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Foreign Countries and Nationals

U.S. Forces Customs Controls in Germany

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Summary. This publication establishes customs policy and procedures for the U.S. Forces, their military personnel, the civilian component, and their dependents stationed in Germany. It also prescribes responsibilities of the USAREUR Provost Marshal (PM) as the CG USAREUR Customs Executive Agent and Customs Mission Operator. Additionally, this publication prescribes responsibilities of United States Forces Customs-Europe (USFC-E).

Summary of Change. This revision—

- Transfers customs-control responsibility from the 560th Military Police Company to USFC-E.
- Transfers Customs Mission Operator's responsibilities from the Commander, 560th Military Police Company, to the USAREUR PM.

- Removes the provision that authorized personnel can lend a privately owned vehicle only to visitors who are U.S. citizens and relatives (para 14).
- Adds provisions on authorization for short-term fuel-ration cards (sec VII).
- Adds provisions on temporary authorization for appointed caregivers (sec IX).
- Adds provisions on temporary authorization cards for participants of training, special missions, or conferences; and for special guests and bona fide visitors (sec X).

Applicability. This publication—

- Applies to—
 - U.S. Forces and their military and civilian personnel, their dependents, and other personnel who have customs and tax exemptions in Germany under international agreements. These individuals are referred to as “authorized personnel” in this publication.
 - U.S. military personnel on temporary duty in Germany. These personnel are considered members of the Forces and this publication applies to them in specific situations.
 - Active duty U.S. military personnel on leave in Germany from a duty station in Europe or North Africa. These personnel are authorized certain privileges.
- Does not apply to—
 - Personnel who are employed by, assigned to, or attached to U.S. diplomatic or consular offices, military missions, offices of defense cooperation, or military assistance advisory groups. This publication also does not apply to the dependents of persons employed in these offices, except as implemented in AE Regulation 600-700.
 - Retired U.S. military personnel and their dependents residing in or visiting Germany (except as authorized in sec VI).
 - Unaccompanied dependents and widows or widowers of U.S. military personnel residing in Germany (except as authorized in sec VI).
 - Gray-area retirees and their accompanying dependents, and the widows or widowers of gray-area retirees in Germany (except as authorized in sec VI).
 - U.S. tourists and other travelers (such as business travelers) in Germany.
 - Active duty U.S. military personnel on leave in Germany from a duty station located outside Europe or North Africa.

Supplementation. Organizations will not supplement this publication without USAREUR G3 (AEAGC-PDP-N) approval.

Forms. This publication prescribes AE Form 550-175A, AE Form 550-175B, AE Form 550-175C, AE Form 550-175D, AE Form 550-175E, AE Form 550-175F, AE Form 550-175G, AE Form 550-175H, AE Form 550-175J, AE Form 550-175K, and AE Form 550-175L. AE and higher level forms are available through the Army in Europe Library & Publishing System (AEPUBS) at <https://aepubs.army.mil/>.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent of this publication is the USAREUR G3 (AEAGC-PDP-N, DSN 370-4942). Users may suggest improvements to this publication by sending DA Form 2028 to the USAREUR G3 (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351.

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Glossary

SECTION I GENERAL

1. PURPOSE

This publication prescribes policy and procedures for customs control for U.S. Forces and assigned military and civilian component personnel and their dependents in Germany according to international agreements.

NOTE: The Department of Defense does not sanction or endorse any commercial product, service, or enterprise mentioned in this publication.

2. REFERENCES

Appendix A lists references.

3. EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

The glossary defines abbreviations and terms.

4. AUTHORITY

The United States and Germany have agreed to provide mutual assistance and cooperation to safeguard the security and protect the property of their countries and their personnel. The parties have also agreed that United States Forces Customs-Europe (USFC-E) personnel will be stationed at certain German border-crossing points to help German officials—

a. In their control function to ensure the speedy and unobstructed passage of the U.S. Forces and their military and civilian component personnel and their dependents.

b. Restrict the flow of contraband to Germany and U.S. installations in Germany. This agreement was implemented by the Agreement on the Implementation of the Customs and Consumer Tax Provisions of the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement in Favor of Members of a Force, of a Civilian Component and Dependents (Article 66 and paragraph 6 of Article 3 of the Supplementary Agreement). This agreement authorizes members of the U.S. Forces to help German customs officials at border-crossing points, including German military and civilian airfields.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The USAREUR Provost Marshal (PM), as the CG USAREUR Customs Executive Agent in Germany, will—

(1) Develop and coordinate customs policy and procedures affecting the U.S. Forces and members of the U.S. Forces in Germany with the German Government. The Customs Executive Agent will not coordinate matters pertaining to official U.S. Forces consignments to, out of, or through Germany. These matters fall under the authority of the Chief, Joint Management Division, J-4, HQ USEUCOM, Unit 30400, APO AE 09131-0400.

(2) Establish and update procedures to maintain customs control over U.S. Forces personnel.

(3) Resolve questions arising from customs policy matters and inspections of U.S. Forces personnel with the German Government.

(4) Supervise the following customs-control functions:

(a) Inspection of U.S. Forces personnel, their property, and U.S. Forces Government cargo entering or exiting Germany to the extent allowed by this publication and international agreements.

(b) Administration of customs-control documents for U.S. Forces personnel in Germany.

(c) Distribution of information on the NATO SOFA and German customs requirements and administration of a public affairs program.

(d) Inspection of movement documents and copies of NATO Form 302 used to transport and clear official U.S. Forces consignments when crossing German borders (AE Reg 55-355/USNAVEUR Inst 4600.7G/USAFE Inst 24-201). This action will include determining the frequency of inspections.

(5) Investigate and report customs and tax violations committed by personnel who are subject to this publication as well as violations involving U.S. Forces property. The Customs Executive Agent will provide reports to appropriate commanders.

(6) Coordinate requests for exceptions to the customs and tax provisions of the NATO SOFA Supplementary Agreement, implementing agreements, the *Truppenzollgesetz* (Forces Customs Law) (FCL), the *Truppenzollverordnung* (Forces Customs Ordinance) (FCO), and this publication with the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMOF). The Customs Executive Agent is the NATO SOFA extension authority in coordination with the FMOF.

b. The PM, as the Customs Mission Operator in Germany, will—

(1) Investigate and report customs and tax violations. When a violation indicates the involvement of members of a U.S. military service other than the U.S. Army, the component service (CNE-CNA-C6F or USAFE) will be notified immediately and investigative jurisdiction will be determined.

(2) Conduct liaison and joint investigations with the component service and with German customs and tax investigative authorities.

(3) Coordinate investigations involving U.S. Forces consignments with U.S. Forces transportation authorities with the Chief, Joint Management Division, J-4, HQ USEUCOM.

c. Commanders and supervisors must ensure that personnel under their supervision are aware of prohibited activities according to this publication and AE Regulation 600-1 or other applicable service-specific publications.

6. HOST-NATION PROVISIONS, RULES, AND POLICY

a. Host-Nation Health Regulations. U.S. Forces personnel will comply with German health regulations on importing and exporting merchandise such as animals, meat products, medication, plants, poultry, and seafood. U.S. Forces personnel may send questions concerning these regulations to the HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351, before shipment. U.S. Forces personnel may obtain information on the shipment of animals from local U.S. Forces veterinary authorities.

b. Personal Imports and Exports of Currency and Other Means of Payment. U.S. Forces personnel may—

(1) Import and export any amount of any currency or other negotiable instruments (for example, bonds, stocks) into and out of Germany. They must, however, inform German customs authorities when entering or leaving Germany if they are carrying currency, negotiable instruments, or jewelry with a value of more than 10,000 euros or the equivalent amount in a foreign currency.

(2) Be subject to import and export limitations imposed by countries other than Germany.

c. Prohibited and Restricted Items. The prohibited and restricted items in (1) below and in subparagraphs d and e below are not all inclusive. Personnel with questions about prohibited and restricted items should contact their local USFC-E field office (app B, table B-1).

(1) Controlled Substances. Controlled substances include the following:

(a) Amphetamines.

(b) Cocaine.

(c) Heroin.

(d) Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD).

(e) Marijuana.

(f) Methamphetamine.

(g) Opium.

(h) Secobarbital.

(i) Substances included in schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970.

(2) Unauthorized Importation, Possession, and Exportation of Controlled Substances.

Unauthorized importation, possession, and exportation of controlled substances are prohibited under the following directives:

(a) Manual for Courts-Martial (MCM) United States (2008 edition), part IV, paragraph 37.

(b) AR 600-8-14/Air Force Instruction 36-3026VI_IP/Bureau of Naval Personnel Instruction 1750.10C.

(c) AR 690-700.

(3) Violations. Violations may be prosecuted under German law or the MCM. Civilian employees who violate controlled-substance restrictions may be removed from Federal service. Inspectors at border-crossing points (including airfields and airbases) will help ensure individuals do not transport controlled substances across borders.

d. Privately Owned Firearms and Explosives.

(1) Prohibited Items. Personnel may not import, possess, or export items listed as prohibited items in AE Regulation 190-6/CNE-C6F Instruction 5300.15Q/USAFE Instruction 31-205.

(2) Authorized Items. Personnel must obtain an importation permit (*Verbringungserlaubnis*) from the *Bundesverwaltungsamt* (Federal Administration Office) before importing privately owned firearms (POFs) into Germany. AE Regulation 190-6/CNE-C6F Instruction 5300.15Q/USAFE Instruction 31-205, paragraph 8a, provides details on importation requirements. Commanders and supervisors will advise personnel on policy and procedures for importing authorized POFs.

e. Alcohol, Coffee, Tobacco Products, Medication, Animals, and Plants.

(1) Unaccompanied Importation. Personnel subject to this publication may not import the following items in unaccompanied baggage or household goods, or through the Military Postal Service (MPS):

- (a) Alcoholic beverages.
- (b) Animals or plants.
- (c) Cheese and cheese products.
- (d) Cigarettes and other tobacco products.
- (e) Coffee and coffee products.
- (f) Meat and meat products.
- (g) Medication (including vitamins and nutritional supplements).
- (h) Milk and milk products.

NOTE: If personnel import items of the types listed in (a) through (h) through the German postal service or by commercial freight subject to German law and customs import restrictions and subject to German import duties and taxes, USFC-E field offices will not issue AE Form 550-175A for such imports.

(2) Unaccompanied Exportation. Personnel subject to this publication may not export the following items in unaccompanied baggage or household goods, or through the MPS:

- (a) Alcoholic beverages.

(b) Cigarettes and other tobacco products if purchased in U.S. Forces sales facilities.

(c) Coffee and coffee products if purchased in U.S. Forces sales facilities.

NOTE: Cigarettes and other tobacco products and coffee and coffee products may be exported in unaccompanied baggage and household goods or through the MPS if purchased tax-paid from a German store and if exported in noncommercial quantities. Alcoholic beverages may be exported through commercial carriers in noncommercial quantities if purchased tax-paid from a German store. These items, however, will be subject to customs requirements of the country of destination and to applicable transportation and postal restrictions.

(3) Accompanied Importation and Exportation. Personnel may import and export the items shown in table 1 in the amounts indicated without paying customs duties. These items may be hand-carried or placed in accompanied baggage.

Table 1 Items and Amounts for Duty-Free Import and Export		
Item	For Import To Germany	For Export From Germany
Cigarettes and other tobacco products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 200 cigarettes or ● 100 cigarillos or ● 50 cigars or ● 250 g (about 8.8 oz) of smoking tobacco or ● A proportional combination of the items above 	600 cigarettes 500 g (about 17.6 oz) of smoking tobacco
Alcohol and alcoholic beverages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 L (about 1.1 qt) of spirits with more than 22% or ● 2 L (about 2.1 qt) of wines and spirits with highest 22% or ● 2 L (about 2.1 qt) of a proportional combination of the items above and ● 4 L (about 4.2 qt) of nonsparkling wine and ● 16 L (about 16.9 qt) of beer 	Noncommercial quantities
For Import To or Export From Germany		
Coffee and coffee products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 500 g (about 17.6 oz) of ground coffee or coffee beans ● 125 g (about 4.4 oz) of pure soluble coffee ● 250 g (about 8.8 oz) of mixed coffee extracts 	
NOTE: The glossary defines abbreviations used in this table.		

f. Customs- and Documentation Control at Border-Crossing Points.

(1) German customs authorities have jurisdiction at border-crossing points. Personnel crossing the border may be required to—

- (a) Establish their identity and produce travel documents.
- (b) Make customs declarations.
- (c) Submit to body searches.
- (d) Allow customs personnel to—
 - 1. Examine and search any property imported or exported.
 - 2. Detain or seize any property that is deemed to be a customs violation.

(2) German customs authorities may request USFC-E personnel to assist them at border-crossing points.

SECTION II PERSONAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, PURCHASE OF VEHICLES FROM TOURISTS AND CUSTOMS-BONDED CARDEALERS

7. GENERAL

Subject to German law and international agreements, authorized persons may import and export goods for their personal or domestic use or consumption without paying German customs duties or other applicable German taxes.

a. Imported or exported goods are subject to German customs control. For duty- and tax-free clearance, German customs officials require authorized personnel to submit AE Form 550-175A. The form must state that the goods imported or exported are for the personal or domestic use or consumption by the U.S. Forces importer or purchaser. When purchasing a vehicle in Germany from a tourist of a non-European Union (EU) country or a customs-bonded cardealer, the form must state that the purchase is for the personal use of the U.S. Forces purchaser.

b. AE Form 550-175A is not required when buying cars from other Sending State Forces exchange systems.

8. OBTAINING AND SUBMITTING AE FORM 550-175A

Applicants will—

a. Visit the local USFC-E field office to obtain two copies of AE Form 550-175A. Each form must have an original signature in ink.

b. Submit the two copies of AE Form 550-175A in person to German customs authorities. Applicants may not delegate this responsibility to a solicitor, sales agency, or commercial importer or carrier. The applicant may arrange for an authorized agent (a person who is subject to this publication and acts for the applicant by power of attorney and without payment) to submit AE Form 550-175A. The local USFC-E field office will provide information on the location of the responsible German customs office.

9. USE OF AE FORM 550-175A

AE Form 550-175A may be used for the following purposes:

a. Import Certificate. An import certificate allows the duty- and tax-free importation of goods purchased outside the EU by authorized personnel. The import certificate also applies to personally owned goods imported by authorized personnel and gifts sent through commercial mail carriers to authorized personnel from outside the EU, unless shipped by the U.S. Government or through the MPS.

(1) Personnel must make the purchase through direct negotiations with and payment to a non-German dealer outside the EU or through a bona fide agent of the non-German dealer in Germany.

(2) Personnel do not need an import certificate for a privately owned vehicle (POV) imported to Germany in connection with a permanent change of station (PCS) and registered with the U.S. Forces. German customs authorities may require the POV owner to submit a copy of the PCS orders in place of an import certificate. Import certificates are required for vehicles that are not registered with the U.S. Forces and for vehicles that are commercially imported to Germany.

(3) According to AE Regulation 190-6/CNE-C6F Instruction 5300.15Q/USAFE Instruction 31-205, paragraph 7, the importation of a POF is not authorized unless the POF owner has a valid German weapons possession card (*Waffenbesitzkarte*).

(4) If a U.S. Forces member wants to purchase a tourist's vehicle with non-EU license plates or German export plates, he or she may use AE Form 550-175A as an import certificate, even if the purchase takes place in Germany.

b. Export Certificate. An export certificate permits authorized personnel to export personal and household goods duty- and tax-free. AE Form 550-175A will be submitted only when requested by local German customs authorities.

c. Purchase Permit. A purchase permit authorizes the duty- and tax-free purchase of a motor vehicle from a German customs-bonded cardealer.

SECTION III

TRANSFERRING NONCUSTOMARY GIFTS AND USED GOODS

10. GENERAL

U.S. Forces personnel may not transfer goods that they have imported or acquired duty- and tax-free (including the use of the individual tax-relief program in accordance with AE Reg 215-6/USAFE Inst 34-102) to unauthorized personnel, except as provided for in this section. U.S. Forces personnel—

a. May give or sell nonexpendable, noncustomary gifts only if the seller or donor possessed the property for at least 6 months in Germany and German customs authorities approve the transfer.

b. May sell a POV only if no lien is indicated on the POV registration and only according to the stipulations of AE Regulation 190-1/CNE-C6F Instruction 11240.6X/USAFE Instruction 31-202.

c. Will not transfer items before they have been cleared by customs authorities using AE Form 550-175B.

11. OBTAINING AND SUBMITTING AE FORM 550-175B

a. The seller or donor will request AE Form 550-175B at the local USFC-E field office before the transaction. If the seller or donor possessed the property for less than 6 months, USFC-E personnel will indicate that in the *Remarks* section of AE Form 550-175B. USFC-E personnel will prepare five copies of AE Form 550-175B with an original signature in ink.

b. If the transaction is in order, the seller or donor will receive four copies of AE Form 550-175B with a USFC-E recommendation that it be approved by German customs authorities. The seller or donor and purchaser or recipient must report in person to the local German customs office with the goods to be transferred for transfer approval. If approved, German customs authorities will keep two copies of AE Form 550-175B and give one copy to the seller or donor and one copy to the purchaser or recipient.

c. Goods may be transferred through an authorized agent if—

(1) The agent is subject to this publication and is acting without payment and pursuant to a power of attorney. (A copy of the power of attorney appointing the agent must accompany AE Form 550-175B.)

(2) The agent's name and address are entered on AE Form 550-175B.

(3) The requirements of AE Regulation 190-1/CNE-C6F Instruction 11240.6X/USAFE Instruction 31-202 are met when a motor vehicle is transferred.

NOTE: Authorized personnel who have goods taken by a legally executed writ of execution or who have goods repossessed by a finance company or other authorized lien holder must comply with paragraph 10a above and with AE Regulation 190-1/CNE-C6F Instruction 11240.6X/USAFE Instruction 31-202. These personnel may be liable for duties and taxes on the seized items unless they apply for AE Form 550-175B requesting exemption from taxes that may otherwise be due.

12. GOODS FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, OR REPAIR

a. Goods may be transferred for temporary storage or for transportation to Government or commercial enterprises specializing in such actions.

b. Goods may be transferred for short periods for repair or other work. Furthermore, U.S. Forces-registered POVs may be released for up to 3 months for sale by consignment. Under this arrangement, car dealers and potential buyers may use the vehicle for test-drives. Under no circumstances will the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) fuel-ration card be transferred to unauthorized personnel (AE Reg 600-17).

SECTION IV LENDING GOODS TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

13. LENDING GOODS OF PERSONAL OR DOMESTIC USE

Authorized personnel may lend goods for personal or domestic use to unauthorized personnel for brief periods. These loans must be within the scope of normal social relations. This does not apply to U.S. Forces-registered POVs.

14. LENDING PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES

a. Personnel may lend their vehicles to visitors if—

(1) The visitor does not have or plan to establish a residence in Germany while visiting Germany.

(2) They ensure that the visitor possesses an international or other drivers license valid in Germany while operating a U.S. Forces-registered POV and that the insurance policy for the loaned POV insures the visitor's operation of the U.S. Forces-registered POV.

(3) Authorized to do so by a local USFC-E field office. This authorization may not exceed 90 days within a 6-month period. The 90-day period begins on the day the visitor arrives in any EU member state. Requests for periods of more than 90 days or extensions of previously issued authorizations must be submitted to the HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351, for review and decision.

b. The vehicle owner will complete AE Form 550-175C at a local USFC-E field office to request authorization for the visitor to operate a U.S. Forces-registered POV. The vehicle owner must give the approved AE Form 550-175D to the visitor, who must carry it when independently operating the specified U.S. Forces-registered vehicle.

c. Permission for visitors to independently operate a U.S. Forces-registered vehicle does not include permission to use the vehicle's AAFES fuel-ration card to purchase duty- and tax-free fuel.

d. In the absence of a foreign drivers license recognized in Germany or a valid international drivers license, a certified German translation of the foreign drivers license is required.

SECTION V

UNITED STATES FORCES CUSTOMS-EUROPE CUSTOMS CONTROL IN GERMANY

15. CUSTOMS CONTROL AT MILITARY POST OFFICES

Authorized personnel will use military post offices (MPOs) solely for personal purposes. Using MPOs for commercial or business purposes or to send items intended for resale for a business or enterprise is prohibited. Further restrictions are outlined in AE Regulation 600-1, paragraph 16.

a. Personal mail sent through MPOs is subject to joint customs control by U.S. Forces and German customs authorities. A military postal clerk must be present when host-nation officials inspect or detain the mail in any way.

b. Incoming and outgoing personal mail, except first-class mail, is subject to customs inspection according to applicable international agreements. When customs authorities open mail for inspection and it contains—

(1) Authorized goods, USFC-E authorities will place AE Form 550-175E in the mail and German customs authorities will appropriately reseal and mark the mail.

(2) Goods that have been imported in conflict with international agreements and applicable regulations, these goods will be detained by German customs authorities. AE Form 550-175F or other detailed notification forms (provided by German customs authorities) will be provided to the addressee. Customs duty and tax may be assessed by German customs authorities.

c. When an addressee receives AE Form 550-175F or a German customs notification and—

(1) Pays the assessed duty and tax to the appropriate German customs office, the authority stated in the customs notification will release the detained mail.

(2) Declines to pay the assessed duty and tax within 30 days, the authority holding the mail will instruct MPO personnel to return mail to the sender as “Unclaimed” or “Refused.”

16. CUSTOMS CONTROL AT U.S. FORCES AIRFIELDS AND AIRBASES IN GERMANY

a. General.

(1) Commanders of airfields and airbases ((a) and (b) below) in coordination with USFC-E are responsible for customs control according to the NATO SOFA and Supplementary Agreement and this publication. Airfield and airbase commanders will establish written local procedures for customs processing of aircraft, crews, passengers, and cargo arriving at or departing from their airfields and airbases on international flights. According to the provisions of the Schengen Agreement, flights to and from the territories of the agreement signatory states are considered domestic flights, not international flights, provided the aircraft does not stop in the territory of a nonsignatory state. (The signatory states are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. In addition, flights from the following EU member states are also considered domestic flights: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom.) Except in emergencies, U.S. military international flights will depart from or terminate only at the following airfields and airbases:

(a) Army Airfields.

1. Coleman Army Airfield (Mannheim-Sandhofen).
2. Grafenwöhr Army Airfield.
3. Stuttgart Army Airfield.
4. Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

(b) USAFE Airbases.

1. Ramstein Airbase.
2. Spangdahlem Airbase.

NOTE: USFC-E personnel are responsible for enforcing customs control at USAFE Airbases, Stuttgart Army Airfield, and Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

(2) If an international flight terminates at a commercial or military airfield in Germany other than at one listed in (1)(a) and (b) above, aircraft commanders will comply with the customs controls in effect at the airfield where the flight terminates. If there is no customs control in effect at that airfield, the nearest USFC-E field office will be notified immediately.

(3) Table 2 provides a list of German customs offices and USFC-E elements supporting customs control at airfields and airbases listed in (1)(a) and (b) above.

Table 2 German Customs Offices and USFC-E Offices Supporting Customs Control at U.S. Forces Airfields and Airbases in Germany		
Airfield or Airbase	German Customs Office	USFC-E
Grafenwöhr Army Airfield	Zollamt Bahnhof 92637 Weiden/Oberpfalz	Grafenwöhr Field Office Unit 28130 APO AE 09114-8130 DSN 475-8901/7249
Ramstein Airbase	Zollamt Kaiserslautern Von-Miller-Str. 13 67661 Kaiserslautern-Einsiedlerhof	Ramstein Field Office Unit 3135 APO AE 09094-3135 DSN 480-4845/7168
Spangdahlem Airbase	Zollamt Wittlich Max-Planck-Str. 13 54516 Wittlich	Spangdahlem Field Office (note) Unit 3720 APO AE 09126-3720 DSN 452-4500/8976
Stuttgart Army Airfield	Zollamt Flughafen Stuttgart 70629 Stuttgart-Echterdingen	Stuttgart Field Office Unit 30401 APO AE 09131-0401 DSN 421-4880/431-2657
Wiesbaden Army Airfield	Zollamt Wiesbaden Rheingastr. 190-196 65203 Wiesbaden	Wiesbaden Field Office Unit 24335 APO AE 09005-4335 DSN 337-5188/6071
NOTE: The Spangdahlem Field Office will also coordinate customs-control support for the NATO airbases in Büchel and Geilenkirchen.		

b. Customs Processing of Crews and Passengers. Commanders of airfields and airbases and USFC-E personnel will ensure that—

(1) Aircraft commanders of international flights terminating at or departing from the airfield or airbase complete AE Form 550-175H.

(2) Completed copies of AE Form 550-175H are filed with applicable international flight plans.

(3) Aircraft commanders of international flights terminating in Germany obtain either oral or written customs declarations from the passengers. Aircraft commanders must obtain written customs declarations if imported items exceed authorized amounts. Airfield and airbase commanders may also require oral or written customs declarations from passengers departing from their airfield or airbase. Written declarations will be made using AE Form 550-175J. In cases of unauthorized or excessive imports, the following procedures apply:

(a) German customs officials, USFC-E personnel, or designated U.S. Forces airbase and airfield customs personnel will seize or detain unauthorized or excessive imports.

(b) Customs officials will provide the following to the individual if property is seized or detained:

1. A receipt (DA Form 4137 or AF Form 52) for the seized or detained goods.
2. A written explanation of the individual's rights.
3. The name and location of the local German customs office to which the property will be released.

(c) Seized or detained goods will be turned over to the local German customs office within 8 days after seizure.

(4) Appointed airfield and airbase customs inspectors make spot checks of arriving cargo and passenger aircrafts (including crew and passenger luggage). Customs inspectors will keep records of performed checks for 90 days.

(5) Airfield and airbase personnel immediately notify USFC-E when personnel of the German Forces or other than the Sending State Forces arrive at a U.S. airfield or airbase on an international flight.

(a) The notification will include the following information:

1. The number of persons on the flight.
2. The time of arrival.
3. The number of pieces of luggage carried by the persons concerned.
4. Other pertinent details (for example, firearms, medical supplies).

(b) USFC-E personnel will arrange for necessary customs clearance.

c. Customs Processing of Cargo.

(1) Organizations and persons sending U.S. Forces official consignments to or from U.S. Forces airfields and airbases on international flights must include NATO Form 302 with the cargo (AE Reg 55-355/USNAVEUR Inst 4600.7G/USAFE Inst 24-201, para 7-6b). Designated airfield or airbase personnel and customs clearance officers accredited in accordance with AE Regulation 55-355/USNAVEUR Instruction 4600.7G/USAFE Instruction 24-201 will check and stamp all copies of NATO Form 302 for U.S. Forces official consignments scheduled to leave or arrive in Germany on an international flight.

(a) Consignments Leaving Germany. Airfield or airbase customs officials will remove the NATO Form 302 copy marked *Für den Zoll in Deutschland* (For customs in Germany) and keep the form at the airfield or airbase for 1 year.

(b) Consignments Arriving in Germany. Airfield or airbase officials will not release official consignments to consignees until the consignee's representative has signed a receipt for the accompanying copies of NATO Form 302. The representative may be a U.S. Forces member or employee as outlined in AE Regulation 55-355/USNAVEUR Instruction 4600.7G/USAFE Instruction 24-201, para 7-7a(3).

1. Airfield and airbase personnel will remove the NATO Form 302 copy marked *Für den Zoll in Deutschland* and keep the copy on file at the airfield or airbase for 1 year. Other copies will be given to the consignee for disposition according to applicable U.S. and German regulations, including AE Regulation 55-355/USNAVEUR Instruction 4600.7G/USAFE Instruction 24-201 and this publication.

2. U.S. Forces official consignments that arrive in Germany on international flights without NATO Form 302 will be held at the airfield or airbase.

3. Responsible airfield or airbase operations personnel will notify USFC-E to arrange for customs clearance.

(2) If cargo other than U.S. Forces official consignments arrives at or leaves from U.S. Forces airfields or airbases on international flights, the designated airfield or airbase operations personnel will notify the nearest USFC-E field office to arrange customs clearance.

d. Inspection by German Customs Authorities. Under the provisions of applicable international agreements, local German customs authorities may conduct customs inspections at U.S. Forces airfields and airbases. German customs authorities will arrange for these inspections through the nearest USFC-E field office to establish mutually agreeable inspection times with the airfield or airbase commander concerned. AE Regulation 55-355/USNAVEUR Instruction 4600.7G/USAFE Instruction 24-201 provides additional information.

17. CUSTOMS CONTROL OF MILITARY GROUP MOVEMENTS

Movement commanders will coordinate troop movements across the German border with the HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351, or DSN 370-4983/5760.

a. Military Group Movements During Military Exercises or Maneuvers. Military units or formations moving on orders across the German border during military exercises or maneuvers are not subject to German customs control if German customs authorities are notified properly and early enough of the place, date, and time of the proposed border crossing. The movement commander will complete AE Form 550-175G and submit the form to German or U.S. military authorities, as appropriate, when entering Germany.

b. Military Group Movements for Other Reasons. Military units or formations crossing the German border for reasons other than military exercises normally will not be subject to German customs control. The movement commander of the unit or formation will complete AE Form 550-175G and will submit the form to German or U.S. military authorities, as appropriate, when entering Germany. In addition, the movement commander will provide the following documents to the local German customs office where the crossing takes place:

(1) His or her ID card.

(2) Movement orders.

(3) A written statement that the commander has taken all practical measures to ensure that no goods are carried by unit or formation members in violation of the NATO SOFA or of the Supplementary Agreement.

c. Equipment. Equipment and supplies that are shipped separately from the unit across the German border must be covered by NATO Form 302 according to AE Regulation 55-355/USNAVEUR Instruction 4600.7G/USAFE Instruction 24-201.

18. PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

a. Personnel subject to this publication will not—

(1) Use their importation and exportation privileges for profit or personal gain for themselves or others or use their customs and tax privileges to purchase tax-exempt merchandise for profit or personal gain.

(2) Make false oral or written customs declarations to conceal goods or information from customs officials.

(3) Import or export prohibited goods (para 6).

(4) Import or export restricted items in excess of authorized amounts without paying applicable customs duties and taxes (para 6).

(5) Import or export U.S. Government property without proper authority.

(6) Import goods or pets without complying with German health laws.

(7) Engage in or assist black-market activities. Black-market activities include the illegal transfer of goods with the intent of profit or personal gain.

(8) Transfer goods bought under duty- and tax-free conditions to other persons unless this publication or other applicable U.S. Forces regulations authorize the transfer (para 29).

(9) Cross borders without complying with applicable travel requirements. U.S. Forces personnel will follow DOD 4500.54-G and applicable service and theater command directives.

(10) Permit personnel who are not members of the U.S. Forces to independently operate a U.S. Forces-registered vehicle unless they have an approved AE Form 550-175D or other written authorization signed by the Customs Executive Agent (para 14).

(11) Knowingly provide incorrect information when applying for AE Form 550-175A, AE Form 550-175B, AE Form 550-175D, AE Form 550-175K, or AE Form 550-175L.

(12) Use a U.S. Forces-registered vehicle and duty- and tax-free fuel to conduct commercial activities.

b. Committing any of the prohibited actions in subparagraph a above is a violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Persons subject to the UCMJ may receive confinement for up to 2 years, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to the lowest enlisted grade (for enlisted personnel), and a dishonorable discharge (dismissal for officers). Violators also may be subject to administrative action (such as withdrawal of ration or exchange and commissary privileges). Violations of this provision by civilian employees may warrant removal from Federal service. Additionally, host-nation authorities may prosecute violators, assess fines, and charge evaded customs duties and taxes.

19. DETAINING, SEIZING, AND DISPOSING OF PROPERTY

a. The USFC-E or other designated customs inspecting authority may—

(1) Temporarily detain property pending customs clearance for import to or export from Germany.

(2) Seize property when it is being brought into or is being taken out of Germany in violation of German or U.S. law, regulation, or applicable international agreement.

b. When seizing or detaining property, the USFC-E or other designated customs inspecting authority will—

(1) Prepare a receipt for the property recipient or owner using DA Form 4137 or AF Form 52.

(2) Offer the recipient or owner a written explanation of his or her rights to protest against the seizure or detention.

c. USFC-E personnel may seize any property located on an accommodation provided to the U.S. Forces and that may be used as evidence to investigate a suspected or alleged offense by any person not under their jurisdiction when any of the following applies:

(1) A person is caught or pursued in the act of committing a crime.

(2) The USFC-E personnel are requested to do so by a German authority.

(3) The person is a member of the U.S. Forces or of the civilian component of another sending state or a dependent of any such member and an authority of that state requests the seizure.

(4) Strong reasons exist to suspect that a person has committed or is attempting to commit a customs- or tax-related offense on or against an installation of a sending state or an offense punishable under German Criminal Law, and danger in delay exists because a military police officer or German police officer cannot be called in time.

d. When seizing property, USFC-E personnel will work closely with German customs authorities.

e. Personnel who have property detained or seized have the right to protest the detention or seizure. Figure C-1 provides a sample letter for that purpose.

f. The property-retaining authority will do either of the following:

(1) Return seized property to the recipient or owner when clearance is given. In exceptional cases, disposition will be according to applicable service regulations (for example, AR 195-5).

(2) Dispose of seized property according to arrangements made with the appropriate German customs authorities.

**SECTION VI
CUSTOMS POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR RETIRED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL,
GRAY-AREA RETIREES, AND THEIR UNACCOMPANIED DEPENDENTS;
UNACCOMPANIED DEPENDENT CHILDREN; AND WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS IN
GERMANY**

20. GENERAL

a. According to the NATO SOFA, the Supplementary Agreement, the FCL, and the FCO, retired U.S. military personnel, gray-area retirees (glossary), and their dependents; unaccompanied dependents, widows or widowers; and unaccompanied children of military personnel (legitimate, illegitimate, sole surviving) are not entitled to customs and tax privileges in Germany except as indicated in this section.

b. The accompanying dependents and widows or widowers of gray-area retirees are treated the same as the accompanying dependents and widows and widowers of retired U.S. military personnel in Germany.

c. Personnel who are discharged from the military, are terminated, or resign from U.S. Federal service and remain in Germany lose NATO SOFA status and privileges. Dependents lose their NATO SOFA status and privileges on termination of their sponsor or by divorce (AE Reg 600-700).

d. Former spouses of active duty military personnel and military retired personnel residing or traveling in Germany are in general not entitled to customs and tax privileges in Germany. "20/20 spouses" may contact HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351 for determination of their entitlements.

NOTE: This publication does not grant authorization for customs and tax exemptions or entrance to U.S. Forces facilities.

21. RETIREMENT AND LOSS OF STATUS

a. Retirement in Germany.

(1) U.S. military and civilian component personnel retiring in Germany lose customs and tax privileges at 0001 on the day following their retirement unless they are immediately employed with the U.S. Forces in a position that entitles them to continued individual logistic support (ILS). The loss of status also applies to the member's dependents.

(2) Retired personnel must remove their POVs and POFs from the U.S. Forces registration system no later than the day they lose privileges. They also must inform the German customs office responsible for the area where they reside of the change in their status and must obtain customs-clearance certificates to register their POVs and POFs in the German registration system.

(3) Retired U.S. military and civilian component personnel and dependents who are not ordinarily resident in Germany and who are employed full time (20 hours or more) by the U.S. Forces or recognized instrumentalities of the U.S. Forces are considered members of the civilian component and are authorized customs and tax privileges and ILS during their employment.

b. Unaccompanied Dependents Remaining in Germany.

(1) Dependents of U.S. Forces military and civilian personnel assigned in Germany with SOFA status who remain in Germany after their sponsor's death or transfer from Germany (hereafter unaccompanied dependents) will retain SOFA status and customs and tax privileged for 90 days after the sponsor's death or transfer. This period is referred to as the 90-day grace period. Unaccompanied dependents remaining in Germany lose NATO SOFA status and NATO SOFA customs and tax privileges at 0001 on the day after the last day of the 90-day grace period.

(2) Within the 90-day grace period, unaccompanied dependents of active duty military personnel will do the following:

(a) Surrender their ration cards to their sponsor's former command, obtain a regular-fee (tourist) passport, have their no-fee passport canceled, and have their SOFA identification voided.

(b) Inform the German customs office responsible for the area where they reside of their change of status and obtain customs-clearance certificates to register any POVs and POFs in the German registration system.

c. Unaccompanied Dependents whose Sponsor has a Dependent-Restricted Assignment.

Unaccompanied dependents of U.S. Forces military personnel who remain in Germany after their sponsor leaves may retain SOFA status. Requests for support with orders identifying the follow-on assignment in Germany must be sent to the HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351. In the following cases, the Customs Executive Agent may grant this support and privileges for the entire period that the sponsor of the unaccompanied dependents is absent from Germany. The unaccompanied dependents may retain SOFA status if the sponsor leaves to—

(1) Undergo training in the United States with orders reassigning him or her to Germany after the training.

(2) A dependent-restricted tour with a follow-on assignment to Germany.

(3) A dependent-restricted tour and the follow-on assignment to Germany is received before the 90-day grace period ends.

d. Unaccompanied Dependents whose Sponsor has a TDY En-Route Assignment.

Unaccompanied dependents of U.S. Forces military personnel who remain in Germany after their sponsor departs Germany to a new duty assignment with TDY en route may write to HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351, to request a review and determination of their entitlements.

22. USE OF U.S. FORCES SALES FACILITIES IN GERMANY

The following categories of personnel may be authorized use of U.S. Forces sales facilities in Germany:

a. Retired U.S. military personnel (including gray-area retirees) and their dependents who visit Germany for at least 30 uninterrupted days. Unaccompanied and former spouses of retired U.S. military personnel are not authorized this support.

b. Retired U.S. military personnel (including gray-area retirees) and their dependents with a permanent residence in Germany.

c. Unaccompanied dependents remaining in Germany beyond the 90-day grace period after their sponsor's direct assignment from Germany to a restricted or short-tour area.

d. Unaccompanied dependents residing in Germany after their military sponsor departs for a restricted or short-tour area from a duty station outside Germany. They may, however, not be granted the 90-day grace period.

e. Unaccompanied dependent children residing in Germany after their sponsor (active duty or retired) departs Germany.

f. Unaccompanied dependent children residing in Germany whose sponsor (active duty or retired) has died.

g. Dependents residing in or moving to Germany whose sponsor is a prisoner of war or is missing in action.

h. Widows or widowers (and their accompanying children) whose sponsor died while on active duty or in retired status (including gray-area retirees), who have not remarried and who establish a permanent residence in Germany.

i. Individuals appointed by personnel with medical incapacitation (for example, retirees, widows or widowers) and legal guardians of minor unaccompanied dependent children who act as shopping assistants to make purchases on their behalf.

23. REGISTRATION WITH UNITED STATES FORCES CUSTOMS-EUROPE AND GERMAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

Personnel listed in paragraphs 22a through h must register with USFC-E and German Customs authorities before using U.S. Forces sales facilities. Once a year, personnel must apply for AE Form 550-175K at a USFC-E field office (app B, table B-1). Dependents must present verification of their sponsor's status to be issued AE Form 550-175K. AE Form 550-175K is valid for 12 months after the issue date or for the period that all supporting documents are valid, whichever is shorter.

a. Retired U.S. military personnel and gray-area retirees will report in person to a USFC-E field office or military-customs customer-service office to obtain AE Form 550-175K. They may also appoint their spouse or a shopping assistant to obtain AE Form 550-175K on their behalf if they provide written medical verification that they are incapacitated.

b. Widows or widowers will report in person to a USFC-E field office or military-customs customer-service office to obtain AE Form 550-175K. They may also appoint a shopping assistant to obtain AE Form 550-175K on their behalf if they provide written medical verification that they are incapacitated.

c. Unaccompanied dependents—

(1) As described in paragraph 22c will apply in person for AE Form 550-175K at a USFC-E field office and will present a copy of their sponsor's orders.

(2) As described in paragraph 22d will send a written request to HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351, and provide a copy of their sponsor's orders. On receipt of written approval by the Customs Executive Agent, they will apply in person for AE Form 550-175K at a USFC-E field office.

(3) May appoint a shopping assistant in writing to request AE Form 550-175K on his or her behalf in case of incapacitation. Supporting medical verification that the unaccompanied dependent is incapacitated must be provided to the USFC-E field office.

d. Unaccompanied dependent children or their legal guardian will report annually to a USFC-E field office or military-customs customer-service office to obtain AE Form 550-175K.

NOTE: Entitlements to use AAFES, Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) facilities, or both are stated on the ID card. IMCOM-Europe (IMEU-HMT, DSN 379-6647) can provide information about these entitlements.

e. On receipt of AE Form 550-175K, personnel will submit it to the local German customs office responsible for the area in which the applicant resides or visits. The German customs office will issue German Customs Form 0217 (hereafter referred to as Pink Card), which is valid for up to 12 months.

f. If a shopping assistant or legal guardian has been appointed—

(1) USFC-E field office personnel will issue a second original AE Form 550-175K for the purpose of obtaining an installation pass.

(2) German customs office personnel will list the shopping assistant or legal guardian on the Pink Card as *Erfüllungsgehilfe*.

24. MAKING PURCHASES FROM U.S. FORCES SALES FACILITIES IN GERMANY

a. To use U.S. Forces sales facilities, personnel listed in paragraphs 22a through h must have a valid Pink Card and a U.S. Forces ID card proving their status as an eligible patron.

b. Individuals listed in paragraph 22i must have the following documents in their possession when using U.S. Forces sales facilities in Germany:

(1) A valid installation pass.

(2) A Pink Card identifying them as the shopping assistant of an authorized person (that is, a retiree, widow or widower, unaccompanied dependent, or dependent child).

c. Personnel who hold a valid Pink Card—

(1) May purchase only nonrationed items for their personal or domestic use or consumption from U.S. Forces sales facilities. Sales personnel will annotate purchases of a single item with a sales price of 250 dollars or more on the Pink Card. Unaccompanied dependents are excluded from nonappropriated fund instrumentality (NAFI) membership and may not purchase NAFI merchandise except food and drinks for immediate consumption as invited guests of club members.

(2) Must report to the servicing German customs office before the 5th day of the next month to present sales receipts received from U.S. Forces sales facilities during the preceding month. German customs officials will assess a lump-sum duty (presently 17.5 percent) on items with a single item sales price of less than the U.S. dollar equivalent of 50 euros. For merchandise with a single sales price of the U.S. dollar equivalent of 50 euros or more, German customs authorities will charge the regular tariff rate plus 19 percent value-added tax (*Mehrwertsteuer*). On payment of duties and taxes, German customs authorities will revalidate the Pink Card by stamping it with a date stamp. Retired personnel visiting Germany may present sales receipts on a date agreed on with German customs authorities before leaving Germany.

(3) But made no purchases during the entire 12-month validity period of their Pink Card may be required by the servicing German customs office to sign a statement verifying they made no purchases and permit German customs to transmit their personal data to USFC-E for verification.

(4) Are subject to German legal action and may lose their exchange and commissary privileges in Germany if they fail to fully comply with the requirements in this paragraph.

d. Shopping assistants and legal guardians of authorized unaccompanied dependent children will—

(1) Not make purchases for their personal use.

(2) Comply with subparagraph c above on behalf of the Pink Card holder.

25. USE OF THE MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE IN GERMANY

Personnel listed in paragraphs 22a through d and 22g and h may use the MPS in Germany. Registration with a local USFC-E field office, military-customs customer-service office, or German customs authority is not required.

a. Authorized personnel may submit a completed AE Form 600-8-3C to the nearest MPO to apply to use the MPS (AE Reg 600-8-3, para 62c). If this application is approved, these personnel may receive mail only through the Box-R Service or the Family Member General Delivery Service. The restrictions in paragraphs 6e(1) and (2) and in (1) through (3) below apply to the mail delivered through these services:

(1) Commercial consignments (for example, goods purchased on the Internet) may not exceed a customs value of 22 euros.

(2) Noncommercial mail sent by a private person located in a third country may be received if for personal use and if the customs value of the goods does not exceed 45 euros.

(3) Incoming and outgoing mail may not exceed a weight of 16 ounces.

b. Exportation of noncommercial goods through the MPS is authorized, but individual country restrictions and prohibitions apply.

c. When mail received at an MPO fails to meet any of the criteria in subparagraph a, MPO personnel will return the mail to the sender and inform the recipient accordingly in writing. The notice will identify the sender and the date the mail was returned.

d. The use of the MPS is subject to spot checks by German customs authorities and USFC-E personnel. Misuse or abuse may result in loss of MPS privileges. Violators may also be subject to administrative action by German customs authorities.

SECTION VII

SHORT-TERM FUEL-RATION CARDS

26. OBTAINING A SHORT-TERM FUEL-RATION CARD

The U.S. Forces use an automated fuel-ration card system in Germany. Authorized personnel (AE Reg 600-17, para 9 and app C) may be granted temporary permission to purchase tax- and duty-free fuel for rental vehicles and POVs registered outside Germany and may be issued short-term fuel-ration cards.

a. Eligible personnel must complete AE Form 550-175L to request a short-term fuel-ration card. Issuing authorities listed in AE Regulation 600-17, tables 3 and 4, will approve AE Form 550-175L in accordance with AE Regulation 600-17, paragraph 9e.

b. AAFES facilities will issue a short-term fuel-ration card based on the information on the approved AE Form 550-175L. Short-term fuel-ration cards will be valid for the duration of the rental contract or, for vehicles registered outside Germany, the duration of the TDY, leave, or pass, but in no case for more than 30 days. The expiration date must be annotated on the short-term fuel-ration card. If a short-term fuel-ration card is needed for more than 30 days, authorized personnel must complete another AE Form 550-175L to obtain another short-term fuel-ration card.

27. RATION AMOUNTS AND ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

AE Regulation 600-17, table C-2, prescribes ration amounts. Servicing USFC-E field offices can provide additional guidance.

28. LOST OR STOLEN SHORT-TERM FUEL-RATION CARDS

Personnel will immediately report lost or stolen short-term fuel-ration cards to AAFES Customer Service and the Customs Executive Agency (DSN 370-4973).

SECTION VIII

AUTHORIZED TRANSFERS OF DUTY- AND TAX-FREE GOODS WITHOUT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

29. TRANSFERRING GOODS AT U.S. FORCES CATERING FACILITIES

a. Local national (LN) employees working on U.S. Forces installations and other persons not authorized duty- and tax privileges who depend on such catering facilities for official reasons or because of their accommodation may purchase food and beverages during their workdays in snackbars, shoppettes, Exchange Express facilities, installation clubs, food courts, sandwich and pastry shops, and other U.S. Forces catering facilities without paying duties and taxes to German customs authorities. They may purchase only prepared food for immediate consumption in single-meal portions. Beverages for such meals may be up to 64 ounces. The purchase of packaged food items from any AAFES or morale, welfare, and recreation facilities that exceeds a single-meal portion for immediate consumption is prohibited. The use of DECA facilities is not authorized.

b. LN employees may consume food and beverages during internal unit functions and official social functions (for example, potlucks, holiday parties, barbecues) hosted by authorized personnel.

c. LN employees may not bring their Families or guests to U.S. Forces catering facilities for the purpose of dining there unless invited by authorized personnel to a social function.

30. TRANSFERRING GOODS DURING SPECIAL EVENTS OR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

a. Unauthorized personnel who are invited guests of authorized personnel may consume food and beverages purchased by authorized personnel in U.S. Forces sales facilities at private social functions hosted by authorized personnel.

b. Tobacco products may be transferred free of duties and taxes during private social events and functions if offered for immediate consumption and free of charge.

c. Imported goods may be offered to persons as guests invited to events hosted by the foreign forces or headquarters if the value of the goods offered does not exceed 25 euros.

31. TRANSFERRING GOODS AS PERSONAL CUSTOMARY GIFTS

a. Authorized personnel may give gifts to unauthorized personnel without customs clearance provided the gifts are—

(1) For personal or domestic use or consumption and in noncommercial quantities.

(2) Not purchased from a DECA facility.

(3) Not official-issue military clothing items.

(4) For an occasion where gifts are customarily exchanged (for example, birthdays, religious holidays, engagements, farewells). The standard of living of both the person giving the gift and the person receiving the gift serve as the basis for determining the propriety of such gifts. Purchases given regularly or given instead of payment for services are not gifts. Gifts that are not considered customary may be given to unauthorized personnel only in accordance with section III of this publication.

b. Authorized gifts may not exceed the indicated quantities for the following items:

(1) Coffee: 500 g (about 17.6 oz) or 125 g (about 4.4 oz) of coffee extract.

(2) Spirits: 1 bottle not to exceed 1.2 L (about 1.3 qt).

(3) Tobacco products: 25 cigarettes, or 10 cigars, or 60 g (about 2.1 oz) of smoking tobacco.

32. TRANSFERRING GOODS FOR DONATION OR CHARITY

Transferring goods for donation or charity requires approval by the Customs Executive Agent and German customs authorities. Requests must be submitted in writing to HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351.

33. TRANSFERRING GOODS AT FLEA MARKETS

According to the FCL and the FCO, organizations of the U.S. Forces or headquarters may organize flea markets provided that the following conditions are met:

a. The flea market is a public event organized by the U.S. Forces or headquarters where members of the U.S. Forces will sell only used goods for domestic use.

b. The event is reported by the servicing USFC-E field office to the responsible German customs office at least 1 week in advance. This notification must include the location and time of the event.

c. The price of any single item offered for sale will not exceed 25 euros or the U.S. dollar equivalent.

NOTE: Privately organized yard sales and garage sales by individuals are restricted to ID-card holders with status under the SOFA in Germany. Transfer of duty- and tax-free goods to unauthorized individuals is not authorized unless permitted in accordance with section III of this publication.

34. TRANSFERRING GOODS AT PUBLIC EVENTS HOSTED BY THE U.S. FORCES

The U.S. Forces may sponsor events open to the general public where imported goods are offered. Those events take place on the premises made available to the U.S. Forces for their use and are organized by the U.S. Forces. The German public is invited to attend without admission charges.

a. Submitting Requests. Public events hosted by the U.S. Forces at which imported goods are offered to unauthorized persons require approval by the responsible German customs office. The request for approval of a *Volksfest* must be submitted to the servicing USFC-E field office for coordination with and approval by the responsible German customs office at least 10 weeks before the event. Requests must include a list of all goods intended for sale, including their customs status, their respective sales price, and the name and address of the seller. If German vendors (*Schausteller*) participate, the request for approval must also include the following:

(1) A list of participating vendors with their tax identification number.

(2) A photocopy of the vendor's trade registration (*Gewerbeanmeldung*) or itinerant trade license (*Reisegewerbekarte*).

NOTE: Requests for approval of other public events (for example, rodeos, Halloween balls) must be submitted in writing to HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351, 10 weeks before the event for further coordination with German customs authorities.

b. Approval. The responsible German customs office may approve the transfer of the following:

(1) Nondurable imported goods (that is, food and beverages intended exclusively for immediate consumption on the premises).

(2) Other imported goods not available in the German market with an individual sales price or value not exceeding 25 euros.

c. Disapproval. German customs may disapprove a request if it is not—

(1) Submitted in the prescribed timeline.

(2) Accompanied by the information and supporting documents listed in subparagraph a above.

NOTE: Failure to comply with the requirements above or conducting an event that was neither requested nor approved constitutes commercial trading in the German market by the U.S. Forces.

35. TRANSFERRING GOODS AT PUBLIC EVENTS HOSTED BY OTHER PARTIES

The U.S. Forces may offer imported goods for sale to unauthorized persons during public events to which they are invited.

a. Submitting Requests. Public events conducted by German organizers to which the U.S. Forces are invited to participate and offer imported goods for sale require approval by the responsible German customs office. The request for transfer of imported goods must be submitted by the servicing USFC-E field office to the responsible German customs office at least 10 weeks before the event. The request must include the following information:

(1) The invitation from the organizer.

(2) A list of all imported goods the U.S. Forces intend to transfer and the sales prices.

b. Approval. The competent German customs office may approve the transfer of nondurable imported goods (that is, food and beverages intended exclusively for immediate consumption on the premises).

c. Disapproval. German customs may disapprove a request if the request is not—

- (1) Submitted in the prescribed timeline.
- (2) Accompanied by the information and supporting documents listed in subparagraph a above.

NOTE: Failure to comply with the requirements above or conducting an event that was neither requested nor approved constitutes commercial trading in the German market by the U.S. Forces.

SECTION IX TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR APPOINTED CAREGIVERS

36. IN LOCO PARENTIS

The Customs Executive Agent may grant temporary authorization on a case-by-case basis (for example, deployment, medical incapacitation, Family hardship) to personnel not subject to the NATO SOFA and who are appointed as caregivers. *In loco parentis* (latin for “in place of a parent”) authorization may be granted in situations involving U.S. Forces personnel deployed to support peacekeeping, contingency, or security operations. These authorizations grant customs and tax exemptions to non-SOFA personnel while they care for the children of single military and civilian component personnel and military and civilian component personnel couples deployed to support peacekeeping, contingency, or security operations. This status does not waive host-nation labor laws. Application worksheets are available at USFC-E field offices or can be requested at DSN 370-4942. Applications with supporting documents must be sent for review and approval to HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351.

37. EMERGENCY ASSISTANTS

U.S. Forces personnel in hardship situations not covered by paragraph 36 may apply for temporary authorization for emergency assistants. Application worksheets are available at any USFC-E field office or can be requested at DSN 370-4942. Applications with supporting documents must be sent for review and approval to HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351.

NOTE: Appointed caregivers will carry a copy of the letter of approval from the Customs Executive Agent when making use of their customs and tax privileges.

SECTION X TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION CARDS

38. PARTICIPANTS OF TRAINING, SPECIAL MISSIONS, OR CONFERENCES

The Customs Executive Agent may grant temporary tax and duty privileges to personnel not entitled to ILS based on exceptional agreements with the FMOF and according to the FCL and FCO by issuing a temporary authorization card (TAC). The TAC will show the authorization and scope of granted privileges.

- a. Personnel listed in AE Regulation 600-700, chapter 6, may be granted TACs.

b. Sponsoring U.S. Forces or NATO international military headquarters agencies, units, or organizations will contact the Customs Executive Agency at e-mail: DLTemporaryAuthorizationCard@eur.army.mil or DSN 370-4981/4978 to obtain applications for TACs for eligible personnel. The sponsoring unit will ensure the following:

(1) DOD visitor guidelines are met according to instructions provided by the Liaison Office, U.S. Embassy, Berlin.

(2) Host-nation immigration requirements are met and proof is provided. If applicable, a copy of the visa and passport must be provided before TACs are issued.

(3) TACs are returned to USFC-E field offices or the Customs Executive Agency on expiration.

39. OFFICIAL VISITORS

The Customs Executive Agent may grant TACs to official visitors who are invitees of the Commander, USEUCOM; Commander, USAFRICOM; CG, USAREUR; the CNE-CNA-C6F; or the Commander, USAFE. Their requests will be coordinated with HQ USAREUR (AEAGC-PDP-N), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351.

APPENDIX A REFERENCES

SECTION I PUBLICATIONS

A-1. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Agreement Between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of Their Forces (NATO SOFA)

Agreement to Supplement the Agreement Between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of their Forces With Respect to the Foreign Forces Stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany (Supplementary Agreement)

Agreement on the Implementation of the Customs and Taxation Provisions of the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement in Favor of a Force and a Civilian Component (Article 65 and Article 67 of the Supplementary Agreement)

Agreement on the Implementation of the Customs and Consumer Tax Provisions of the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement in Favor of Members of a Force, of a Civilian Component and Dependents (Article 66 and Paragraph 6 of Article 3 of the Supplementary Agreement)

Schengen Agreement

A-2. U.S. GOVERNMENT

Controlled Substances Act of 1970

Manual for Courts-Martial United States (2008 edition)

A-3. GERMAN LAWS

Gesetz zur Ausführung der zoll- und steuerrechtlichen Bestimmungen des NATO-Truppenstatuts, des Zusatzabkommens zum NATO-Truppenstatut hinsichtlich der in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland stationierten ausländischen Streitkräfte und des Protokolls und der Abkommen betreffend die in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland errichteten internationalen militärischen Hauptquartiere (Truppenzollgesetz) (Forces Customs Law) (1 November 2009)

Verordnung zur Durchführung des Truppenzollgesetzes (Truppenzollordnung) (Forces Customs Ordinance) (1 November 2009)

A-3. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOD 4500.54-G, Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Guide

A-4. JOINT SERVICE

AR 600-8-14/Air Force Instruction 36-3026_IP/Bureau of Naval Personnel Instruction 1750.10C, Identification Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Eligible Family Members, and Other Eligible Personnel

AE Regulation 55-355/USNAVEUR Instruction 4600.7G/USAFE Instruction 24-201, Joint Transportation and Traffic Management

AE Regulation 190-1/CNE-C6F Instruction 11240.6X/USAFE Instruction 31-202, Registering and Operating Privately Owned Motor Vehicles in Germany

AE Regulation 190-6/CNE-C6F Instruction 5300.15Q/USAFE Instruction 31-205, Registration and Control of Privately Owned Firearms and Other Weapons in Germany

AE Regulation 215-6/USAFE Instruction 34-102, Individual Tax-Relief Program

A-5. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

AR 195-5, Evidence Procedures

AR 690-700, Personnel Relations and Services (General)

A-6. ARMY IN EUROPE

AE Regulation 600-1, Regulated Activities in Europe

AE Regulation 600-8-3, Army in Europe Postal Operations Manual

AE Regulation 600-17, Retail Sales of Motor Fuel to Individuals in Germany

AE Regulation 600-700, Identification Cards and Individual Logistic Support

SECTION II FORMS

NATO Form 302, Import/Export Customs Declaration

German Customs Form 0217, *Bescheinigung für die versorgungsberechtigte Person* (Pink Card)

DA Form 4137, Evidence/Property Custody Document

AF Form 52, Evidence Tag

AE Form 550-175A, Import/Export Certificate and Purchase Permit/*Einfuhr-/Ausfuhrgenehmigung und Erwerbsgenehmigung*

AE Form 550-175B, Permit to Transfer/*Veräußerungsgenehmigung*

AE Form 550-175C, Request for Exception to Policy for Authorization to Operate a Privately Owned Vehicle/*Antrag auf Erteilung eines Berechtigungsausweises*

AE Form 550-175D, Authorization to Operate a Privately Owned Vehicle/*Berechtigungsausweis*

AE Form 550-175E, Certificate of Postal Customs Inspection

AE Form 550-175F, Notification of Incurred Tax Debt

AE Form 550-175G, Customs Clearance Certificate/*Erklärung für die Zollabfertigung*

AE Form 550-175H, Customs Declaration for Pilots and Crew

AE Form 550-175J, Customs Declaration for Members of the U.S. Forces

AE Form 550-175K, U.S. Forces Status Verification/*Statusnachweis für versorgungsberechtigte Personen der US-Streitkräfte*

AE Form 550-175L, U.S. Forces POL Authorization for Rental Vehicles or Privately Owned Vehicles Registered in Europe but not in Germany/*Genehmigung zum Kauf von Treibstoff für Mietwagen oder für außerhalb von Deutschland in Europa zugelassene Privatwagen*

AE Form 600-8-3C, Application for Box-R General Delivery Service

APPENDIX B**UNITED STATES FORCES CUSTOMS-EUROPE FIELD OFFICES**

Table B-1 lists United States Forces Customs-Europe field offices and military-customs customer-service offices.

Table B-1 United States Forces Customs-Europe Field Offices and Military-Customs Customer-Service Offices		
Office	Location	Telephone number
Ansbach	Barton Barracks building 5254, room 316	Civ 0981-183-842/546 DSN 468-7842/7546
Bamberg	Warner Barracks building 7011, rooms 124 and 125	Civ 0951-300-7460/9312 DSN 469-7460/9312
Baumholder	Smith Barracks building 8724, room 2	Civ 06783-6-7442/8193 DSN 485-7442/8193
Frankfurt International Airport	Terminal 1, gate area C (ground level)	Cell phone 0162-270-8679
Garmisch	MP Station (note) Artillery Kaserne building 209	Civ 08821-750-3648/3601 DSN 440-3601/3648
Geilenkirchen	470th ABS/LGT Geilenkirchen (note) NATO Airbase building 84, rooms 8 and 9	Civ 02451-632227 DSN 458-6087/6031/6030
Grafenwöhr	Grafenwöhr Garrison building 621, room 102	Civ 09641-837249/8901 DSN 475-7249/8901
Heidelberg	Shopping Center Central Processing Facility building 3850, room 271	Civ 06221-57-8998/7142 DSN 370-8998/7142
Hohenfels	Training Area building 10, room 116	Civ 09472-83-2012/2745 DSN 466-2012/2745
Kaiserslautern	Kleber Kaserne building 3245, room 215	Civ 0631-411-7383 DSN 483-7383
Mannheim	Sullivan Barracks building 255, room 110	Civ 0621-730-3307/3326 DSN 385-3307/3326
Ramstein	Ramstein Airbase building 305, room 14	Civ 06371-47-0100 DSN 480-0100
Schweinfurt	Conn Barracks building 64	Civ 09721-96-8846/8847 DSN 353-8846/8847
Spangdahlem	Spangdahlem Airbase building 139, room 106	Civ 06565-61-4500 DSN 452-4500
Stuttgart	Panzer Kaserne building 2913, room 303	Civ 07031-15-2657/2731 DSN 431-2657/2731
Wiesbaden	Wiesbaden Army Airfield building 1038, room 201	Civ 0611-705-6071/5188 DSN 337-6071/5188
NOTE: Military-customs customer-service offices		

APPENDIX C
PROTEST AGAINST SEIZURE OR DETENTION OF PROPERTY

C-1. Property owners or recipients may protest the seizure or detention of their property through U.S. Forces authorities within 30 days after being notified of the seizure or detention. The protest will be treated in either of the following ways:

a. If the property is still in the custody of U.S. Forces customs authorities, U.S. Forces customs authorities will evaluate the protest. If the protest is disallowed, the letter will be sent to German customs authorities for consideration. If the protest is allowed, the property will be released to the person who filed the protest.

b. If the property in question has been transferred to the custody of German customs authorities before the receipt of the letter of protest, the letter will be sent to the appropriate German customs authority for consideration and final action.

NOTE: Property owners or recipients may file a protest directly with German customs authorities.

C-2. Figure C-1 is the format for a letter of protest.

(Property owner or recipient)
(CMR XXX, Box XXX)
(APO AE XXXXX-XXXX)

(date)

HQ USAREUR
(AEAGC-PDP-N)
Unit 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

RE: Protest Against Seizure or Detention of Property by U.S. Forces Customs Authorities

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Personal property was (seized/detained) from my custody by (name of official) at (location), (time), on (date).

I hereby protest the (seizure/detention) of this property for the following reason: (reason for protest).

Sincerely,

(Typed or printed name)

Figure C-1. Format for Letter of Protest Against Seizure or Detention of Property

GLOSSARY

SECTION I ABBREVIATIONS

AAFES	Army and Air Force Exchange Service
AF	Air Force
APO	Army post office
CG	Commanding General
CNE-C6F	Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet
CNE-CNA-C6F	Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa/Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet
DECA	Defense Commissary Agency
DEROS	date eligible for return from overseas
EU	European Union
FCL	Forces Customs Law (<i>Truppenzollgesetz</i>)
FCO	Forces Customs Ordinance (<i>Truppenzollverordnung</i>)
FMOF	Federal Ministry of Finance (<i>Bundesministerium der Finanzen</i>)
g	gram
HQ	headquarters
ID	identification
ILS	individual logistic support
IMCOM-Europe	United States Army Installation Management Command, Europe Region
IMH	international military headquarters
J-4	Director for Logistics and Security Assistance, United States European Command
L	liter
LN	local national
MCM	Manual for Courts-Martial
MPO	military postal office
MPS	Military Postal Service
NAFI	nonappropriated fund instrumentality
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
oz	ounce
PCS	permanent change of station
PM	Provost Marshal, United States Army Europe
POA	power of attorney
POF	privately owned firearm
POV	privately owned vehicle
qt	quart
SOFA	Status of Forces Agreement
SSN	social security number
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice
U.S.	United States
USAFE	United States Air Forces in Europe
USAREUR	United States Army Europe
USEUCOM	United States European Command
USFC-E	United States Forces Customs-Europe

SECTION II TERMS

dependent

A person who is a lawful spouse, unmarried child (including adopted child or stepchild), ward, or parent (including adoptive parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, and adoptive parent-in-law) and meets the dependency specification in an applicable service directive (for example, AR 600-8-14).

gray-area retiree

A retired Reservist who is eligible for retired pay and who is under 60 years old.

Truppenzollgesetz (Forces Customs Law)

Law on the implementation of the Customs and Taxation Provisions of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of their Forces of 19 June 1951 (NATO SOFA) and of the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO SOFA with Respect to Foreign Forces Stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany of 3 August 1959.

Truppenzollordnung (Forces Customs Ordinance)

Ordinance implementing the Forces Customs Law.

unaccompanied dependents

Dependents who reside in Germany while their sponsor is assigned to a duty station outside of Germany or whose sponsor had died.