

Directorate of Emergency Services (DES)

Q1: Who is responsible for checking security of buildings? We have seen numerous instances of buildings with windows and doors open overnight.

A1: Individual building owners are responsible for securing buildings. DES and MPs make periodic patrols of the area but the building owner has ultimate responsibility. We're working to revitalize the facility/building manager program to ensure owners are aware of their responsibilities.

Q2: What is the plan to get after rental car drivers and German vendors who park illegally?

A2: This is very tough as we don't have the ability to check tags. We will research how this is being worked at other garrisons in Europe and see what we can do to address this.

Q3: What can we do to improve the traffic situation at the K&K gate. It is especially problematic during morning and afternoon rush hours.

A3: We agree that DPW and DES should explore options in this area. DPW is researching the issue to determine the best path forward.

Q4: Can we consider posting MPs or parent volunteers at the crosswalks near the K&K gate in the morning to ensure the safety of children walking to school?

A4: DES is willing to explore the possibility of parent volunteers and will conduct additional research. We will also research the possibility of installing additional lighting and/or signage in the area.

Q5: Regarding parking on Floridastrasse, can signs be placed or spaces marked so driveways aren't blocked?

A5: The garrison will review its parking policy letter and provide an update. DES and DPW will review the need for additional signs and parking enforcement in the area.

Q6: Can parking time limits be better enforced?

A6: We will work to step up enforcement of parking in lots with time limits.

Directorate of Public Works (DPW) and Housing

Q7: Can we get an update on the parking situation on Patch as it relates to construction activities?

A7: We will see improvement in the parking situation during the first half of calendar year 2024. As of now, we are down 158 parking spots due to ongoing construction. By springtime, we will gain about 45 spots back due to completion of some activities. By summer, we will have gained all but about 30 spots.

Q8: What are the left/right limits for building coordinators in enforcing policy in Army Family Housing areas?

A8: Building coordinators are appointed by the Housing Division Chief. The main job of a building coordinator is to serve as a liaison for the Housing Office, advocate for the residents and the surrounding community, and monitoring activity for compliance with the Army Family Housing resident handbook.

Q9: Can we get more bike racks for family housing areas?

A9: The housing office is soliciting feedback on possible options from community members. Following this, a project will be planned with the goal of execution in Fiscal Year 2024.

Q10: Can we get more staff in the Housing office?

A10: Yes. Following a rough summer, the office has hired 9 new staff and is working a few more actions in preparation for the 2024 PCS season.

Q11: What is the policy on garbage disposals? Can they be installed in Army Family Housing units?

A11: In Germany it is not common to dispose food waste through the water system. Communities normally discourage/prohibit people to dispose food waste through sinks and toilets. It could jam the system and attracts rats and other animals in the sewer system. Residents can use the green bins provided in their unit for their personal composting. Otherwise, residents should throw food waste in the regular trash.

Directorate of Family & MWR (DFMWR)

Q12: When will a new theater director be hired?

A12: We plan to post the position in the coming weeks.

Exchange (AAFES)

Q13: Are there options for internet service on post beside TKS?

A13: For a hard-line, wired connection, TKS is the only service provide at this point. There are other vendors who are able to provide wireless connections, but TKS is the only vendor who has ability to use the Deutsche Telekom lines on post.

We recognize the frustration of recent outages. Many of the outages are related to construction on the Autobahn where workers have cut cables. To mitigate this, TKS has very recently completed a redundant line to Patch. The most recent outage over the weekend was shortened by the use of this redundant line.

Additionally, TKS is the only vendor in the area that is required to work in English and let customers out of contracts if they PCS on short notice. A new vendor would be required to provide the same options AND get approval to use Deutsche Telekom lines.

Staff from the Exchange continue to work with TKS to provide better communication with us when an outage is reported.

[TKS published a memo on Nov. 14, 2023 with details on the nature of the outages and steps taken to avoid them in the future, [accessible here](#)].

Q14: Can we use Starlink as an Internet option?

A14: Exchange headquarters staff have begun initial conversations with Starlink. However, some legal and regulatory issues must be addressed. Current housing regulations prohibit installation of satellite dishes on Army housing units. We will continue working with the vendor and housing officials to determine what is possible.

Q15: Esso stations seem to be disappearing from the Autobahn. Do we have other options?

A15: We see fairly routine changes amongst fuel vendors on the German economy. While some Esso stations change to other brands, some other brands have changed to Esso. There are currently 990 Esso stations in Germany. New stations have been added since April with two of those being located along the Autobahn.

Other (schools, health clinic, LRC)

Q16: What is the latest on getting COVID boosters in the area?

A16: The health clinic has ordered vaccines and hope to have additional information soon. The clinic advises that the initial order will be very limited in scope and may be enough to cover those with the highest risk.

Q17: What is being done to ensure School Advisory Councils (SACs) are effective?

A17: All SACs have met at least once this year and have received training at each site. DoDEA plans to centralize the training of SAC members next year and work hard to promote service on SACs during back-to-school activities.

Q18: When will DoDEA begin transitioning away from stand-alone special-education classes?

A18: DoDEA will continue to provide a full continuum of special education programs and service for students with disabilities which will always be based on their individual needs. The Individual Education Program (IEP) for each exceptional learner will remain the foundation for developing an instructional plan that meets the student's needs as well as requirements for a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment possible.

Q19: Why as LIMS moved back to Patch from Stuttgart Elementary School?

A19: The LIMS program has been offered for the USAG Stuttgart community at Patch Elementary School (ES). This has been the case except for when Stuttgart ES housed the program, temporarily, during the new Patch ES construction. The new Patch ES school was designed, built, and outfitted to meet the standards of LIMS program

Q20: It doesn't appear there is enough space in one of the 2nd grade class areas. What can we do to address this?

A20: One of the major shifts in the 21st Century School is the move from individual classrooms to the grouping of several different size learning spaces within a neighborhood. The neighborhood provides space for a variety of large, medium, and small groups, one-to-one pairings, and individual learning. The learning hub (36-52 students), learning studios (18-24 students), group learning (10-12 students) and one-to-one spaces (1-4 students) are intended to be shared neighborhood resources, rather than being assigned to one staff member. In keeping with the 21st Century approach, at Patch, the teaching teams are responsible for all the students in the neighborhood and students interact with multiple teachers throughout the neighborhood every day. The second-grade neighborhood has an outdoor learning space and a learning patio as well. All neighborhoods feature sliding glass, magnetic, and write-able wall panels to maximize the flexibility of the learning space. Teaching teams are empowered and encouraged to establish zones of learning. Neighborhoods began the year with open

wall panels and as they implemented routines and established expectations with students each neighborhood team collaborated on the design of the neighborhood to include the placement of the wall panels. Teachers should be using the space to its full design potential including learning through co-teaching; whole group and small group instruction; small group; pair; and individual work sessions. Currently, DoDEA staffing ratios for 2nd grade are 18 pupils to 1 teacher. The last two years 2nd grade enrollment has resulted in 4 teachers being assigned to the neighborhood.

Q21: Are we looking at changes to the shuttle-bus contract?

A21: By this time next year, the Army's Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Europe Directorate will assume management of the shuttle bus service currently operated by the Logistics and Readiness Center Stuttgart (LRC Stuttgart). Despite the transition, we expect minimal disruptions as the current schedule seems to efficiently serve the community's needs without expanding the fleet of hiring additional drivers, which would result in increased costs.