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DRIVING IN GERMANY

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THE CITY

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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.

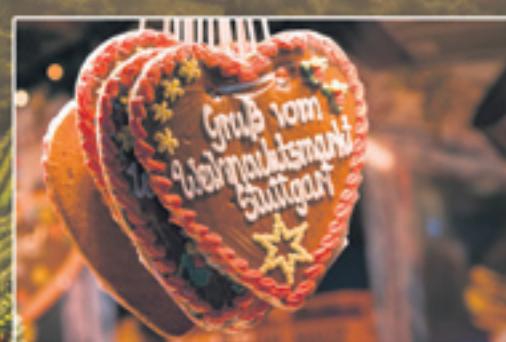
The Citizen

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CITIZEN SPECIAL EDITION

Welcome to Stuttgart 2015



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Welcome to Stuttgart

I'm very thrilled to be welcoming each and every newcomer to the Stuttgart military community. Having just arrived here myself about 5 months ago, I found the 2014 Welcome to Stuttgart edition of the Citizen to be an amazing resource during my Permanent Change of Station (PCS). As we head into the 2015 PCS season we've updated this annual Welcome to Stuttgart Citizen, which I hope you will find to be as indispensable as I found the previous year's edition.

Stuttgart is a great place to work and live! With a vibrant joint military community of about 22,000 U.S. personnel, Stuttgart is the home of multiple critical tactical, operational and strategic-level Department of Defense organizations. U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, Special Operations Command Europe, Special Operations Command Africa, Marine Forces Europe/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 for all.

Despite the excitement of a new place, filled with all sorts of new adventures waiting for you, PCSing can be a stressful time. There is a lot to do as you get settled into the new community, and usually little time to get things done.

Add to that the fact that you are landing in a foreign country, some of you for the first time, and the difficulties can add up quickly. No PCS is easy, and this is even more so with an overseas move, but it is my hope that this guide will provide you with many of the tools you will need to



Col. Glenn K. Dickenson
 Commander, USAG Stuttgart

smoothly transition into what I sincerely hope will be one of your favorite assignments.

Having an effective sponsor is essential to a worry-free PCS experience. Long before arriving to Stuttgart and picking up this guide, you should have been contacted by a sponsor assigned to help you through the PCS process. This sponsor is your right-hand man or woman during your PCS. As your sponsor, their primary duty is to make sure your PCS to Stuttgart goes off without a hitch.

In the following pages you will find information on housing, services, medical and dental care, and other aspects of family life in the Stuttgart military community. An introduction to the Stuttgart military community and the surrounding local communities will help give you an idea of everything available in your new home for the next few years.

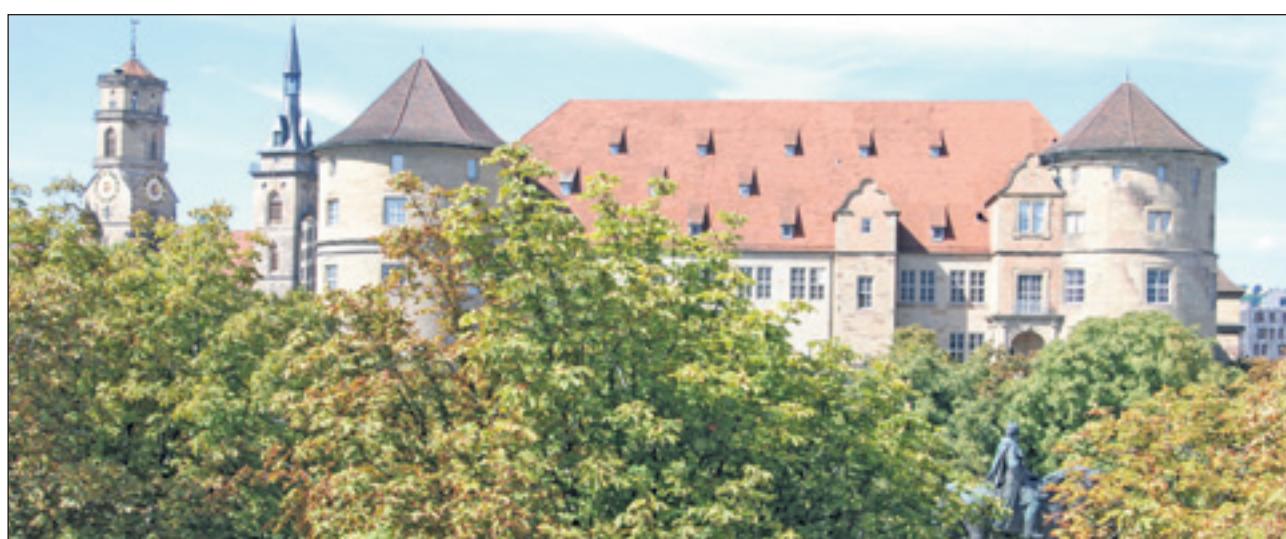
From tips on driving to pictures of our housing facilities to a brief introduction of the German language, culture and food, this guide will provide basic information on just about any

topic you might want to know about during your PCS. Most of the articles will also refer you to online content where you can get more detailed information, forms that you may need to fill out, further articles and brochures you can print out, and a wealth of other available online resources.

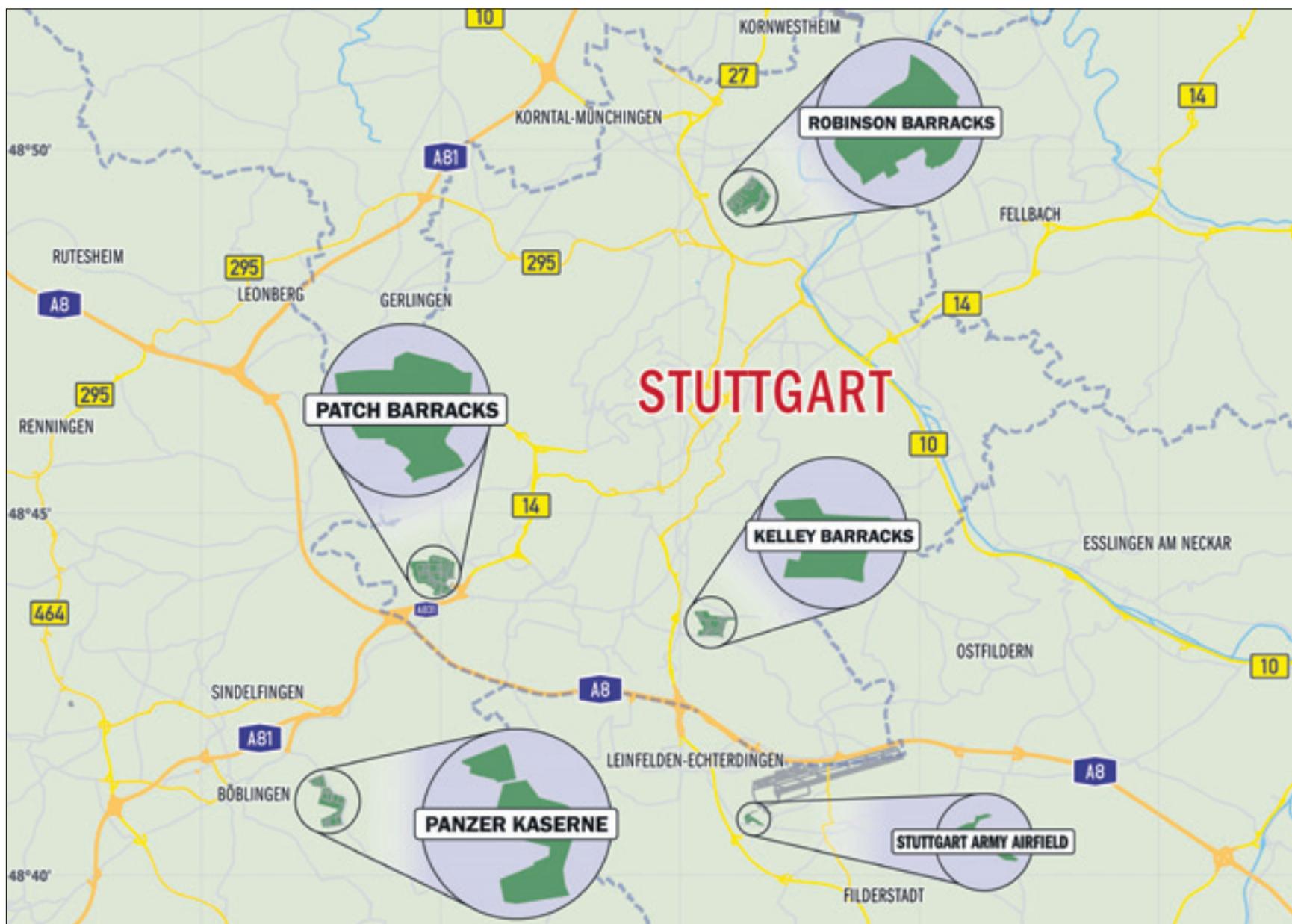
While no single edition of the Stuttgart Citizen, no matter how special, can address all of the details you may need to know to effect a smooth PCS, this guide covers the basic ground. It should make a good jumping off point for more resources you can use during your PCS and even after you've gotten settled in. With the help of this guide and an effective sponsor, you should be able to minimize the challenges of your PCS and get right into enjoying all that Stuttgart has to offer, be it at work or at play.

And let me tell you, Stuttgart has a lot to offer; whether at work, working hand-in-hand with all four services, the State Department and other agencies in this active and vital joint community, or heading out and seeing the countryside in your leisure time. The Black Forest is right outside of Stuttgart's front door and historic cities such as Paris, Prague, Munich and Salzburg, Austria, are all within a day's drive. Maybe you'd rather spend some time right here in the local community of Stuttgart, the capital of the Baden-Württemberg region, visiting the "Altes Schloss" (Old Castle), or visiting one of the many museums or musical performances Stuttgart is well-known for.

Again, welcome to Stuttgart — I hope that your PCS goes smoothly, and you're able to get out and enjoy Stuttgart. 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



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

By Greg Jones
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 22,000 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 page 24. 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. Panzer is also home of the Böblingen Elementary/Middle School. The future high school (currently under construction) is directly across Panzerstrasse/Route K1057 from Panzer Kaserne and is expected to be completed in time for the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

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 American high school and Patch Elementary 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 large commissary.

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

of Stuttgart, and more than five million in the greater Stuttgart area, Stuttgart is the fourth largest metropolitan area in Germany, and the regional capital of Baden-Württemberg. There are six counties in the Stuttgart metropolitan area; Böblingen in the southwest, Ludwigsburg and Rems-Murr-Kreis in the north, Göppingen in the southeast and Esslingen directly south of the main city of Stuttgart, which is itself a county divided into smaller districts within the city.

Stuttgart is centrally located in Germany with several major European capitals within a day's drive. The autobahn A-5, about 40 minutes west of Stuttgart, runs from Basil, Switzerland, in the south, to north of Frankfurt where it connects with the A-7 which goes all the way north to Denmark. The A-6, roughly a half hour north of Stuttgart, is one of the main east-west highways and goes from the French border in the west, straight across Germany to the Czech Republic in the east.

Germany: five seasons of fun!

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

From museums to castles to numerous fests and markets, nearly each and every weekend there is something new to do in Stuttgart or within a short drive from Stuttgart.

Over the next few pages, we will explore the "five seasons" in Germany (spring through winter, and a special fifth season) and a number of events offered in and around Stuttgart. These are by no means all inclusive and there are a number of online resources referred to in these articles. Explore those throughout the year to find out

what's happening in Stuttgart.

As a travel destination, Stuttgart normally bustles with activity. Those new to the Stuttgart area can take advantage of several offers to help them get acquainted with this historic city and major metropolitan area. The "StuttCard" is a combination transit pass and activities discount card. The card is available as a 24, 48, or 72-hour ticket valid throughout the entire "Verkehrs-und Tarifverbund" public transportation system, and includes free admission to almost all museums and leisure facilities, as well as select discounts.

The StuttCard costs €23 for 24

hours, €38 for 48 hours, and €45 for 72 hours. The card can be purchased at i-Punkt Tourist Information (Königstrasse 1a, 70173 Stuttgart), at the Stuttgart Airport, Terminal 3, third floor, or online at www.stuttgart-tourist.de/stuttcards.

For more information, call civ. 0711-2228-100.

Newcomers might also want to stop by the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum/James-F.-Byrnes Institute, or German American Center, in downtown Stuttgart.

The DAZ's mission is to foster German-American relationships by

engaging in a cultural exchange. The center offers lectures, concerts, movie showings, exhibitions, workshops and discussions in either German or English, or both.

The DAZ also boasts a library stocked with English language books ranging from history to fantasy, as well as magazines, newspapers and movies.

The Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum is located at Charlottenplatz 17 (courtyard, entrance 3), 70173 Stuttgart. The DAZ is open Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.daz.org, or call civ. 0711-22-8180.

Celebrate arrival of spring, Easter in Germany

Story & photo by Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

During Easter, or as Germans say "Ostern," Christianity celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The festivities traditionally start with Good Friday, one of the most highly observed Christian holidays where people commemorate Jesus' crucifixion. Good Friday also marks the last day of the holy week and the end of the 40-day fasting period that started on Ash Wednesday.

In Germany, Easter is celebrated for four days: Good Friday; Easter Saturday, when Jesus was entombed; Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead; and Easter Monday, a German federal holiday.

Some believe the word "Easter" refers to the direction of sunrise. Reflecting on the Christian tradition, the rising sun is a symbol for the resurrection and the homecoming of Jesus Christ.

Easter also marks the beginning of spring, a season that cherishes rebirth, renewal and growth.

Germans like to ring in spring by filling their homes with fresh flowers and other Easter decorations.

In spring, people typically prefer colorful flowers such as tulips, daffodils and buttercups. With the first sunrays and warmer days, most Germans spring clean their homes and feel like decorating with fresh flowers and plants.

Other typical Easter decorations include painted eggs, hens, rabbits and chickens, as well as wreaths and nests, for decorating a home's front door or dining table.

People also like to arrange blooming branches, along with birch tree

and willow branches, in a large floor vase and decorate the branches with hand-painted eggs.

The tradition of artfully painting eggs dates back to the ancient world. Inspirations came from Greece, Italy, Russia and Armenia. During the 13th century, the first painted Easter egg was mentioned in an official document in Germany, where it also became a symbol for fertility.

The colors of the eggs have specific meanings. For example, red symbolizes Jesus' sacrifice, yellow is enlightenment and wisdom, green means youth and innocence, and orange stands for strength, resiliency and ambition.

Painted eggs are also used throughout Germany to add grace to "Easter fountains," a tradition that originated in Franconia.

To this day, fountains in smaller towns and villages are decorated with eggs, multicolored ribbons, wreaths, tulips and daffodils.

Other decorations include Easter nests that are made out of branches and moss and are typically filled with eggs, wooden bunnies or chickens.

A simple way to craft an Easter nest is to take fresh and soft birch tree branches without leaves and form a ring. Then place moss in the center and decorate with painted eggs, bunnies, or bulbous plants.

In Germany, Easter Sunday is traditionally celebrated with close family. Often, the festive day starts with an Easter brunch and is followed by an Easter egg and nest hunt in the garden or out in the woods.

Much like in the U.S., many European children search for their Easter nests, which are filled with chocolate eggs and bunnies or other



Traditional painted Easter eggs hang in a shop display. — Photo by Carola Meusel

smaller presents and candy.

Another tradition during Easter Sunday is to serve baked goods such as a sweet cake shaped in the form of a lamb (a symbol for the resurrection), shortbread cookies, and Easter bread and rings with almonds or

sesame seeds during breakfast or afternoon tea.

Whether you're German or American, Easter is a time for families and friends to celebrate traditions, regional customs, values and the arrival of spring and its new beginnings.

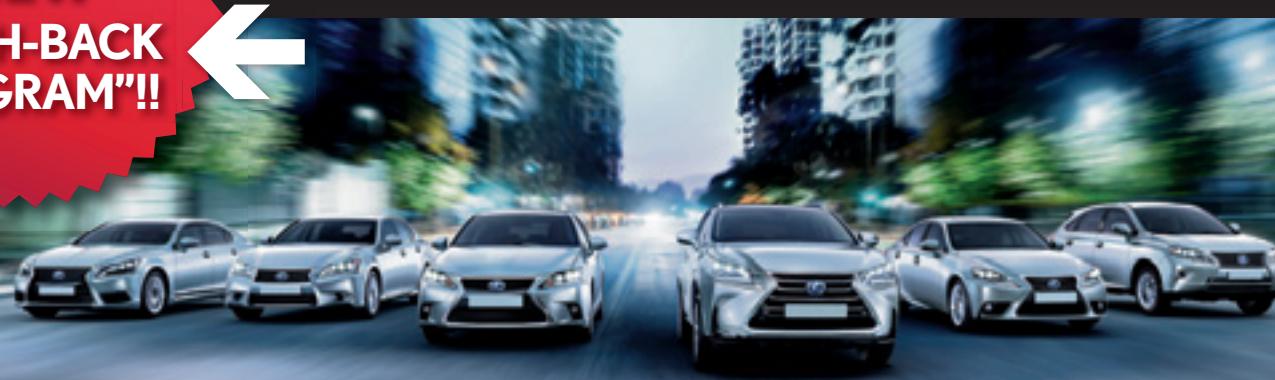


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IS 250 AWD	Sedan	15	Matador Red Mica	Light Gray	\$ 45,660	\$ 42,280	\$ 3,380	\$ 2,300	\$ 5,680
IS 250 RWD	Sedan	15	Ultra White	Black	\$ 43,865	\$ 40,670	\$ 3,195	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,195
IS 350 AWD	Sedan	15	Atomic Silver	Light Gray	\$ 48,875	\$ 45,230	\$ 3,645	\$ 2,500	\$ 6,145
IS 350 RWD	Sedan	15	Obsidian	Black	\$ 49,025	\$ 45,565	\$ 3,460	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,460
ES 350 FWD	Sedan	15	Obsidian	Black	\$ 45,010	\$ 41,715	\$ 3,295	\$ 1,800	\$ 5,095
ES 300H FWD	Sedan	15	Nebula Gray Pearl	Black	\$ 47,600	\$ 44,075	\$ 3,525	\$ 2,300	\$ 5,825
ES 350 FWD	Sedan	15	Nebula Gray Pearl	Black	\$ 45,010	\$ 41,715	\$ 3,295	\$ 1,800	\$ 5,095
ES 350 FWD	Sedan	15	Starfire Pearl	Black	\$ 45,630	\$ 42,335	\$ 3,295	\$ 2,200	\$ 5,495
GS 350 RWD	Sedan	15	Atomic Silver	Black (Walnut)	\$ 52,365	\$ 48,220	\$ 4,145	\$ 2,800	\$ 6,945
GS 350 RWD	Sedan	15	Riviera Red	F-Sport Black (Alu)	\$ 59,430	\$ 55,285	\$ 4,145	\$ 3,300	\$ 7,445
GS 350 RWD	Sedan	15	Liquid Platinum	Black (Walnut)	\$ 61,480	\$ 57,335	\$ 4,145	\$ 3,800	\$ 7,945
GS 450H RWD	Sedan	15	Deep Sea Mica	Light Gray (Bamboo)	\$ 67,665	\$ 62,490	\$ 5,175	\$ 4,500	\$ 9,675
RX 350 AWD	SUV	15	Nebula Gray Pearl	Saddle Tan	\$ 50,890	\$ 47,225	\$ 3,665	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,665
RX 350 AWD	SUV	15	Starfire Pearl	Parchment	\$ 50,890	\$ 47,225	\$ 3,665	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,665
RX 350 AWD	SUV	15	Silver Lining Met.	Light Gray	\$ 50,890	\$ 47,225	\$ 3,665	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,665
RX 450H AWD	SUV	15	Silver Lining Met.	Black	\$ 58,210	\$ 53,995	\$ 4,215	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,215

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Stuttgart's Frühlingsfest celebrates spring



The annual Stuttgarter Frühlingsfest, or spring festival, typically runs from mid April through the second week of May at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Bad Cannstatt. The festival offers various rides such as wild water rafting, bumper cars, carousels, haunted houses, a Ferris wheel and roller coaster, as well as pony rides and merry-go-rounds for children. – © Stuttgart-Marketing GmbH

By Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

The annual Stuttgarter Frühlingsfest, or spring festival, typically runs from mid April through the second week of May at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Bad Cannstatt.

The festival, one of the largest

spring fests in Europe, offers various rides such as wild water rafting, bumper cars, carousels, haunted houses, a Ferris wheel and roller coaster, as well as pony rides and merry-go-rounds for children.

Besides the rides, the Frühlingsfest features food ranging from hearty Swabian meals to Asian, Italian and

Greek cuisine, along with festival goodies such as cotton candy and chocolate-covered fruit.

Three beer tents — "Göckelmaier," "Grandl's Hofbräu Zelt" and "Zum Wasenwirt" — will offer grilled chicken or "Göckele," freshly brewed fest beer and live bands that entertain the crowds with "Volksmusik,"

or German folk music, party, country and rock tunes.

Each fest tent also has a beer garden where visitors can enjoy food and drinks in the sun.

A reconstruction of a typical Bavarian-Austrian Alp village, the "Almhüttendorf," is set up in the middle of the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds.

It is considered one of the festival's main attractions. Here, visitors can find rustic booths offering "Schweinshaxe" (hambone) or a "Jause," a snack consisting of bread, cold cuts, radishes and cottage cheese. This type of snack is normally served in huts throughout Bavaria and Austria, while people take breaks during hiking trips.

Since the Frühlingsfest is a family-oriented event, special family days are also offered on Wednesdays. Families are invited to enjoy a day at the fest with special offers and discounted prices.

For a quiet shopping experience at the Frühlingsfest, patrons can stroll along the variety market that offers jewelry, leather wear and clothing, as well as fine herbs, spices and tea.

For more information on the Stuttgart Frühlingsfest, visit www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de.

Enjoy summer in Stuttgart's 'bean quarter'

Story by Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Stuttgart takes great pride in its annual fests and cultural outings. Locals and visitors alike find themselves confronted with endless opportunities for outdoor fests and "must do" happenings, especially during the summer months.

Almost every fest celebrates a historic event, anecdote or tradition, as does the "Bohnenviertelfest," or bean quarter fest, that will be held July 24-26 in downtown Stuttgart.

The bean quarter was founded in the 15th century and was one of Stuttgart's first housing areas to be built outside the city fortification. The quarter was mainly occupied by the city's poorer residents, such as craftsmen and vintners, who worked there as well.

The name "Bohnenviertel," or bean quarter, originates in the fact that most of its residents grew pole beans and vegetables in their gardens to feed their families. For years, the residents



Visitors enjoy food, drinks and company during last year's "Bohnenviertelfest" at Stuttgart's historic bean quarter. The timbered building in the background is the "Schellenturm," or "handcuff tower," that was built in 1564 as part of the city fortification. The Schellenturm received its name from the "Schellenwerkern," prisoners who had to fulfill their public service and wore leg irons to prevent them from escaping. Today, the Schellenturm houses a Swabian wine restaurant. – *Photo courtesy of HGV Bohnenviertel*

knotted beans on strings so that they grew like garlands around the housing facades.

When Württemberg's crown prince Karl was born in 1823, residents of the

Bohnenviertel announced: "Erbse, Bohne, Linse: Hurra, mer hent en Prinze!" which translates to: Peas, beans, lentils — hurrah, we have a prince!"

In the 19th century, vendors, craftsmen and day laborers settled in the quarter. Flower, vegetable, jewelry, antique shops and restaurants opened, setting the ground for the neighborhood's eclectic atmosphere.

The Bohnenviertel even played a part in the development of the automobile. According to Monika Kurfess of the "Handels-und Gewerbeverein Bohnenviertel," a business association of all vendors in the quarter, the "body" for the first automobile came from the Bohnenviertel. While it's common knowledge that Gottlieb Daimler invented and built the first gas engine in Bad Cannstatt, in 1886, the bean quarter's Wilhelm Wimpff factory supplied him with a horse carriage that he later converted into the first four-wheeled automobile.

Here are some other fests held in Stuttgart during summer:

Hamburger "Fischmarkt" Fish Market: 10-day fest in mid July (Karlsplatz Square)

Lichterfest: One-day event in mid July (Hohenpark Killesberg)

Henkersfest: Four-day event mid/end of July (Wilhelmsplatz Square)

Sommerfest: First weekend or second weekend in August (starting Thursdays). The fest spans from Schlossplatz and the Neues Schloss to the State Opera.

Weindorf" wine fest: 12-day fest end of August through first week in September. The fest spans from Marktplatz Square to Kirchstrasse and the Schillerplatz Square.

'Cannstatter Volksfest' festival



The annual "Cannstatter Volksfest" festival is the larger version of the Frühlingsfest spring festival. Typically, the fest runs from end of September through the second week of October at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Bad Cannstatt. The Cannstatter Volksfest is the second largest Volksfest in the world and offers eight fest tents and the "Almhüttendorf," a reconstruction of a typical Bavarian-Austrian alpine village. Visitors can enjoy grilled chicken, live bands, rides, as well as a variety market, and family days with discounted prices. For more information, visit www.cannstatter-volksfest.de. — Photo in Stuttgart/Thomas Niedermüller

Oktoberfest: The world's largest festival

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwöhr Public Affairs Office

Munich's Oktoberfest: It's the world's biggest festival; the quintessential experience where German stereotypes dance to the beat of live bands, and it's just two and a half hours by train or by car from Stuttgart.

This year marks the 182nd Oktoberfest celebration, Sept. 19 to Oct. 4, and like every year, it is shaping up to be a two-week, non-stop celebration.

Women don snug dirndl while lederhosen-clad men walk proudly through the streets, a checkered shirt hiding their inevitable beer bellies.

The 42-acre Theresienwiese, the location of the famed festival, houses 14 large tents and more than 20 smaller ones. Each beckons visitors inside where rows of revelry park on stadium-sized wooden benches.

In order to get a seat in a tent, buy tickets in advance. Visitors can enter the tents without reservations but will not be served unless they have a seat. Those who are pushy or patient, or arrive early (before 11 a.m. is advised), can usually find one somewhere.

All tents (big and small) are packed to the hilt, so you may find yourself rubbing more than elbows with fellow tourists and locals, but

that's part of the Oktoberfest charm.

Tents can hold hundreds to thousands of festival goers, the largest (and oldest) being the 10,000-seat Schottenhamel, known to many as the "party tent." The Hippodrom tent is a colorful, hip attraction where local celebrities sip on libations, while the Hofbrauhaus tent is as popular as the beer hall of the same name — a favorite among American visitors.

Another crowd pleaser, the Augustiner beer tent, offers a more relaxed atmosphere that is great for families. Not surprisingly, each tent keeps tens of thousands of liters of

beer at the ready and most (if not all) are cash only.

While the party is self-contained in the tents, outside, visitors can roam fairgrounds for rides, roller coasters and carnival games. Parents with small children can best enjoy these games on Tuesdays, coined "family day," with special discounts.

Getting to Oktoberfest

The train is probably the most worry-free option for getting to Oktoberfest. Various options are available at www.db.de and most take about 2 hours and 20 minutes from

the Stuttgart main train station. Those who don't plan on staying overnight should be sure to check ahead of time for the last train running nightly from Munich to Stuttgart, including local connections if needed. For more information on using Germany's public transit system, see the related article on page 32.

For those who would prefer to drive, Munich offers several park-and-ride options in the surrounding area. Drivers can park just outside the city and commute via U-bahn.

— See FALL, Page 23



With multiple huge fest tents and a wide variety of activities, drink and food available, Oktoberfest sprawls throughout downtown Munich and the party goes well into the night. This year, the world's largest fest is scheduled for Sept. 19 to Oct. 4. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com



WEINACHTSMARKT LUDWIGSBURG: The many Christmas markets (Weihnachtsmärkte) throughout Germany, and especially in Stuttgart, offer a winter wonderland of handcrafted goods, specialty seasonal treats and other goods and entertainment to bring warmth to the cold winter months.

Winter – Enjoy local, cherished holiday traditions in Germany

By Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

In Germany, Christmas casts a magical spell on cold and dark winter days. It's a time to celebrate long-standing family traditions, regional customs and values.

During their everyday routine,

Germans pause and sit back to enjoy Christmas cookies, meet with family and friends at home or go to the many local Christmas markets for a mug of hot Glühwein (mulled wine) and Christmas punch.

The holiday season in Germany officially begins with Advent. Historically, Advent is the season in

which Christians await the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

One Advent tradition in Germany is the Advent wreath. The wreath is typically made out of fir tree branches and decorated with dried fruits, pine cones and glittering Christmas ornaments. Four candles represent the light brought into the world by Jesus

Christ. A candle is lit each Sunday until Christmas Eve.

Most people in Germany also begin to bake Christmas cookies during the Advent season.

During the 20th century, the Advent calendar was introduced in

— See WINTER, Page 9

Street parades, celebrations mark Germany's 'fifth' season

By Teri Weiss & Carola Meusel

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

There are five seasons in Germany: spring, summer, fall, winter and Fasching, the latter is known as the most cheerful time of the year.

In Germany, the terms vary regionally: **Fasching**, **Fastnacht**, **Fasnet**, or **Karneval** and are derived from different sources.

The term **Fasching** dates back to 1200 and originated from the Germanic word "vaschanc" or "vaschang," meaning "Fastenschank," which translates to the last serving of alcoholic beverages before Lent.

Fastnacht translates to "Nacht vor dem Fasten," or the night before fasting. The Swabian word "Fasnet" comes from the Old German word "fasen," meaning to be foolish, silly or wild.

The origin of the word **Karneval**, or carnival, is uncertain. Some believe that it may have come from ancient Greek Dionysus processions and floats resembling ships, which the Romans later called a "carrus navalis." Others

think it may be based on the Latin term "carne levare," which means away with meat, hence carnival.

No matter what you call it, for most Germans it's a time when citizens "let off steam" and live it up during the week before Ash Wednesday, when the 40-day Lent before Easter begins.

Typically, Fasching is celebrated with fests, parades, music and many "foolish" events.

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.

During the middle ages, the number 11 represented the "Narrenzahl," or fool's number. Why 11? The number is sandwiched between the 10 biblical commandments and the 12 apostles of Jesus

and, therefore, is not a holy number, according to an official of the "Gräbler" Fasching guild in Neuhausen.

The Swabian way of celebrating the foolish season delves into the local lore of the Alemannic Fasnet, which has its roots

in the Black Forest region. Here, the main events and parades peak during the traditional Fasching week, starting on "Schmotziger Donnerstag" (Greasy Thursday) or "Weiberfasching," women's carnival. The Swabian word "schmotzig" means lard or grease and refers to the opulent food eaten during Fasching, such as "Fasnetsküchle" or Krapfen (Fasching doughnuts).

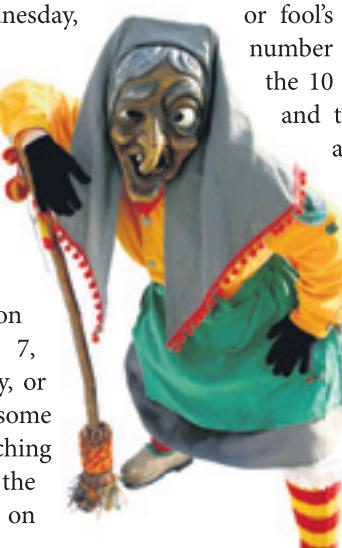
The remainder of the Fasching week is Fasching Saturday and Sunday, Rose Monday and Fat Tuesday.

During the evening of Fat Tuesday, the "Fastnacht," represented as a witch in southern Germany, is buried in a casket and the wild days end at midnight.

In Stuttgart, Bad Cannstatt's "Kübelesmarkt" Fasching association kicks off the area's first Fasching events on Greasy Thursday, or women's carnival, by setting up the "Narrenbaum," or fool's pole, at the Marktplatz, followed by a parade throughout the downtown area.

Neuhausen, just 15 kilometers

During the various Fasching parades and events throughout Southern Germany, be on the lookout for Narren, or Fasching fools, also dressed as witches, who might ruffle your hair, paint your face, take away a hair band, or drop you a piece of candy. — Photo by Carola Meusel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office.



— See FIFTH SEASON, Page 9

WINTER

Continued from Page 8

Germany to help count down the days before Christmas Eve ("Heilig Abend," or holy evening). The typical Advent calendar is made out of paper and has 24 doors, one to open each day from Dec. 1-24. Children will find holiday season-inspired images or chocolate behind the paper doors. Some calendars also have boxes or small bags filled with presents to open each day.

Dec. 6 marks the birthday of Nikolaus, Bishop of Myra (known today as Turkey), and is celebrated in Germany as St. Nikolaus' Day. Legend has it that on his birthday, Nikolaus would don his precious bishop's coat, fill a big sack with nuts, apples, tangerines and honey cake, and load it on the back of his donkey. He then picked up his staff and walked along the streets, giving away the food to those he met.

Today, children place their boots outside their

doors on the night of Dec. 5 in hopes that St. Nikolaus will leave some goodies in their shoes. Early on Dec. 6, most children find their boots filled with candy, gingerbread, toys, tangerines and nuts. In other cases, St. Nikolaus visits children during the day in kindergartens and schools, or makes a grand entrance during the evening hours at home.

He is often accompanied by his helper, Knecht (servant) Ruprecht. Knecht Ruprecht carries all the presents for the children in a big sack on his back and has a birch switch hanging from his belt for those children who misbehaved during the year. While St. Nikolaus typically has a long white beard and wears a red coat with a red hat, Knecht Ruprecht wears a brown or black coat and has a long gray beard.

In Germany, Christmas Eve is celebrated with close

family. Traditionally, the gift exchange takes place in the afternoon, followed by a festive meal. The choice of meal varies from goose with red cabbage, dumplings or potatoes, to fish, or, typical for Swabia, Saitenwürstle (sausages) with potato salad.

Many people in Germany visit extended family and friends on Dec. 25 and 26, also called the first and second Christmas days.

The exchanging of gifts takes place under the festively decorated Christmas tree. Mainly fir trees or silver spruces are used as Christmas trees and are typically put up during the Advent season or a few days prior to Christmas Eve. Germans typically take their Christmas trees down by Epiphany on Jan. 6.

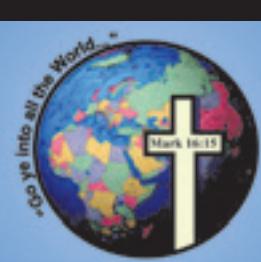
In the words so many Germans will be saying to each other this month: "Fröhliche Weihnachten" (Merry Christmas)!

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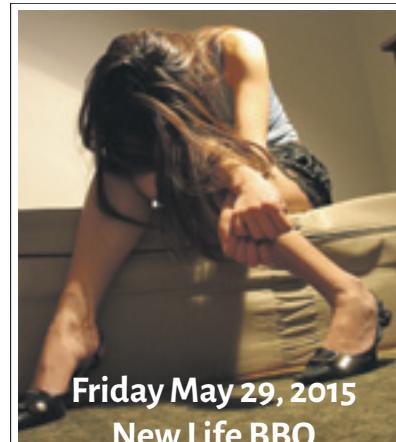
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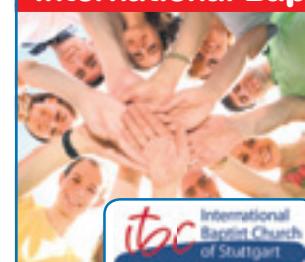
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Sources:

www.aboutgerman.net
www.alemannische-fasnet.de
www.scillamaennle.de



TOP LEFT: 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).

TOP RIGHT: A wide variety of home styles are available off base, from timber-based historical homes as seen in this picture, to modern style bungalows and everything in between.

LEFT: German countryside neighborhoods often feature more spacious homes with larger yards. Those looking for these neighborhoods, which more closely resemble modern American suburbs, may have to be prepared to drive a little distance outside of the larger cities and towns in the Stuttgart area.

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 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.

Housing consists of roughly 1,300 on-base housing units and a varied, if somewhat pricey, off-base housing market.

Approximately 30 percent of the Stuttgart Military community lives in on-base housing, with the remaining 70 percent residing on the economy. From a simple, but modern, worry-free apartment on-base, to a historic farmhouse, families can find a wide variety of accommodations for their stay here in Stuttgart.

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

In-home amenities 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 offer fitness centers, a club for social events, elementary, middle and high schools, and libraries within walking distance. See additional articles for more information on other facilities and services throughout the Stuttgart housing areas. For hours and locations of facilities and services, see pages 24-25.

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 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, those areas closer to Stuttgart are higher in rent, and those more out in the countryside tend to be lower in rent, and larger in size.

Finding your home away from home for the next few years is not a simple process, but should not be too daunting once you know how it works.

www.homes.mil is 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 realtor fee free, according to the USAG Stuttgart housing services office.

Searching for real estate to rent in Stuttgart can be an exciting endeavor with a little planning.

There are many home types in 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 generally less expensive and

are easier to find.

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. If not, the cost of additional rent is out of pocket. Financial overseas housing entitlements are listed on the Department of Defense overseas allowance calculator webpage at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/ohaCalc.cfm>.

Prior to arrival, visit www.homes.mil to become acquainted with the rental home types and sizes in Stuttgart. This will help to determine the amount of furniture to ship and leave in storage.

Housing referral services

The housing referral office offers home-finding services to service members who are eligible to live off-post. However, for U.S. government civilians, services are limited and there are no housing referral services for contractors.

Aspen Consulting is the housing referral contractor. The office manages the homes.mil listings and provides up to three escorted home tours, home



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



Built-in closets are rare in German houses and apartments, but are a feature of most USAG Stuttgart family housing units.

inspections, and individual counseling to discuss rental units found on homes.mil. This service is available to uniformed service members and DOD Civilians.

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 the kitchen cabinets, appliances, or light fixtures.

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 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 uniform member. This brief is mandatory for uniformed members and optional for U.S. government civilians.

At the housing brief, civilian sponsors will receive an Aspen customer routing form, and unit detail request form. After 24 hours, Aspen will return the landlord details by email.

For the initial request, the routing and detail request forms are emailed to Aspen. 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 Usarmy.stuttgart.usag.list.dpw-housing-email@mail.mil to the attention of Aspen 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," said Stefanie Dommer, USAG Stuttgart housing counselor.

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 Web site and select the Housing Services Office at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

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Stuttgart American schools



By Greg Jones
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Stuttgart community schools — three elementary, one middle and one high school — are part of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Bavaria District. Elementary schools are located on Panzer Kaserne and Robinson Barracks, the middle school at Patch Barracks, and the high school at Panzer Kaserne.

Each elementary school serves a given geographic area, while the middle and high schools serve the entire community.

The schools offer a variety of programs. The curriculums are the standard Department of Defense Education Activity

curriculums that are comparable to schools throughout the U.S. Stuttgart community schools are accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

For curriculum information, electives, extracurricular activities and other school-specific information, check the articles on Pages 13 to 15.

For families residing off base, bus services are offered in local communities throughout the six counties of the Stuttgart metropolitan area. The school information that follows includes lists of the towns and cities served by each school to help families identify which schools their

children will attend. For information on bus schedules and pick-up sites, visit or call the schools directly.

All of the Stuttgart schools offer school meal programs, including free and reduced meals. The program is run by the Exchange. Parents can set up an account, pay for and monitor the use of their children's school meal accounts at www.shopmyexchange.com/community/schoollunch. Information on applying for free and reduced meals can be obtained directly from the schools.

The 2015-2016 school year will begin Aug. 31 and end June 16, 2016, with a two week winter break from

Dec. 21 to Jan. 1, 2016, and a one week spring break from April 11-17, 2016.

School registration is available for incoming families at any time, but scheduled registration periods and pre-registration can make the process go faster. Parents should contact the school serving their area for registration information. Most schools also offer newcomer orientations approximately a week before the start of classes, so parents are encouraged to contact the schools and start the registration process early.



A new, state-of-the-art school complex is set to house both Stuttgart High and Stuttgart Elementary schools starting with the 2015-2016 school year. — Illustration by Team G.A.U.S. Planungsgesellschaft GmbH

Stuttgart Elementary School

USAG Stuttgart Schools 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.

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.

Shortly after World War II, the school opened in a former German army barracks. Originally an elementary school, it had, at its peak, about a thousand students. The school was modernized in 1987. With the transformation of

Europe since the end of the Cold War, the population of Böblingen Elementary fluctuated greatly, serving a student population of as few as 170 students.

Böblingen Elementary / Middle School was re-accredited through AdvancED in 2012, and won the Blue Ribbon School Award in 2012.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401, APO, AE 09107

Telephone:

DSN 431-2715 Civ. 7031-15-2715
(These numbers may change, be sure to

check current telephone directories)

Principal: Sonja Rodriguez

Assistant Principal:

Dr. Thomas Thomson

Cities/towns served by this school

Aich (Aichtal)
Aichtal
Aidlingen
Altdorf (Kreis BB)
Böblingen
Breitenstein (Weil/Schönbuch)
Dagersheim (Böblingen)
Darmsheim (Sindelfingen)
Dätzingen (Grafenau)
Dettenhausen
Deufringen (Aidlingen)
Diezenhalde (Böblingen)

Döffingen (Grafenau)
Ehningen
Eichholz (Sindelfingen)
Galgenberg (Böblingen)
Gärtringen
Glashütte (Waldenbuch)
Goldberg (Sindelfingen)
Grafenau
Grötzingen (Aichtal)
Hasenhof (Waldenbuch)
Häslach (Walddorfhäslach)
Herrenberg
Hildrizhausen
Hinterweil (Sindelfingen)
Holzgerlingen

Hulb (Böblingen)
Kalkofen (Waldenbuch)
Kapellenberg (Grafenau)
Liebenau (Waldenbuch)
Neuenhaus (Aichtal)
Neuweiler (Weil/Schönbuch)
Magstadt
Maichingen (Sindelfingen)
Malmsheim (Renningen)
Merklingen (Weil der Stadt)
Nufringen
Panzer Housing (Böblingen)
Ramtel (Leonberg)
Rauher Kapf (Böblingen)
Renningen

Rohrau (Gärtringen)
Rudolfshöhe (Aichtal)
Schafshausen (Weil der Stadt)
Schaichhof (Weil/Schönbuch)
Schönaich
Sindelfingen
Steinenbronn
Tannenberg (Böblingen)
Waldburg (Böblingen)
Walddorf (Walddorfhäslach)
Walddorfhäslach
Waldenbuch
Weil der Stadt
Weil im Schönbuch

Stuttgart High School

By USAG Stuttgart Schools Liaison Office

Located at the newly constructed Panzer school complex adjacent to Panzer Kaserne, Stuttgart High School will serve a student population of about 745 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. The high school's new facility is part of a two-school complex which is set to also house Stuttgart Elementary School starting with the 2015-2016 school year.

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. The Patch wrestling team has won five of the past six European Championships, and five members of the team wrestled at the national high school tournament this school year. The

rifle team finished in the nation's top four in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401, APO, AE 09107

Telephone:

At time of publication the school's telephone number has not been registered.

Website:

www.stut-hs.eu.dodea.edu

Principal:

Danny Robinson

Assistant Principals:

Dr. Marshall Blankenship
Tessa Moss-Beaman

Patch Elementary School

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Temporarily located in Building 2918 on Panzer Kaserne (previously Böblingen Elementary/Middle School), Patch Elementary School serves a student population of about 650 students with 85 teachers and administrators. The school is set to return to its previous location on Patch Barracks once a renovation 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 2014-2015 school year, Patch offered Running, Yearbook, Art and Robotics Clubs, as well as Yoga, Chorus, Just Dance and Student Council.

Patch Elementary School was built in 1979 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.



Building 2918 on Panzer Kaserne, which previously served as Böblingen Elementary/Middle School, will temporarily house Patch Elementary School while the facility on Patch Barracks undergoes renovations.

Patch Middle School

By USAG Stuttgart Schools Liaison Office

Located at Montana Street 1 on Patch Barracks, Patch Middle School is scheduled to open for the first time this upcoming school year in what previously served as the high school. Unlike in previous school years, this will be the only middle school serving the entire Stuttgart area.

The school offers a variety of courses under the Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum for grades six to eight.

Although extracurricular activities vary from year to year, in the 2014-2015 year the middle schools offered drama, art, yearbook, video, music, and science clubs, as well as space camp and intramurals.

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

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401 APO, AE 09107

Telephone: At time of publication the school's telephone number has not been registered.

Website: Patch Middle School currently has a transition website <http://patchmstransition.bdso.eportalnow.net>

Principal: Rick Renninger

Assistant Principal: Mynda Massey

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

Telephone:

DSN 430-5200

Civ. 0711-680-5200

(These numbers may change, be sure to check current telephone directories)

Website:

www.patch-es.eu.dodea.edu

Principal: Beverly Erdmann

Assistant Principal: Sheree Foster

Cities/towns served by this school

Elementary:

Bernhausen (Filderstadt)

Bonlanden (Filderstadt)

Botnang (Stuttgart)

Büsau (Stuttgart)

Dürrlewang (Stuttgart)

Echterdingen (L.E.)

Eltingen (Leonberg)

Fasanenhof (Stuttgart)

Filderstadt

Forchenrain (Gerlingen)

Gartenstadt (Leonberg)

Gerlingen

Harthausen (Filderstadt)

Höfingen (Leonberg)

Kaltental (Stuttgart)

Leinfelden (L.E.)

Leinfelden-Echterdingen Leonberg

Möhringen (Stuttgart)

Musberg (L.E.)

Neuhäusen a.d. Fildern

Oberaichen (L.E.) Patch Barracks (Stuttgart)

Plattenhardt (Filderstadt)

Rohr (Stuttgart)

Schillerhöhe (Gerlingen)

Sielmingen (Filderstadt)

Sonnenberg (Stuttgart)

Stetten (L.E.)

Unteraichen (L.E.)

Vaihingen (Stuttgart)

Warmbronn (Leonberg)

Wolfschlugen



The building that previously housed Patch High School will serve as the home for Patch Middle School.



After years as a combined elementary and middle school, Robinson Barracks Elementary will go back to being a K-5 school. — *Photos by USAG Stuttgart*

Robinson Barracks Elementary School

By USAG Stuttgart Schools Liaison Office

Robinson Barracks Elementary School, in Building 148 on Robinson Barracks, services a student population of about 320 in kindergarten to fifth grade.

The school offers the standard

Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum for the grades listed and also hosts extracurricular activities.

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 upcoming 2015-2016 school year, when it will return to being only an elementary school.

Cities and villages served by this school

Aldingen (Remseck/Neckar)
Asemwald (Stuttgart)
Asperg
Bad Cannstatt (Stuttgart)
Beiingen (Freiberg/Neckar)
Bergheim (Stuttgart)
Birkach (Stuttgart)
Burgholzhof (Stuttgart)
Degerloch (Stuttgart)
Denkendorf
Ditzingen
Eglosheim (Ludwigsburg)
Fellbach
Feuerbach (Stuttgart)
Frauenkopf (Stuttgart)
Freiberg (Stgt)
Freiberg am Neckar
Gahlenberg (Stuttgart)
Gaisburg (Stuttgart)
Gehenbühl (Gerlingen)
Geisingen (Freiberg/Neckar)
Giebel (Stuttgart)
Grenadier Housing (Stgt)

Grünbühl (Ludwigsburg)
Hallschlag (Stuttgart)
Hausen (Stuttgart)
Hedelfingen (Stuttgart)
Hegnach (Waiblingen)
Heslach (Stuttgart)
Heumaden (Stuttgart)
Heutingsheim (Freiberg/Neckar)
Hirschländen (Ditzingen)
Hofen (Stuttgart)
Hoffeld (Stuttgart)
Hoheneck (Ludwigsburg)
Hohenheim (Stuttgart)
Hohenstange (Tamm)
Kallenbergs (Korntal-M.)
Kelley Barracks (Stuttgart)
Kemnat (Ostfildern)
Killesberg (Stuttgart)
Korntal (Korntal-Münchingen)
Korntal-Münchingen
Kornwestheim
Lederberg (Stuttgart)
Ludwigsburg
Luginsland (Stuttgart)
Markgröningen
Mitte (Stuttgart)

Möglingen
Mönchfeld (Stgt)
Mühlhausen (Stgt)
Münchingen (Korntal-M.)
Münster (Stgt) Neckargröningen
(Remseck/N)
Neckarrems (Remseck/Neckar)
Nellingen (Ostfildern)
Neugereut (Stuttgart)
Neuwirtshaus (Stuttgart)
Nord (Stuttgart)
Obertürkheim (Stuttgart)
Oeffingen (Fellbach)
Ossweil (Ludwigsburg)
Ost (Stuttgart)
Ostfildern
Parksiedlung (Ostfildern)
Pattonville (Remseck/Neckar)
Pflugfelden (Ludwigsburg)
Plieningen (Stuttgart)
Remseck/Neckar
Riedenberg (Stuttgart)
Robinson Barracks (Stgt)
Rohracker (Stuttgart)
Rommelshausen (Kernen i.R.)
Rot (Stuttgart)

Rotenberg (Stuttgart)
Ruit (Ostfildern)
Scharnhausen (Ostfildern)
Schmidens (Fellbach)
Schönberg (Stuttgart)
Schwieberdingen
Sillenbuch (Stuttgart)
Sommerrain (Stuttgart)
Stammheim(Stgt)
Steckfeld (Stuttgart)
Steinhaldenfeld (Stuttgart)
Süd (Stuttgart)
Tamm
Uhlbach (Stuttgart)
Untertürkheim (Stuttgart)
Waiblingen
Wangen (Stuttgart)
Weilimdorf (Stuttgart)
West (Stuttgart)
Wolfbusch (Stuttgart) Zazenhausen(Stgt)
Zuffenhausen (Stuttgart)

The German shopping experience



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 Thinkstockphotos.com

By Greg Jones

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 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.

Status of Forces Agreement and legal status

Stuttgart Law Center

Germans living in Germany live here as citizens. Americans having nothing to do with the military or the U.S. government may live here as legal residents. Americans or other foreigners travelling short term in Germany, on vacation or business, are considered tourists.

However, personnel on orders from the military (whether civilian, service members or family members) fall into an entirely separate category from those listed above. Most of those in the overseas military community fall under the Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA.

Understanding some basic differences in law between the U.S. and Germany, and understanding how the SOFA affects individuals will make for a more enjoyable tour in Germany and may help to avoid unpleasant and often costly mistakes.

German law applies to all

First and foremost, it is important to understand that German law applies to U.S. personnel both on and off base. While there are many similarities between German and U.S. law, there are also many differences. Just because something is either legal or illegal in the U.S. does not mean the same rule applies in Germany. For example, physical punishment of children, such as spanking or paddling, is prohibited under German criminal law. Also, German civil law can differ quite a bit from what most may be familiar with in the U.S. Keep this distinction in mind and respect host nation laws.

NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

The NATO Status of Forces Agreement provides the basis for the legal status of personnel living in Europe on military orders. Based on an additional supplementary agreement, personnel in Germany also enjoy privileges which others stationed elsewhere in Europe may not. These agreements affect status, entry, and departure from a host nation, military training within host nation territory, jurisdiction, law enforcement, taxation, telecommunication, customs, residence, driving, employment, mail, schooling, housing and much more.



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

The SOFA directly affects a few elements of daily life, such as taxation. Under the SOFA, there is a considerable amount of tax relief on fuel purchases, retail purchases and utilities. Read more about these benefits in the article on page 19.

Further, those under the SOFA cannot, even for short periods, drive on their stateside license in Germany. They must go through the process of getting a U.S. Army in Europe license. See the related article on page 30.

For more information, directly view the SOFA and the Supplemental Agreement at <https://aepubs.army.mil/ae/public/references.asp>.

Contracts

Contracts are also handled differently in Germany than in the U.S. Read contracts before signing them. Too often, Americans sign German documents without properly reviewing them. Have a German-speaking friend or the unofficial translator at Army Community Service read over documents. Specifically, contracts for services in Germany can differ from similar contracts in the U.S. in that they automatically renew. A two-year

cell phone contract could turn into a three- or four-year contract. For common necessities like cable Internet contracts, customers may also proactively terminate service a year or two in advance. That way, the contract will not automatically renew. It is good practice to send in a termination notice a month after receiving service under a contract. By doing so, it sets the termination date for a point in the future when the service will no longer be needed or when the minimum service time has been met. Keep a copy of termination notices and the company's response. Army Community Service's unofficial translation service can help with proactively terminating such services.

Renting off-post quarters

For those who reside off-post, 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 professional. Note each and every issue upon moving in. Do not rely on anyone else to do it. It is important to note any and

all deficiencies, no matter how trivial, at check-in. Anything not noted by the renter at check-in may be attributed to the renter when time comes to check out. Although many landlords can be very friendly, it is critical to remember that renting property is a business contract. 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.

Be careful when dealing with realtors. While realtors technically work for the potential renter seeking a property, they often practically work against the renter. Landlords often have more than one rental property and if their tenants are Americans, new tenants rotate through their properties every three years. This reality means realtors often take sides with the landlords during landlord-tenant disputes. Additionally, realtors typically charge up to two months' rent for simply finding a property. In almost all cases, personnel will not be reimbursed for this hefty realtor fee. Check with the housing office before contacting a realtor.

— See **LEGAL, Page 23**



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Tax relief under the Status of Forces Agreement

USAG Stuttgart VAT/UTAP Office

Tax Relief for personnel under the Status of Forces Agreement

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 18) 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 the Value Added Tax. The 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 actually 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 forms available at the Stuttgart VAT and UTAP office located on Panzer Kaserne Building 2915.

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 (\$5.00 per NF1 VAT form). 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



Germany's Value Added Tax is 19 percent on most retail goods, and this can add up to a significant sum of money during a tour in Germany. Using VAT forms and the Utility Tax Avoidance Program can save you a lot of money. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

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 and the pink copy should be retained for the customer's records. Retailers are not required to accept the form, or offer tax relief, but many do. Typically retailers near to military installations are more familiar with the forms, while those farther away from a U.S. military population are not as familiar with it. For retailers who have not used the form before, the VAT office offers an information sheet written in German that explains the retailer's use of the form. These forms can be purchased at the VAT office, 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.

The 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, internet contracts; however, there is a program for relief of certain taxes related to utilities that will be discussed later in this article. Finally, VAT forms are not to be used to provide tax relief to personnel not entitled 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 (\$65.00 for a NF2 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 allowance, 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 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 the amount between two 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 in conjunction with tax relief, regardless of who buys the items or services offered.
- 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

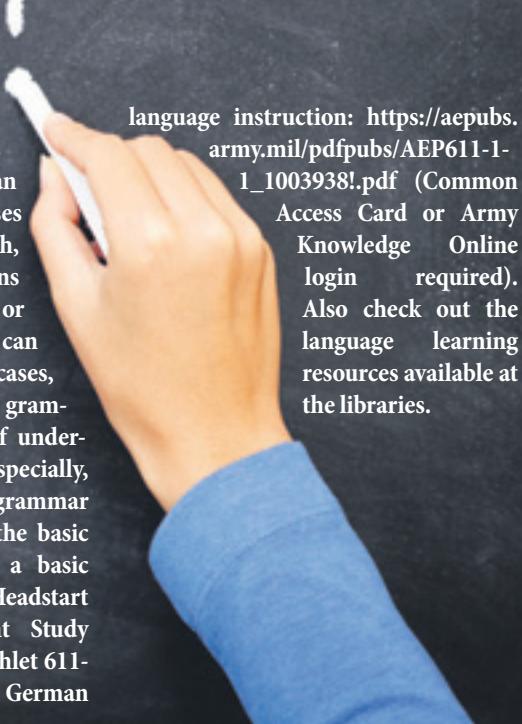
commercial purposes. This activity is considered "trading in the commercial sector" and is illegal in conjunction with tax relief, regardless of who buys the items or services offered.

- 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 construction, renovation, or home repair costing €2,500 or more without

IMCOM-Europe 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).

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 suffixes. 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_10039381.pdf (Common Access Card or Army Knowledge Online login required). Also check out the language learning resources available at the libraries.

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.....DreiBig.....Thirty

40.....Vierzig.....Forty

50.....Fünfzig.....Fifty

60.....Sechzig.....Sixty

70.....Siebzig.....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
(used to get someone's attention and engage in conversation)	
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 or Tschüss
Today	Heute
Tomorrow	Morgen
Yesterday	Gestern
Now	Jetzt
Late	Spät
Early	Früh
More	Mehr



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

By Greg Jones
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 Shutterstock.com

Pet ownership in Germany

By Capt. Joseph Anderson
Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility

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, located on Panzer Kaserne, offers space-available routine annual exams, vaccinations and sick call appointments.

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



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 Greg Jones, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

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 animal businesses 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 fare.

However, there are some laws 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 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 see 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 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.

For additional questions, contact the Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility at 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-2681. The VTF is located in Building 2996, next to the dental clinic, on Panzer Kaserne.

SUMMER

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According to the "Geschichte des Bohnenviertels," or history of the bean quarter information paper, people who lived in the bean quarter were described by fellow Stuttgart residents as "unique" and "eccentric."

Today, the quarter, which is the only originally preserved part of Stuttgart's historic downtown area, still sticks to this motto and features small, unique stores, arts and crafts, restaurants, bars and coffee shops.

Visitors to the bean quarter will find furniture, interior decorations, antiques, jewelry, books, galleries, arts and crafts, as well as traditional Swabian wine restaurants, Italian, Greek, Russian

and Asian cuisine and specialty stores.

The tradition of the Bohnenviertelfest dates back to 1991, when local merchants decided to form a business association to reestablish the quarter's historic heritage. Ever since, on the last weekend in July, patrons crowd the streets and alleys of the Bohnenviertel for the annual outing. During the street festival, visitors have the chance to tour and explore the bean quarter's cobblestoned streets, hidden alleys and timbered houses. Patrons can also stroll through the shops and even take a glimpse into a studio or production hall of an interior designer.

Most stores are open all evening throughout the three days of the event. Regional bands and musicians will entertain the crowds with rock, pop, jazz, funk and soul, and folk tunes.

A children's program with arts and crafts and face painting is offered, as well.

Visitors can also indulge in Swabian, African, Greek, Italian, Croatian and Asian foods, as well as local wines, summer cocktails, chocolate-covered fruits and homemade cakes. "Visitors to the bean quarter are invited to simply enjoy their time at the fest.

The fest will run July 24 and 25

from 6 p.m. until midnight, and on July 26 from 3 p.m. until midnight. The bean quarter is located between the "Charlottenplatz" and "Leonhardsplatz" squares.

For more information, visit www.das-bohnenviertelfest.net or www.bohnenviertel-stuttgart.de.

Sources:

"Geschichte Bohnenviertel und Pfarrstrasse;" <http://www.dreimohren-stuttgart.de/html/bohnenviertel.html>; „Bohnen-Tour (3) Geschichte des Bohnenviertels;content.stuttgarter-nachrichten.de/stn/page/21936_0_9223-geschichte-bohnen-tour-3-.html.

LEGAL

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Traffic laws

Speed cameras are much more common in Stuttgart and throughout Germany than they are in the U.S. Unfortunately there is nothing the Stuttgart Law Center can do to assist drivers who have received speeding tickets or other traffic citations. Prompt payment of the fines is highly recommended.

The U.S. Army in Europe Vehicle Registry records German traffic violations and assigns points. Drivers who get 12 or more traffic points in a one-year period face a mandatory suspension of their license under Army in Europe regulations. Those caught driving on a suspended license face a five year revocation of driving privileges.

Downloading media online

In recent years Germany has experienced a crackdown on illegal uploading and downloading of copyrighted materials. U.S. personnel can be affected by this, and these cases can involve hefty fees or fines imposed on those caught downloading or uploading such content. The best practice is not to engage in any illegal downloading or uploading of copyrighted materials as the consequences are simply not worth the risk.

Those who do receive a document

that appears to be a legal notice concerning downloading or uploading copyrighted materials are encouraged to contact the legal assistance office prior to providing any response to the letter.

Tax-free privileges

As mentioned earlier, the SOFA affords some very nice tax breaks. These tax breaks are not to be shared with others. 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 or the commissary, or tax-exempt purchases made with a VAT form, are for personal use and should not be used in any business venture. Do not allow a landlord 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 at 421-3549 or stop by Room 105, Building 3307, Kelley Barracks.

Schmerzensgeld

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 necessarily 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."

Carrying Knives

In the United States it is also not uncommon to see someone carrying around a pocket knife. In Germany, there are more restrictions on carrying knives. Some folding, locking-blade knives, and all knives with a blade longer than 12 cm 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 decide to carry around a Gerber, a good course of action is to never carry it to a fest, large public gathering or other place where alcohol will be consumed and where there will be a police presence.

Marriage

Carefully consider a decision to marry or divorce while in Germany. Both marriage and divorce in Germany can be quite different than in the U.S. Also, marriage or divorce documents are not always 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. A future former spouse could seek a court order for money or call the commander to enforce a separation agreement or any obligation under military regulations to support families. As the Law Center cannot represent personnel in divorces, an outside attorney is required.

A tour in Germany can be a very enjoyable experience. The best way to make the most out of the experience is to stay out of legal trouble. Know the laws, understand how they apply to service members, civilians and family members.

For more information, contact the Stuttgart Legal Assistance office at 421-4152/2609/ civ. 0711-729-4152/2609.

FALL

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Visit Oktoberfest.de for additional information and a comprehensive list of park-and-ride locations.

Once in town, just follow the massive crowd of people, or look for Oktoberfest signs and you'll eventually get there.

According to the Munich Tourist office, about 6.3 million people visited the 2014 Oktoberfest and consumed 6.4 million liters of beer, in addition to 600,000 chickens and more pretzels than can be counted.

It takes approximately two months to create the city of Oktoberfest and brings in an estimated \$1.2 billion, employing about 12,000 workers.

But Oktoberfest is more than a carousing wassail; it's a tradition that started on Oct. 12, 1810, with the marriage of Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. All of Bavaria celebrated the nuptials year after year until Oktoberfest became an established event.

Today, the focus is no longer on the royal pair, the hoopla has instead taken the spotlight and a "prost" with a thousand of your new closest friends will surely create a reason to celebrate for years to come.



A Gingerbread heart with the phrase 'Greetings from Oktoberfest' hangs in a booth.— Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

Where's what and when's it open? Service

Panzer Kaserne

Alterations/Dry Cleaning
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-735-5982
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Closed German Holidays

Army Community Service
Bldg. 2915
 DSN: 431-3362
 Civ. 07031-15-3362
 Mon-Fri to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Auto Skills Center, Dog Wash and Speedy Lube
Bldg. 2926
 DSN: 431-2555
 Civ. 07031-15-2555
 Wed-Fri: noon to 8 p.m.
 Sat, Sun, and Training Holidays:
 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Barber Shop
 (Main Exchange)
 DSN: 431-3701
 Civ. 07031-15-3701
 Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sat: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Closed German Holidays

Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center
Bldg. 2998
 DSN: 431-2575
 Civ. 07031-15-2575
 Tue: 4-10 p.m.
 Wed-Thu: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Fri-Sat: 11 a.m. to midnight
 Sun: 12-6 p.m.

Burger King
 (Main Exchange)
 Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sat: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sun: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Car Care Center
Bldg. 2935
 Service: DSN 431-2362
 Civ. 07031-213766
 Parts: DSN 431-3674
 Civ. 07031-4395122
 Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sat: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Central Processing Facility
Bldg. 2913
 DSN: 431-2599 / 2803
 Civ. 07031-15-2599 / 2803
 Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Charley's Grilled Subs
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-2042-153
 Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Child Development Center
Bldg. 3169
 DSN: 431-2619
 Civ. 07031-15-2619
 Mon-Fri: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Closed U.S. federal holidays

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
Bldg. 2948
 Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Walk-ins: Mon-Fri: 1 to 4 p.m.

Commissary
Bldg. 2957
 DSN: 431-2503
 Civ. 07031-15-2503
 Mon-Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Closed Sat and Sun
 Early Bird Shopping 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Community Bank
Bldg. 2915
 Civ. 07031-15-2436
 Tue-Fri: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Sat: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stuttgart Dental Clinic
Bldg. 2996
 Appts. DSN: 590-2800
 Civ. 06371-9464-2800
 Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m./12:30 to 4:30 p.m.,
 Closed U.S. federal holidays

Driver's License Office
Bldg. 2913
 Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Education Center
Bldg. 2915
 DSN: 431-2506/2684
 CIV: 07031-15-2506/2684
 Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enterprise Car Rental (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-463-8016
 Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

German-American Canteen
Bldg. 2913
 Mon-Wed: 7:15 to 10 a.m./11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fitness Center
Bldg. 2990
 DSN: 431-2724
 Civ. 07031-15-2724
 Mon-Fri: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
 Sat-Sun: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 U.S. federal Holidays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Housing Office
Bldg. 2913
 DSN: 431-2230
 Civ. 07031-15-2230
 Mon-Wed/Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Walk-ins: 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 Appts.: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Thu: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Walk-ins: 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 Appts.: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Closed U.S. federal, and German holidays

ID Card/Installation Access Control
Bldg. 2915
 DSN: 431-2333 / 3806
 Civ. 07031-15-2333 / 3806
 Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
 Closed U.S. federal holidays

Irish Pub
Bldg. 2998
 DSN: 431-2575
 Civ. 07031-15-2575
 Mon: Closed
 Tue-Thu: 4:30 to 10 p.m.
 Fri-Sat: 4:30 p.m. to midnight

Italian Ice Cream (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-7691257
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Joseph Seibel Shoes
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-439691
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Käthe Wohlfahrt
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 09861-409930
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Launderette
Bldg. 2995
 Civ. 0621-471673
 Open 24 Hours

Lodging
Bldg. 2905
 DSN: 431-3490
 Civ. 07031-15-3490
 Open 24 Hours

Main Exchange
Bldg. 2952
 Civ. 07031-2042-109/110
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sun: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

New Car Sales
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-437494
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Holidays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Optical Center
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-2042352
 Tue-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Optometry Care
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-2042350
 Tue-Sat: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation Center
Bldg. 2953
 DSN: 431-2774
 Civ. 07031-15-2774
 Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Personnel Services Branch
Bldg. 2915
 Mon-Tue: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 4:30 p.m.
 Thu-Fri: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Pizza Hut
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-2042-156
 Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-2042-151
 Mon-Thu: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Fri-Sat: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Post Office
Bldg. 2915
 Mon to Wed and Fri 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Thu 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Community Mail Room 445
Bldg. 2953
 Mon to Fri 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 and 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Retirement Support Center
Bldg. 2915
 DSN: 431-3510
 Civ. 07031-15-3510
 Tue: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Thu: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sehne German Bakery
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-414302
 Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sat: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Service Credit Union
Bldg. 2915
 Civ. 07031-819-4333
 Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sat: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Closed U.S. federal holidays

Exchange Express and Military Clothing
Bldg. 2952
 Civ. 07031-229352
 Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sat/Sun: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Simply Perfect Nail Salon
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-819-8999
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Closed German Holidays

Starbucks
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 03221-2155091
 Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sat: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Stuttgart Transition Center
 DSN: 431-2698
 Civ. 07031-15-2698
 Mon-Fri: 8:30 a.m. to noon/
 1 to 3:30 p.m.
 By Appointment Only
 Closed on U.S. federal holidays

Stylique Salon
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-414382
 Mon-Sat: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Closed Sun and German Holidays

Tapestry Shop
 (Main Exchange)
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TKS (Telepost Kabel Service)
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 0631-3522499
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Transportation Office
Bldg. 2913
 DSN: 431-3338
 Civ. 07031-15-3338
 Mon-Wed: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Thu: 1 to 4 p.m.
 Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trophy and Engraving
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-204-6599
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Under Armour
 (Main Exchange)
 Civ. 07031-762-8802
 Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

US Forces Customs
 DSN: 431-2657/2731
 Civ. 07031-15-2657/2731
Bldg. 2913
 Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to noon,
 1 to 4 p.m.
 Closed U.S. federal holidays

USO
Bldg. 2915
 DSN: 431-3505
 Civ. 07031-15-3505
 Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Sat: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VAT/UTAP Office
Bldg. 2915
 DSN: 431-3368
 Civ. 07031-15-3368
 Mon-Thu: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Fri: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Vehicle Inspection
Bldg. 2930
 DSN: 431-2400
 Civ. 07031-15-2400
 Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 11:45 p.m./12:30-3:45 p.m.
 Closed US and German Holidays

Vehicle Registration
Bldg. 2930
 DSN: 431-2833
 Civ. 07031-15-2833
 Mon-Thu: 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
 *Last customer service ticket issued at 3:15 p.m.
 Fri: 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. *Last customer service ticket issued at 3 p.m.
 Closed US and German Holidays

Vehicle Shipping
Bldg. 2931
 Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Closed US and German Holidays

Veterinary Clinic
Bldg. 2996
 Appts. DSN: 431-2681/
 Civ. 07031-15-2681
 Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m./
 1 to 4 p.m.
 Closed U.S. federal holidays

WIC-Overseas
Bldg. 2915
 DSN: 431-3802
 Civ. 07031-15-3802
 Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Youth Center
Bldg. 3166
 DSN: 431-3040
 Civ. 07031-15-3040
 Mon-Fri: 2:30 to 6 p.m.
 Non-school weekdays: 1 to 6 p.m.

locations and hours throughout Stuttgart

Patch Barracks

Alteration Shop (Stripes)
Bldg. 2333
DSN: 430-5111
Civ. 0711-680-5111
Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Army Finance Cust. Spt. Team
Bldg. 2325
DSN: 430-8324
Civ. 0711-680-8324
Mon-Wed/Fri: 8:30 a.m. to noon, 1-4 p.m.
Thu: 9:30 a.m. to noon, 1-4 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Arts and Crafts Center
Bldg. 2329
DSN: 430-5270
Tue/Wed/Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thu: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Barber Shop
Bldg. 2333
DSN: 430-5573
Civ. 0711-6742-7624
Mon-Wed and Fri: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thu: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BOSS and Warrior Zone
Bldg. 2505
DSN: 430-7135/5404
Civ. 0711-680-7135/5404
Wed & Thu: 4 - 9 p.m.
Fri: 4 - 10 p.m.
Sat & Sun: 2 - 9 p.m.

Burger King
(Food Court)
Mon-Fri: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Car Wash
Bldg. 2384
DSN: 430-7266
Civ. 0711-680-7266
Daily 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Child Development Center
Bldg. 2347
DSN: 430-5123
Civ. 0711-680-5123
Mon-Fri: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Commissary
Bldg. 2350
DSN: 430-8401
Civ. 0711-680-8401
Mon-Sun: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Early Bird Shopping: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Community Bank Branch
Bldg. 2325
Civ. 0711-680-8468
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed German Holidays

Dry Cleaners/Laundry
Bldg. 2329
Civ. 0711-680-5295
Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enterprise Car Rental
Bldg. 2333
Civ. 0711-656-91720
Mon-Wed/Fri: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thu: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Express/Class Six
(gas station)
Bldg. 2349
DSN: 430-8724
Civ. 0711-686-87911
Open 24 Hours

Post Office
Bldg. 2325
Mon. to Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thu. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Stuttgart Army Health Clinic
Bldg. 2300
DSN: 590-2900
Civ. 06371-9464-2900
Mon-Thu: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fri: 7:30 a.m. to noon
Closed Training Holidays and Federal Holidays

SATO Travel
Bldg. 2307
DSN: 430-2106 / 2107
Civ. 0711-656-9240
Official Travel: Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Leisure Travel: Mon/Wed-Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
Tue: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sehne German Bakery
(Food Court)
Mon-Fri: 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Service Credit Union Branch
Bldg. 2325
DSN: 0711-686-87580
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed US Holidays

Subway
(Food Court)
Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun: Closed

Stylique Salon
Bldg. 2333
DSN: 430-5454
Civ. 0711-4707-5865
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thrift Shop

Bldg. 2332
DSN: 430-5510
Civ. 0711-680-5510
Mon/Wed/Fri: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thu: 3 - 7 p.m.
1st and 3rd Sat: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Taco Bell
(Food Court)
Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sun: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

US Army Health Clinic Stuttgart Wellness Center
Bldg. 2337
DSN: 590-1601
Civ. 06371-9464-1601
Mon-Thu: 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.;
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fri: 7:30 a.m. to noon

Non-school weekdays: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Photo Studio
Bldg. 2330 (the Food Court)
DSN: 430-2328
Civ. 0711-680-2328
Wed-Sat: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Kelley Barracks

Arts and Crafts Center

Bldg. 3319
DSN 421-2519
Civ 0711-729-2519
Mon: 1-6 p.m.
Tue-Thu: 1-9 p.m.
Sat/Sun/U.S. federal Holidays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on German Holidays

Barber Shop

Bldg. 3312
DSN 421-2630
Civ. 0711-729-2630
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Broadway Café
Bldg. 3320
DSN: 421-4045
Civ. 0711-729-4045
Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Car Wash

DSN: 431-2555
Civ. 07031-15-2555
Daily 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Child Development Center
Bldg. 3368
DSN: 421-2056
Civ: 0711-729-2056
Mon-Fri: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Child Development Center Annex
Bldg. 3352
DSN: 421-2541
Civ. 0711-729-2541
Mon-Fri: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Kelley School Age Center

Bldg. 3369
DSN: 421-2975
Civ. 0711-729-2975
Mon-Fri: 1 to 6 p.m.
School Out Day 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Community Mail Room 423/489
Bldg. 3312
DSN: 421-2366 / 2779
Civ. 0711-729-2366 / 2779
Mon-Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Early Bird Shopping 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Community Bank Branch

Bldg. 3312
DSN: 421-3055
Civ. 0711-729-3055
Tue-Fri: 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

SATO Travel

Bldg. 3300
DSN: 421-5812
Civ. 0711-729-5812
Official Travel ONLY:
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Express

(gas station)
Bldg. 3324
DSN 421-5502
Civ. 0711-7586-3916
Mon-Fri: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Kelley Club

Bldg. 3300
DSN: (314) 421-4660
Civ. 0711-729-4660
Mon-Fri: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wed & Thu 4:30 - 9 p.m.
Fri: 4:30 - 10 p.m.
Sun Brunch (when available):
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Robinson Barracks

Community Bank Branch

Bldg. 146
Tue/Thu: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
and 2 to 4 p.m.
Closed German Holidays

Commissary
Bldg. 146
DSN: 420-7923
Civ. 0711-819-7923
Sun/Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat: noon to 8 p.m.
Mon/Thu: Closed

Furniture Store
Bldg. 146
DSN: 420-7408 / 7198
Civ. 0711-6994-5880
Tue-Sun: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Library
Bldg. 151
DSN: 420-6424
Civ. 0711-819-6424
Tue/Thu: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wed/Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Post office
Bldg. 169
Tue and Thu 1 to 4 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Community Mail Room 447
Bldg. 196
Mon-Fri 2:30 to 6 p.m.

Fitness Center
Bldg. 151
DSN: 420-6317
Civ. 0711-819-6317
Mon-Fri: 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
U.S. federal Holidays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Youth Center
Bldg. 151
DSN: 420-7189
Civ. 0711-819-7189
Mon-Fri: 2:30 to 6 p.m.
School Day Out: 1 to 6 p.m.

School Age Center
Bldg. 151
DSN: 420-7017
Civ. 0711-819-7017
Mon-Fri: 2:30 to 6 p.m.
School Day Out: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

RB Club
Bldg. 168
DSN: 420-6129
Civ. 0711-819-6129
Thu: 6 to 10 p.m.
Fri and Sat: 6 to 11 p.m.



The Stuttgart Exchange shopping mall on Panzer Kaserne boasts a department store-style Exchange, food court with six eateries and more than a dozen specialized vendors.

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. For hours and locations see Pages 24-25.

On-base gas stations at Kelley Barracks and Patch Barracks are co-located with the Express shops. The Patch Express is open 24 hours.

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.



An Exchange employee stocks the shelves of the Military Clothing Store, located in Building 2952 on Panzer Kaserne.



The Car Care Center on Panzer Kaserne offers a wide variety of basic mechanical services on U.S. and German specification vehicles.

— All photos by Greg Jones, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Family and MWR Services in Stuttgart

USAG Stuttgart Family and MWR Marketing

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 410 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 repair shop, Speedy Lube and dog wash; Outdoor Recreation; The Photo Studio; Warrior Zone; Broadway Cafe and Brewed Awakenings Cafe; the Robinson Barracks Community Club; Better Opportunities for Single Service members; and award-winning Stuttgart



Contests and door prizes typically liven up a number of Stuttgart's Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events. — *Photo courtesy of USAG Stuttgart FMWR.*

Theatre Center, and arts and crafts programs.

In addition, the recreation division coordinates a number of special community-wide events, such as the Resiliency Carnival; Winter Fest; Community Activities, Registration and Education 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 and its newly added storage facility with 123 units; the 24-lane Galaxy Bowling and Entertainment Center; the Irish Pub; the Java Cafe; and three clubs: Kelley Club, Patch Community Club and Swabian Special Events Center.

— See FMWR Page 36

Family and MWR Advertisement

stuttgart.armymwr.com



ADVENTURE

ALPINE ADVENTURE GARMISCH
May 22 - 25, 7 a.m. departure
Outdoor Recreation , Panzer Kaserne

Go on an Alpine Adventure in Garmisch, Germany. Cost is only \$149 for adults, \$129 for youth ages 10 - 17, and \$109 for children ages 9 and younger. Price includes transportation, guide, camping equipment and camping fees. Sign up soon - space is limited!



THEATER

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
May 29 & 30, Jun 5, 6, 12 & 13, 7:30 p.m.
May 31, Jun 7 & 14, 3 p.m.
Stuttgart Theatre Center, Kelley Barracks

In this transcendentally powerful new adaptation, Anne Frank emerges from history a living, lyrical, intensely gifted young girl, who confronts her rapidly changing life and the increasing horror of her time with astonishing honesty, wit, and determination. Minimum age to attend any performance is 5 years old.



EXERCISE

COBBLESTONE CLASSIC
May 30, 10 a.m.
Patch Fitness Center, Patch Barracks

Tie up your laces and get ready to run the trail from Patch Barracks to Panzer Kaserne Register now until May 24 at the Patch Fitness Center, \$15/individual, \$40/family, price increase May 25 - 28. Event sponsored by Stuttgart Marriott Hotel Sindelfingen, Bavarian Motor Cars and MAS Mercedes (no federal endorsement implied).

DSN 431-2774/CIV 07031-15-2774

DSN 421-3055/CIV 0711-729-3055

DSN 430-7136/CIV 0711-680-7136

To follow us on Facebook go to www.facebook.com/familyandmwr and

Like us!



Medical care in Stuttgart

Stuttgart Army Health Clinic

The medical care system for service members, retirees, civilians and their families in Germany consists of three main elements. The local military community health services found on base, more extensive services offered at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl and off-base specialty care providers.

The Stuttgart military community is served by the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic on Patch Barracks, the Kelley Barracks clinic annex and the Stuttgart Dental Clinic located on Panzer Kaserne.

Dental care on base

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 www.metlife.com/tricare.

The dental clinic provides general dentistry, as well as specialty care for pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, prosthodontics, periodontics and endodontics. Oral surgery support is provided at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Health care on base

The on-base 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 or physician's assistant 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 and a wellness center.

The clinic offers Telehealth services as well. The Telehealth Program Office at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center supports the development and implementation of Telehealth services for the U.S. Army European Medical Region. Patient care via Telehealth is an innovative solution to connecting geographically separated patients at U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart and specialty care providers at LRMC.

High-quality, comprehensive specialty care is maintained via the use of video-teleconferencing technology and advanced medical devices such as otoscopes, stethoscopes and general exam cameras. Referrals to see specialty



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.

care providers via Telehealth can be obtained from primary care providers and/or by self-referral. This service can alleviate the need to travel to LRMC while still receiving the same specialty care.

Kelley Clinic Annex offers primary care for adults and limited Tricare services.

Care is provided based on Tricare Prime enrollment for active duty and active duty family members. Tricare Standard beneficiaries, civilians and contractors may be seen on a space-available basis through third party reimbursement. For primary care appointments, all space-available patients can call after noon Monday to Thursday to be scheduled into any open appointments for that afternoon. Other services like optometry, behavioral health, physical therapy or the wellness center may see space available patients 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 is about a two and a half hours 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 Landstuhl

usually starts with a referral from Stuttgart's primary care providers.

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.

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 preventative 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.

Emergency Services

In an emergency, do not contact the Stuttgart clinic, or go to the Stuttgart clinic, which does not provide emergency medical services. Emergency medical services are provided by the nearest appropriate host nation medical facility, and the telephone number to call in Germany from a civilian phone line is 112. From on base DSN phones, dial 116 for the Military Police desk. They can then contact additional emergency services as needed.

Host nation medical care

Providing effective health care services to the 25,000-strong Stuttgart military community is no easy task, and one that the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic simply could not accomplish without an effective team backing it up. That's why the clinic has established relationships with area hospitals and formed an international team of medical professionals to provide for all of the community's medical needs. Here's how this team provides you with world-class health care:

The clinics

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic serves as the primary care provider for service members and their command-sponsored dependents, and provides some space-available services to retirees and civilians under certain health plans.

The Stuttgart clinic provides basic medical needs. Essentially they are the family practitioner for the military community.

The clinic also provides some specialty clinics such as optometry, physical therapy, wellness and behavioral health. For medical needs that can't be met through the Stuttgart clinic, patients may be referred to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Often however, these services may not be practical for the patient to use or a patient needs medical care that isn't available in the military health care system. In these cases, the host nation medical system steps in and patients are referred to any number of the many host-nation providers in the Stuttgart area.

There are eight major hospitals in the Stuttgart metropolitan area, and the Stuttgart clinic works primarily with three of them.

The **Böblingen Hospital** is located very near Panzer Kaserne and provides a wide range of inpatient care, as well as pediatric care. Patients will often be referred there for surgeries, pediatric care needs and other inpatient care.

The **Sindelfingen Hospital** (a partner organization to the Böblingen "Klinikum" or hospital) specializes in orthopedics and muscular-skeletal conditions and injuries.

Finally, the **Robert Bosch Hospital** in Stuttgart provides a wide variety of inpatient services and has a premiere trauma center, but does not have pediatric care.

The referral process

The referral process starts with the primary care provider. Primary care physicians at the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will assess a condition or injury and determine if specialty care is needed. If it is warranted, they then enter a referral into Tricare's computer system. International SOS, the contracted company that administers Tricare services overseas, then takes this referral and assigns it to an appropriate care provider. In some cases the primary care physician can designate a specific provider to be seen, according to the Stuttgart Tricare service center.

Usually a few days after the referral is entered it is ready for an appointment to be made.

While the patient can have International SOS make an appointment on their behalf, officials at the health clinic recommend patients make their own appointments to minimize the risk of scheduling conflicts or other problems. Most providers who get referrals have English-speaking staffs that can provide assistance to patients when they call to make appointments.

Initial out of pocket expenses

In some cases patients may have to pay the full cost out of pocket for medical care and seek reimbursement (according to their coverage plans) later. For example, prescriptions acquired off-post for less than €100 must be paid out of pocket initially, and then claimed for proper reimbursement.

Patient liaisons

For those who do get referred off-post, especially for inpatient care, the thought of checking in to a hospital in a foreign country can be daunting. There is a very real language and cultural barrier, and health care is provided in a very different manner than in the U.S.

"Health care here isn't better or worse," said Capt. Jesse Moncivais, executive officer of the Stuttgart Army Health Clinic. "It's just delivered differently, and it takes some getting used to."

To help with this process the Stuttgart clinic has four patient liaisons who serve as the vital link between the U.S. clinic and the host-nation providers.

They help with the language barrier. They help American patients understand the health care they are receiving. They assist in making sure the patients' needs are met and finally, a large portion of what they do is the administrative work behind the scenes; making sure that the vital link between the primary care and off-post specialty care is never broken.

Non-Tricare enrollees

For those enrolled in Tricare Standard, or other health care programs besides Tricare Prime, the process is only slightly different. The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic will only take on Tricare Prime enrollees as a primary care provider. The clinic will provide space available services, on a reimbursable basis, to all others.

Patients in these categories should establish a primary care relationship with an off-post clinic. That primary care provider can then provide referrals and recommendations for specialty services.

Some of the local hospitals will charge a €250 deposit for all non-Tricare Prime patients. The deposit is payable by cash or credit card, and must be made prior to rendering any medical care for an outpatient visit. Inpatient care will require a €1,000 deposit. After receiving care, if the invoice total is less than the upfront deposit, patients will receive a refund within three days. If the final invoice is higher than the upfront payment, then the remaining balance will be charged against the patient's credit card.

Patients will then have to file for reimbursement through their respective health insurance companies.

It is important to understand that emergency care for a condition that threatens life, limb or eyesight is not subject to these fees.

Tips for off-post patients

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic offers the following advice to those who may be new to the German health care system:

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. Although medical terminology translation booklets are usually available from the U.S. referring clinic, a stay in the hospital can be an excellent opportunity to learn a few words of German.

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. 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. 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. Take appropriate clothing that allows you to remain semi-dressed during an upper body exam. Patients may be asked to undress while nursing staff is passing through the area. This is considered proper by German medical privacy standards.

Emergency services

Emergency medical services are provided by the nearest appropriate host nation medical facility, and the telephone number to call in Germany from a civilian phone line is 112. From on-post DSN phones, dial 116 for the Military Police desk. They can then contact additional emergency services as needed.

Kliniken Böblingen (Böblingen Hospital)

Located near Panzer Kaserne, Böblingen Hospital provides a wide variety of specialty services, surgical procedures and inpatient care, including pediatrics.

Specialties:

General inpatient, surgeries, pediatrics

Address:
Bunsenstrasse 120
71032 Böblingen

Telephone: 07031-668-0
Online: www.klinikverbund-suedwest.de. This web address will get you to the site of the parent company for both Böblingen and Sindelfingen hospitals. You can find links to the individual hospitals in a navigation panel on the left. A link to English language pages can be found at the bottom of the page.

Kliniken Sindelfingen (Sindelfingen Hospital)

Sindelfingen Hospital specializes in orthopedics and other musculoskeletal injuries and conditions, and has a wellness center.

Specialties:
orthopedics, musculoskeletal

Address:
Arthur-Gruber-Strasse 70
71065 Sindelfingen

Telephone: 07031-98-0
Online: www.klinikverbund-suedwest.de, This web address will get you to the site of the parent company for both Böblingen and Sindelfingen hospitals. You can find links to the individual hospitals in a navigation panel on the left. A link to English language pages can be found at the bottom of the page.

Robert Bosch Krankenhaus (Robert Bosch Hospital)

Robert Bosch Hospital is the area's main trauma center and provides a variety of specialty care, but does not offer pediatrics.

Specialties: Trauma, inpatient
Address:
Auerbachstrasse 110
70376 Stuttgart

Telephone: 0711-8101-0
Online: www.rbk.de. There is not an English language version of the website, but there are English speaking receptionists available on the telephone.

For more information check out the health clinic on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StuttgartHealthClinic or visit the clinic's website: <https://ermc.amended.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

Driving in Germany



Driving in Germany can be very different than in the United States, but a little bit of study, and adherence to host nation driving laws and practices can make driving not only an effective way to get from A to B, but an enjoyable experience on its own. — *Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com*

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).

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

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-vehicereg.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 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/pdfs/pubs/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 re-routing 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.



Getting a license and registering a vehicle in Germany is not a simple process, but there is plenty of assistance available in the resources found in this article. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com



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 Thinkstockphotos.com

Introduction to public transport in Germany

By Greg Jones
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Public transport in Germany and throughout Europe is a great way to get around. Whether sightseeing in famous cities, or just getting from home to work, the extensive transit system here services a vast, extensive network of stations and stops that are accessible within walking distance of almost anywhere in Germany.

The public transit system in Germany consists of three levels of transit services. The national transit system, Deutsche Bahn, provides long- and mid-distance service between major cities and hubs. The numerous regional systems, which are also partially serviced by Deutsche Bahn, provide transport between cities and stations in a given region or area. Lastly, the local transit companies provide services within certain cities or districts.

The three levels of the public transit system work together to provide a network that connects to nearly every city, town, or village in Germany. Stops and stations may be serviced by

multiple transit agencies or just a single company.

The Deutsche Bahn national transit service

As mentioned earlier, the national transit service is Deutsche Bahn, and it provides primarily rail transit between large cities and hubs. Deutsche Bahn also provides some services to stops outside of Germany such as Paris, Vienna and other popular destinations near Germany. Deutsche Bahn trains can be easily recognized by their distinctive red paint with the white DB logo on the side. For offers and ticketing information, go to www.db.de. An English version of the website is offered by clicking next to the German flag and the word "Deutsch" and selecting English from the drop-down menu.

Stuttgart regional transit service

The regional transit service that serves the Stuttgart area is the VerkehrsVerbund Stuttgart, or VVS. This company services routes ranging from Weil der Stadt in the west

to Rudersberg Oberndorf in the east and Ludwigsburg in the north to as far south as Filderstadt. Their services include S-Bahn lines, U-Bahn lines, Strassenbahn (streetcar) and a variety of bus lines. Some of the cities and districts within the VVS area also offer their own limited local service lines as well. The VVS has a limited English language webpage at www.vvs.de/en/ but those who have picked up a little German, may find more information on their main site at www.vvs.de.

Tickets, Discounts and Specials

Each of the various transit companies offers a variety of special deals, discounted tickets and long-term pass deals. Almost all of the national and regional offers can be accessed through the DB website listed above, and information is offered in English. For the full range of offers and deals, check out the DB website listed above.

Ticket prices are generally based on distance, and the type of transport being used. On the DB network, tickets for faster trains such as the Inter-City

Express are more expensive than tickets for the same distance on other types of trains. Most regional transit systems use a zone-based pricing system where in the region is divided into zones, and a ticket's price is determined by how many zones the trip crosses.

Zeitkarten, or time tickets, are long term passes offered by various regional transit companies, including Stuttgart's VVS. These tickets are usually purchased with a given base-station, and cover a given number of zones, so that the ticket can be used for any number of trips anywhere within a certain number of zones from the base station. For example, a ticket purchased with a base in Böblingen for three zones, is good for any travel within three zones of Böblingen, and costs about 90 Euros. These tickets are usually good on all forms of regional and local transit within the zone, but some restrictions apply so ticket holders are advised to make sure of the coverage provided by the ticket they've purchased.

These tickets are usually available in monthly or yearly terms, and the yearly tickets, like many other



The German transit services operate mostly on an honor system, but riding the train without paying can be costly for those who are caught. Travelers who are unable to get a ticket before boarding a train are advised to immediately seek out and speak to a train attendant instead of waiting for the attendant to approach and ask for a ticket. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

contracts, automatically renew unless explicitly canceled in writing. Most of the regions have an offer for unrestricted travel in the entire network. The VVS offers an unlimited 'netz' ticket for about 180 Euros a month.

DB, and VVS both take VAT forms, though some of the customer service agents may not be familiar with them, so it is a good idea to bring the VAT

form info sheet available from the VAT office, or be persistent and politely ask the agent to confer with a colleague (for more information on VAT forms see the article on page 16).

Discounts at the national level include the Deutsche Bahn 25, 50 and 100 cards which are valid on all Deutsche Bahn routes, as well as regional routes when serviced by a Deutsche Bahn

train. The 25 and 50 cards provide a basic discount of 25 percent or 50 percent respectively on all DB standard fare ticket purchases. The 100 card offers unlimited travel throughout the entire DB and most of the regional networks as well, but is pricey, coming in at roughly 4,000 Euros or more, depending on selected options. The prices for these vary based on choice of 1st or 2nd class seating, and discounts are available for certain people (students, elderly etc.). For detailed pricing information visit the DB website.

Navigating the transit systems

At each train station or stop, and also at many local stations and stops, vending machines are available to purchase tickets. These machines can also be used to plan a route across a wide number of stations and changes. Usually, a travel itinerary can be printed out. This itinerary shows bus or train numbers, times, layover times, platforms the train will depart and arrive at, and other information for the entire route from point A to Z and all points in between.



With a touch screen interface and a wide variety of options, the ticket machines at most train stations not only sell tickets but also offer a wealth of information about schedules, delays and services available. Travelers can even print up a travel itinerary free of charge. — Photo by Greg Jones USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs



Automated ticket tellers (fahrkartenausgabeautomat) offer tickets for purchase and can be used to print out travel itineraries. Many have English language interfaces, and some even accept credit cards for purchases. — Photo by Greg Jones USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

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 30.



TRANSPORT

Continued from page 33

Also, transit line maps are available online for both regional and DB websites, and a travel itinerary can be planned online at most of these websites as well.

Finally, at most city main train stations an information center is manned by customer service agents who can provide a variety of information on time tables, routes, itinerary planning, ticket offers, and any current delays or disturbances. Many of these agents speak English and some are also able to provide ticket sales as well.

Mobile Mobility

Embracing the mobile phone era, DB and several of the regional transit companies, including the VVS, offer mobile device friendly versions of their websites. DB has even gone the extra step and offers a free downloadable app that provides full itinerary scheduling capability, and includes a virtual ticket purchasing option. This app is available in English and can make navigating the DB and regional systems an easy task done on the fly.

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. Many times travelers may travel some distance or time, or complete several trips without ever having their tickets verified. However, attendants do patrol the trains and check for tickets at various times and intervals, and the fines for riding without a ticket can be very hefty indeed. It is important for travelers to make sure they have valid tickets for each and every trip, no matter how short. Occasionally ticket machines may be inoperable or due to other circumstances a ticket purchase may be impossible ahead of time. Travelers in this situation who find themselves on a train without the appropriate ticket are advised to immediately find the nearest train attendant and let them know the situation. In most cases on the DB and regional transit systems, the attendant can provide a ticket sale on the spot, and there is often no fine.

However, those who just sit down and wait for the attendant to come and ask for tickets, or who try to play the chances and get caught, can be in for a nasty surprise as the fines can be the equivalent of a double-priced ticket, which in some cases equates to a hundred euros or more.

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 is found on Patch 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 U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt website at www.schweinfurt.army.mil, which has information applicable throughout Germany.

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 Sonia Greer, Exceptional Family Member Program Manager.

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 Greer.

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 Unlimited and youth sports, 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, 249 computers and 62 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 and Utility Tax Avoidance Program 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>



Fun for the whole family is the goal at most Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events. From bouncy castles to sporting goods, Family and MWR tries to appeal to children of all ages. — Photo courtesy of USAG Stuttgart FMWR

Red Cross offers community services, volunteer opportunities

American Red Cross, Stuttgart

The American Red Cross, founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, is a humanitarian organization, led by volunteers, that provides relief to the victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

The American Red Cross serves the public during the most difficult times of emergency and disaster; it does this through services that are consistent with its congressional charter and the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross movement. The most recent version of the congressional charter, which was adopted in May 2007, restates the traditional purposes of the organization which include giving relief to and serving as a medium of communication between members of the American Armed Forces and their families and providing national and international disaster relief and mitigation.

The American Red Cross Stuttgart Station, with over 200 volunteers, provides the following services to the Stuttgart military community:

Emergency Communications Services

American Red Cross communication services keep military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of a family member or other important events, such as the birth of a child. The Red Cross quickly sends these communications on behalf of the family to members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving anywhere in the world, including ships at sea, embassies and isolated military units. The information or verification in a message assists the service member's commanding officer with making a decision regarding emergency leave.

To ensure your family members are able to get a Red Cross message to your command while you are stationed overseas, make sure they have the following information about you, which they'll need to provide to the Red Cross in case of an emergency message:

- Full Name
- Rank/Rating
- Branch of Service
- Social Security Number
- DOB
- Military Address
- Information about the deployed unit and the home base unit (for deployed service members only)
- Verification Source i.e. name of hospital or funeral home



A Red Cross instructor teaches a babysitting class, one of several classes offered by the Stuttgart American Red Cross. — *Photo courtesy of the Stuttgart American Red Cross.*

- Local Point of Contact
- Family Member affected by emergency
- DOB for family member

Additionally, the Red Cross can help facilitate financial assistance on behalf of military aid societies.

Health and Safety Services

For nearly a century, the American Red Cross has prepared people to save lives through health and safety education and training. From first aid, adult, child and infant CPR to babysitter's training, the American Red Cross preparedness programs help people lead safer and healthier lives. The Stuttgart Red Cross conducts the following courses:

- Adult and Pediatric FA/CPR/AED (includes infant)
- Citizen CPR
- Scrubby Bear
- Babysitter's Training w/ Pediatric (for teens age 11-15)
- Instructor Training classes (IT)

To register for classes, contact the Red Cross Center of Excellence at DSN 467-1760 or Civ. 0980-283-1760, by email StuttgartPHSSCOE@redcross.org. For information on how to self register, contact the Stuttgart Red Cross (see contact info at the end of this article).

International Disaster Inquiries

Used to assist family members who have lost communication due to an international disaster. Availability of service depends on the capacity of the Red Cross or Red Crescent national society in the country where the disaster occurs.

Volunteer Opportunities

In Stuttgart, volunteers constitute 98% of the total Red Cross workforce to carry out its work. Thousands of adults, youth, young adults, nurses, and many military family members deliver vital Red Cross services at installations, military hospitals, clinics, libraries, and dependents' schools, as well as chapters that serve military families. Volunteers ensure the Red Cross will be there to help people save lives.

Red Cross volunteers in the following areas provide essential services throughout the Stuttgart military community:

- Health & Safety Volunteer Instructors
- Medical Clinic Volunteers
- Red Cross Office Volunteers
- Dental Volunteers
- Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program
- Special Events
- Veterinarian Clinic Volunteers
- Disaster Action Team Members
- Crochet Corner
- Wounded Warrior Project
- Healing Arts
- Adaptive Sports
- Water Safety
- Youth Volunteers/ Red Cross Club
- PAWS
- Newly introduced program in partnership with the Patch Library that allows beginning readers and struggling readers to read to Red Cross Good Citizen Dogs to strengthen and improve their confidence.

Restoring Family Links

The American Red Cross Stuttgart Station can assist in the following international services by working with our national headquarters:

Tracing Inquiries

Used to locate family members separated internationally by armed conflict and other humanitarian situations. Also used to clarify or document the fate of relatives missing due to armed conflict; includes Holocaust and WWII Tracing and Documentation services.

Red Cross Messages

Used to send written messages between separated family members. Used when the sender knows the location of their family member but no other means of communication are available. Often used by families in refugee camps, by prisoners of war and other detainees.

Health and Welfare Inquiries

Used to assist particularly vulnerable clients, including the elderly and ill, minor children and persons in detention or prison, to reestablish communication with family members. For these cases the family separation is not caused by war, disaster or migration, but rather a family emergency or vulnerability.

In 2014, Red Cross volunteers provided 14,570 volunteer hours of community service. Case Workers serviced 577 Emergency Communication Messages. Health & Safety Instructors taught 1139 students in our local community.

For more information on getting involved with Red Cross volunteer opportunities, contact the Red Cross at 431-2813 or Civ. 07031-15-2812. or email Stuttgart@redcross.org

The American Red Cross office will be relocating from Bldg 2915 to Bldg 2948 third floor on Panzer Kaserne. (Next to Panzer Fitness Center) May 26.



Religious worship services offered throughout the Stuttgart military community comprise a varied, multi-faith community. — Photo by S.J. Grady, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

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.

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.tkscable.com.

Those residing off-base must have 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.

Have fun with the locals

events

Bicycle adventure days

Sat, May 16 – Sun, May 17

Stuttgart, Schlossplatz

The annual bicycle adventure days take part at the Schlossplatz in Stuttgart's city center starting at 11 a.m. Bike fans can participate in guided tours, auctions and will have the chance to talk with experts about cycling in Stuttgart and the special equipment you may need. The event will feature live music. For more information in German see www.stuttgart.de.



EVENTS

Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele

Fri, May 15 – Sat, Jul 25

Ludwigsburg, castle grounds

Experience the famous "Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele" in different locations around the castle until July 24. Since 1932, the most popular artists from genres like music, acting, dancing and literature perform every year. For more information, tickets and the entire program see www.schlossfestspiele.de

Culinary walks

Fri, May 15

Stuttgart, Rotebühlplatz 25

If you are looking to enjoy a bit of culture then join the culinary walk in Stuttgart. The culinary walk is offered from May 6 until December 31, 2015. This tour will take you through the streets of Stuttgart and to top it off also includes a full meal. You will be finding out some interesting facts about Stuttgart's specialties, its past and present. A minimum of 10 participants per tour is required. Price is €58. For more information see www.stuttgart-tourist.de or call 0711 222 81 00 to reserve a spot.

Horse market

Fri, May 15 – Mon, May 18

Ludwigsburg, Marktplatz

The traditional horse market in Ludwigsburg is the oldest event in the city and will take place from May 15 to May 18. The highlight will be the pageant where spruced up horses and adorned carriages will be voted on. Besides great horse shows and tournaments, a traditional merchant market "Kramermarkt," an arts and craft

market and more will be provided. Children can ride the ponies and take part in other activities. For more info and the entire program see www.ludwigsburg.de

Wine hike

Sun, May 17

Esslingen, Schenkenberg

The wine hike in Esslingen on May 17 at 2 various, either the Frauenkirchen in Esslingen or at the Kelter in the center. You can stop at 6 different booths that will serve wine that grow there. For more information see www.weinwanderung.net/esslingen

International street music festival

Fri, May 22 – Sun, May 24

Ludwigsburg, Blühendes Barock

Come and celebrate the 12th anniversary of this special music festival in the park Blühendes Barock. See 40 international musicians on twelve stages, each playing 30 minutes. All participants can win prize money up to €1500. If you would like something to feed your stomach, try out the great culinary delights. For more information see www.streetmusicfestival.com

Ebersberg castle festival

Fri, May 22 – Mon, May 25

Auenwald, Schloss Ebersberg

The Ebersberg Schlossfest (castle festival) in Auenwald will take place over Whitsun starting with a concert from the band My Dear Fear at 8 p.m. Enjoy four days of parties, music, food and drinks at the fairground. For more information in German see www.bv-ebersberg.de

SWR summer festival

Fri, May 22 – Mon, May 25

Stuttgart, Schlossplatz

The annual summer festival will take place at Stuttgart's Schlossplatz and Ehrenhof from May 22 to May 25, starting with different choirs at 7:30 p.m. The southwestern radio stations of Germany will host the event. Over the four days, programs for all age groups will be provided. See concerts and comedy shows and experience cultural events and parties all over the city. For more information in German and the entire program see www.swr.de

Festival of lights

Sun, May 24

Bad Liebenzell, Kurpark

The festival of lights "Lichterfest" in Bad Liebenzell will take place on May 24 from 6 p.m. at the Kurpark. The event's slogan this year is "Safari-Feeling." Visitors will get the feeling of being on vacation in the safari. Dance to music from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Be astounded by the reptile show with alligators and pythons. Towards the end of the night the festival will conclude with a big fireworks display. For more information see www.tourismus.bad-liebenzell.de

City tour

Thu, May 28

Stuttgart, city center

Do you want to see more of the city of Stuttgart but don't want to drive your own car? Try the city tour in Stuttgart. You can literally hop on and hop off. From the months of April to October you can enjoy the tour on a daily basis. This gives you the chance to see everything in your own way. Enjoy top locations such as the Palace Square, Linden Museum, Neckar-Käpt'n Riverboats and so much more. Ticket price per person

for a 24 hour ticket is €15 and with the STUTTCARD €12. 2 children up to 14 years of age free of charge if accompanied by an adult. Each additional child is €10. For more information go to www.stuttgart-tourist.de

CONCERT

TOTO

Fri, May 29

Berlin, Tempodrome

Toto is coming to Berlin on May 29. They are going on tour this year. This group has embarked on a legendary career that includes a total of 17 albums and selling a total of 35 million copies worldwide. Don't miss an extraordinary show. Hear songs from the past and new ones from their new album. The show starts at 8 p.m. Ticket prices start at €60.50. For more information go to www.totoofficial.com

Limp Bizkit

Tue, Jun 2

Spandau, Zitadelle

This American nu-metal band will be in Berlin on June 2 at the Zitadelle Spandau. Get your tickets soon to join the party. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Ticket price is €48.70. For more info see www.eventim.de

SPORTS

Soccer

Sat, May 16

Stuttgart, Mercedes Benz Arena

The Bundesliga team VfB Stuttgart is playing against Hamburger SV on May 16 in the Mercedes Benz Arena. The game will begin at 3:30 p.m. For more information about the game or tickets go to www.vfb.de

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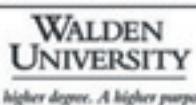
Participation is fully voluntary and will remain strictly confidential.

Participation involves completion of the on-line California Psychological Inventory (CPI) 260 assessment.

All participants will receive a CPI 260 Coaching Report for Leaders at no cost.

Please contact the researcher listed below for more details and instructions on how to participate:

Kevin Kaufman
Mobile: (+49) 0173-634-5979
Email: kevin.kaufman@waldenu.edu



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AUTOS
All ads and pics on class-world.com

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(PCS Sale) 1995 Mazda RX7, Japanese specs, highly modified with 430hp, garage kept, and well maintained by a Mazda professional. Price is \$15,000 and negotiable. Many extras included. Wisefamilie@aol.com or 0151-10649124

1995 BMW 316 Compact (2 door), \$1800, beachbum2000@yahoo.com, great gas mileage, plenty of power for Autobahn. Call for appointment to see this nice car! 017655923176

Ford Scorpio, 1998, 4 Door Automatic, \$ 1600. ddundkk@hotmail.de, Elec Locks, Windows, Kms 130,000, Power Stereo, ABS, Air Bags, Air Cond

2002 BMW 525i Sport Sedan, **2005 Lexus ES330**, \$11,000 obo, \$9,995-, US Spec, Automatic, Leather, Sunroof, Cruise Control, Power Seats, Alloy, 12 months guarantee included, Excellent, New Service, Call: 0176 2273 0967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

2003 Saab 9-5 Linear Sport Sedan, \$6,995-, US Spec, Automatic, Leather, Sunroof, Cruise Control, Power Seats, Alloy, Excellent Condition, New Service, Call: 0176 2273 0967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

2007 VW Passat 2.0 TDI. The car is German specs, turbo diesel, with an automatic transmission. It is in great condition inside and out. Very spacious interior and trunk. Runs great! Wisefamilie@aol.com or 0151-10649124

2008 BMW 535xi Sport Combi, \$16,495-, US Spec, Manual, Leather, Sunroof, Cruise Control, Power Seats, , Roof Rails, Alloy, Excellent, New Service, Call: 0176 2273 0967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

2008 Cadillac STS, \$15,750, rhinotom.shaver06@gmail.com, Excellent Condition, 57,000 miles, extra custom rims with winter tires included. Fully loaded! Can be seen on the Ramstein Lemon Lot.

A-Class Merc, 4 Door, 5 Speed, ABS, Elec Windows, Elec Locks, Remote Controll, Year 1998, 1 Year German TUV, 2 nd Motor My Ph Is 0175-3213199, \$2300, ddundkk@hotmail.de

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2011 BMW 135i Coupe, \$28,995-, US Spec, Double Clutch, Leather, Sunroof, Power Seats, Alloy, Sport Package, Excellent Condition! Free Home Shipping! Call: 0176 2273 0967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

2011 BMW 328i Sport Sedan, \$22,995-, US Spec, Automatic, Leather, Sunroof, Sport Pack, Cruise Control, Power Seats, Alloy, Excellent, New Service, Call: 0176 2273 0967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

2011 BMW 328i Sport Sedan, \$24,495-, US Spec, Automatic, Leather, Cruise Control, Heated Seats, Alloy, Park, Excellent Condition, Free Home Shipping, Call: 0176 22730967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

2012 BMW 135i, \$26,495-, Convertible US Spec, Automatic, Leather, Navigation System, Cruise Control, Power Seats, Alloy, Power Softtop, Excellent, Call: 0176 2273 0967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

2013 Mini Countryman S All4, \$26,495-, US Spec, Automatic, Leather, Cruise Control, Alloy Wheels, All Wheel Drive, Heated Seats, Excellent Condition, Call: 0176 2273 0967, Email: info@europeanmotors.org, Web: www.europeanmotors.org

Audi A4 2010 US Specs, \$17,900, 42K miles. 2.0 turbo engine. Automatic, steptronic trans. Premium plus pkg with rear parking sensors. One owner, non-smoker, pet free, still under warranty. 0176-7083-3101 or fredsf2011@googlemail.com

BMW 318 I, 4 Door, Black Met, 5 Speed, ABS, Power Stereo, All Weather New Tires, Radio Cassette and we deliver anywhere with cash in hand. My Ph is 0175-3213199 Price, \$1,550, ddundkk@hotmail.de

BMW 520D Touring, €7800 0171-4194896 buma@kabelmail.de, 1.2006, Diesel, Xenon, Navi, Bordcomputer, CD, PDC, TÜV3.2017, all inspections done, 4Winter Wheels Alu 5mm, 4Sommer Wheel Alu 4mm

Chrysler Sebring Year 2005, 4 Door Automatic Air cond, Elec Windows air bags and we deliver anywhere? My Ph is 0175-3213199, \$2400, ddundkk@hotmail.de

Daihatsu Silver Met, 4 Door, 5 Speed, 1.0 Ltr, year 2002, Air Cond, Summer Tire And Winter Tires, CD Player ABS, Air Bags, \$2200, And We Deliver Anywhere With Cash In Hand, ddundkk@hotmail.de

Great Deal Now!, 2008 Cadillac STS, fully loaded including Navi and heated seats. Will include 4 custom rims with winter tires. All this and more for only \$16,550. Call 0170-931-7144 or email: rhinotom.shaver06@gmail.com

KIA 2003, Diesel Turbo, Automatic, Air Cond, 1 Year TUV, All Weather Tires, 4 Door, Kms 125,000 It Had 1 Owner My Ph is 0175-3213199, \$3500, ddundkk@hotmail.de

Merc Benz Combi Year 2000 Silver Met, 5 Speed, Air Cond, no rust, summer / winter Tires, €1950, ddundkk@hotmail.de

Merc Benz, C-180, White, Automatic, €2200, Car Has German New TUV, No Rust, In Mint Cond, my Ph is 0175-3213199 Call or Email ddundkk@hotmail.de

Mercedes Benz 200CDI 6-Speed, Power Doors-Breaks-Windows- Seats, AC, Cruise Control, CD-Radio, Excellent Condition, well maintained, Garage kept, non smoking car, new tires, batterie, alloy rims, only 2 owners, 45mil to one Gallon - Dieselonly € 5.900 obo. Pls. call 0172-676-2717 Email tomiba2000@yahoo.de

Opel Omega 2.0 Ltr, Silver Met, ABS, Alweather Tires, Air Cond, \$1850, ddundkk@hotmail.de, 2wheelmechanic@web.de

Mercedes Benz A-Class 180 CDI Avantgarde, :2007 :60,000 Automatic Navigation, Electric windows, Rain sensor, Navigation system, Multifunction steering wheel, Electric side mirror, Electric heated seats, CD player, ussr mymagana@yahoo.com

Saab 900 Coupe, 2.0 Ltr 1996, 5 Speed, Kms 169,000, Black, Alu Rims Elec Windows Air Cond, ABS, Air Bags, \$1400, And My Ph Is 0175-3213199 ddundkk@hotmail.de

Seat Year 1997, Green Met, Air Cond, ABS, Power Stereo Elec Windows, TUV Good For 15 Months, Summer And Winter Tires my ph is 0175-3213199, \$2000, ddundkk@hotmail.de

VW Golf 111, 1.6 Ltr, Black Met, 2 Door, 5 Speed, 1.6 Ltr, German TUV Till 07/2015 Very Good Running, We Deliver Any Where With Cash In Hand, My Ph Is 0175-3213199 Price, \$1550, ddundkk@hotmail.de

VW Lupo, Year 1999, Black Met Air Cond No Rust, Kms 165,000 5 Speed, 3 Door, My Ph is 0175-3213199, \$1,550, ddundkk@hotmail.de

Up for sale is probably the nicest Buell Ulysses XB12XT (Touring Model), \$4500, qashqai@financier.com

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2009 Harley Davidson XL1200N Nightster Trike, \$7000, leesburg81@linuxmail.org

2013 Harley Davidson Sportster Iron 883 Black 2109 miles, \$7000. Forward controls, 10in z-bar handlebars, 2 up seat with sissy bar and side saddle back. Contact Ryan at ryan_wlfong@yahoo.com or 0151 75189492

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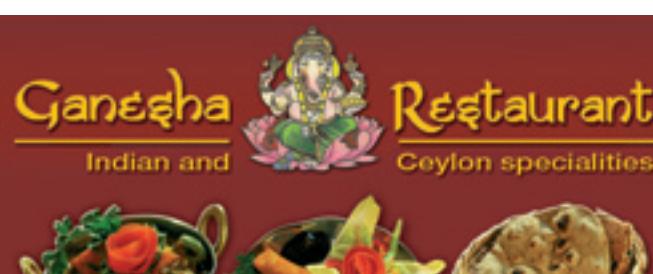
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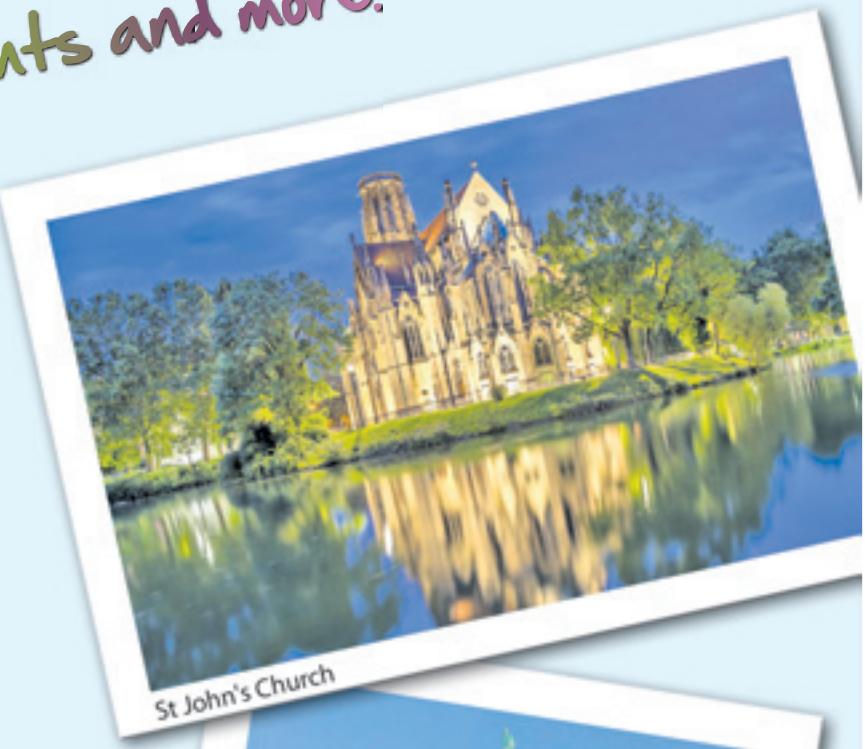
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Aeropostale long sleeve. Pink. On the front are pictures of peace signs and the label name is shown. Size M. Barley worn. Good condition. For pics see www.class-world.com. €9. janna.wuttke@gmx.de

Baby Buggy, Baby Buggy in good condition, with additional baby carrier. \$50.00, spvendor@gmail.com

Beautiful hand-made felt shoulder bag in purple with flower design, medium size, jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

Bible study books etc, \$20, isabell_1_98@yahoo.com

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Dark green Roxy Jeans. Size 30. Find pictures at www.class-world.com. €10. janina.wuttke@gmx.de

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Felt bag, gorgeous hand-made felt bag with blue design, medium size, €30, for pics see class-world.de jenniferwilking@hotmail.com

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Handbag "Alexander": Brown, leather bag, hardly used, perfect condition! €8, pics on class-world.com, copongracz@gmail.com

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Handbag "Esprit brand": Small bad, black leather, ideal if you only need to carry few things around with you like purse, cell phone etc., €5, pics on class-world.com, copongracz@gmail.com

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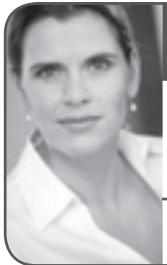
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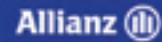
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THE COLOR RUN, the world's craziest and most colorful 5-km race series in the world,
takes place on Sunday, 19 July in Stuttgart again

Being at the start in brilliant white and ending up at the finishing line as colorful as can be and totally over the moon – and then party, party, party! That just about sums up the craziest and most colorful running event in the world: **THE COLOR RUN**. For the second time now the most colorful 5-km run in the world also stops in **Stuttgart at the Neckarpark**. The unique combination of summer party and fun sports event for participants of any age tours the length and breadth of Germany, leaving tens of thousands of COLOR RUNNERS covered in paint and filled with joy.

JOIN THE "SHINE TOUR"

This special "party-sports event" kicks-off starting in the beautiful setting of the Neckarpark along the Mercedes-Benz Arena. **THE COLOR RUN** is not about achieving a personal best – it is all about having fun and experiencing a community event. For this season the organizers have come up with a great new idea: at the "**SHINE Tour 2015**" participating runners won't just be pelted with different colored powder paints: they will also end up covered in a sea of glitter and sparkly bits.

At **THE COLOR RUN** the craziest, funniest and most colorful race in the world, fun is guaranteed. The event turns even the laziest couch potato into an enthusiastic party athlete. Whether together in a team of friends, work colleagues or with the whole family – this fun-run is an unforgettable experience this summer.

A DAY FILLED WITH HIGHLIGHTS, FUN AND COLOR

Dancing, keeping 'it moving' and throwing powder paint – it's a day filled with highlights and fun. After a gentle warm-up in front of the stage all runners line up at the starting line. That's where COLOR RUNNERS start things off with the 'start line party'. Now the runners pass through a total of four "COLOR ZONES" during their 5-km-long run. Whether runners are jogging, running or dancing – each one determines their own pace. Looking a colored mess but feeling totally exhilarated, runners arrive at the finishing line, where they can let off some final steam at the "Finishing Party", which is held in front of a huge stage with color cubes and accompanied by great music.

THE COLOR RUN welcomes participants of all ages and running abilities – young or old, fast or slow, individual runners or 'team players'. Tickets for Stuttgart available only at www.thecolorrun.de (WEBSITE FULL IN ENGLISH)!

Ticket prices start at € 25.99 for adults and € 15.99 for children aged 8 to 13. Children under 8 can enter for free. Each runner receives a comprehensive starter pack comprising the original THE COLOR RUN T-Shirt, headband, individual starting number and at least one bag of color, amongst other things.



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