

PANZER TOWN HALL QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES
28 NOV 2023

Directorate of Emergency Services (DES)

Q1: What is being done about thefts in housing areas?

A1: We have received some reports of bicycles being stolen in the Panzer Housing area over the past few months. All were unsecured when stolen. We strongly recommend residents secure bicycles and their storage spaces to prevent theft. All incidents should be reported to the MPs immediately.

Directorate of Public Works (DPW) and Housing

Q2: Can we explore more space for Boy Scout troops at Panzer? It appears space is available at the old Patch on Panzer Elementary School.

A2: The garrison has a space shortfall for its tenant commands and for other organizations. We are currently doing sampling and testing at the old Patch on Panzer building in anticipation of consolidating MWR services in the future. However, garrison leadership and DPW Master Planning staff are working with the Scouts to explore other options for space.

Q3: What can we do to get charging stations for electric vehicles?

A3: We are aware of interest in vehicle-charging stations but are awaiting implementation guidance from Installation Management Command (IMCOM) headquarters. We plan to roll this out as soon as we get a green light but timeframe is currently not known.

Q4: Grass in housing areas seems long. Even though there was a lot of rain, the grass was barely mowed every five weeks this summer. Can this be addressed?

A4: We agree that grass cutting didn't keep up with growth over the summer. Weather made things very complicated this year; crews can't mow when it's raining nor can they mow wet grass. We make all efforts to ensure compliance with the contract and that crew are taking full advantage of days when there are good weather.

Directorate of Family & MWR (DFMWR)

Q5: What can we do to get more pickleball space outside in the garrison?

A5: Pickleball can currently be played on tennis courts although we acknowledge some of the challenges associated with that. We will explore some options and work to develop a long-term plan. FMWR's Community Recreation Division is looking to provide more pickleball programming in the coming year, with plans to hold a pickleball tournament on January 20 at Kelley Fitness Center.

Q6: Is it possible to do line dancing to country music at the Swabian Center?

A6: We are looking at changes to the Swabian Special Events Center in the coming months. We plan to convert it into a recreation center. We plan to install pool tables, some games, and other recreational items. We can explore line dancing at the facility.

Q7: If the Swabian is converted to a rec center, would Scouts be able to use the space?

A7: We have some other thoughts in mind for the space at the Swabian, but the garrison is willing to explore use of open space near the post office on Patch with Scout leaders.

Exchange (AAFES)

Q8: Are there options for internet service on post beside TKS?

A8: 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 Deutsche Telekom line 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 communicate better with us when an outage is reported.

Other (schools, vet clinic)

Q10: Can transportation (by bus or van) be provided to children who must walk from Stuttgart Elementary School to the School Age Center (SAC) in Panzer Housing?

A10: According to DoDEA regulations, the walking zone for an elementary school student (grade 6 and under) is one mile. The distance from the elementary school to the Panzer SAC is about 0.8 miles. DoDEA regulations place responsibility for transportation within designated walking zones on the parent/sponsor of the child.

Q11: Is it possible to conduct a survey of pets who developed health issues after arrival in this region even though they were certified healthy in US? I know people who have lost their pets after moving here and would be curious to see if there is a connection?

A11: We don't have a great way to track incoming personnel other than registration with our facility. We encourage all personnel arriving to the Stuttgart Garrison to register their pets with us within the first couple of weeks of arrival. Registration does not require a physical examination of the animal, so we don't see many pets shortly after arrival to Stuttgart.

We haven't had an increase in calls regarding very sick animals over the last couple of months. We don't have the capacity to see emergencies or hospitalize patients, so we often direct clients to off post veterinary clinics if their animal sounds particularly ill. Many of our clients know we can't see them if it's likely their animal will be hospitalized, and they bypass us and go directly to an off-post clinic. I haven't heard from any German veterinary clinics of an increase in sick animals recently.