

DRIVING

DRIVING IN GERMANY

Getting around on the roads - **PAGE 28**



FOOD

GERMAN CUISINE

Learn how to eat well in Germany - **PAGE 19**



THE CITY

ABOUT STUTTGART

Information about our host city - **PAGE 3**



The Citizen

GERMANY

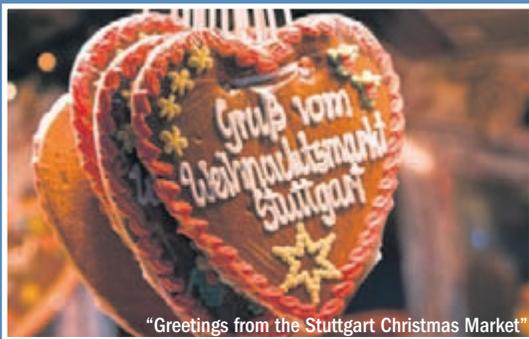
HISTORY, CULTURE

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

Special Summer 2014 Welcome Edition Sustaining & Supporting the Stuttgart U.S. Military Community **Garrison Website:** www.stuttgart.army.mil **Facebook:** [facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart](https://www.facebook.com/USAGarrisonStuttgart) stuttgartcitizen.net

C I T I Z E N S P E C I A L E D I T I O N

Welcome to Stuttgart



"Greetings from the Stuttgart Christmas Market"



Future schools scheduled to open in 2015 near Panzer Kaserne



some photos © Stuttgart-Marketing GmbH

SOFA: GET COMFORTABLE

STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT

Understand your legal status as a U.S. military-affiliated service member, civilian or family member under the SOFA between the U.S. and Germany - **PAGE 16**

THE HUNT FOR HOUSING

"WHERE ARE WE GOING TO LIVE?"

Find your new home away from home with a guide to housing in Stuttgart, whether you're going to live on the installation or out in one of the nearby German communities - **PAGE 8**

STUTTGART SCHOOLS

"WHERE WILL OUR KIDS GO TO SCHOOL?"

Your guide to the American Department of Defense Dependents Schools located throughout the Stuttgart U.S. military community - **PAGE 10**

GOOD TO KNOW

A CORNUCOPIA OF INFORMATION AWAITS

Loads of important tips and tricks for living here in Germany that don't necessarily fit in with the other topics covered elsewhere in this special edition - **PAGE 33**



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Welcome to Stuttgart

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It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the Stuttgart military community. I hope that you will find, as I and my family have, that this is one of the best assignments in your military or civilian career. Stuttgart is a great place to work and live. With a vibrant joint military community of about 25,000 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.

The best way to set the stage for a positive experience in an overseas assignment is with a smooth arrival and permanent change of station. Having served in uniform now for 25 years, I have moved myself and my family about 12 times, so I fully understand the many challenges you face during your PCS. There is a lot of stress, a lot to do, and seemingly little time to do any of it.

Add to that the fact that you are landing in a foreign country, many 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 smoothly transition into what I sincerely hope will be one of your favorite assignments.

One of the keys to a successful PCS is an active and effective sponsor. Long before arriving to Stuttgart and picking up this guide, you should have



Col. JOHN P. STACK
Commander, USAG Stuttgart

been contacted by a sponsor assigned to help you through the PCS process. This sponsor should be your point of contact for any information you will need during your PCS, but I thought that having a consolidated source of information like this special edition of the Stuttgart Citizen would be helpful as well.

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 to 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

online resources available to you.

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 all of 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.

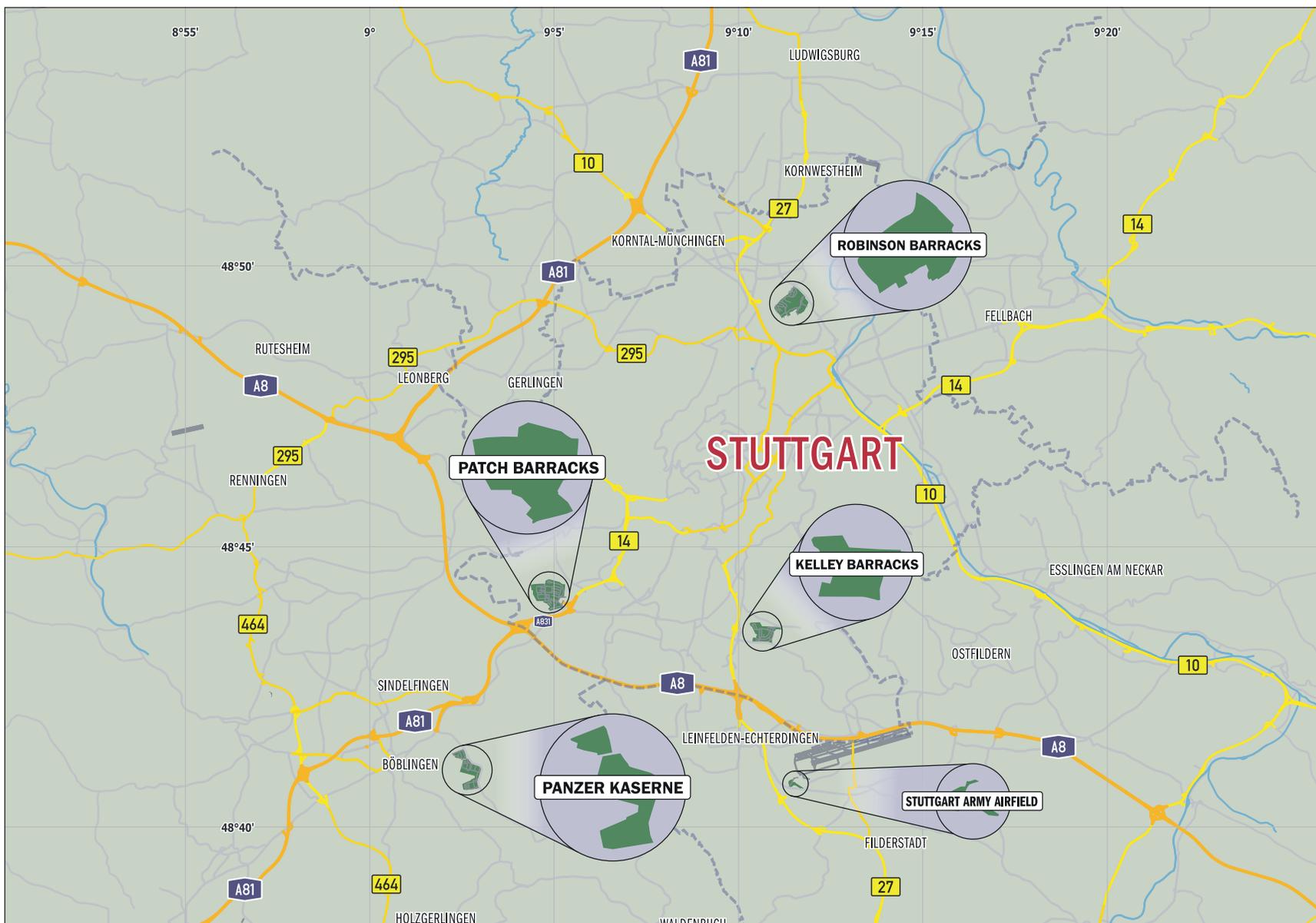
And what great things Stuttgart has to offer; whether at work, working hand-in-hand with all four services, as well as the State Department and other agencies in this active and vital joint community, or getting out and travelling in your leisure time. The Black Forest is right outside of Stuttgart's front door and historic cities such as Paris, Prague, Munich and Salzburg, Austria, are all within a day's drive. Or, perhaps 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), sipping on some wine fresh from the vineyard, or visiting one of the many museums Stuttgart is well-known for.

Those of you who are not new to the Stuttgart area may also find great value in this special edition. My intent is that all of our basic community services are represented here, and that in each of the sections of this special edition you find links to further information.

Whether you are just arriving, or you've been here for some time, I hope this guide leads you to some of the many resources that can help make your time here a truly great experience and before long, 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-Mohringen; Robinson Barracks in Stuttgart-Bad-Canstatt and Stuttgart Army Airfield in Filderstadt. Housing, work centers and services can be found throughout the four larger installations and just a few work centers are located on Stuttgart Army Airfield.

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 25,000 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 center with a wide variety of industry and tourism.

Panzer Kaserne, located in Böblingen, is home to 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 Alexander M. Patch High and Elementary Schools.

Kelley Barracks is located in Stuttgart-Mohringen and is home to U.S. Africa Command. Facilities on Kelley Barracks include a fitness center, the Kelley Theatre, the Stuttgart Law Center, 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 command, as well as the primary platform for military cargo, and the mail distribution node. While no services are provided at 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 Basel, 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 just 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.

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 and valid throughout the entire “Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund” public transportation system. The card covers admission to all museums and many leisure facilities, as well as reduced entrance fees.

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/stuttcard.

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

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

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

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 homes’ front door or dining table.

People also like to arrange

blooming branches, along with birch tree and pussy 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 rings. 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. Usually, 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



Setting up a “Maibaum,” or May pole, is one of many traditions celebrated throughout Germany which signify the start of spring. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

children search for their Easter nests, which are filled with chocolate eggs and bunnies or other 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.

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 — “Göcklesmaier,” “Grandl’s Hofbräu Zelt” and “Zum Wasenwirt” — will offer grilled

chicken or “Göckele,” freshly brewed fest beer and live bands, which will 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 alpine 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 “Schweinschaxe” (pork shank) 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 reduced entrance fees.

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

For more information on the Stuttgart Frühlingsfest and tickets, 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 is held toward the end of July 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

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 Prinzel!” which translates to: Peas, beans, lentils — hurray, 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 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. 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, according to Kurfess.

“It’s the charm of this historic quarter that makes it so very special,” Kurfess said in 2012. “Everything here is smaller and a little different.”

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.

— See SUMMER, Page 21

DON'T MISS THESE SUMMER EVENTS

“Hamburger Fischmarkt” Fish Market

This 10-day annual fest occurs in mid-July at Stuttgart’s Karlsplatz.

“Lichterfest” Festival of Lights

This one-day event is held in mid-July at Höhenpark Killesberg.

“Henkersfest” Hangman’s Fest

The four-day music fest is held in mid-July at Stuttgart’s Wilhelmsplatz.

“Sommerfest” Summer Festival

Stuttgarters celebrate summer for four days in early August with music, fine foods and cock-tails in the downtown area.

“Weindorf” Wine Fest

This 12-day fest held at the end of August in Stuttgart’s historic downtown area highlights locally produced wines.



Cheers to the good times

Visitors enjoy hearty food, beverages and German folk music at a fest tent during the "Cannstatter Volksfest" at the Cannstatter Wasen fest grounds in Bad Cannstatt. Typically, the event runs from the end of September through the second week of October and is the second largest Volksfest in the world. — © *Stuttgart-Marketing GmbH*

Oktoberfest: Millions flock to world's largest festival

By Molly Hayden
USAG Grafenwöhr Public Affairs Office

Munich's Oktoberfest is the world's biggest festival; the quint-essential 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 181th Oktoberfest celebration, which runs from Sept. 20 to Oct. 5, and like every year, it is shaping up to be a two-week, non-stop celebration.

Women don snug dirndls 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 simply 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 festivalgoers, 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 Hofbräuhaus 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 two 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 30.

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

— See FALL, Page 21



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. 20 to Oct. 5. — Photo by *Thinkstockphotos.com*



Christmas markets light up winter nights

Every city, town or village in Germany has at least one Christmas market (called Adventmarkt, Christkindlmarkt, Weihnachtsmarkt or Nikolausmarkt), and some even have four or five. Many of the markets start at the end of November and close around Dec. 23. The markets offer a winter wonderland of handcrafted goods, specialty seasonal treats and other goods and entertainment to bring warmth to the cold winter months.

— Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

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, glittering Christmas ball ornaments or stars. 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 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.

— See WINTER, Page 34

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

By Carola Meusel
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

There are five seasons in Germany: spring, summer, fall, winter and Fasching (carnival).

Fasching or "Fastnacht" originates in the word "fasting" and marks the week leading up to Ash Wednesday, where the 40-day Lent before Easter begins. For many Germans, Fasching represents the most cheerful time of the year. It's a time when citizens "let off steam," and live it up before Lent.

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

While the carnival season officially begins Nov. 11 at 11:11 a.m., 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" (Fasching



Parades and other activities during Fasching can liven up dreary months of winter, and are a festive tradition throughout Germany. — Photo by Slade Walters, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

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

In the evening of Fat Tuesday, the "Fastnacht," represented by 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 outside Stuttgart, is one of the most popular Fasching metropolises in the area. The town celebrates Greasy Thursday with the "Hexentanz," or witch's dance at Schlossplatz Square.

During the event, Neuhausen's Fasching fools storm the town hall and force the mayor to hand over the keys of

the city administration.

In order to celebrate this symbolic event, a huge fire is lit.

During the various Fasching parades in southern Germany, "Narren," or Fasching fools with wooden masks in the image of witches, devils and grotesque animals can be seen in many towns.

Be on the lookout for Narren walking up to you to either ruffle your hair or drop you a piece of candy.



TOP: 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.

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.

RIGHT: 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).



Finding a home away from home

By Gloria Colon-Buzatu
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Living on a U.S. military installation overseas is like living in a gated community with a major difference. Inside the gate is a touch of America, and a step outside is an immersion into German culture.

Across four of the five U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart installations newcomers will find over 1,300 family housing units.

“For some, living on a U.S. military installation means a safe and secure place to live,” said Glenn Mitchell, USAG Stuttgart chief of housing. “Yet the whole European experience is right outside the gate.”

On-post family housing units throughout Stuttgart consist of stairwell apartments with two to five bedrooms, with the five-bedroom units located on Kelley Barracks. The housing areas are located on Robinson Barracks, Patch Barracks, Panzer Kaserne, and Kelley Barracks.

In-home amenities include a laundry room with washer and dryer for each unit, individual storage space, and 110 and 220-volt outlets for both

U.S. and German appliances.

Community services include fitness centers, community clubs for social events, elementary, middle and high schools, and libraries. For hours and locations of facilities and services, see pages 25-26.

Upon receipt of permanent change of station orders, uniformed members and U.S. government civilian employees 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.

Mandatory on-post housing

Installation Management Command Europe has a mandatory on-post housing policy. “Regulation (Army and Army in Europe Regulation) 420-1 requires government-owned family homes be occupied,” Mitchell said. “Maintaining vacant apartments is cost prohibitive and from a fiduciary standpoint, irresponsible.”

When the on-post family home inventory doesn’t meet the uniformed

member’s bedroom requirement, a certificate of non-availability may be issued, according to Army regulation 420-1. The certificate of non-availability authorizes the service member to begin house hunting on the German economy.

Finding rental property in Stuttgart

The Installation Management Command Europe Off-Post Housing website is IMCOM-E’s home-finders’ tool. This public site contains an average of 200 listings of rental homes in and around Stuttgart, most within the school zones, and all are free from realtor fees, according to Chuck Houston, the USAG Stuttgart Housing Office customer service supervisor.

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

There are several home types in Germany. Apartments, penthouses, maisonette apartments (which are two-floored apartments), townhouses, duplexes and free-standing houses can be found for rent on www.imcom-europe.army.mil/OPH.

Large homes or free-standing

single houses with multiple bathrooms, large yards and five or more bedrooms are more difficult to find and are usually located outside school zones. 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 paid for out of pocket. Financial overseas housing entitlements are listed on the DOD overseas allowance calculator at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/ohaCalc.cfm.

Before arriving, it is recommended that you visit the OPH website 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.

Smaller homes in Germany

Average home sizes are smaller in Germany, and may spread out over two to four floors. Typically, there are no closets. Yards and garages, when available, are usually smaller than what many Americans may be used to.

Rental homes with garages and yards are often found farther away from military installations.

Free-standing, single-family homes are significantly more expensive and harder to find than apartments. Large apartments near all five USAG Stuttgart installations can be found on the OPH website.

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 and manages the OPH listings. The office provides up to three escorted home tours, home inspections, and individual counseling to discuss rental units found on OPH for service members only.

The limited services to U.S. government civilian employees include the request for landlord details for homes listed on the OPH and a contract review. Home inspections are conducted between the tenant and landlord (this may also be a property manager).

All homes listed on the OPH website 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 service members and U.S. government civilians. This housing brief provides an overview of the Housing Office services and highlights off-post housing processes.

The Housing Office in-processing brief is a one-on-one meeting between a housing counselor and a housing

customer. This brief is mandatory for service members and optional for U.S. government civilians.

At this briefing, customers will receive an Aspen customer routing form and housing unit detail request form. Normally within 24 hours after a request for details, 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 a 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 the rental contract process is when a 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 to the attention of Aspen and off-post housing at Usarmy.stuttgart.usag.list.dpw-housing-email@mail.mil.

"Make sure to complete and send the cover sheet as soon as possible because it's your guarantee that the property will be removed from the OPH website, which means its closer to being yours," said Stefanie Dommer, a USAG Stuttgart housing counselor.

The next step is scheduling a contract review with the Housing Office no later than two business days from the date the landlord signs the contract. Contract review appointments are made on the USAG Stuttgart secured SharePoint portal at <https://home.army.mil/sites/eur/Ger/stu/has/default.aspx>. A common access card is required to access the SharePoint portal.

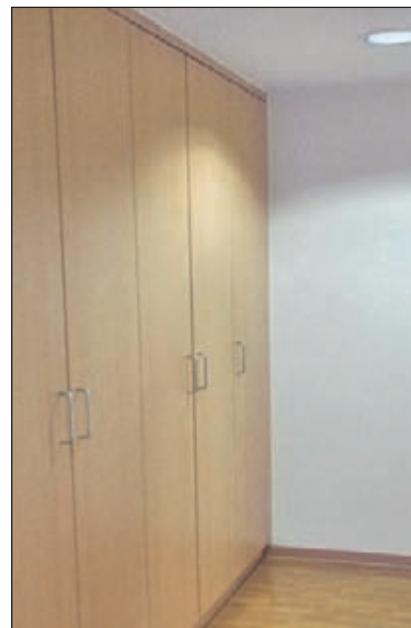
Customers can also make appointments by calling 431-2230/civ. 07031-15-2230 or stopping by the Housing Office.

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

"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.

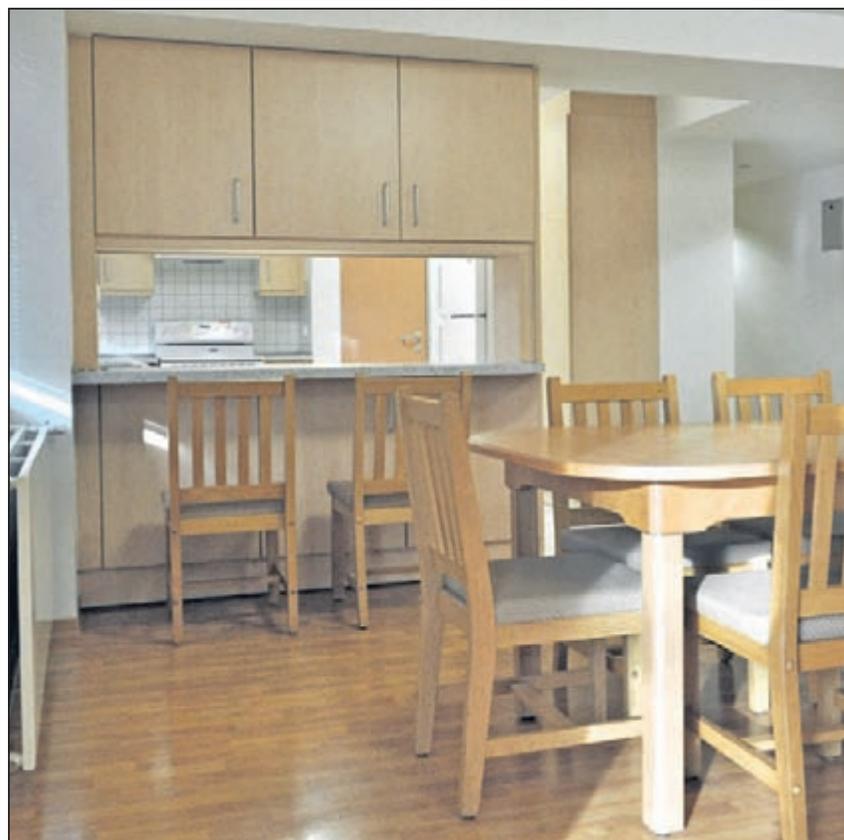
Personnel on TDY or deployment orders

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, a copy of the sponsor's temporary duty or deployment orders is required and the requirement for a power of attorney is waived. For housing contact information and a list of services, go to the USAG Stuttgart website at www.stuttgart.army.mil and select the Housing Services Office.



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

To make housing appointments online, go to the USAG Stuttgart secure SharePoint Portal at <https://home.army.mil/sites/eur/Ger/stu/has/default.aspx>.



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

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Stuttgart American schools

By Greg Jones
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Stuttgart community schools, part of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Bavaria District, is comprised of four schools across three of the five Stuttgart installations. Panzer Kaserne and Robinson Barracks are both homes to combined elementary/middle schools and Patch Barracks has a high school and an elementary school.

Each school serves a given geographic area, with the high school serving the entire community.

The schools offer a variety of programs and the curriculum is the standard Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum,

which is comparable to schools throughout the U.S.

Stuttgart 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 each school on Pages 10-13.

For families residing off-base, bus services are offered in local communities throughout the six counties of the Stuttgart metropolitan area. The individual school information that follows this article includes lists of the towns and cities served by each school to help families identify which school 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 and their website is www.shopmyexchange.com/community/schoollunch/. At this website parents can set up an account, pay for and monitor the use of their children's school meal accounts. Information on applying for free and reduced meals can be obtained directly from the schools.

The school year begins near the end of August and runs until mid-June, with approximately two weeks of winter break around the Christmas federal holiday, and a one

week spring break usually occurring in early April. The 2014-2015 school year will begin Aug. 25, 2014, and end June 11, 2015. Winter break will be from Dec. 22, 2014, to Jan. 4, 2015. Spring break will be April 6-12, 2015.

School registration is available for incoming families at any time, but scheduled registration periods and pre-registration can make the registration process quicker. Parents should contact the school serving their living 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 school and start the registration process early.

Patch High School



Patch High School, located on Patch Barracks, is the only American High School in Stuttgart and serves all of the Stuttgart community schools area. A new high and elementary school are under construction adjacent to Panzer Kaserne. — *Photo courtesy of Patch High School*

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Located at Montana Street 1 on Patch Barracks, Patch High School serves 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 a 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.

Patch High School was founded in 1979 and has been in the same facility since that date. From 1979 until 2006 the school operated for grades seven to 12. With the 1992 closure of Stuttgart American High School, Patch High School became the only American high school in the Stuttgart area. After 2006 the school changed to grades 9 through 12.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

CMR 480 Unit 30401, APO, AE
09107-0401

Telephone:

DSN: 430-7191
Civ. 0711-680-7191

Website:

www.stut-hs.eu.dodea.edu/

Principal:

Danny Robinson

Assistant Principal:

Dr. Marshall Blankenship

Guidance Counselors:

9th-grade: Monika Juergens
10th-grade: Amy Matney
11th and 12th-grades:
Bruce Engel
Lisa Kunstman

Patch 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 top four in the nation in 2012, 2013 and 2014, and all members of the team are ranked among the top 20 high school marksmen in the nation, according to school officials.

Stuttgart's Future High School



This illustration depicts the new school complex currently under construction adjacent to Panzer Kaserne. The new campus, scheduled for completion for the 2015-2016 school year, will be comprised of a 150,000-square-foot high school with a capacity for 650 students and a 95,000-square-foot elementary school for 610 students, and is currently slated to replace Patch High School, and the Böblingen Elementary School. — *Illustration by Team G.A.U.S. Planungsgesellschaft GmbH*

Böblingen Elementary/ Middle School

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

The Böblingen Elementary/Middle School in Building 2918 on Panzer Kaserne has a student population of about 630, with a staff of 70 teachers and administrators.

As a combined elementary and middle school it offers the standard Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum for grades kindergarten to eight.

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 to appear much as it does today. 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 little as 170 students. With the addition of the middle school, the school was designated with its current title Böblingen Elementary/Middle School.

The “Bulldogs” of Böblingen Elementary/Middle School were 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

Website:

www.stut-esb.eu.dodea.edu/

Principal:

Sonja Rodriguez

Assistant Principal:

Dr. Thomas Thomson

Elementary Guidance Counselor:

Helen Hitchcock

Middle School Guidance Counselor:

Mary Supik

Cities/towns served by BEMS

- Aich (Aichtal)
- Aichtal
- Altdorf (Kreis BB)
- Böblingen
- Breitenstein (Weil/Schönbuch)
- Dettenhausen
- Diezenhalde (Böblingen)
- Galgenberg (Böblingen)
- Glashütte (Waldenbuch)
- Grötzingen (Aichtal)
- Hasenhof (Waldenbuch)
- Häslach (Walldorfhäslach)
- Herrenberg
- Hildrizhausen
- Holzgerlingen
- Hulb (Böblingen)
- Kalkofen (Waldenbuch)
- Liebenau (Waldenbuch)
- Neuenhaus (Aichtal)
- Neuweiler (Weil/Schönbuch)
- Panzer Housing (Böblingen)
- Rauher Kapf (Böblingen)
- Rohrau (Gärtringen)
- Rudolfshöhe (Aichtal)
- Schaichhof (Weil/Schönbuch)
- Schönaich
- Steinenbronn
- Tannenberg (Böblingen)
- Waldburg (Böblingen)
- Walldorf (Walldorfhäslach)
- Walldorfhäslach
- Waldenbuch
- Weil im Schönbuch

Note: Böblingen Elementary/Middle School also serves middle school students in Gärtringen, Ehningen, and Nufringen.



Böblingen Elementary/Middle School is one of two combined elementary schools and provides K-8 Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum instruction. — *Photo by Greg Jones, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office*

Patch Elementary School

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Located in Building 2387, Patch Elementary School serves a student population of about 650 students, with 85 teachers and administrators.

This school offers the standard DODEA curriculum for kindergarten to grade 5, 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 2013-2014

school year, Patch offered running club, yearbook club, chorus, art club, robotics club, yoga, just dance and student council.

Patch Elementary School was built in 1979, and its mascot is the Stallion. Plans are in the works for a new school in the future. 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.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:
Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

Tel. DSN: 430-5200
Civ. 0711680-5200

Website:
www.patch-es.eu.dodea.edu/

Principal: Nancy Hammack

Assistant Principal: Sheree Foster

Guidance Counselors:
Jan Kuenning
Jann Richter

Cities/towns served by PES

- Aidlingen
- Bernhausen (Filderstadt)
- Bonlanden (Filderstadt)
- Botnang (Stuttgart)
- Büsnau (Stuttgart)
- Dagersheim (Böblingen)
- Darmsheim (Sindelfingen)
- Dätzingen ((Grafenau)
- Deufringen (Aidlingen)
- Döffingen (Grafenau)
- Dürrlawang (Stuttgart)
- Echterdingen (L.E.)
- Ehningen
- Eichholz (Sindelfingen)
- Eltingen (Leonberg)
- Fasanenhof (Stuttgart)
- Filderstadt
- Forchenrain (Gerlingen)
- Gartenstadt (Leonberg)
- Gärtringen
- Gerlingen
- Goldberg (Sindelfingen)
- Grafenau
- Harthausen (Filderstadt)
- Hinterweil (Sindelfingen)
- Höfingen (Leonberg)
- Kaltental (Stuttgart)
- Kapellenberg (Grafenau)
- Leinfeld (L.E.)
- Leinfeld-Echterdingen
- Leonberg
- Magstadt
- Maichingen (Sindelfingen)
- Malmsheim (Renningen)
- Merklingen (Weil der Stadt)
- Möhringen (Stuttgart)
- Musberg (L.E.)
- Neuhausen a.d. Fildern
- Nufringen
- Oberaichen (L.E.)
- Patch Barracks (Stuttgart)
- Plattenhardt (Filderstadt)
- Ramtel (Leonberg)
- Renningen
- Rohr (Stuttgart)
- Schaffhausen (Weil der Stadt)
- Schillerhöhe (Gerlingen)
- Sielmingen (Filderstadt)
- Sindelfingen
- Sonnenberg (Stuttgart)
- Stetten (L.E.)
- Unteraichen (L.E.)
- Vaihingen (Stuttgart)
- Warmbronn (Leonberg)
- Weil der Stadt
- Wolfschlugen

NOTE: Middle school students in these villages attend Robinson Elementary/Middle School, except Gärtringen, Ehningen, and Nufringen, where middle school students attend Boeblingen Middle School.



Parents at Patch Elementary School prepare to see off their children on the first day of the 2013-2014 school year. — Photo by Carola Meusel, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

Robinson Barracks Elementary/ Middle School

USAG Stuttgart School Liaison Office

Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School in Building 148 on Robinson Barracks services a student population of about 710, with about 80 teachers and administrators.

The school offers the standard Department of Defense Education Activity curriculum for kindergarten to grade eight, and also hosts extracurricular activities including drama, art, yearbook, video, music, and science clubs, as well as space camp and intramurals.

The school operates on an A and B day schedule with four periods each day. The school day begins at 7:50 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 eighties and early nineties. After having been an elementary school for many years, in 2006 the school received its current designation as Robinson Elementary/



Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School is one of two combined elementary schools in Stuttgart. The other is Böblingen Elementary/Middle School on Panzer Kaserne. Patch Barracks has an elementary school serving K-5 students. — Photos by USAG Stuttgart

Middle School.

in a building that had 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 '80s and early '90s. After having been an elementary school for many years, in 2006 the school received its current designation as Robinson Elementary/Middle School.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Unit 30401, APO AE 09107

Telephone:

DSN 430-9337
Civ. 0711-680-9337

Website:

www.rbar-es.eu.dodea.edu/index.html

Principal: Shelia Smith

Assistant Principal:

Tessa Moss-Beaman

Guidance Counselor 7th and 8th:

Aprile Evans

Guidance Counselor 5th and 6th:

Sharon Gilbert

Guidance Counselor K through 4th:

Diana Fries



Cities/villages served by RBEMS

Elementary and Middle:

- Aldingen (Remseck/Neckar)
- Asemwald (Stuttgart)
- Asperg
- Bad Cannstatt (Stuttgart)
- Beihingen (Freiberg/Neckar)
- Bergheim (Stuttgart)
- Birkach (Stuttgart)
- Burgholzof (Stuttgart)
- Degerloch (Stuttgart)
- Denkendorf
- Ditzingen
- Eglosheim (Ludwigsburg)
- Fellbach
- Feuerbach (Stuttgart)
- Frauenkopf (Stuttgart)
- Freiberg (Stgt)
- Freiberg am Neckar
- Gablenberg (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)
- Hirschlanden (Ditzingen)
- Hofen (Stuttgart)
- Hoffeld (Stuttgart)
- Hoheneck (Ludwigsburg)
- Hohenheim (Stuttgart)
- Hohenstange (Tamm)
- Kallenberg (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)
- Neckarrem (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)
- Schmiden (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),

NOTE: Robinson Barracks Elementary/Middle School also serves middle school students in the Patch Elementary zone, except for Gaertingen, Ehningen, and Nufringen.

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 a large open-air, cobblestoned, mile-long shopping malls. Specialty stores, restaurants and other services line these pedestrian streets, offering just about anything the average shopaholic might desire.



Local farmer’s and seasonal markets offer a wide variety of foods and other products. Some of the larger seasonal markets throughout the year, like Christmas markets, fall festivals, and spring fests also offer entertainment, carnival rides and much more. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

Grocery shopping

Grocery shopping in Germany in recent years has become a much more convenient experience. Franchise grocery stores that offer the full range of basic everyday grocery needs can be found throughout Germany in most cities and towns. Small villages may not have these facilities, but they are usually not far away in a neighboring village or town.

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

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

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

Cash and carry!

Cash is still much more widely used in Germany than in the U.S. and many stores do not take credit cards or bank cards, and sometimes those that do require a minimum purchase. It is not unusual for a German to go to the store with several thousand Euros in cash to buy a full kitchen. While larger department stores, home furnishings stores and other larger shopping venues are starting to accept credit cards, the smaller stores, and especially grocery stores, often do not. A good rule of thumb if you are buying food, or shopping in a store where most of the purchases would be below €100, is to be prepared to pay with cash. For stores where the average purchase is much higher, ask if they take credit cards.

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.

Welcome to the Metric System!

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

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

Common quick approximate conversions:

One Gallon is a little less than 4 liters

One liter is just over four cups

One kilometer is a little more than half a mile

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

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

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

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

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

– Graphics by Shutterstock.com

Converting Metric to U.S.

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

Converting U.S. to Metric

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

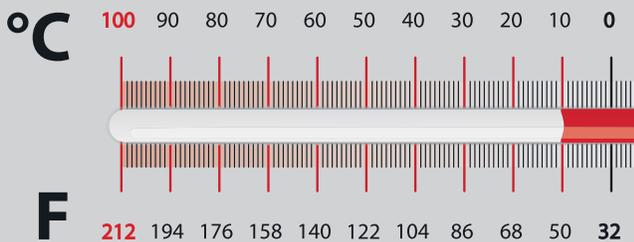
Converting Temperatures

°C = (°F - 32) ÷ 1.8
 °F = (°C x 1.8) + 32

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

Common Temperatures Fahrenheit Celsius

Fahrenheit	Celsius
Boiling water	212°
A very hot day	104°
Body temperature	98.6°
A warm day	86°
A mild day	68°
A cool day	50°
Freezing water	32°



Military, civilians, families fall under SOFA

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



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

enforcement, taxation, telecommunication, customs, residence, driving, employment, mail, schooling, housing and much more.

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 17.

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 USAREUR license. See the related article on page 28.

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 someone 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 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 businesslike. 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 them informed of their housing search status at all times.

Be careful when dealing with realtors. While realtors technically work for the potential renter seeking the 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.

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 a speeding ticket or other traffic citation. Prompt payment of the fines is highly recommended.

The U.S. Army in Europe vehicle registry records German traffic violations and assigns 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.

— See LEGAL, Page 20

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



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

forms by providing the white copy to the VAT office and the pink copy can 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 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. 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, 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 \$77 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 (VAT form must be printed before ordering or buying).

- 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, regardless of who buys the automobile, parts, or service.

- Buying items for resale or other commercial purposes. This activity is considered "trading in the commercial sector" and is illegal in 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 costs related to buying or selling real estate.
- Using VAT forms for construction, renovation, or home

repair costing €2,500 or more without IMCOM-Europe 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).

SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?

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

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

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

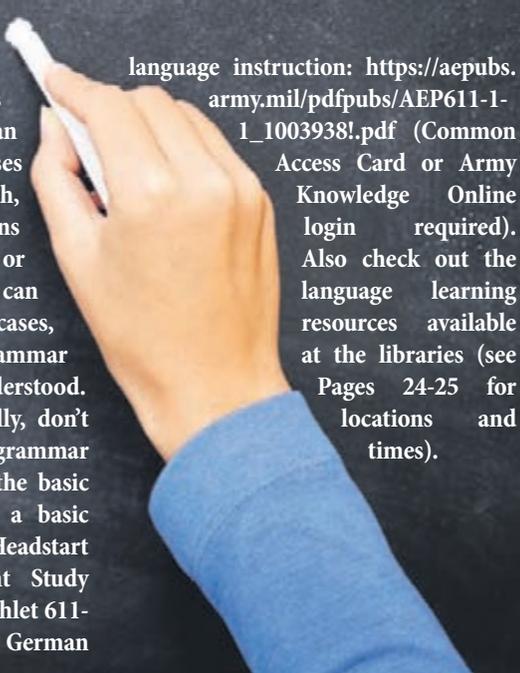
A couple of tips will help those learning German for the first time:

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

on learning a few key phrases.

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

language instruction: https://aepubs.army.mil/pdfpubs/AEP611-1-1_1003938!.pdf (Common Access Card or Army Knowledge Online login required). Also check out the language learning resources available at the libraries (see Pages 24-25 for locations and times).



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

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

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

Counting

0	..... Null	8	..... Acht
1	..... Eins	9	..... Neun
2	..... Zwei	10	..... Zehn
3	..... Drei	11	..... Elf
4	..... Vier	12	..... Zwölf
5	..... Fünf	13	..... Dreizehn
6	..... Sechs	14	..... vierzehn*
7	..... Sieben	20	..... Zwanzig
21	..... Einundzwanzig	..... One and Twenty**	
30	..... Dreißig	..... Thirty	
40	..... Vierzig	..... Forty	
50	..... Fünfzig	..... Fifty	
60	..... Sechzig	..... Sixty	
70	..... 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. **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 the '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 nonetheless appetizing, like potato pancakes.

Next in priority in 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) in the mid-day 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 cuisine is 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 inter-national 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, and ranges 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



Local bakeries abound throughout, even small towns and villages in Germany, and they offer a wide variety of breads, from sweet pastries and cakes to the daily bread.

— Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

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 are the key.

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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 and vaccinations, sick call appointments, and dental and surgical services.

Military members, Department of Defense civilians, and their dependents are authorized to bring their pets to the clinic during their time 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



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

veterinary clinics. Many German veterinarians speak English, so there is no need to worry about a language barrier disrupting a pet's medical care.

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 website: <http://ervc.amedd.army.mil/clinics/STUclinic.html>.

Know the rules

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

However, there are some laws 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 and 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 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.

LEGAL

Continued from Page 16

Downloading media online

In recent years Germany has experienced a crack-down 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 landlords to use VAT forms to repair or improve their property. Those interested in getting involved in a personal business while overseas

under the SOFA are highly encouraged to consult the Installation Commercial Affairs Office at 421-3549 or stop by Room 105, Building 3307, Kelley Barracks.

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 DSN 421-4152 / 2609, or Civ. 0711-729-4152 / 2609.

SUMMER

Continued from Page 5

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. According to Kurfess, patrons can also stroll through the shops and even take a glimpse

into a studio or production hall of an interior designer.

"The fest is like an open house for all our visitors, and they have the chance to look behind the scenes exclusively during the event," Kurfess said.

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, soul and folk tunes.

A children's program with arts and crafts and face painting will be offered as well.

Visitors can also indulge in Swabian, African, Greek, Italian, Croatian and Asian foods, as well as in 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. They can take in the historic charm, shop, eat, drink, listen to music and simply have a good time," Kurfess said.

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.

FALL

Continued from Page 6



Booths offering traditional German products like this gingerbread heart which reads "Greetings from Oktoberfest," are part of the world's largest festival. — Photo by Thinkstockphotos.com

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, more than six million people visited the grounds during the 2013 celebration and consumed the same

number in liters of beer, in addition to thousands of sausages and pork knuckles, and more pretzels than could 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.



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, including the second largest Exchange shopping mall in Germany, and numerous convenience locations throughout the area.

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 hand crafted 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.

For a complete listing of Exchange facilities in Stuttgart by location, including hours and contact numbers, check pages 24-25.



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: meeting needs of Stuttgart community

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 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 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 420 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; 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 Theatre Center and Arts and



Contests and door prizes typically liven up a number of Stuttgart's Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events, making for very special occasions for a lucky few. — Photo courtesy of USAG Stuttgart FMWR

Crafts programs. For detailed locations and hours of all of these services and more, see pages 24-25.

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 Cirque Dreams.

Golf course, clubs, special events center

The Business Operations Division operates the newly renovated, 7,000 yard, 18-hole, par 73 golf course; 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 34

3 easy ways to win between now and July 4th!

6 Vespa Scooters to be given away at the Stuttgart Independence Day celebration, compliments of your Family and MWR!

Win a VESPA!

www.stuttgart.armymwr.com

See our website to find out how you can win!

U.S. ARMY MWR
SOLDIERS • FAMILIES • RETIRES • CIVILIANS

No federal endorsement intended.

City Rider

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

Panzer Kaserne

Alterations/Dry Cleaning

(Main Exchange)
Civ. 07031-15-3701
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 and Dog Wash

Bldg. 2926
DSN: 431-2555
Civ. 07031-15-2555
Wed-Fri: noon to 8 p.m.,
Sat, Sun, and 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

Bowling Alley

Bldg. 2998
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. 2939
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-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.

Child Development Center

Bldg. 3169
DSN: 431-2619
Civ. 07031-15-2619
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed on 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 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 -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
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.
Closed Sun

German-American Canteen

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

Fitness Center

Bldg. 2990
DSN: 431-2724
Civ. 07030-15-2724
Mon-Fri: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 8 a.m. to 8 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
Mon: Closed
Tue: 4-9:30 p.m.
Wed-Thu: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Fri-Sat: 11 a.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

(Panzer Hotel)
Bldg. 2905
DSN: 431-2076 / 3490
Civ. 07031-15-2076 / 3490
Open 24 Hours

Main Exchange

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

New Car Sales

(Main Exchange)
Civ. 07031-2042352
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
Mon-Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Closed Sun

Optometry Care

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

Personnel Services Branch

Bldg. 2948
Mon-Tue: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m./1 -4:30 p.m.
Thu-Fri: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m./1 -4:30 p.m.

Pizza Hut (Main Exchange)

Civ. 07031-2042-156
Mon-Sat: 10 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.

U.S. Post Office

Bldg. 2915
Mon/Wed: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Retirement Support Center

Bldg. 2915
DSN: 431-3510
Civ. 07031-15-3510
Tue: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Thur: 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. 07031-15-3237
Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Shoppette

Bldg. 2952
Civ. 07031- 25511 / 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 -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. 07031-439128
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 -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

Bldg. 2913
Mon-Fri: 7:45 a.m. to 12 p.m./1 -3:45 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: 431-3452 / 3453
Civ. 07031-15-3452 / 3453
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Vehicle Inspection

Bldg. 2930
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
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 -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 Services

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

locations and hours throughout Stuttgart

Patch Barracks

Alteration Shop

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-Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Arts and Crafts Center (MWR)

Bldg. 2329
DSN: 430-5270
Tue/Wed/Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thu: 2-9 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.

Beauty Shop

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.

Burger King (Food Court)

Mon-Fri: 7 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: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Commissary

Bldg. 2350
DSN: 430-8401 / 8473
Civ. 0711-680-8401 / 8473
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. 0711-680-5207
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 / 8724
Open 24 Hours

Java Café

Bldg. 2325
Mon-Fri: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Library

Bldg. 2343
DSN: 430-7138
Civ. 0711-680-7138
Mon-Thu: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Fri: Closed
Sat/Sun: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Community Club

Bldg. 2345
DSN: 430-5433
Civ. 0711-680-5433
Lounge: Mon-Thu 4 to 11 p.m.
Fri and Sat: 4 -12 a.m.
Slot Room: Mon-Wed: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. / Thu 1 -11 p.m. / Fri. 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. / Sat. 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. / Sun. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 2337
DSN: 430-7136
Civ. 0711-680-7136
Mon-Fri: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Holidays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Patch Theater (Reel Time Theater)

Bldg. 2339
Civ. 0711-680-5310
Mon-Fri: 4 -8 p.m.
Sat: 3 -8 p.m.
Sun: 1 -8 p.m.

Patch Youth Center "The HUB"

Bldg. 2337
DSN: 430-7204
Civ. 0711-680-7204
Mon-Fri: 2:30 -8 p.m.
Sat-Sun: Closed
Non-school weekdays Open at 1 p.m.
Early-Release Days Middle/High School Open at 11 a.m.
Closed U.S. federal Holidays

Photo Studio (MWR)

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.

Post Office

Bldg. 2325
Tue/Thu: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed U.S. 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: 7 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
Civ. 0711-680-7194 / 8181
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Weekends and US Holidays

Subway (Food Court)

Mon-Sat: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun: Closed

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: 430-6149
Civ. 0711-680-6146
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

Kelley Barracks

Arts and Crafts Center

Bldg. 3319
DSN 421 2519
Mon: 1-6 p.m.
Tue-Thu: 1-9 p.m.
Sat/Sun/Holidays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Barber Shop

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

Car Wash

DSN: 431-2555
Comm. 07031-15-2555
Daily 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Child Development Center

Bldg. 3368
DSN: 421-2056
Civ. 0711-729-2056
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Commissary

Bldg. 3316
DSN: 421-2366 / 2779
Civ. 0711-729-2366 / 2779
Mon-Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Early Bird Shopping 9-11 a.m.

Community Bank Branch

Bldg. 3312
Civ. 0711-729-2326
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed German Holidays

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. (Thu and Fri, also open 2 - 9 p.m.)

Fitness Center

Bldg. 3326
DSN: 421-2543
Civ. 0711-729-2543
Mon-Fri: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Holidays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Launderette

Bldg. 3312
Civ. 0621-471673
Open 24 Hours

Legal Assistance

Bldg. 3312
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m./1 to 4:30 p.m.
Walk-in Appts. Tue 9-11 a.m./ 1 to 4:30 p.m.; Closed Federal and Training Holidays

Lodging

Bldg. 2905
DSN: 431-2076 / 3490
Civ. 07031-15-2076 / 3490
Open 24 Hours

Pizza Hut

Bldg. 3384
Mon-Fri: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Post Office

Bldg. 3312
Wed/Fri: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Private Organizations Office

Bldg. 3307
DSN: (314) 421-2622
Comm. +49 (0)711-729-2622
Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 4 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.

Subway

Bldg. 3384
Mon-Fri: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Robinson Barracks

Community Bank Branch

Tue/Thu: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 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. - 7 p.m.
Wed/Fri: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

Pet Grooming

Bldg. 146
Civ. 0711-656-6058
By Appointment Only

U.S. Post Office

Bldg. 169
Tue/Thu: 1-4 p.m.
Closed U.S. federal holidays

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 9 p.m.
Holidays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Youth Center

Bldg. 151
DSN: 420-7189
Civ. 0711-819-7189
Mon-Fri: 1-6 p.m.

Medical care in Stuttgart



Exams, primary care, and a number of other core medical services are provided at the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart. Specialized care and emergency care are provided by host nation medical facilities, and the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, which is the nearest U.S. Level 1 trauma center. — *Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart*

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

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 (LRMC) in Landstuhl, Germany, and off-base specialty care providers.

Stuttgart on-base health care

The Stuttgart military community is served by the U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart on Patch Barracks, the Kelly Barracks clinic annex and the dental clinic located on Panzer Kaserne. These 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. 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.

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.

Host nation medical care

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

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

Those who are referred off-base should be aware that host nation medical clinics and hospitals have much in common with those in the United States, however, some health care in Germany can be quite different than the U.S. and may take some adjustments.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is about a two and a half hours

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

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 your 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. Host nation Patient Liaisons should be able to assist. Some German physicians may not be in the habit of explaining details to patients. They will answer all questions when asked, but sometimes do not volunteer all results or information. Be sure to ask doctors and nurses about the treatment plan.

Privacy: German privacy standards may differ from what many Americans are used to, so please keep in mind that we are in their country. Host nation physicians may not always use a chaperone when examining patients of the opposite sex. Ask for a chaperone if you feel uncomfortable. Generally, there are no privacy screens between beds. Do



A variety of dental services are provided at the U.S. Army Dental Clinic Stuttgart on Panzer Kaserne. — *Photo by S.J. Grady, USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office*

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. Please be respectful of their standards.

Online Services

The Stuttgart health clinic uses the online Relay Health System, in addition to online services offered by Tricare, to maximize the health care services provided. Relay Health is an online messaging service that allows patients to contact their primary care provider and ask those questions, or receive advice that may not require an in-person appointment. This system is a secured messaging system and is a great way to get lab results, prescription refills or ask non-urgent medical questions.

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.

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



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 Spc. 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.

Off-base religious services in the Stuttgart community

There are other faith organizations within the Stuttgart community that cater to the faith needs of the Stuttgart military community. Newcomers are encouraged to explore the multitude of religious service offerings.

The Bible Church of Stuttgart offers Bible school and a worship

service on Sunday starting at 9:30 a.m.

This church also offers a men's fellowship on the last Sunday of every month and a women's Bible study on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

The church is located at Schockenriedstrasse 42, 70565 Stuttgart-Vaihingen.

The International Baptist Church of Stuttgart holds worship services every Sunday morning at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., as well as a youth service at 11:30 a.m. IBCS is located at Untere Waldplätze 38, 70569 Stuttgart-Vaihingen.

The Stuttgart Military Community Church is an Assemblies of God church that currently offers a Sunday service at 5 p.m. in a local German church, Wende Punkt, at Rosensteinstrasse 10, 71032 Böblingen.

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 to 10 a.m., again from 2 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.

Receiving AFN Television Programming

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

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.

Driving in Germany



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

By Greg Jones
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office

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

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

Getting a U.S. Army in Europe license

The U.S. Army in Europe driver's license allows service members, civilians and their family members to drive in Germany and much of Europe without going through the process of attaining a local driver's license. Although people visiting Europe from the U.S. can usually drive for short periods on a driver's license from the U.S. and an international driver's license, personnel arriving on permanent change of station orders cannot because they fall into a different category based on the Status of Forces Agreement (see the SOFA article on Page 16).

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 a practice test which can help prepare personnel for the test, can be found at www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff_org/safety/driver_training/. Army in Europe Pamphlet 190-34 is also a good source of information and can be found at <https://aepubs.army.mil>.

Registering a vehicle

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

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

These temporary plates are good for 30 days and are intended to give vehicle owners some time to prepare the vehicle to meet the requirements

of the USAREUR safety inspection, which is the next step in the process.

Car owners take their cars to the inspection station (see sidebar for locations and hours) where the vehicle will be put through an extensive safety inspection that checks the general mechanical condition of the

vehicle, brakes, mufflers 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

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, replacement, 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

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

Fuel ration card

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

This card permits personnel to purchase fuel on base and at select stations off base at prices comparable to stateside prices, instead of the standard European prices, which are 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 station on Patch 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. For more information on the fuel ration card and other SOFA restrictions, see the article on Page 16.

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/pdfpubs/AEP190-34.htm>.

In addition to the signs, another very big difference in Germany is the use of road lines. In the U.S., yellow lines are primarily used between opposing lanes of traffic and 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



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

lines are used for temporary diversions to the regular traffic flow, such as in rerouting around construction zones. This means that drivers may have a white line in between two lanes where traffic moves in opposite directions, making it even more important to know the road signs and how they indicate traffic flow.

There are a few very common traffic rules that differ significantly between Germany and the U.S., and maintaining awareness of these will help drivers remain safe and courteous road users. First, right turn on red is only allowed when indicated by a right pointing green arrow sign. Next,

on multi-lane highways, left lanes are used for passing only, and the right lanes are used for cruising. Drivers are to stay in the right lane unless passing a vehicle and are to return to the right lane as soon as possible after passing.

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



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Get in, relax.



in Kooperation / en coopération



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

Public transport in Germany, and throughout Europe can be a great way to get around

By Greg Jones
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

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 <http://www.vvs.de/en/> but those who have picked up a little German, may find more information on their main site 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 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. These tickets are usually good on all forms of regional and local transit within the zone, but some



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*

restrictions apply, so ticket holders are advised to check 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 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 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 17).

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 yearly, 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.



Automated ticket tellers (fahrkartenautomat) 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*



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*

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 in the Article on Page 28.

TRANSPORT

Continued from page 31

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 offering a free downloadable app that provides full itinerary scheduling capability, and includes an 'e-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 ticket 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, travelers that 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...

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 (for hours and location see Page 25).

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 two are on Patch Barracks and Robinson Barracks. For complete hours and location information see Pages 24 to 25.

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 (see legal article on Page 16 for more information). 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 land line 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 land lines 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, see Page 24 for hours). 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 (see article Page 27), TKS, located at the main 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 (see article on Page 16).

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 other 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. The best practice is to find out the specific ordinances in your town or village, by visiting the local government offices.

BANKING

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

and Community Bank. For hours and locations, see Pages 24 to 25. 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. For more information visit www.servicecu.org for information on SCU, and www.dodcommunitybank.com for information on Community Bank.

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 your 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 www.usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-guidelines.htm. Also, as a service member, employee, or family member under the Status of Forces Agreement (see article on Page 16) you may be exempted from customs fees when importing items from the U.S., even when shipped through non-U.S. means (such as shipping an additional vehicle at personal expense). 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 occasionally bakeries, may also be open on Sundays but also 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, but 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 €1.00 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.

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 out this webpage offered by USAG Schweinfurt, which has information applicable throughout Germany: www.schweinfurt.army.mil/support/safety/bicycles.htm.

WINTER

Continued from Page 7

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, 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)!

FMWR

Continued from Page 23

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 John Shoupe, the ACS director.

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" said Shoupe.

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, 236 computers and 49 point-of-sale sites. Many of these areas may seem unglamorous, but they are necessary to ensure all of the programs and services operate without a hitch.

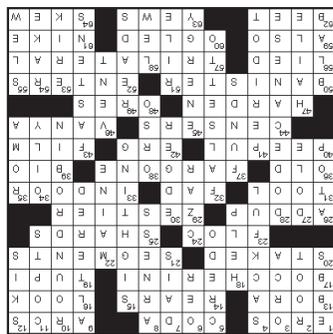
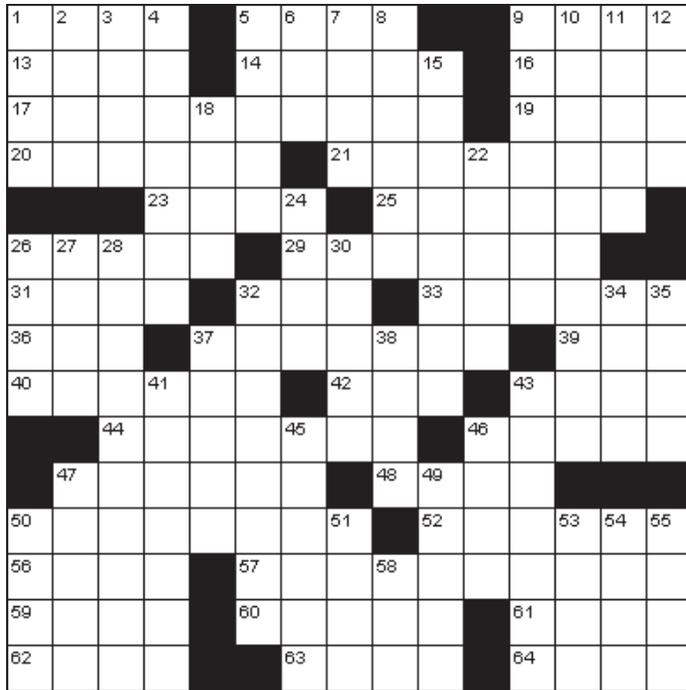
Often overlooked as a NAF support function, is the Value Added Tax and Utility Tax Avoidance Program (UTAP). See Page 17 for a detailed article on the various tax relief services offered through the VAT and UTAP offices.

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 Javier Carrizosa, 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."

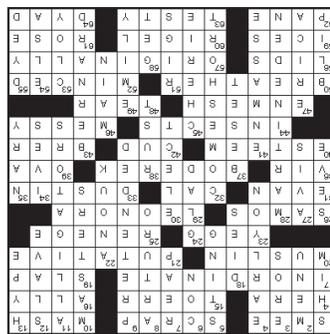


Fun for the whole family is the goal at most Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events. From bouncy castles to sporting goods, Family and MWR tries to appeal to children of all ages. — Photo courtesy of USAG Stuttgart FMWR

Crossword Puzzle



May 29, 2014 solution!
Courtesy of thinks.com



May 15, 2014 solution!
Courtesy of thinks.com

ACROSS

- 1 Love personified
- 5 Closing notes
- 9 Bows
- 13 Cold Adriatic wind
- 14 Brings up
- 16 Appearance
- 17 Italian composer
- 19 Amazon valley people
- 20 Risked, as a wager
- 21 Parts
- 23 Fluffy mass
- 25 Fragments
- 26 Hold water
- 29 More lively
- 31 Gimlet or screwdriver
- 32 Hot trend
- 33 Not alfresco
- 36 Ancient
- 37 Beyond repair
- 39 "Who's Who" entry
- 40 Indian fig tree
- 42 Bit of work
- 43 Thin coat
- 44 Incense burners
- 46 Chekhov uncle
- 47 Set
- 48 Bonanza finds

- 50 Staircase adjunct
- 52 Records
- 56 Wasn't straight
- 57 Three-sided
- 59 Too
- 60 Eyed impertinently
- 61 Goddess of victory
- 62 Borscht base
- 63 Evergreens
- 64 Distort

DOWN

- 1 Recedes
- 2 Tooth part
- 3 Black-and-white predator
- 4 Large quantity
- 5 Belief
- 6 Poetic preposition
- 7 Raised platform
- 8 Marshall Dillon portrayer
- 9 Amended
- 10 Tournament type
- 11 Egyptian Christians
- 12 Winter resort rentals
- 15 Observation
- 18 1965 Beatles film
- 22 Bangor's state
- 24 Bygone autocrat
- 26 On
- 27 Handout
- 28 Rhodes group
- 30 Gardener's tool
- 32 Unnatural high
- 34 Oleaginous
- 35 "Arrivederci ____"
- 37 Wherewithal
- 38 Ballpark figure follower
- 41 Green gem
- 43 Ties
- 45 Pep
- 46 Outlet
- 47 ____ Selassie
- 49 Scans
- 50 Spill the beans
- 51 Bug
- 53 Composer Satie
- 54 Don Juan
- 55 Bunch
- 58 "Ben-Hur" novelist Wallace

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Youth Activities

Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.



Photo by Mike McAlpin

SCIENCE PROJECT

Students in Mr. Harrison's 7th grade science class at Böblingen Middle School used their new knowledge of chemistry and some recycling skills to transform cereal boxes into a Periodic Table of the Elements to display at the annual Science Fair held May 20-21. Pictured are (from left): Elizabeth Connolly, Alisha Kennedy, Anna Bustamante, Rebecca Ruiz, Macie Shimon, Janis Zelcs, Daniella Ratliff, Kristen Whitt, Mr. Harrison, Brandon Hillburn, Austin Kruckeberg, Michael Gray, Brenden Kunz, Zach Webb, Catilyn Peterson, and Drexel Evans.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

TRAINING AIDS

Böblingen Elementary/ Middle School 6th grade students Sarah Brown and Braden Green try to achieve the DoDEA standard of typing 30 WPM with an accuracy rate of 90% (for 6th graders) by practicing with training aids, which help them to not look down on their hands while typing.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

RAINY DAYS

Mr. Bose's afternoon PE class was interrupted by a big shower recently. All of his Böblingen Elementary/ Middle School students therefore unfortunately had to spend their time inside sitting out the rain shower.

Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.

Youth Activities



Photo by Dan L'Esperance

CONGRATULATIONS

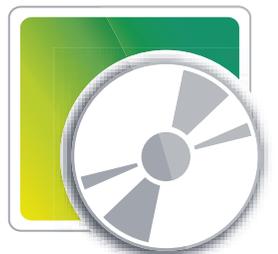
Mr. L'Esperance's 6th grade Creative Thinking students Caden Bass and Sarah Brown won first place during a recent competition of creating their very own Hobbit holes.



BEMS FIRE DRILL

Mr. Eddie Jordan's class demonstrate appropriate evacuation behavior as they quietly wait for the "all clear" during a recent fire drill.

Photo by Ed Thornburg



Youth Activities

Take a look at what's going on in Stuttgart's schools.



Photo by Mary Jager

LINDEN MUSEUM

Böblingen Elementary/Middle School art instructor, Ms. Jager, recently organized a study trip to Stuttgart's Linden Museum for all of the 4th grade students. The museum is famous for its collection of worldwide cultural artifacts and has an extensive Native American exhibit.



Photo by Ed Thornburg

QUEEN ISABELLA

The Böblingen Elementary/Middle School PTA recently sponsored a performance of "The History Mystery" by the Titch Theater Group. The performance was an educationally interactive performance with students taking parts as key historical figures. During the presentation, several famous people were dramatically portrayed, one of which was Christopher Columbus. Pictured is BEMS 7th grader Gabby Fernandes as Queen Isabella granting Columbus supplies and three ships for a voyage that led to the discovery of the New World.

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Photo by Mily Perez-Distel

STEAM LAB

First grader, Raymond Wilkin, accompanied by his Dad, delights in trying out the different interactive STEAM Lab stations at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School's Science Expo. After engineering an emergency light and a LEGO house that had to survive structural tests and dissecting a seed in the STEAM Lab, Raymond decided to engineer a way to grow seeds without soil, so he could watch the sprouting action that is normally hidden beneath the ground. He proudly holds his "magical green house" and lab sheet, where he will measure and record daily changes of his prized seeds.



Photo by Dan L'Esperance

THE WINNING TEAM

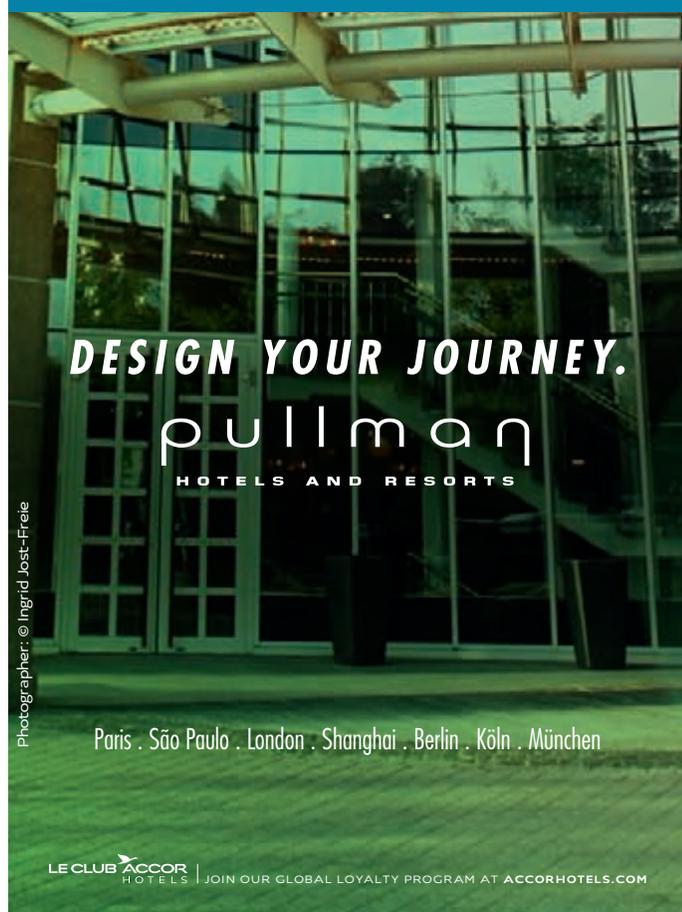
Mr. L'Esperance's Creative Thinking class is researching effective architecture strategies. After studying dozens of famous tall buildings populating the world, the class broke up into teams to attempt to communicate, design, and finally construct the tallest structure of all. Sydney Nelson, Emma McLeod, Hannah Goldberg, and Elizabeth Milton comprised the winning team!



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OU ARE YOU AN OU ALUM?
 COME CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2014!

You are cordially invited to the
2014 GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

June 7, 2014 || Armstrong Club,
 at 11:00 a.m. || Vogelweh Family Housing,
 Kaiserslautern

You are also invited to a reception honoring all OU Alumni immediately following the ceremony.

**RSVP to Valerie Peterson-Borro at CIV 0245.1 63.2208
 DSN 458-6098 or apgeilenkirchen@ou.edu**

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

PETS
 All ads and pics on class-world.com

There have been reports of pets being sold from breeding facilities that are not managed at the highest professional standards. Please choose your pet carefully. Make sure you check the credentials of the people selling the pet, and get proper paperwork showing shots and/or other proof of healthy condition. For further advice, consult your Veterinarian.

Dog Kennel, \$100.00, cahilldd@yahoo.com

WANTED
 All ads and pics on class-world.com

Toddler Carrier, Back Pack Style - similar to image on class-world.com. Will pay around \$50. michelle_purse@hotmail.com

Who is ready to win \$500? Calling All Singers, Dancers, Instrumentalists, Poets, Comedians! "Show Me What You Got" is back on May 25th at Ramstein Officers' Club! Contestants contact me AS-AP @ oo7dizzy77@gmail.com

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Have fun with the locals



Kindertag

Fri, May 30
Böblingen, city center

May 30 is Kindertag or 'Children's Day.' Have fun with your kids and join the festival in the city center of Böblingen. Kids can get their faces painted, watch a magic show, and much more. If you like, take a stroll through the mall and see what goodies you can purchase for you and your little ones. For more information visit www.city-center-bb.de.

EVENTS

Art & textile exhibition

Tue, May 27 – Sun, Jun 22
Stuttgart, State Gallery

Between the 27th of May and the 22nd of June, the Stuttgart State Gallery will exhibit art and textile. This exhibit will take you through many centuries. The goal of this exhibition is to show the fascination of handicrafts in art and textile and how very alive it still is today. For more information about this event see www.stuttgart-tourist.de

Hock am Ring

Thu, May 29
Kirchheim unter Teck, city center
 What better way to celebrate Father's Day, than with your family at a festival. On the 29th of May in Kirchheim unter Teck, there will be a traditional Father's Day fest for young and old, featuring a concert, a play area for the children and much more. For more information see www.kirchheim-teck.de

Kirchheim music night

Sat, May 31
Kirchheim, city center
 Don't miss out on Kirchheim's huge music night on the 31st of May. There will be loads of bands performing throughout the city in over 50 locations. There will be fun, music and food - the best way to enjoy a music fest. For more information see www.musiknacht-kirchheim.de

MotorMobil Museum Party

Sun, Jun 1
Tübingen, Spielzeugmuseum

On the 1st of June in Tübingen, you and your family can enjoy the day at the MotorMobil Museum Party. There will be face painting for the children, a boxcar race, vintage vehicles on display, music and much more. You can take a stroll through the museum or just see the parade of cars. For more information see www.boxenstop-tuebingen.de

Lichterfest

Sun, Jun 8
Bad Liebenzell, Kurpark

On the 8th of June you will be able to enjoy the Lichterfest or 'light fest' in Bad Liebenzell. The theme this year is the 50s. There will be a Rock and Roll band performing, an Elvis impersonator, a hula hoop workshop and much more. In the evening a fireworks display will light up the sky. Please note that this event is pending weather. For more information see www.tourimus.bad-liebenzell.de

CONCERTS

Charles Bradley

Thu, Jun 5
Stuttgart, LKA-Longhorn
 If you like to groove and like soul music then don't miss out on this funky event. Charles Bradley, an American funk/soul/R&B singer will be performing on the 5th of June in Stuttgart so be sure to

purchase your ticket soon. Ticket prices start at €34 and the show starts at 8 p.m. For more information see www.eventim.de

Anna Calvi

Wed, Jul 23
Nürnberg, Hirsch

Anna Calvi, singer and guitarist, will be performing on the 23rd of July in Nürnberg. Ticket price is €27.10. For more information see www.eventim.de

Pharrell Williams

Sun, Sep 28
Stuttgart, Hanns-Martin-Schleyer- Halle

If you love the song "Happy," then you won't want to be anywhere else but in Stuttgart at this concert! Pharrell will be presenting his 'The Dear Girl Tour.' Be sure to purchase your tickets now as the presale has already begun. Ticket prices start at €51.65. For more information visit www.eventim.de

Bryan Ferry

Sat, Dec 6
Stuttgart, Porsche-Arena

This musician is known for his smooth vocals and sartorial style. Bryan Ferry will be going on tour this year throughout Europe and North America. Brian will be performing in Stuttgart on the 6th of December, starting at 8 p.m. Ticket prices start at €49.35. For more information see www.eventim.de

SPORTS

UCI Mountain Bike World Cup

Fri, May 30 – Sun, Jun 1
Albstadt

It's that time of year again where the world's best mountain bikers compete for the UCI MTB World Cup. These bikers will be racing through cross country terrain and will have to cross difficult obstacles. Ticket prices start at €4. For more information see www.albstadt-mtb-classic.de

Volleyball tournament

Sat, Jun 7 – Sun, Jun 8
Stuttgart, Porsche-Arena

Join the Federation International Volleyball tournament on the 7th & 8th of June in Stuttgart. These players are competing for the 2015 FIVB World League title. There will be two days of 4 games of men and women competing. Ticket prices start at €23. For more information see www.fivb.org

Soccer camp

Tue, Jun 10 – Fri, Jun 13
Stuttgart-Degerloch, ADM-Sportpark

If your children love soccer, then sign them up for soccer camp from the 10th to the 13th of June in Stuttgart. They will be trained by professionals and will have fun playing. Children between the ages of 7 – 13 are eligible to attend. For more information on pricing and schedules, visit www.stuttgarter-kickers.de

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