venturing out though, drivers new to

Driver Testing Station

Room 301, Building 2913,
Panzer Kaserne

Telephone:

431- 2007/civ. 07031-15-2007

General hours of operation:

Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday – 8 a.m. to noon:

POV orientation and testing;

12:30-4 p.m.: license renewal, replacement, change and military license issue.

Tuesday – 8 a.m. to noon: winter and accident avoidance training;

12:30-4 p.m.: license renewal, replacement, change and military license issue;

1-2 p.m.: retesting

Wednesday – 8 a.m. to noon: POV orientation and testing;

12:30-4 p.m.: license renewal, replacement, change and military license issue.

Thursday – 8 a.m. to noon: license renewal, replacement, change and military license issue;

9 a.m. to noon: every two weeks by appointment only: motorcycle orientation and testing;

1-4 p.m.: POV orientation and testing.

Friday – 8 a.m. to noon: license renewal, replacement, change and military license issue.

12:30-4 p.m.: license renewal, re-

placement, change and military license issue;

1-2 p.m.: retesting.

No appointment is required for POV orientation and testing.

Applicants must bring the following: ID card; stateside driver's license or EU, NATO, German driver's license; CMR mailing address; corrective lenses if needed (applicants 65 and above need an eye test certificate) \$10 check, money order or credit card.

Driver's handbook must be returned after testing.

Motorcycle testing is by appointment only. Applicants must bring the following:

ID card, stateside license with motorcycle endorsement, USAREUR POV license,

Motorcycle Safety Foundation certificate less than three years old, \$10 check or money order.

Vehicle Inspection Station

Building 2930, Panzer Kaserne

Telephone: 431-2039/civ. 07031-15-2039

Open Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to noon; 12:45-3:45 p.m. Closed noon to 12:30 p.m.

Closed U.S. federal and German holidays

USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles

website: www.eur.army.mil/rmv

Germany and the rest of Europe should be aware of a few things.

First, the roads are much narrower here in Europe. Winding roads that can sometimes only accommodate one car width at a time are not uncommon, and even on the wide-open autobahn, there is not a lot of room to spare. Factor in the typically higher speeds and an often more aggressive driving style, and it's clear that anyone driving in Europe needs to keep their full attention on the road. Also, the signs are much different here than stateside. There is a general standardization of the road signs throughout Europe, though some variation from country to country does occur. Sign recognition is a part of the licensing test here, and it is important to understand the signs and what they mean in various situations.

For more information about road signs in Europe, the USAREUR driver's manual has an appendix showing all of the standard European road signs and their meaning. An online version of the manual can be found at <https://aepubs.army.mil/pdfpubs/AEP190-34.htm>.

In addition to the signs, another very big difference in Germany is the use of road lines. In the U.S., yellow lines are primarily used between opposing lanes of traffic while white lines are used for other lane divisions. In Germany and most of Europe, however, white lines are used for all permanent markings and yellow lines are used for temporary diversions to the regular traffic flow, such as in rerouting around construction zones. This means that drivers may have a white line in between two lanes where traffic moves in opposite directions, making it even more important to know the road signs and how they indicate traffic flow.

There are a few very common traffic rules that differ significantly between Germany and the U.S. and maintaining awareness of these will help drivers remain safe and courteous road users. First, right turn on red is only allowed when indicated by a right pointing green arrow sign. Next, on multi-lane highways, left lanes are used for passing only, and the right lanes are used for cruising. Drivers are to stay in the right lane unless passing a vehicle and are to return to the right lane as soon as possible after passing.

Finally, the limits on alcohol consumption and driving are much more restrictive in Germany than the U.S., and the penalties can be very high. Loss of license, very heavy fines and potential administrative punishment for employees or service members can all result from even a first offense. It does not pay to drink and drive anywhere, but especially so in Germany.

German Road Signs

Road signs in Germany, and throughout Europe, differ significantly from those in the United States. This chart depicts the most common road signs and their meaning. Links to this chart online, and other resources for preparing for a USAREUR driver's license can be found on Page 26.

Introduction to public transport in Germany



The distinctive red and white trains of the Deutsche Bahn national transit service zip back and forth across Germany delivering passengers between major cities and hubs. – Photo by Kevin S. Abel USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Public transport in Germany and throughout Europe is the ideal way to travel. The German transit system services a vast, extensive network of stations stops that are accessible, most within walking distance, of almost everywhere within the Stuttgart area.

There are three levels of transit services that work together to connect to nearly every city, town, or village in Germany. Stops and stations may be serviced by multiple transit agencies or just a single company, mainly called VerkehrsVerbund Stuttgart, or VVS that operates S-Bahn lines, U-Bahn lines, Strassenbahn (street-car) and a variety of bus lines.

1. **The Deutsche Bahn system or DB**, where you can book through the Bahn office using a VAT tax form, or online for long distance travel and express trains between cities and bordering countries such as France and Austria.

2. **S-Bahn red trains**, for mid-distance and express service within the region.

3. **The local U-Bahn yellow trains, and city buses** are also partially serviced by Deutsche Bahn to provide localized transport between cities and stations within in the region. Service routes range from Weil der Stadt to Rudersberg Oberndorf and Ludwigsburg to Filderstadt.

How to buy a train ticket in Germany

Download the VVS or SSB mobile ticket and train schedule app

The more favorable option is to download the VVS or SSB mobile app. There you can set up an account which stores your credit card information to purchase tickets on the go. Once purchased, the app stores a bar code which can be shown to ticket checkers to scan by request as proof of purchase. An email receipt is also automatically sent to you as an alternate proof of purchase including the barcode. Just be sure to keep your phone charged while you're on the train.

Ticket machines on the platform or in the station

For ticketing information on local and regional trains, ticket machines are available at each station stop to purchase a paper ticket. While some have a touch screen interface, many older platform machines have codes to enter in to determine your zone and ticket type. (more on navigating zones below).

Tip: Not all machines may accept credit cards so it is always recommended to carry euro, or use the mobile app which can link to your credit card.

Ticket machines at most train stations not only sell tickets but also offer information about schedules, delays and services available. Travelers can also print up a travel itinerary free of charge.

Navigating the transit systems

Transit line maps are available at station platforms, online and within the mobile apps.

Zones

Local train travel in Stuttgart is broken down by zones and are generally learned as you go.

Examples travelling to downtown Stuttgart:

From Boeblingen (Near Panzer Kaserne): 4 zones

From Vaihingen (Near Patch Barracks): 3 zones

From Moeringen (Near Kelley Barracks): 2 zones

From Robinson Barracks area stations: 2 zones

From downtown Stuttgart, Hauptbahnhof main station to the Stuttgart Airport: 3 zones

The honor system

The entire DB network and most of the regional networks operate on the honor system. Travelers purchase tickets and step onto the train without a gate or an attendant checking the ticket upon entry. Passengers with paper tickets must stamp their ticket on the train when using U-Bahn local transit, or at the station platform or entrance to the train station when taking S-Bahn or regional trains. If a person is caught by Bahn train staff without a valid ticket or having stamped their ticket, it will result in fines.

Attendants do patrol the trains and check for tickets at various unpredictable times and intervals, and the fines for riding without a ticket can be very hefty. It is important for travelers to make sure they have valid tickets for each and every trip, no matter how short.

Tip: Occasionally ticket machines may be inoperable so aside from using the mobile app, buy some of the four-pass paper tickets in advance to keep on hand, especially when visitors are in town. They are good unstamped for one year and transferable to anyone.

Not all tickets are created equal

The key to car-free European adventures is knowing your options and how to get the local deals.

4-pass paper ticket available at machines: Ticket is good for four train rides within the purchased zones.

Unstamped tickets are good for one year.

Short-trip ticket – for passengers travelling within under three U-Bahn stops.

Day ticket - available on all local trains within a selected zone, all day.

Group day ticket – one ticket price, good for more than one person, up to 5 people.

Though it sounds easy enough, simply buying a ticket, when combined with the language barrier and the not-so-consistent ticket machines, can be

TRANSPORT

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overwhelming. When all else fails, ask the experts to help you get started.

Several bread-and-butter deals are always available at the ticket kiosks. The following are by no means an exhaustive list, but should get travelers off on the right foot.

Longer distances: Online or at the Bahn Office

For offers and ticketing information, go to www.db.de, an English version of the website is available by clicking the word "Deutsch" next to the German flag, and selecting English from the drop-down menu.

The Bahn office is located at the Hauptbahnhof Stuttgart main station downtown, and also in the main stations in Vaihingen near Patch Barracks, and the Boeblingen station near Panzer Kaserne. Agents there can help you find the best fares travel. You can also purchase weekly, monthly and

yearly local train passes. The Bahn offices accept Value Added Tax (VAT) forms, used best when booking more costly trips or multiple trips at once.

Note: there is a two-euro fee for purchasing through the in-person Bahn office, but it is a small price to pay when you consider the time you save, and the available use of a VAT form.

Bahn cards

Bahn cards are a fantastic deal for travelers who use the train frequently, but often the Bahn card proves its worth on the first purchase. Before purchasing a ticket to travel outside of Stuttgart, ask about how getting a Bahn 25 or 50 would affect the price.

Bahn 25: Travelers get 25 percent off all regular and saver fares. DB often publishes trial offers, like a Bahn 25 card for 19 euros that is valid for three months or similar promotions you can use to test out if buying a card for the

year is worth it to you or not.

Bahn 50: Travelers receive 50 percent off all regular fare purchases (but not saver fares). Best for travelers who use the train several times each month outside of Stuttgart.

Although there's no substitute for good advance planning, many of the standing ticket offers through Deutsche Bahn provide flexibility for the spontaneous traveler. Taking the train offers several benefits and can even be a viable, inexpensive option when traveling in a group.

Sure, in some cases a car will get you there quicker, but getting there faster isn't always the best way to travel.

Exploring your backyard

Baden-Württemberg Regional Ticket

Perfect for day trips on regional trains including the S-Bahn with a group of friends or even last-minute solo traveling. The ticket is good for up

to five people; 23 euros for one person, 5 euros for each additional traveler.

Tip: BW tickets apply to regional trains (not ICE) and your train must depart after 9 a.m. on weekdays. In addition, always ensure your train will arrive before your ticket expires, and don't forget to write your name on the ticket.

The All-Germany Ticket: Quer-durchs-Land and Schönes-Wochenende Ticket

The Quer-durch-Land, or "across the country" ticket offers unlimited regional train travel for one day throughout Germany, Monday-Friday. Like the BW Pass, it's good for up to five people; 44 euros for one person, 8 euros for each additional traveler. With the Schönes-Wochenende, or "beautiful weekend" ticket, travel on a Saturday or Sunday for 40 euros for the first person, 4 euros for each additional traveler. So five people can travel all day around Germany for under 100 euros.

Organizations within the Stuttgart community footprint

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Private Organizations and the volunteers that champion these organizations play a big role in the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart military community, from youth programs, to spouse and unit support, to veteran care, education, networking and personal growth and readiness.

Service Member Organizations:

- Adjutant General's Corps regimental Association, Sub-chapter Stuttgart (AGCRA-S)
- American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC)
- Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA)
- ECJ1 Booster Club
- OutService-Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (OS-SLDN)
- Screamin' Wyverns – Navy
- Special Forces Association, Chapter V
- Stuttgart Area Top III Association – Air Force
- Stuttgart Petty Officers' Association of Stuttgart and the Stuttgart Chief Petty Officers' Association (SCPOA)
- Stuttgart Rising 6 – Air Force
- Stuttgart Semper Fi Club - Marines
- Stuttgart Special Operations Association (SSOA)

Veteran Organizations:

- American Legion Stuttgart Post #6
- Harold Washington Military Lodge #128
- Mozart Military Lodge #69

- Stuttgart Military Lodge #581
- Stuttgart Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #10810

Groups that organize annual service branch balls:

- Organization 1775 (Army)
- Stuttgart Ball Committee (Air Force)
- Stuttgart Zumwalt Ball Committee (Navy)
- Volunteer and Professional Organizations:
- United Service Organizations (USO)
- Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club (SCSC), this group also runs the Patch Thrift Shop.
- Americans Working Around the Globe (AWAG)
- Professional Certification Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors-Germany

Career and Transition Assistance:

Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

In addition to the Soldier For Life program available to all service members of any branch within USAG Stuttgart, and the Army Community Service Employment Readiness Programs also open to dependents and civilians, AUSA aids in employment transition assistance and job placement. AUSA hosts a job fair on-post each year to connect retiring military community members, dependents and civilians, with career and transition guidance.

Cultural Heritage, Fraternal or Religious Organizations

- Alice R. Matthews Chapter #77
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Theta Theta Lambda Chapter
- Benjamin Brown Chapter #122
- Black Forest Quilt Guild (BFQG)
- Blacks In Government
- District Eight Knights Templar
- Donald H. Coleman Consistory #329
- Elmer T. Hawkins Lodge #113
- Germany Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- Harriet R. Tubman Chapter #40
- James C. Baker Jr. Council #4 Kappa Alpha Psi
- Knights of Columbus-Chaplain Charles Watters Council #8792
- NAACP Stuttgart Branch #2343
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Theta Rho International Chapter
- Philippine American German Association of the Stuttgart Area (PAGASA)
- Pyramid Lodge #238, F&AM Prince Hall Affiliated

Sports Organizations

- Competitive Athletic Sports Europe
- National Ski Patrol System (NSPS), European Division
- Patch Ski Club
- Piranhas Swim Team for youth
- Sitzmarkers Ski and Board Club
- Stuttgart American Little League
- Stuttgart Eagles Basketball Club for youth
- Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club that hosts

"volksmarch" walking trails and trips.

- Stuttgart Ski Patrol
- United States Youth Soccer

School organizations:

- Stuttgart Elementary School PTA
- Patch Elementary School PTA
- Robinson Barracks Elementary (RBES) PTSA
- Patch Middle School PTSA
- Stuttgart High School PTO
- Stuttgart High School Music Booster Club

Scout Troops

- Boy Scouts (Venture Crew 44 and Troops 44, 113, 119, 254, 324)
- Cub Scouts (Packs 44, 113, 324, 154)
- USA Girl Scouts Overseas

Volunteer and Professional Organizations:

- United Service Organizations (USO)
- American Red Cross Stuttgart Station
- Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club (SCSC), this group also runs the Patch Thrift Shop.
- Americans Working Around the Globe (AWAG)
- Professional Certification Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors-Germany

To register a group or organization with USAG Stuttgart, or for more information on any of these private organizations, contact Family and MWR at civ. 0711-729-2622.

Family and MWR Services in Stuttgart



Fun sports and recreation events are part of the many services offered by Family and MWR — *U.S. Army Photo*

Directorate of Family and Moral, Welfare and Recreation Marketing Office

As throngs of people gather on the grass with picnic blankets to enjoy yet another community special event, they are all secretly hoping to be one of the grand prize winners. After all, who wouldn't enjoy two tickets to the Super Bowl, a Vespa scooter, a cruise for two to the Mediterranean, a free round-trip ticket to the U.S., a new car or a shiny, new mountain bike? These opportunities are just some of the perks offered by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Family and MWR operates more than 46 facilities across four installations, plus a golf course, in order to provide a wide variety of programs and services for all ages and interest groups.

"Family and MWR is committed to the well-being of the community of people who serve and stand ready to defend the nation," said Andrea Stauffer, marketing director for Stuttgart's Family and MWR. "Our goal is to enhance the lives of service members, their families, civilian employees and retirees."

Keeping the military resilient and ready to fight takes more than hard work and training — it takes a balance of work and play. According to Stauffer, that is where Family and MWR fits into the picture.

"We try to focus our programs on meeting the physical, social, spiritual,

emotional and family needs of our military community," she said. "It's all about providing a balance to increase readiness and resiliency so our customers can enjoy all that Europe has to offer while stationed overseas."

Family and MWR employs more than 400 staff members and consists of

five divisions that provide a wide variety of services to the community.

Community Recreation

The Community Recreation Division provides four fitness centers; two libraries; the Auto Skills Shop that includes a motorcycle storage Speedy Lube and dog wash; Outdoor Recreation; The Photo Studio; Warrior Zone; Broadway Cafe; the Robinson Barracks Community Club; Better Opportunities for Single Service members; award-winning Stuttgart Theatre Center, and arts and crafts programs.

In addition, the recreation division coordinates a number of special community-wide events, such as the; Winter Market; Community Activities, Registration and Education (CARE) Fair; and Independence Day celebration. Other special event productions include comedy shows, musical performances and special acts such as the Geschwister Weisheit Family high wire act.

Golf course, storage facility, clubs, special events center

The Business Operations Division operates the newly renovated 7,000 yard, 18-hole, par 72 golf course



Outdoor Recreation supplied the grill and Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers supplied the cooks — *U.S. Army Photo*

and its newly added storage facility; the 24-lane Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center; the Irish Pub; the Java Cafe; two clubs: Kelley Club and Patch Community Club and a conference venue located in the Swabian Special Events Center.

The business division works closely with Army Lodging to provide first-class lodging facilities at both the Panzer and Kelley Hotels, which normally operate with a 95 percent occupancy rate.

Army Community Service

Army Community Service provides resources for real-life solutions and promotes successful military living, according to Tawania Kovacs, Director, Army Community Service.

ACS provides assistance and education through Army Emergency Relief, Army Family Action Plan, Army Family Team Building, Volunteer Corps, Employment and Financial Readiness, Family Advocacy, Exceptional Family Member Services, Information, Referral and Follow-Up Program, Outreach Program, Soldier and Family Assistance Center, Military Life Consultants, Mobilization and Deployment Readiness and Relocation Readiness.

“If you need assistance or a resource for just about anything, ACS is there to help. In USAG Stuttgart, Army Community Service is the family center for all branches of the military” said Kovacs.

ACS is located in Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

Child, Youth and School Services

The largest division within Family and MWR is the Child, Youth and School Services Division. If you have a child from 6 weeks of age through 18, most likely they will engage with one or more of the services provided by CYS Services.

From the child development centers to Strong Beginnings; part-day preschool, school-age and middle school programs; Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills (SKIES) Unlimited and youth sports,



Special shopping events like the Spring Bazaar are part of the annual Family and MWR calendar of events — U.S. Army Photo

CYS Services provides accredited programs, education, and fun for the whole family.

“We care for the children like they are our own so that parents can focus on the mission while they are at work,” said Jamie Ruffini, the CYS Services coordinator “Special after-hours care is frequently provided so that parents can take a break to enjoy other activities taking place on and off post — a happy balance for everyone.”

Non-Appropriated Funds Support

The Non-Appropriated Funds Support Division maintains the Family and MWR “machine” by

providing overhead support in the way of marketing, commercial sponsorship and advertising, financial management, supply and warehousing functions, internal controls and property accountability, and information technology support for 46 facilities, over 250 computers and 60 point-of-sale sites and management information-systems. Many of these areas may seem unglamorous, but they are necessary to ensure all of the programs and services operate without a hitch.

Often overlooked as a NAF support function is the Value Added Tax (VAT) and Utility Tax Avoidance Program (UTAP) that provides tax

relief for personal purchases and utilities, saving the community approximately €4.5 million last year.

Family and MWR serves the community. “I never knew just how much Family and MWR does for the community until I started working here,” said Susan Brown, a staff member and military spouse. “The employees love what they do, and collaborate their strengths and resources to provide amazing events, sometimes at the last minute. It is incredible to see it come together from the inside.”

To find out more about what Stuttgart FMWR has to offer, visit their website at: <http://stuttgart.armymwr.com>



Family and MWR always invites the Easter Bunny to the annual egg hunt — U.S. Army Photo



Family and MWR hosts numerous events every year to serve the Stuttgart community — U.S. Army Photo

Religious services for the Stuttgart community



By Sgt. Nelson Venable
USAG Stuttgart Religious Support Office

The Stuttgart military community is one of many faiths. The U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Religious Support Office provides many different religious services, from Protestant services to Catholic Mass to Jewish services.

Chapels are located on Patch Barracks (Building 2305), Robinson

Barracks (Building 115) and Panzer Kaserne (Building 2940).

Protestant services, including contemporary Christian and gospel worship services, are offered on Sundays. Catholic Mass is celebrated throughout the week across the Stuttgart military community, while Jewish services are held the first and third Friday of the month in the Panzer Chapel. The RSO also offers Church of God in

Christ and liturgical services.

The full schedule of services is available at the USAG Stuttgart website at www.stuttgart.army.mil/services-rso.html.

In addition to a wide variety of religious worship services, the RSO also organizes religious education activities including Bible studies, children's church, youth groups, vacation Bible school, and more.

Family counseling

Confidential counseling services for families struggling with a wide variety of family issues are available at the Stuttgart Family Life Center, adjacent to the Panzer Chapel. To schedule an appointment, call 431-3030/civ. 07031-15-3030.

For more information on the RSO or difficult-to-find faith-based services, contact the RSO at 431-3079/civ. 07031-15-3079.

Join Stuttgart community of volunteers

USAG Public Affairs Office

Volunteer opportunities through Army Community Service (ACS) come with many benefits, including the gaining valuable experience on par with employment experience. Volunteers can learn new skills by exploring different careers, make new

friends in the Stuttgart community and develop networking opportunities to jumpstart careers, not to mention add experience to a resume or scholarship application.

Agencies throughout Stuttgart are always on the lookout for new volunteers; Red Cross, United Service Organizations (USO), Youth Sports, Stuttgart

Theatre Center, just to name a few.

The Volunteer Management Information System (VMIS) tracks volunteer hours for volunteer service medals and the annual volunteer recognition ceremony.

ACS also offers free employment classes to all ID cardholders in the Stuttgart community to improve and

build your resume, improve confidence and navigate USAJOBS with ease.

For additional information on volunteer opportunities, stop by ACS, Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne, or contact DSN: 431-3362/civ. 07031-15-3362.

Reuse center offers free cleaning supplies, household materials

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart community members can help each other by recycling and reusing cleaning supplies and other materials found at the Hazardous Material Reuse Center on Panzer Kaserne.

The reuse center is part of USAG Stuttgart Logistics Readiness Center, under the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, which provides installation logistics services to sustain unit readiness, and improve quality of life in our communities.

The center is a warehouse full of cleaning supplies, paint, and toner for printers, oil and other similar products — all free of charge to all ID cardholders.

“People about to go back to the States have extra cleaning products — [they] could be used by other people,” said Mike Lansdale, Reuse Center manager.

Materials include cleaning spray, ink cartridges, oil and even plant food. The center prevents environmental hazards; it has a sealed floor, absorbent material for spills, an eyewash station, safety equipment and fire extinguishers. It also provides a place where units and community members can drop off or pick up excess toner, lubricants, batteries, adhesives, fuel, paint or acid.

“This is an ideal place for this sort of stuff to be utilized by everyone...it’s safe here...it saves money [and] reduces waste,” Lansdale said.

Single items dropped off — such as a bottle of glass cleaner, wood spray, paint products — are easy accessible on a daily basis, and can be picked up by individuals. However, excess supplies ordered by tenant units, can only be reused by other units. Those items are being placed in a web base-tracking format tracked

in the worldwide Hazardous Material Management System.

Based on their prices when they were first issued, items given to other units are re-used and (free of charge) saved the garrison about \$5,000 per month, according to Lansdale.

Lansdale encourages units that have not already done so to check out the reuse center and add to the savings.

“Before [units] start to order things, they should really come here ... and save the government a lot of money,” Lansdale said. The reuse center is not only friendly to the economy; it is good for the environment, as well.

When community members leave their supplies at the reuse center, those that are expired or contaminated will be disposed of properly, Lansdale said. He personally takes unusable materials to the Hazardous Waste Collection Point, across the street. Normally, individuals would need to make an appointment with the installation coordinator to dispose of hazardous waste. With the Re-Use center, appointments are not necessary. We encourage families who PCS (outgoing) to turn-in their used cleaning supplies or anything that is consider hazardous to the Re-Use Center for proper disposal. If during that time after carefully reviewing the expiration can be utilize again, we place the items on the shelf for re-issue.

The Reuse Center is located in Building 2958 on Panzer Kaserne, opposite the Panzer Commissary. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact DSN: 431-2071/civ. 07031-15-2071 and or the Chief of Supply and Services (Installation Supply Officer) at DSN: 431-3413/civ. 07031-15-3413



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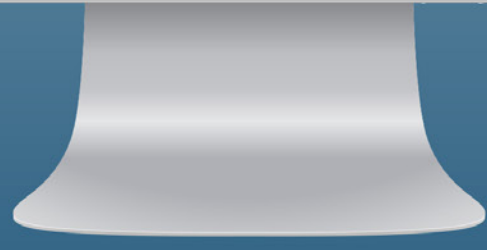
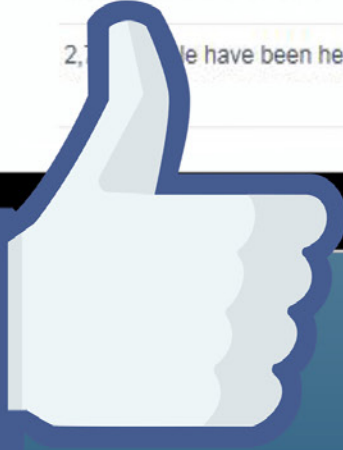
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