

NATO SCHOOL OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY



WELCOME BOOK

14 July 2011

WELCOME TO GERMANY AND THE NATO SCHOOL

From the moment you arrive in Oberammergau, you'll realize that you're in a very special place. Not only are we blessed with the beauty of the mountains that surround us, but with one of the most unique and diverse cultural living environments available anywhere.

Information found in the Welcome Book is provided to help you make a successful transition into our Community. While it may not answer all of your questions, it will hopefully "point you in the right direction."

Please feel free to contact your sponsor or one of the members of our CJ-1 Manpower and Personnel for any additional information you may require. We can be contacted at:

Telephone: Commercial: (49) 8822-9481-1100 or DSN: (314) 440-2311

Fax: Commercial: (49) 8822-93051

E-Mail: ALL_J1@natoschool.nato.int

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Chapter 1 – History of the NATO School
- Chapter 2 – Oberammergau and Surrounding Communities
- Chapter 3 – German Customs and Courtesies
- Chapter 4 – Housing
- Chapter 5 – Community Facilities, Clubs, and Activities
- Chapter 6 – Education
- Chapter 7 – Medical and Dental Care Facilities
- Chapter 8 – Shopping Facilities
- Chapter 9 – Banking and Postal Facilities
- Chapter 10 – Transportation
- Chapter 11 – Driving in Europe
- Chapter 12 – Pets
- Chapter 13 – General Information (A to Z)

CHAPTER 1

HISTORY OF THE NATO SCHOOL

The NATO School originated in 1953 when General Mathew B. Ridgeway, then Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR), directed the Special Weapons Branch of the US Army School at Oberammergau to teach two courses on strategy and related developments of conventional and nuclear weapons to allied officers and senior civilians. In 1966, the Special Weapons Branch became the NATO Weapons System and was placed under the operational control of SACEUR. The curriculum was expanded by adding four more courses. These are still taught today, although they are continually revised and updated to include the most current developments within Allied Command Transformation and NATO. In 1973, it became the NATO Weapons Systems School. The school remained under the operational control of SACEUR, but it was assigned to United States European Command (USEUCOM) as a separate joint service activity. The NATO School was chartered in 1975. In 2003, it is officially called the NATO School, Oberammergau (NSO).

Since its beginning in 1953, more than 70,000 officers, non-Commissioned officers, and civilians from all Allied and National Military Commands within the NATO area have attended courses at the school. Several courses are also open to students from Partnership for Peace (PfP), Mediterranean Dialogue and Contact Nations bringing the total number of countries that have sent students to 59. Currently, the NATO School teaches 85 different courses to over 10,000 students each year covering topics ranging from weapons employment to peacekeeping to orientation to NATO.

The expanded role of the school is reflected in its staff and faculty. Today it employs more than 180 civilian and military personnel from 22 of the 26 NATO countries and two PfP nations.

To ensure students are continually abreast of the most current information on Alliance matters, faculty members consistently receive reports from, and occasionally travel to NATO Facilities/Centers/Commands, and to national capitals and Commands to gather up-to-date information. Even visits to Operations (i.e. ISAF in Afghanistan) are carried out. More importantly, students and faculty regularly hear the views of numerous political leaders and civilian and military experts who make presentations at the school. Faculty members also make presentations outside the NATO School through the use of Mobile Education Training Teams. Not only have faculty members lectured within NATO border, but also outside, for example in Algeria and Russia.

The school also hosts various conferences. Through the years, several NATO associated groups have used the school's facilities and enjoyed the surroundings of the local Bavarian Community.

Since June 2003, the school is under operation control of Allied Command Transformation (SACT) in Norfolk, Virginia, US. A board of advisors, consisting of members of the SACT staff, provides assistance and guidance to the school. Germany and USJFCOM provide facility and logistic support. However, the school relies on tuition fees of students to offset its operating costs. The school is essentially self-supporting.

For additional information, visit the NATO School web page: www.natoschool.nato.int

CHAPTER 2

OBERAMMERGAU AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

OBERAMMERGAU

The village of Oberammergau is home of the world-famous Passion Play. This play is held every 10 years and dates back to 1633, when the village was being devastated by the plague. The village fathers, driven by desperation, took an oath that they would stage a performance of the Passion of Christ every decade if the plague vanished. As the story goes, the village was spared and in 1634 the villagers began to stage the play. The specially built Passion Play Theater can hold 4,800 visitors for the 6-hour spectacular event.

Oberammergau also has endless hiking and biking trails, an outstanding indoor/outdoor swimming complex, track and field facilities, a tennis and squash club, and fantastic ski slopes right here in the local area. For additional information about Oberammergau, visit their web site at: <http://www.ammergauer-alpen.de/en/oberammergau/index.html>

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is actually two connecting towns, Garmisch and Partenkirchen. The two towns were united for the 1936 Winter Olympics and are now officially known by the single name, Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Partenkirchen was first documented in the year 257 as the Roman way station "Parthanum" on the road from Rome to Augsburg and flourished during the Middle Ages as a portion of the major Orient trade route.

This winter and summer town lies in the Loisach Valley surrounded by the Bavarian Alps. From the valley floor at 812 meters (2,640 feet), one has a clear view of the Wefferstein mountain range, which includes the Alpspitze, Waxenstein, and the Zugspitze. The Zugspitze peaks at 2,994 meters (9,731 feet), making it Germany's tallest mountain. To the northwest are the Ammergauer Alps and to the northeast are the Ester Mountains.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is considered to be the winter sports capital of Germany. There are over 40 ski-lifts, 11 cable cars, and a cog-wheel train service to more than 68 miles of ski runs, ranging in ability from easy to difficult. The Olympic Ski Stadium features four ski jumps and the roofed Olympic Ice Stadium houses three rinks, with the capacity to seat 10,000 people. There are 83 miles of cross-country ski trails in the area and plenty of thrilling "rodel" (sled) runs.

For the summer sports enthusiast, the Garmisch area features 186 miles of alpine footpaths, several modern indoor-outdoor swimming pools, and plenty of alpine lakes. For the more adventurous, the Armed Forces Recreation Center (AFRC) offers courses in parasailing, white water kayaking, and mountain climbing. Within walking distance, there are many rustic "Huttes" (huts) nestled throughout the surrounding mountains where the tired hiker can sit and enjoy the beautiful scenery - while sipping a cold "Weiss Bier."

Garmisch-Partenkirchen enjoys four beautiful seasons, with temperatures averaging from the 70s and 80s in the summer to the 20s in the winter. This ensures plenty of snow for the winter sports fan and plenty of sunshine for the summer enthusiast.

Garmisch is home of the United States Army Garrison (USAG) Garmisch, the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies, and the AFRC, otherwise known as the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort. The variety of recreational activities and facilities will make your assignment at the NATO School an enjoyable and lasting experience.

CHAPTER 3

GERMAN CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

FACTS ABOUT GERMANY

Germany has about 82 million inhabitants. It is by far the largest country in the EU in terms of population. Germany is a modern, cosmopolitan country. Its society is shaped by a plurality of life styles and truly different ethno cultural diversity. Forms of coexistence have become more varied, and the scope individuals enjoy has become greater. Traditional gender roles have been dispensed with. Despite the social changes, the family remains the most important social reference unit and young people have very close bonds with their parents. Germany has many strong suits: the country is renowned for the quality of its products with the trademark “made in Germany” – and it is also a country with a great lifestyle, highly diverse countryside and open-minded inhabitants. International investors appreciate the know-how and superior training of the workforce. The art and cultural scene is brimming over with a zest for experimentation and surprises.

Sixteen federal states, preceded by more than twice as many kingdoms, principalities, and small manorial towns – Germany is a country rich in history. It also has a wide range of different landscapes: sandy beaches on the North and Baltic Seas and the snow-covered Alps in the south. The Germans, be they from Bavaria, Saxony, Friesland or Hesse, bring this portrait to life with their dialects and traditions. Twenty-four million people visit Germany every year and many of them do not just come once. In their case, the typical German farewell greeting actually comes true, Auf Wiedersehen – See you again! The traditional Bavarian greeting is “Grüß Gott” – Greet God.

BAVARIA

The “beer state” of Bavaria also produces fine wine in the Franconia region. The Oktoberfest, Neuschwanstein Castle, and the magnificent Alpine scenery attract more foreign tourists than does any other federal state. Yet the slogan “Laptop and Lederhosen” demonstrates that there is more to Bavaria than just a lively tradition. Its economy, which is stronger than that of Sweden, boasts global brands such as BMW, Audi, Siemens, MAN, and EADS (Airbus). Munich, the state capital, is home to more publishers than any other German city.

GETTING ACQUAINTED

At first, you may find the local German population very formal. However, they are quite sociable and this can be seen at any festival or local pub. Family and friendship bonds are long lasting and sincere. Bavarians greet each other politely on the street, at the doctor’s office, and when entering and leaving a shop. When using the language, it is never a good idea to address strangers in familiar terms. When visiting friends, some mixed flowers or a bottle of wine is the best gift and being on time is a must.

EATING OUT

At a restaurant, don’t wait to be seated, you may find yourself standing for the rest of the evening. If the restaurant is crowded, it is usually acceptable to share a table. Eating out may take hours; as Germans like to sit and talk, long after their meal is over. Smoking in German restaurants and official buildings has been forbidden since 2008.

Germans love children and think nothing of approaching babies. Despite this, children are not welcomed everywhere. Seldom will you see young children in a restaurant. It may seem odd however, that Germans welcome dogs almost everywhere: in restaurants, stores, on the bus, etc. Dogs are usually well-trained and owners are responsible for damaged produced by the pets. Dogs and cats are more than pets and are considered to be part of the family.

RECYCLING

In Oberammergau, as well as in the rest of Germany, paper, metal, glass, plastic, and organic materials are recycled and should be disposed of in designated receptacles. Disposing of oil or other flammable materials, tires, or large bulky items requires special attention. Failure to recycle or sort trash properly is a punishable offense. Contact CJ4 – Logistics and Engineering Division for more info. CJ4@natoschool.nato.int

CHAPTER 4

HOUSING

When you arrive, you will have two options for housing. If available, the NSO can assign you BIMA (Bundesanstalt für Immobilienaufgaben/German Federal Agency of Real Estate Affairs) lease housing or you may elect to reside on the economy.

GERMAN BIMA LEASED HOUSING

The BIMA housing area offers one of the best international living experiences available. Families from all of the assigned nations have the opportunity to live here. The housing area is well located. Personnel can easily walk to work each day (5-8 min). It's also less than a 15 minute walk to downtown Oberammergau, and a 10 minute walk to the town's large swimming pool complex called the "Wallenberg." The ski area and unlimited hiking trails are also close by. The apartment buildings themselves are generally situated so residents have a view of either the Kofel or the Laber, the landmark mountain peaks of Oberammergau.

If you choose the BIMA housing option and depending on availability and your family, you may be assigned a two, three, or four-bedroom apartment in a stairwell living environment. Each apartment has three small storage areas (one attic/two basement). Each building has a centralized laundry room in the basement. The BIMA doesn't charge for brokerage at all.

The quarters, which are controlled by BIMA, are 75.8 quad meters (795.9 square feet), 88 quad meters (930.3 square feet), and 102.1 quad meters (1072 square feet), respectively. Four bedroom apartments have 1 1/2 bathroom. The apartment buildings are three stories high. US government furniture, clothes washers, and dryers are available to US tenants only.

The CJ-4, Engineering and Logistics Department is responsible for allocating quarters based upon the types of quarters available, family size, date of arrival, and rank. Also, they coordinate furniture and appliance support, assistance in connecting or disconnecting telephones, and assistance in setting up bank accounts for automatic billing of rent and utility payments. Translation or interpretation of German bills and housing contracts is also available when needed.

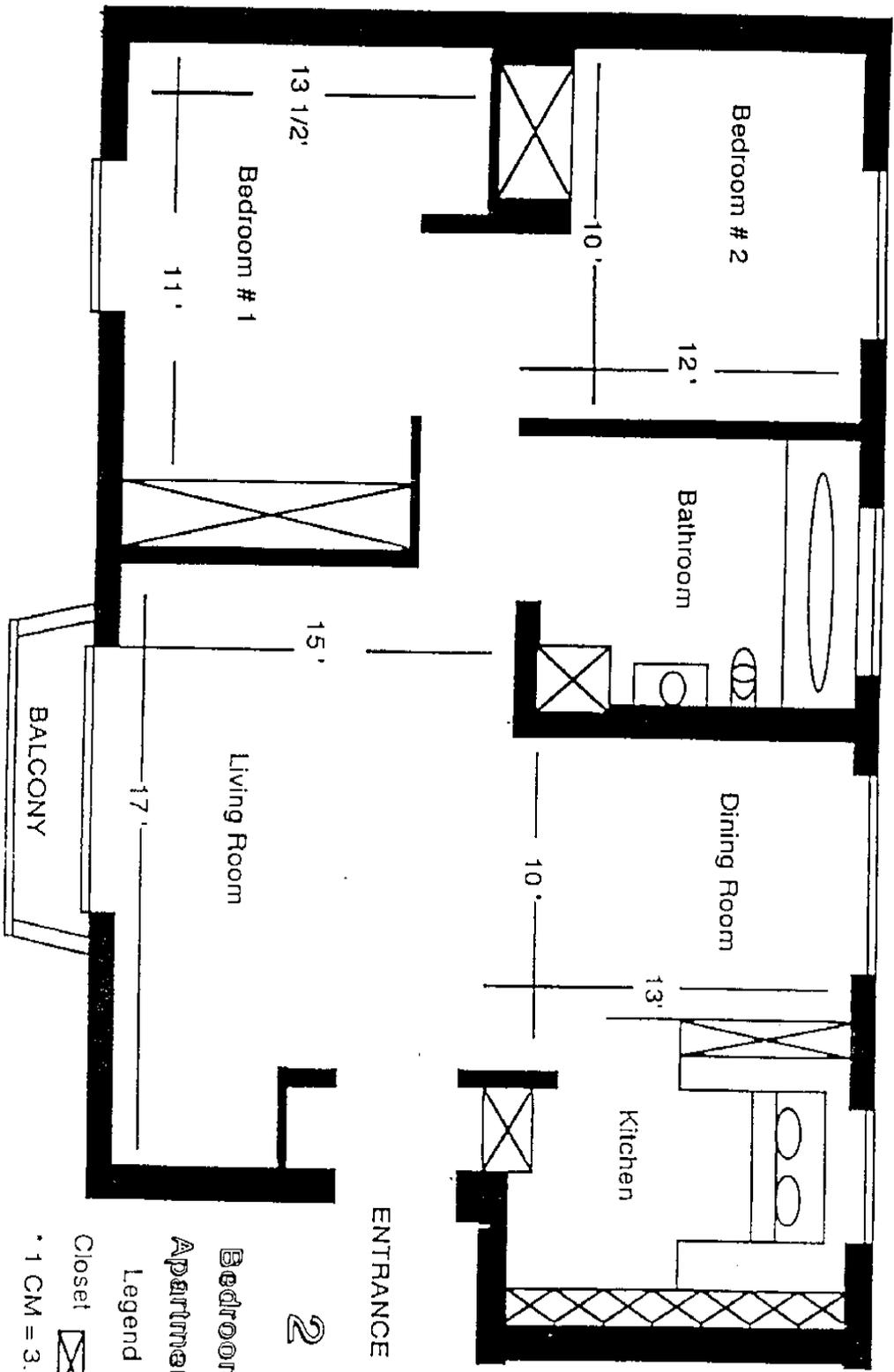
All housing costs are paid in EUROS. Utility charges, **except electricity and telephone bills**, are included in your rent. Electric costs are billed every month based on an historical average of usage. A financial settlement is made annually to reconcile the amount paid versus actual usage. Tenants receive a reimbursement if they paid too much or are charged an additional fee if they paid too little.

Termination of your rental lease usually requires a minimum of 4 weeks notice. The CJ-4 serves as the NATO School-contracting agent for all matters dealing with leasing of quarters. Individuals are not authorized to individually terminate BIMA leases. All BIMA issues require the CJ-4's coordination.

The CJ-4 housing assistant is the first point of contact for all BIMA housing questions, as well as maintenance problems. They are available to co-ordinate between the tenants and the BIMA caretakers. Although obligatory and pending availability, everyone is encouraged to consider living in the BIMA housing area as prices for housing in the local area can be quite expensive. Please see the CJ-4 for the latest official policies on BIMA housing. If you encounter any problems or have additional questions, please contact them at Commercial: (49) 8822-9481-1702 or -1704.

APARTMENT FLOOR PLANS (GERMAN BIMA HOUSING - OBERAMMERGAU)

The following floor plans have been provided for your planning purposes. Your floor plan may facilitate your planned furniture placements and help you with your personal property inventory. Please note these measures may not be exactly as indicated because of slight modifications to the walls and some variance from apartment to apartment.

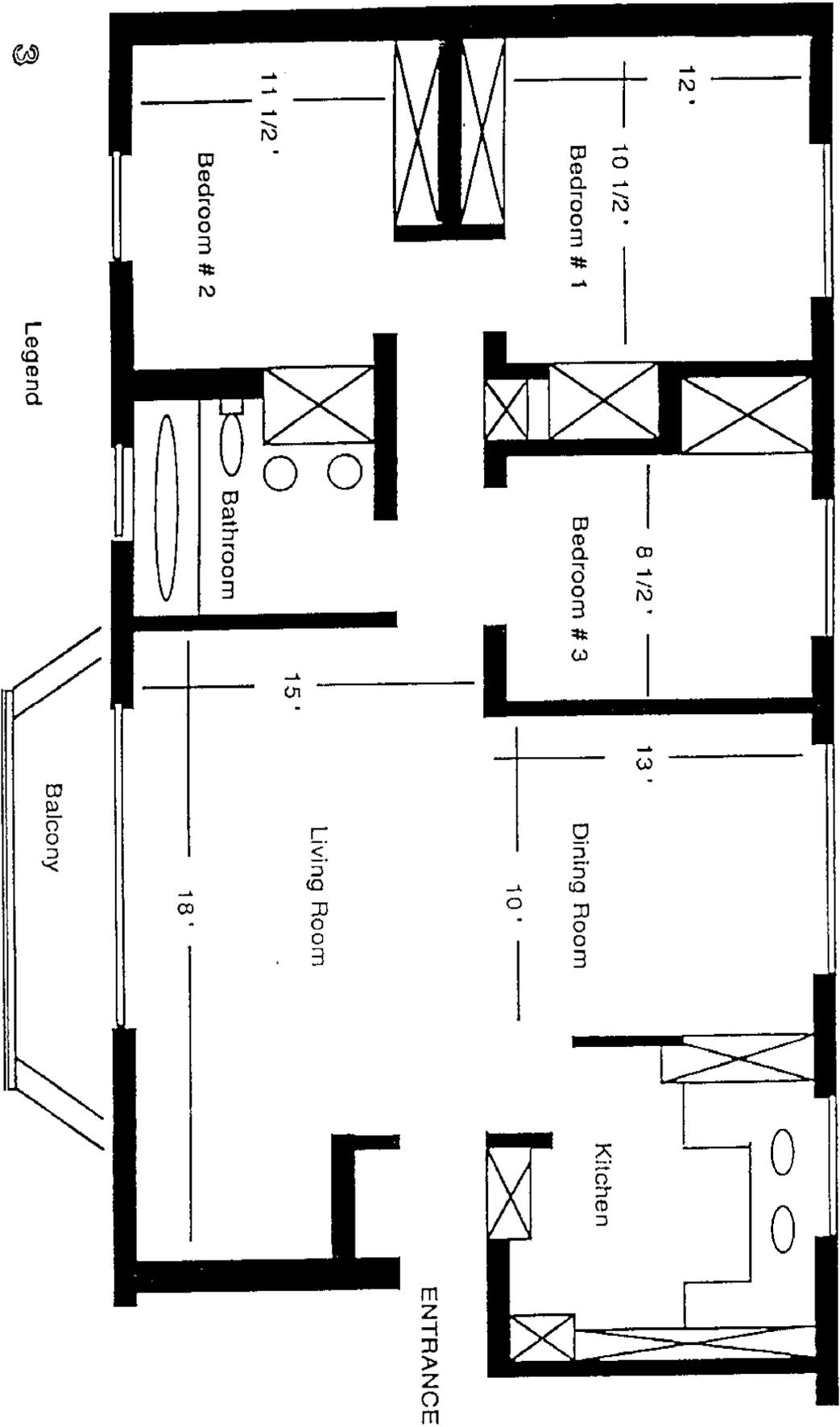


2

Bedroom
Apartment

Legend

Closet 
 * 1 CM = 3.3 ft



ENTRANCE

3

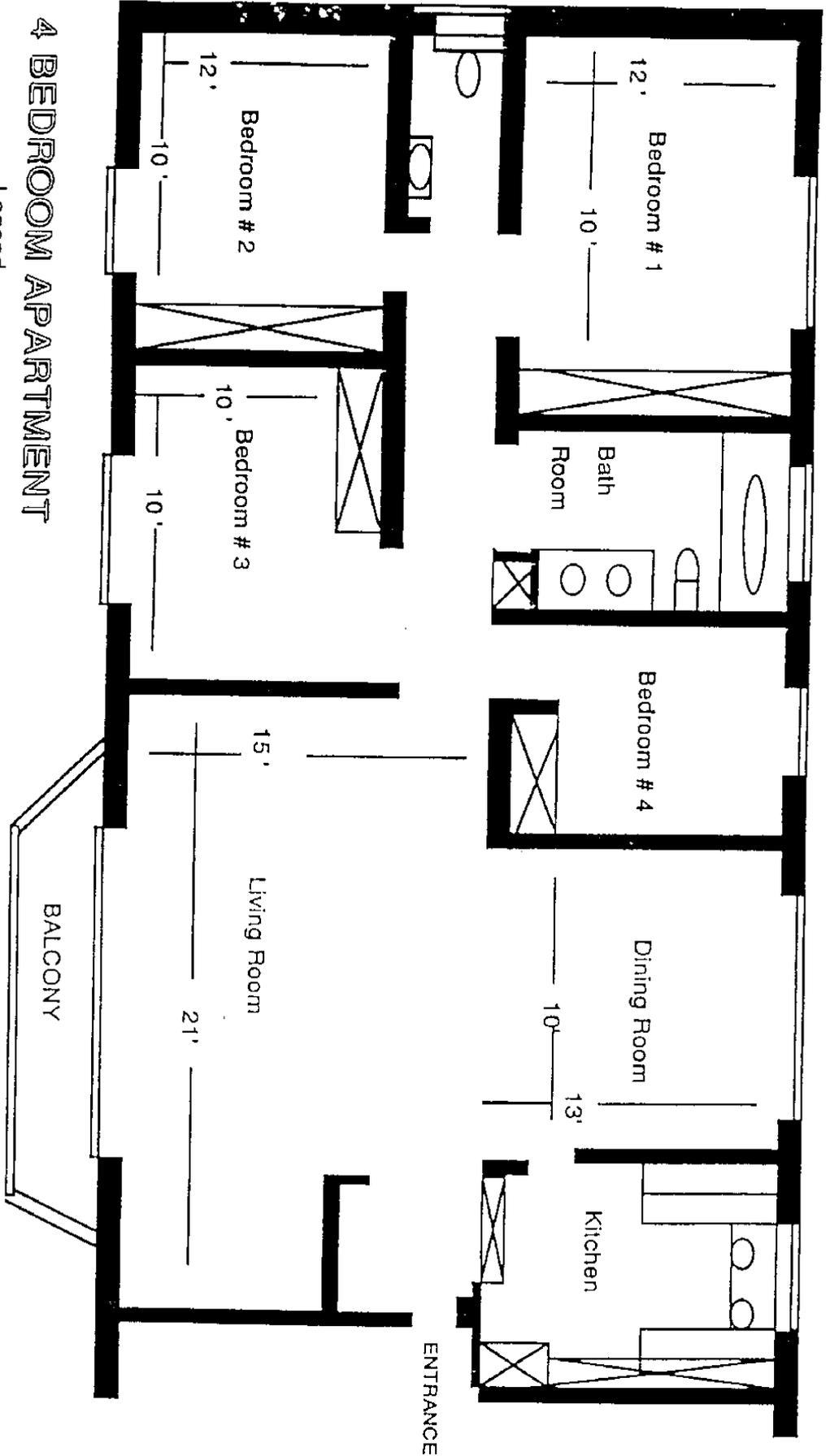
BEDROOM

APARTMENT

Legend



• All sizes Approx
• 1 cm = 3.3 ft.



4 BEDROOM APARTMENT

Legend



Closet
* all sizes Approx

* 1 cm = 3.3 ft.

PICTURES OF BIMA HOUSING



HOUSING AREA



BALCONY



DINING & LIVING ROOM—OPEN FLOOR PLAN



LIVING ROOM—HARDWOOD THROUGH OUT



ONE STYLE OF KITCHEN



BATHROOM—LINEN CLOSET IN HALLWAY

HOUSING ON THE ECONOMY (LOCAL AREA)

NSO HOUSING OFFICE (HRO)

All personnel must first contact the NATO School CJ-4 Division's Housing Office prior to entering into any rental agreement on the economy. After contacting the NSO Housing Office, US personnel may also contact the Garmisch Housing Referral Office (HRO) for assistance. The Garmisch HRO assigns available government quarters in Garmisch as well as providing assistance in finding private rental housing, negotiating with landlords, understanding lease conditions, and providing assistance in obtaining a telephone. The Garmisch HRO is located in Bldg 203, Artillery Kaserne,. Phone: DSN 442-2660 or Commercial: 08821-759660.

PRIVATE RENTAL HOUSING

Finding housing in Germany is fairly easy, but can be expensive. German apartments and living style may differ from other nations. In general, they are not furnished and are fairly small. Large furniture items (king-size beds) sometimes do not fit. An unfurnished apartment often means just that -- four walls, a ceiling, and a floor. You may have to provide your own kitchen sink, curtain rods, and drapes. German houses rarely have built-in closets or storage spaces within the living quarters. However, some of the newer apartments may have built-in kitchens and closets for the occupants. Rent varies greatly on the size and location of the apartment. The Oberammergau/Garmisch area is an international tourist resort area and rents are generally high. A substantial security deposit is usually required (2 to 3 months rent in advance) when the contract is signed. Using an *immobilienmakler* (real estate manager) in most cases may cost you an additional 2-5 times the monthly rent.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is 220 volts. Bring only dual voltage appliances as multiple transformers tend to blow the fuses. Certain US appliances will either not work right or won't work at all. Some appliances which do not have a running motor work well with and without a transformer. Lamps can be converted by using a 220 volt bulb and an inexpensive plug adaptor. Transformers use electricity as long as they are plugged in even if there are no appliances running off of them. Misuse of transformers can drastically increase your electric bill.

TELEPHONE

The Housing Office can provide you with the necessary forms to establish German telephone service in your quarters or apartment. Telephone bills should be paid in EUROS at the German Post Office and usually within 5 days of receipt. You must have your telephone bill with you when you pay (automatic payments can be set up with help from the Housing Office). Bills are itemized if you choose, and calls are charged based on calling plan, distance, time of day, and duration of call. This includes local calls. Even in the smallest towns, public access phones cannot be used without a Deutsche Telekom phone card. This card is different than calling cards that you may be used to. The cards can be purchased in varying monetary increments at local post offices and kiosks.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR US PERSONNEL

All authorized US personnel are eligible to use US government furniture/appliances. Items may be kept for the duration of your tour so long as supplies are sufficient. Furnishings and appliances may also be available for private rental housing. The Furnishings Management Branch is located on Artillery Kaserne (Bldg 203 - second floor). Commercial: (49) 8821-759-531 or DSN 442-2531.

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiem.cfm>

The following Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) location codes apply for the Oberammergau Area:

GM 219 – BIMA Housing

GM 139 – Downtown Oberammergau

This site gives detailed information and explanations about OHA, COLA and the Moving-in Housing Allowance. Contact the CJ-1 Manpower and Personnel for additional information.

***Important* For US personnel, please ensure your flight is booked into Munich, Germany and not Frankfurt.**

CHAPTER 5

COMMUNITY RECREATION ACTIVITIES and CLUBS

NATO RECREATION CENTER (NRC)

The NRC is considered our community hub, providing the home to the Community Recreational Activities (CRA). The CRA serves all NATO School military personnel and their family members, students, and conference members. The following are some of the activities CRA offers at various times during the year: fitness, language classes, trips to various places like the Oktoberfest in Munich, shopping trips, outdoor recreational trips, and arts and crafts activities. Located within the NRC are the following:

- a. **ATM Machine:** Located in the NRC just past the two double doors on the right. Easy access to withdraw funds.
- b. **Play Room:** For children under 6 years of age, adult supervision is required. Offers a variety of toys to entertain the smaller child.
- c. **Game Room:** For those 13 years or older (younger children with parent or guardian). An air hockey game, pool tables, a large screen TV, video and CD/DVD players, and Sony Play Station 3 available for your enjoyment.
- d. **Multi-Purpose Room:** This room is mainly used for fitness classes, briefings, and community meetings.
- e. **Fitness Room:** Includes free weights, weight machines, stair-steppers, lifecycles, elliptical walkers, treadmills, and a TV.
- f. **Arts and Crafts Room:** A complete set up for those interested in painting, drawing, matting and framing, as well as kids crafts.
- g. **PX:** An AAFES Shoppette contains a small quantity and wide variety of items for your everyday needs. A ration card is needed to purchase alcohol (above 20%), cigarettes, and coffee. See CJ-1, Manpower and Personnel Division for your ration card.
- h. **Library:** Books, VHS, and DVDs are available for temporary loan. There is also a paperback book exchange.
- i. **Internet Café:** Four terminals with internet access for students and community members (15 minute increment). Visit the front desk to sign out a log-on card to access the internet.
- j. **Blue Crest Lounge:** Used for community functions, potluck dinners, private parties, or just a place for people to get together and socialize. Large screen TV/VCR, DVD, surround sound system, and stereo are available. The lounge is open to all NATO School personnel and their guests. The bar is run by the NATO School NCO Association to earn money for NCO activities. The lounge is open to all students during normal opening hours.
- k. **Beauty Salon:** Available every Monday by appointment – sign up in the NRC.
- l. **Outdoor Recreation Equipment Facility:** Situated in the Kaserne, we have a wide range of equipment for all seasons. Bikes and hiking/camping equipment for the summer. Skis (Alpine and Cross Country) and sleds for the winter. Bike and ski maintenance is also available at reasonable rates. A full program of trips, tours, and instructional periods is offered throughout the year from ODR.

NATO SCHOOL LODGE:

The NATO School Lodge mainly exists to support the students who attend courses here at the school. However, the newly renovated dining room (w/ winter atrium) and bar are open nightly for your enjoyment. You may also reserve rooms for visiting guests in either Haus Enzian or Haus Edelweiss for very reasonable prices. Many of the NATO School social events (Hail and Farewells, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, national day celebrations, and other special events) are held here in the large dining room.

GARMISCH COMMUNITY (US) FACILITIES

The Pete Burke Community Center (Artillery Kaserne)

The Pete Burke Community Center is located in Bldg 725 of the Breitenau Housing Area, and is the focus for organized adult activities. The center offers educational, cultural, recreational, social, and physical programs geared to the demographic make-up of the community. Typical offerings include excursions to plays, musicals, operas, ballets, and concerts in Munich, Innsbruck, and Augsburg. Day tours are offered to historic city centers such as Munich, Landshut, Bamberg, and Augsburg as well as Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Museums, art exhibitions, lectures, films, and slide shows are also the focus of organized excursions. Classes are offered in German, ballroom dancing, and ethnic folk dancing on a periodic basis. The Community Bulletin publicizes all the programs offered. The facilities at the Pete Burke Community Center include a ballroom, spacious kitchen, two small conference rooms, a classroom, and an outdoor picnic area. Community members and organizations may arrange to reserve the facilities for classes, meetings, or special functions by calling the Program Director. Phone: CIV 08821-7502461.

Armed Forces Recreation Center (AFRC) Campground

AFRC offers year-round travel camps in Garmisch. The camp features tent, trailer, and van/RV areas, with most sites equipped with 220-volt electrical hookups. The campground in Garmisch is located on the north side of the Breitenau Housing Area entrance (near the Pete Burke Center). Facilities include a bathhouse with toilets and showers, laundromat, ice machine, and a camp store with a modest selection of grocery and camping items. Phone: CIV 08821-7502848.

Garmisch Gym/Fitness Center

A large Gym/Fitness center is located in Garmisch in Bldg 119 on Sheridan Kaserne. The facility is open to all the Garmisch Community, Marshall Center students, NATO School staff and faculty, and AFRC guests. This facility features two racquetball courts, a multi-purpose gym with a combined volleyball and basketball court, saunas, a weight room with both free weights and life fitness machines, a martial arts/aerobic dance workout room, and an aerobic room featuring life fitness stair climbers, rowing machines, treadmills, and stationary bicycles. A variety of fitness classes are provided. Massage service is available for a fee. In addition, the center offers an active, year-round, intramural sports program, volleyball leagues in the spring, softball in the summer, soccer in the fall and basketball in the winter. Phone: CIV 08821-7502747.

NATO SCHOOL / OBERAMMERGAU CLUBS and ASSOCIATIONS

Please check on the intranet for current board members and contact details of all NSO Clubs and Associations.

The Non-Commissioned Officer Association (NCOA)

The NATO School NCOA was formed by NCOs to promote the morale and welfare of all NCOs in the Community. The NCOA runs the Blue Crest Lounge located in the NRC on Friday evenings and other special events to make money to sponsor trips and special events. The NCOA makes numerous trips throughout the year for professional development as well as for fun and camaraderie. Membership is encouraged but is voluntary.

The Kofel Golf Society

The Kofel Golf Society (KGS) is the NATO School Golf Club. All NATO School personnel and family members are eligible to become members of the KGS. The KGS sponsors tournaments throughout the golf season. One of the most beautiful places to golf in the world is in Garmisch.

The Laber Ski Club

The Laber Ski Club (LSC) is the NATO School Ski Club. All NATO School personnel and family members are eligible to become members of the LSC. The LSC sponsors numerous trips to local ski areas during the winter. Since the bus transportation is free, members must only pay for their lift tickets. The LSC also conducts a beginning of the ski season meeting in the autumn to familiarize new personnel about the club.

NATO School Cycling Club

The club exists to provide trips, tours, and other events for cycling enthusiasts at the NATO School. Participation in local races, orienteering, and treasure hunt events are all well attended.

International Friendship Club

The International Friendship Club (IFC) provides an excellent opportunity to meet people from the village and become a part of Oberammergau. The IFC has members from the NATO School and the local Community. It currently has about 80 members. Aside from having a monthly STAMMTISCH (a special table reserved at a local restaurant for members to get to know each other), the IFC arranges major activities on a monthly basis. Costs for joining the IFC are EUROS 30.00 per year (Family); EUROS 24.00 per year (Single). The following are some of the more memorable events that have taken place with the IFC in the past:

Sleigh Ride on King Ludwig's track to Linderhof
Fasching Party
Trip to the Alsace - Wine Tasting
Spring walk in the Alps through Pürschling
Verona Trip for Opera Performance

Formal Spring Ball
Annual shooting competition
Barbecue at the Forest Hut in Unternogg
Vienna Trip to see musical "CATS"
Annual Schwarz/Weiss ball Christmas Party

TSV Oberammergau, local sports association

Fencing, soccer/football, handball, track and field, chess, ski (alpine, snowboard, and cross-country), gymnastics for women and children, and volleyball. For more information, please see the School Sergeant Major.

Morale and Welfare Activities Advisory Council (MWAAC)

The MWAAC is an advisory board to the Commandant which provides suggestions to improve community facilities and community recreational activities. The Chief of Staff serves as the Chairman, and the council is usually composed of a representative from each of the following areas:

- a. Senior National Representatives
- b. Civilian employees
- c. School Sergeant Major (represents the enlisted force)
- d. Family Spouse Representative
- e. A representative of all clubs and associations at the school

ACTIVITIES

(Note: Some activities offered by US Garmisch facilities may be restricted to US or Supplementary SOFA nations. Please consult your Senior National Representative (SNR) to determine eligibility. NATO School activities are nearly always open to all nations.)

Bicycling

All bicycle riders in Germany are subject to German laws and may be fined for non-compliance with regulations. German authorities require that bicycles operated on German streets be in good working condition and equipped with: two independent braking systems, one headlight, a bell, reflectorized pedals, one reflectorized tail light, and two yellow reflectors in the spokes of each wheel. Bicycles purchased through the local PX do not necessarily meet all German safety standards. Riders are reminded to remain on marked bicycle paths, if possible, and to follow automobile traffic rules. One thing to remember when cycling in Europe is that hand signals are different. Extending the right arm indicates a right turn. A left turn is made by extending the left arm.

Bicycles may be rented during the summer months from the following locations:

- NATO School Outdoor Recreation
- Oberammergauer Sportzentrale, Bahnhofstrasse 6a, phone 4178
- Radl Laden (mountain bikes only), Schnitzlergasse 12, phone 1428
- Radsport Lang, Rottenbucher Str. 16, phone 1004

Bowling (Kegelbahn)

Kegeln is the German equivalent of 10 pin bowling, played on smaller lanes. Ten pin bowling is available in Garmisch at the Zugspitze Bowling.

- Hotel "Alte Post", Dorfstrasse 19, 08821-1091

- Parkhotel Sonnenhof, König-Ludwig-Strasse 12, 08821-1071
- Kegelbahn, Zugspitzstrasse 61, Garmisch - Partenkirchen, phone 08821-52984
- Zugspitze Bowling, Zugspitzstrasse 61, Garmisch - Partenkirchen, phone 08821-52021

Cable Car Lift to the Laber (900 meters [2,925 feet] – 1684 meters [5,473])

The most beautiful view from east to west, see the majestic mountain peaks of the Wilder Kaiser, Karwendel, Wetterstein, Allgau Alps, Ammersee, Starnberger See, and the Staffelsee. Lifts are the starting point for hikes and downhill ski runs. The Laber has a restaurant with sun terrace and deck chair rentals. Valley Station near the Wallenberg phone 4770. Operating hours: daily 0900-1200hrs and 1300-1700 hrs.

Chair Lift to the Kolbensattel (900 meters [2,925 feet] – 1270 meters [4,127 feet])

The lift entrance is located at the Valley Station close to the Wank Alm phone 4760. Operating hours are daily 0900-1145 hrs and 1300-1700 hrs. It operates in the summer, but only during good weather.

Castles

King Ludwig II of Bavaria, often called the “Romantic King,” had three castles built in the region: Linderhof, Neuschwanstein, and Herrenchiemsee. A brief description of each follows:

- Linderhof:** One of Ludwig’s most beautiful castles, Linderhof, is situated at the western end of the Graswang Valley. Construction was begun in 1869 and completed ten years later. The parks are modeled after French and Italian renaissance gardens, featuring two notable buildings: The Maurische Kiosk with its precious peacock throne, and the Venus grotto, an artificial stalactite grotto, which is a copy of the famous “Bleu Grotto” of Capri. The lake with its artificial waves, the Wagnerian scenery, and the swan-shaped cockle boat all provided a place where Ludwig could go and lose himself among his fantasies. At the time of Ludwig, the Venus grotto was considered a technical marvel, a perfect illusion with artificial waves and stunning lighting effects. In front of the castle is a large pool whose gilded fountains spray water to a height of 31 meters (100 feet). Within its walls are rich tapestries, lively paintings, crystal candelabras, lapis lazuli, malachite, and porcelain.
- Neuschwanstein:** Located near Füssen, Neuschwanstein, was the first of Ludwig’s castles and also served as the model for Disney’s Sleeping Beauty Castle. The castle seems to have a different appearance every day, according to the season, time of day, and weather conditions. In the bright sun, it seems to sparkle, and can be seen from far away. It takes on a gloomy face on a rainy day. It is perhaps its best on a misty day when it drifts in and out the clouds; at these times it really looks like the fairy tale castle of King Ludwig’s dream. Ludwig once said, “Reality is too sad to bear. That is why I am escaping from it and why I am creating my own dream world.” Much of the decoration in Neuschwanstein is based on Wagner’s operas, contributing some color to the otherwise somber rooms. From the balcony of the Throne Room, the king could enjoy the splendid view of the Bavarian and Tyrolian Mountains. The royal bedroom contains some of the richest woodcarvings in all of his castles; it took 14 wood sculptors working 4 ½ years to finish. The ornately carved washstand is supplied with running water from a source 185 meters (600 feet) above the castle. Hochenschwangau, the castle where King Ludwig grew up, was built by his father, King Maximilian II, and is now owned by the Wittelsbach family, but is open to the public. It is located direct across from Neuschwanstein.
- Herrenchiemsee:** Located about 50 miles east of Munich. It is situated on an island in the Lake Chiemsee, Bavaria’s largest lake. Architecturally based on the Palace of Versailles, it contains the most lavish furnishings of the three castles. It includes a beautiful porcelain chandelier, which is the largest in the world (King Ludwig ordered the mold for it destroyed so that it could never be copied).

Cross-Country Skiing

Outdoor Recreation offers cross country ski lessons during the winter months or rental of equipment. Get yourself ready for the first weekend in February of each year, the Bavarian Cross-Country Race is held known as “König Ludwig Lauf.” Cross-Country skiers of all ages and levels can participate over various distances. Please ask for the special pamphlet from the NRC.

- O’gau - Rosswiede circular route 5 Km
- O’gau - Circular route on the Sonnenseite 5 Km

- O'gau - Graswang - O'gau 14.5 Km
- O'gau - Ettal - O'gau 14.5 Km
- O'gau - Graswang - Linderhof - Oberammergau 28.5 Km
- Ettaler Mühle - Sattel - Ettaler Mühle 4 Km
- Ettal - Graswang - Ettal 10 Km
- Ettal - Linderhof - Ettal 23 Km
- Circular route Dickelschwaig 3.5 Km
- Graswang - Ettaler Muehle - Mühlwald - Graswang 7 Km
- Graswang - Ettal - Graswang 10 Km

Ettal Monastery

Between Oberammergau and Garmisch-Partenkirchen is the Benedictine Monastery of Ettal, founded in 1330. The Chapel is famous for its beautiful ceiling frescoes and Rococo architecture. Across the street are several shops where you can purchase beer, exotic liquors, and ice cream, all produced on the Monastery grounds.

Fishing

Anyone desiring to fish in Germany must first obtain a German fishing license. In addition, a permit is needed to fish in a specific body of water. Contact the NATO Recreation Center, for additional information. Alternatively there is a fishing lake just inside Austria, in the Leutasch tal. It is expensive, but is well stocked with trout.

Golf

The Kofel Golf Society offers a full program of golf competitions and trips. AFRC operates a seasonal nine-hole, Par 36, golf course near Garmisch with driving range, putting green, pro shop, and snack bar. The course, which is shared with a local German golfing group, is located in Burgrain, on the north end of Garmisch. Golf equipment can be rented through the Pro Shop and private lessons are available. Golf weeks are scheduled from May through September and include 5 days of instruction, video analysis, use of golf equipment, driving range, putting green and course, an awards dinner, and mementos. Phone: CIV 08821-7502626

Golf (Mini)

Ettaler Strasse, next to Café-Restaurant Hexenstube, phone 08822-4071, 18 holes. Hours: Daily except Wednesday 1100 - 2200.

Hang gliding and Paragliding

Take-off is from the Laber Mountain which can be reached with the cable car. Daily flying permits (A and B accompanied by a trained flying instructor as well as L permits) are obtainable in Hotel Böld, phone 08822-3021. AFRC in Garmisch also offers a 5 day paragliding course. Phone: CIV 08821-7502591

Hiking

Outdoor recreation offer hiking tours in both summer and winter. If you wish to go yourself then guide books can be found at the NRC

Hunting

To hunt in Germany, you must take a special course and be certified. In addition, a lottery process is used to determine specific times individuals may hunt. For more information, contact the NATO Recreation Center for additional information.

Ice Skating

The Olympic Ice Stadium in Garmisch has both an outdoor and indoor rink, and skates are available for rental. In the winter, both the nearby Riessersee and Eibsee freeze over, providing outdoor skating in a spectacular setting. Phone: 08821-753291

Intramural Sports

The MWR Sports Office in Garmisch offers an active, year-round, intramural sports program to include: volleyball, softball, soccer, and basketball. Please make contact through the NRC, they will have details on all intramural sports tournaments in Garmisch.

Just for Kids

AFRC's Just for Kids Program, for ages 4 and up, offers fully-supervised, recreational activities including: (in summer) swimming, treasure hunts, hiking, arts/crafts, trips to zoo, mini-golf, and more; (in winter) sledding, x-country skiing, ice skating, and swimming. Also, offered is "Kids Night Out," an evening program, usually on Fridays. For ages 10 and up, AFRC offers "Adventure Kids," which includes hiking, mountain biking, lake rafting, basic rock climbing, and more. This is geared to Scouts and YS. Please make your reservations in advance for either a daily or weekly program. Program fees include lunch and a snack each day. Both "Just for Kids" and "Adventure Kids" are located above the Child Care Center, Bldg 723 in Breitenau Housing Area. Hours are posted. Phone: DSN 440-2644 or Commercial: 08821-79081

Klamms (Gorges)

The "Hoellentalklamm" is a natural gorge formed by the roaring Hammersbach River. A walking path follows the river's path. Park at the Zugspitzbahn station in Garmisch and take the Zugspitzbahn to Hammersbach. From there, follow the path up the hill to the entrance of the klamm. You can walk to the end of the klamm and turn back, or continue to the "Noel Lentalangerhuetten." The "Partnachklamm" is a 2,300 foot long gorge, which is accessible through a path cut into the rock. Park your car at the Ski Jump Stadium then follow the road to the Partnachklamm. You may enjoy a horse carriage ride to the klamm entrance – there is a small fee for this ride.

Movie Theater

The closest place for English movies is in Munich. Details of all upcoming films can be found in the Garmisch Bulletin.

Museums (please check for current hours of operation before hand)

- a. **The Geigenbau Museum:** Located in Mittenwald. This has been a center for violin building since the 17th century. The museum depicts this history, as well as violin building exhibits. It is located behind the Catholic Church, which is in the center of the village. There is a minimal fee. Hours: Weekdays, 1000-1145 and 1400-1645; Weekends and Holidays, 1000-1145.
- b. **The Glentleiten Museum:** Is an outdoor museum outside the village of Grossweil, near the Kochelsee. The museum depicts Upper Bavarian farm life from the 17th to the 19th centuries. All types of craftsmen, including potters, saddlers, weavers, and woodcarvers demonstrate their crafts. On the first weekend in Advent, a wonderful "Christkindlmarkt" is held at the museum. To get there, take the autobahn to Murnau/ Kochel and proceed in the direction of Kochel. The first village is Grossweil. Watch for the signs to Freilichtmuseum. There is an entrance fee. Hours are 0900 – 1800 from spring until fall, in November (weekends only) from 1000–1700 hrs.
- c. **The Heimatmuseum:** Exhibition of large historical cribs (1760-1860), exhibition of works of Oberammergau sculptors and painters as well as collections on the development of the art of wood-carving in Oberammergau, old carvings in wax; largest exhibition of verre églomisé works. For the opening hours please consult the Tourist Information and Travel Agents of the Gemeinde Oberammergau OHG - jointly operated with ABR. 08822-3256.
- d. **The Werdenfels Heimatmuseum:** Is on Ludwigstrasse in Partenkirchen. The building was built in 1622 and is the only building to survive the great fire of 1865, which ravaged Partenkirchen. Three floors of displays provide an insight into life in this area. There is a small entrance fee. Hours: Tue – Fri, 1000–1200 and 1500–1700; Sat and Sun, 1000–1200.

Passion Play Theater

On the Passionswiese, phone 3278. Guided tours daily of the auditorium, stage, and costumes. In the vestibule of the theater there is always a display of woodcarvings on sale from the Oberammergau Association of Wood-Carvers. For the opening hours, please consult the Tourist Information and Travel Agents of the Gemeinde Oberammergau OHG - jointly operated with ABR.

Rambling (Walking/Hiking)

Oberammergau has endless walking and hiking trails. Outdoor Recreation can help you find some great trails in the area, by either taking you on the hike or providing guide books.

Walking tours beginning from Oberammergau:

- Village - Lainenallee – Alpenbad (45 min)
- Village - Friedenshoehe - Kreuzingsgruppe (45 min)
- Village - Kreuzingsgruppe - Kolbenalm (restaurant) (1 Hour)
- Village - Grottenweg - Malenstein - Ammerufer (1 Hour)
- Village - Altherrenweg - Kainzen - Rottstrasse (1 1/2 Hours)
- Village - Ettaler Strasse - Larchenhügel - Alpenbad (1 1/2 Hours)
- Village - Rottstrasse - Romanshoehe (restaurant) (1 1/2 Hours)
- Village - Alpenbad - Lainenschlucht - Aiple-Alm (1 1/2 Hours)
- Village - Linderhofer Strasse - Dickenwaldweg - Ram (2 Hours)
- Village - Ammerufer - Vogelherdweg - Ettal (2 1/2 Hours)
- Village - Ammerufer - Ettaler Mühle - Benediktenhof (2 1/2 Hours)
- Village - Unterammergau* - Schleifmuehlenklamm (3 Hours)
- Village - Ammerquellen - Dickelschwaig - Graswang (4 Hours)

Mountain hiking tours beginning from Oberammergau (*Time refers to ascent only – no breaks!*)

- Aufacker (1542 m) via Alpenbad (1 1/2 Hours)
- Kofel (1342m) via Kaelberplatte (1 1/2 Hours)
- Klammspitze (1925 m) from Brunnenkopfhaeusern (1602 m) onward (2 Hours)
- Laberjoch (1683 m) and Ettaler Manndl (2 1/2 Hours)
- Pürschling (1565 m) via Kolbenalm (3 Hours)
- Notkarspitze (1889 m) ascent via Ettaler Mühle (3 1/2 Hours)
- Königsteig, Zahn, Pürschling to the Brunnenkopfhaeusern (1602 m) (6 Hours)

Mountain Rescue Service/First Aid: Phone 6333/19222

Skiing

With over 50 ski lifts and 68 miles of runs, the ski season brings a blur of activity to the Oberammergau and Garmisch Community. Ski buffs can tackle the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest mountain, from early November through the end of May. By the end of December or early January, there is usually enough snow to ski at lower elevations - the Kolbensattel, Unterammergau, Hausberg, Alpspitze, Eckbauer, and the Wank. Daily lift tickets and season passes are available (among other places) at the AFRC Hausberg Lodge in Garmisch. The ticket cost, in dollars, excludes the 19% value added tax which is charged when purchasing tickets directly from the Germans. For Oberammergau slopes, lift tickets can be obtained at the slopes themselves.

- a. **AFRC Hausberg Lodge:** Located near the base station of the Hausbergbahn (cable car) in Garmisch is considered to be one of the nicest and most modern ski lodges in Europe. It houses the AFRC Ski School. It also features a large cafeteria and bar, rental/repair facilities, and coin-operated lockers where equipment can be stored overnight. All types of ski equipment and clothing, both downhill and x-country, may be rented, and essential winter articles may be purchased at the small convenience store. In addition, skis can be repaired and tuned in the repair shop. Phone: CIV 08821-7502644
- b. **Wonderful Wednesday:** This is a unique tradition in the Garmisch area. In the winter, Garmisch American School children in grades 1 - 8 are dismissed from classes early on Wednesdays and are bused to the slopes. Ski instruction is provided at all ability levels by AFRC professional ski instructors. There

There is a fee for this program. The fee covers instruction and lift passes and equipment (available for checkout from MWR). For more information, contact Youth Services. Phone: CIV 08821-7502654

- c. **Super Saturday Ski Program:** Garmisch Child Development Services offers a ski program for Community preschoolers and kindergartners on several Saturday mornings during January and February. Instruction is usually provided on the American ski slope behind the Hausberg Lodge. There is a fee to cover the cost of instruction and ski equipment. Parents may register for this program at the Child Development Center in December.
- d. **Terrific Tuesday Program:** NATO School Outdoor recreation offer a ski program for the kids of NSO Permanent Party who attend German school. For a small fee, lessons are given every Tuesday during January and February. This is an 8 week program.
- e. **Ski Schools:** For adults, children and groups, downhill and cross-country with:
 - (1) Skischule Ammertal, Bahnhofstrasse 6a, phone 08822-4499; internet: www.skischule-ammertal
 - (2) Skischule "Am Steckenberg," Unterammergau, phone 08846-1700, fax: 08846-914229; mobile 0171-1971517; internet: www.skischule-unterammergau.de

Squash

See Tennis.

Swimming

The "Wallenberg" is located at Himmelreich 52, Oberammergau, phone 6787 (booking office), 6930 (restaurant) there are also reduced prices for residents of Oberammergau. It consists two open-air and three indoor pools, two water slides 115+63m, adventure pool, large sunbathing area, sauna, solarium, restaurant, and bar. The opening hours are: Wallenberg and Sauna: Daily 1000-2100 hrs. Sauna: Monday and Thursday men and women separate. All other days, including holidays mixed and family sauna. The Alpspitze "Wellenbad" located next to the Olympic Ice Stadium in Garmisch, has a large outdoor pool, a baby pool, an indoor wave pool, a Jacuzzi, an indoor diving pool, a sauna, solarium, and restaurant. The Wellenbad sauna has some "mixed" hours when both men and women participate together so don't be caught off guard. See current local tourist handouts or check with the pool for schedules and rates. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools are also located in Grainau, Farchant, and Oberammergau. Entry prices are based on the number of hours one wishes to swim.

Tennis

In Oberammergau, six sand courts and three indoor courts (rubber granulates) are available as well as five squash courts, sauna, tanning studio, and a fitness center. Reservations: 08822/3955. Individual and group tuition is available at the Werdenfelser Tennisschule Hans Alberino, Herrenpoint 40; phone 08822-1777 or 1385. In Garmisch, two community outdoor clay courts are located behind the softball field in the Breitenau Housing Area. These may be used by US ID card holders and their guests only. Keys may be obtained from the Physical Fitness Center on Sheridan Kaserne. Phone: DSN 440-2747 or Commercial: 08822-750747.

Wies Church

The country's most perfect edifice in Rococo style. It was built in between 1745 - 1754 to accommodate the thousands of pilgrims flocking from all over Europe to see the sculpture of Christ in chains, which is said to have cried real tears.

Wood Carving School

Wood carving has long been a tradition and a source of income for the people of Oberammergau. Taught by monks as early as the 12th century, they created objects for daily use. Since the 16th century, Oberammergau's carvers have been famous for religious articles such as the Passion of Christ depicted in a nutshell, elaborate crucifixes and Nativity scenes. Their products are exported throughout Europe and are world-renowned. For a smaller figure, a carver needs seven cuts to lay the basic form: one false cut can ruin a figure. Today the art of woodcarving is taught in a municipal vocation college. From April to June and September to November, 1- and 2- week courses are provided. Please ask for the special pamphlet from the Oberammergau Travel Agency (DER), Eugen-Papststrasse 9a (Ammergau House, Phone 08822-92310).

CHAPTER 6

EDUCATION

When selecting a school for your children, you have a choice between the US and German school systems. Considerations such as finances, age of the child, previous background and future plans, will have an impact on making your decision of which school to enroll in. The quality of the German schools in Bavaria is outstanding and there are many advantages to consider. It is amazing to see how quickly most children master the German language; the younger they are the better. However, the American school offers a high quality education, which may suit some new families' needs if their desire is for their children to study in English. This choice should be carefully examined. Click on the link to read a letter from the [NSO Parents Student Association](#) for more information.

GERMAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

It is possible for American children to attend German school at all levels. To be successful; however, the children must either be in the lower primary grades or very fluent in German. Furthermore, parents are expected to spend a great deal of time with the children because homework is extensive and the classes move at a fast pace. If you are interested in sending your child to a German school, contact the school's director and arrange for enrollment. You may have to pay monthly tuition, and will pay for all workbooks, school bags, and writing materials. The normal school day lasts until early afternoon. The school calendar begins in mid-September and runs through the end of July, with 2-week breaks at Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost (late May). If you choose to enter your child in a German Kindergarten, you will find the programs to be excellent. There is one Kindergarten available in Oberammergau and about five Kindergartens available in Garmisch. Children range from 3 to 5 years of age - similar to an American preschool. The enrollment is usually high, so make reservations as early as possible. The school system in Bavaria is organized as follows:

- a. **“Kindergarten”** is voluntary for girls and boys from 3 - 6 years old until the start of the regular school year. From 3 up to 8 hours per day (Monday-Friday), Costs are from 55 to 117 EUROS per month, additional 55 EUROS for lunch. Child care provided for 1 year old children daily at both kindergartens up to per day 7 hours, (from 110 to 195 EUROS per month).
- b. **“Hauptschule”** starts when the child is about 6 or 7 years old. Already in the 4th grade, a choice of a future direction must be made. Those qualified and who plan to continue with advanced theoretical studies at a university level later on, will go into the “Gymnasium” at the 5th grade. Other students will continue in the “Hauptschule” through the 6th grade and will have a choice between “Realschule” and the various trade schools. School tuition fees and books are free.
- c. **“Realschule”** lasts 6 years, for a total school attendance of 10 years. Most students enter professions such as trade/services. Tuition fees and books are free, except for the St. Irmengard School in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.
- d. **“Gymnasium”** lasts for 8 years for a total school attendance of 12 years. School tuition fees and books are normally free.

The American or English language schools are located in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Starnberg. The school system is organized as follows:

- a. **“Kindergarten”** is mandatory for pre-school girls and boys 5 years old. Duration is 1 year. Tuition fees and books must be paid by all non-US families.
- b. **“Elementary School”** starts when the child is 6 years old and lasts for 8 years. Tuition fees and books must be paid by all non-US families.
- c. **“High School”** lasts for 4 years. All US children attend the Munich International School in Starnberg. Many different professional directions are available. Tuition fees and books must be paid for by all non-US families.

In Oberammergau, you will find the following German Kindergartens and schools:

- a. **Kindergarten "Kunterbunt"** (Boys and girls)
Herkulan-Schwaigergasse 2
D-82487 Oberammergau
Phone: (49) 8822-935749
(lunch can be provided)
- b. **Kindergarten "Regenbogen"** (Boys and girls)
Herkulan- Schwaigergasse 10
D-82487 Oberammergau
Phone: (49) 8822-1054
(lunch can be provided)
- c. **Kindergarten "Waldkindergarten"** (Boys and girls)
D-82487 Oberammergau
Phone: (49) 8822-945306
Forest "Kindergarten" is called the Kindergarten without roof and walls.
- d. **Grund-und Hauptschule** (Boys and girls)
Schulweg 1
D-82487 Oberammergau
Phone: (49) 8822-922660

In Garmisch-Partenkirchen, you will find the following German schools:

- a. **Zugspitz-Realschule:** The school is for girls and boys
Gamsangerweg 1
D-82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Phone: (49) 8821-52070
- b. **Sankt Irmengard Schule:** A Catholic girls' school but also for non-Catholics. Costs per month 40 EUROS. The school is considered to be excellent, options for additional language training (at cost) does exist. A good choice for girls 12 to 18 years old. Professionally, the school is probably more focused on commerce and social studies topics.

Gymnasium and Realschule
Hauptstrasse 45
D-82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Phone: (49) 8821-9430330
- c. **Werdenfels Gymnasium:** The school is open for both girls and boys. Probably a more "liberal" school than Sankt Irmengard. The school has an excellent reputation, particularly in the sciences.

Wettersteinstrasse 30
D-82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Phone: (49) 8821-9439090
- d. **Music School:** Garmisch - all instruments are taught. Lessons available in Oberammergau; phone 08821-51733 for further information. The office hours are Monday and Thursday 1500-1800.
- e. **Dance and Ballet Classes:** For children and adults contact Frau Kraiker, phone 08822-6021.
- f. **Volkshochschule:** Almost every German town has an evening school for adults, the "Volkshochschule". Courses are offered in subjects from German for foreigners ("Deutsche für Ausländer") to photography, woodworking, and electrical repair. Instruction is in German, payment in Euro, and opportunities for those who know some German to meet local people and improve their speaking ability abroad. Addresses of institutions nearby:

Volkshochschule, Burgstrasse 21, D-82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Phone: 08821-95900
Goethe Institute.V., Seidelstr 17, D-82418 Murnau, Phone: 08841-3391. Note: This institute offers intensive courses in German for foreigners.

Lectures in English, open to members of the community are offered periodically by the Foreign Language Training Center Europe (FLTCE) in Garmisch. German language classes are offered at the NATO School from time to time on a private basis depending upon the availability of a teacher.

CHAPTER 7

MEDICAL and DENTAL CARE

TRICARE – EUROPE (APPLIES TO US PERSONNEL ONLY!)

Active Duty Service Members and their eligible family members are enrolled to Garmisch (a TRICARE Global Remote Site), and must use the services of International SOS if the clinic at Mittenwald is not used. Be sure to come by the TRICARE Office for inprocessing and more information. The TRICARE Office maintains a list of providers on the economy who are willing to see American patients.

American Facilities

The nearest US Hospital is in Würzburg or Landstuhl (4 or 5 hour drive). A medical team from Ramstein makes periodic visits to our community to provide such things as immunizations, HIV tests, sports physicals, etc. The Community also has access to German (Bundeswehr) military services in Mittenwald (30 min drive) and to facilities and services on the local economy. Contact the TRICARE Advisor located in Bldg 203, Artillery Kaserne for additional information. Phone: DSN 442-3816 or Commercial: 08821-7503816.

German Facilities

After duty hours or in case of emergency, go directly to the German Kreiskrankenhaus in Garmisch (a hospital with 24 hour emergency room services), located in the Auenstrasse 6, (49) 8822-770 or to the Kinderklinik in Garmisch (the children's hospital with 24 hours emergency services) in the Gehfeldstrasse 24, (49) 8821-7010. These facilities provide excellent care, and most physicians and nurses speak adequate to good English. Of course, there are also family doctors available in Oberammergau. Check with your sponsor for local, up-to-date information.

Prescriptions

Prescriptions you get from German doctors can be filled at the local pharmacy (see below spreadsheet). Tell pharmacy that you are with Tricare and they will bring you forms to fill out. The forms allow them to collect monies for the prescriptions or you can pay for them then file a claim with Tricare.

Dental Care

Routine dental care is handled on the local economy. Both Garmisch and Oberammergau has several dentists available.

Emergencies

If emergency medical help is needed, the German ambulance crew in Oberammergau should be called (phone 19222). The crews are very well-trained and provide the fastest transport to the German hospital in Garmisch. During weekends and holidays, you may call this number for references to pharmacies and doctors on duty. Adults with a medical emergency should go directly to the Garmisch Kreiskrankenhaus (Auenstrasse 6), located near the Olympic Ski Stadium. Phone: 08821-770. Children with a medical emergency should be taken immediately to the Garmisch Kinderklinik (Gehfeldstrasse 24). The Kinderklinik is on the right side of the street (Bldg 24). Phone: 08821-7010

Social Work Services

Located in Garmisch at Artillery Kaserne (Bldg 203). DSN 440-3584 or Phone: 08821-750-3584

Rheumatism Clinic

Located in Oberammergau on Am Larchenhügel, phone 08822-311. Outpatient treatment in the Kurmittelhaus.

Massage Treatment

Bierling, E. Eugen-Papststrasse 15, Oberammergau, phone 4443
 Friedrich, F. Kaspar Schislergasse 1, Oberammergau, phone 1575
 Kammerer, G. Devrientweg 3, Oberammergau, phone 6727

Military Medical Care

Can be provided by the Military Medical Center Murnau for some nations. See the DEU First Sergeant for more information.

Medical Facilities in Oberammergau and Local Area

(This is a general medical/dental listing; members are not limited to these services)

Call **19222 (without any area code) for emergencies** and after duty hours to contact the doctor on call.

	Location	Name	Address	Tel
Family Doctors/Hausarzt	Oberammergau	Dr. Seuss	Othmar-Weiss Strasse 5	08822-4244
	Oberammergau	Dr. Schneider	Eugen Papst Strasse 7	08822-6788
	Unterammergau	Dr. Schmidt	Dorfstrasse 28	08822-7255
Pediatrician/Kinderarzt	Oberammergau	Dr. Seuss	Othmar-Weiss Strasse 5	08822-4244
Dentist/Zahnarzt	Garmisch	Dr. Bail	Klamm Strasse 7	08821-3435
	Garmisch	Dr. Schutte	Prof Wackerle Strasse 1	08821-948141
	Garmisch	Dr. Wiens	Von Brug Strasse 13	08821-95110
	Oberammergau	Dr. Fussy	Koenig-Ludwig Strasse 5a	08822-4243
	Oberammergau	Dr. Zopf	Theater Strasse 2	08822-4927
	Unterammergau	Dr. Wasmund	Kappelweg 15	08822-813
Vet/Tierarzt	Oberammergau	Dr. Koepf	Koenig- Ludwigstr. 5a	08822-233
	Garmisch	Dr. Sauer	Schussangerweg 8	08821-76662
Orthopedist and surgeon /Orthopaede	Oberammergau	Dr. Laubert	Schnitzlergasse 9	08822-3008
	Garmisch	Dr. Buehren	Auenstrasse 6	08821-771-220
Pharmacy/Apotheken	Oberammergau	Kofel-Apotheke	Ettalerstrasse 12	08822-6664
	Oberammergau	Stern-Apotheke	Dorfstrasse 5	08822-3540
	Garmisch	St. Martins Apotheke	Am Kurpark 16	08821-55550
Optomologist/Augenarzt	Murnau	Dr. Schebitz	Bahnhofstrasse 17-19	08841-2322
	Garmisch	Dr. Feicht	Bahnhofstrasse 22	08821-55421
Ear, Nose and Throat/HNO	Murnau	Dr. Hasenau	Hauptmann-Bauer-Weg 2b	08841-3141
	Garmisch	Dr. Leinberger	Rathhausplatz 2	08821-52143
Hospitals/Kliniken	Garmisch	Kinderkrankenhaus	Gehfeldstrasse 24	08821-7010
	Garmisch	Kreiskrankenhaus	Auenstrasse 6	08821-770
	Murnau	Unfallklinik	Professor Kuentscher 8	08841-480
Mountain Rescue/Bergwache	Oberammergau		An der Knableite	08822-6333
Ambulance /Sanitaetskolonne	Oberammergau		Rottenbuecherstrasse	19222

CHAPTER 8

SHOPPING FACILITIES

LOCAL US MILITARY FACILITIES

Oberammergau

An AAFES Shoppette is located in the NATO Recreation Center. A variety of groceries, beverages, clothing, magazines, books, maps, etc. are available. Purchases can be made in US dollars and EUROS. If an item available at another exchange is not in stock at our Shoppette, you can have it transferred upon request. **ALL NATO School staff members may use this shoppette.**

Garmisch

The US Shopping Complex in Garmisch is located on Artillery Kaserne.

***Due to Supplementary Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) rules, only personnel from NATO and Supplementary SOFA signatory nations (Belgium, Canada, France, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States) may use the AAFES PX and Commissary facilities in Garmisch.*

US Shopping Complex (Garmisch)

The facilities and concessionaires include (but not limited to):

- a. **Barber/Beauty Shop:** Men's and women's haircuts available.
- b. **Bavarian Shop:** Features traditional German clothing and jewelry, linens, crafts, and souvenir items.
- c. **Class Six:** Located inside the Shoppette (item g), the Class Six sells various alcoholic beverages, to include regional wines. A ration card is needed for purchases of liquor.
- d. **Commissary:** The commissary in Garmisch is considered "medium-sized," but well-stocked with a wide variety of US and regional items. Items not normally stocked can be ordered - just fill out one of their special order forms. Closed on Monday and Tuesday.
- e. **Launderette:** Services include: laundry, dry cleaning, tailoring, and steam cleaner rental. Closed on Sunday and Monday.
- f. **Rosenthal Shop:** Features china, figurines, cutlery, and collectibles. Closed on Mon. Phone: 08821-4425
- g. **AAFES Shoppette:** Located inside the PX. Contains a small selection of frozen food, canned goods, sodas, etc. It also features video rentals.
- h. **AAFES Main Exchange:** A fairly small facility by comparison with other military posts, it carries an extensive selection of outdoor clothing, skiing, hiking, tennis, golf, and camping equipment, as well as a standard fare of household items and electronics. Items not found can be ordered from other facilities in Germany and delivered locally. Open daily.
- i. **Subway:** Provides a wide variety of sandwiches available for take-out and dining-in. Open daily.
- j. **Thrift Store:** Operated by the Community Spouses Club, the Thrift Store offers a wide variety of used (and sometimes new) items. Consignment is possible (30 items per day limit. The store retains 20% of sale value as a fee). Open on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday.
- k. **AAFES Gas Station:** Located near the Headquarters building on Artillery Kaserne. Only USAREUR-registered vehicles may utilize this facility. Open daily.

Other Government Shopping Facilities

US Exchanges - extensive US military shopping facilities are located in Stuttgart (3 hour drive), Grafenwoehr (3 hour drive), Würzburg (4 hour drive), and the Ramstein/Kaiserslautern area (5-6 hour drive). These facilities include Main Exchange, Commissary, Class VI, Book Mark, Furniture Stores, Four Seasons (housewares and gardening), Military Clothing Sales, Tax-Free Autos, Sports shop, etc.

LOCAL ECONOMY

The local shopping facilities of Oberammergau and Garmisch are sufficient to satisfy virtually all of the basic needs of personnel assigned to the NATO School. However, just an hour away is a shopper's paradise in Munich. In Oberammergau, everything is available locally; it's just a matter of knowing where to go. Please note that most of the small shops close for lunch from 1200 – 1400, and all shops (except souvenir shops) close on Saturdays at 1200 except the first Saturday of each month which is called Long Saturday or "Langer Samstag" in which case shops usually close around 1600 – 1700. The following information should help familiarize you with the local facilities:

Arts and Crafts

Oberammergau is a small town which attracts many tourists each year. Perhaps because of this, it is more important commercially than its size of about 5,000 might suggest. Consequently, there are many small businesses which together provide diverse shopping opportunities generally, but particularly in the area of arts and crafts items. Oberammergau is world-famous for its hand made wood-carved artifacts.

Automobiles

The main German car makes, and some of the other major European makes are sold in Garmisch and car parts and repair services are readily available. Oberammergau has several auto repair shops. The nearby towns of Oberau and Garmisch have many more, including large, well-known auto accessory concessions. Esso gas stations are found in Murnau (20 km), and Garmisch (18km). There are AGIP gas stations in Oberammergau and in Oberau.

Bakeries

A large one on Daisenbergerstrasse and small ones on Am Mühlbach, Dorfstrasse, and Schnitzlergasse. Bread can be bought in all supermarkets. It is advisable to buy bread early in the mornings as they sell out quickly (especially on Saturdays). The village has an abundance of cafes (konditorei) where fresh pastries and cakes can be bought.

Bicycle Shop

Sales, repairs, and spare parts – two shops in Oberammergau.

Book Stores/School Supplies

Buchhandlung Schwarz on Devrientweg. In Garmisch, Polz Papiergrosshandel at Schornstrasse 31 is a paper shop with an abundance of school supplies, paper in every shape and form, and handicrafts.

Clothing/Accessories

Oberammergau has a limited selection of clothing and accessory stores. Garmisch has a much wider selection, including a better range of prices and fashions. Of course, even the most avid connoisseur of chic and fashion will find whatever he/she is looking for in Munich, an hour away.

Electrical Stores

Rutz on Dedlerstrasse and Gaus on Dorfstrasse.

Florist

Four in all - Bahnhofstrasse, Dedlerstrasse, and two on Dorfstrasse.

Food

In Oberammergau there are five fairly large supermarkets which carry a wide assortment of groceries and food, including fresh dairy products, fruits and vegetables, poultry, meats, bakery shop, some hardware, etc. None of them are very large, but all offer a good variety.

a. **Supermarkets (Oberammergau):**

- (1) Kaisers
- (2) V-Markt - Moosgasse
- (3) Penny Market – Schnitzlergasse
- (4) Plus – Rottenbucherstrasse
- (5) R-Kauf – Dorfplatz
- (6) Lidl - Bahnhofstrasse
- (7) Tenglemann's - Bahnhofstrasse

b. **Butchers (Metzgerei):** Verlegergasse, Dorfstrasse, and Dedlerstrasse. A little more expensive than the supermarket but excellent quality.

c. **Miscellaneous:** In addition, Oberammergau boasts several excellent bakeries, meat shops, wine and cheese stores. Garmisch, 18 km south, has many of these shops, including several supermarkets. Both Oberammergau and Garmisch have many fine restaurants, serving different styles of food as well as traditional Bavarian and German specialties. Garmisch has six American fast food restaurants: two Burger Kings, a Pizza Hut, two McDonalds, and a Subway.

Glass Repair/Framing

Fischer, Am Mühlbach.

Hairdressers

Four in all - Bahnhofstrasse, Ettaler Strasse, St. Lukas Strasse, and Dorfstrasse. Cosmetic care and treatments in Dorfstrasse.

Handicrafts

One on Dorfstrasse, with everything from wood to dried flowers, and on Steinbachergasse, another with all sewing equipment including needles, threads, and machines.

Hardware Stores

Gstaiger on Dorfstrasse and Christian on Ettaler Strasse. Christian also has pet supplies. Both are small and limited in supplies. An alternative is OBI in Garmisch which offers garden supplies and some furniture, and Praktiker Baumarkt in Murnau.

Health Food Shop

Judagasse.

Jewelers

One on Dorfstrasse, another on Am Mühlbach.

Kennels

Garmisch – Phone 08821-55967 between 1500 -1700 hours, Monday to Friday, and Saturday between 0900-1100 hours. Very advisable to book well in advance. One in Peissenberg – Phone 08803-60094.

Post Office

A German Post Office "Post" can be found on Bahnhofstrasse across from the railway station. UK and US mail service available at the NATO School (no outgoing packages for US mail; this must be done at USAG).

Shoe Shops

Der Schuh Laden and Schuhhaus Wolf, both on Dorfstrasse.

Sport Shops

Sporthaus Mühlstrasser on Theaterstrasse, Niklas in Eugen-Papststrasse, and Papistock on Bahnhofstrasse. The former two stock mainly clothing. Papistock does ski rental (ski verleigh) and ski lessons, so does the Skischule Müller on Wankgasse.

Tourist Office

ABR on Eugen Papststrasse which will also supply information on events and on the local area in various languages.

TV/Video/Stereos

Four in all -- Sterngasse, St Lukas Strasse, Am Rathaus, and Schnitzlergasse. Zwink on Schnitzlergasse for watch and clock repairs.

CHAPTER 9

BANKING AND POSTAL FACILITIES

BANKING FACILITIES

There is only one US military Community Bank and one Service Credit Union in the Garmisch area. It offers US military, DOD civilians, and family members a wide variety of services. Services include: savings and regular checking accounts, interest paying checking accounts, check-to-bank payroll, signature and new/used car loans, money orders, traveler's checks, CDs in both dollars and EUROS, and cashiers checks in dollars, EUROS, or other foreign currencies. NATO military staff members are only authorized use of the US military Community Bank and limited to currency exchange of up to \$50.00 per day (IAW AE Req 600-700).

Currency conversion

Is a major service offered by the bank. Exchange rates are posted in each banking facility or are available online. Foreign currencies other than EUROS should be ordered at least three working days in advance.

Automated Teller Machines (ATM)

Cash advances on EUROCARD, VISA and M/C can be made at any bank in Oberammergau. Cash advances may also be made from the US military Community Bank "Green Machine" located on the porch as you enter the bank. It accepts bank cards (i.e. CIRRUS and PLUS) as well as various credit cards (VISA, M/C, AMEX, and Discover). Other locations in Oberammergau for getting a cash advance from an ATM are:

- Hypo-Bank, Dorfstrasse 3
- Kreissparkasse, Dorfstrasse 23
- Raiffeisenbank, Bahnhofstrasse 24

Note: You can use most ATMs in the Oberammergau for a \$1.50 transaction fee which beats having to drive down the mountain to get cash.

AFRC Hotels

For guests, checks up to \$100 per day may be cashed at the front desk for either US Dollars or EUROS.

German Bank Accounts

You are permitted to operate a local German bank account (GIRO-KONTO). The opening of an account is a relatively simple operation. Just walk into a bank and ask to open up an account. All that is required is an ID card or passport. Then a teller will fill out two short forms. Your name and account number (Konto-Nummer) is fundamental to the German banking system and must be quoted accurately. You will have to sign the cards and forms. Before you open an account, find out which bank offers the most favorable conditions.

It makes good sense to open a German checking or transfer account (GIRO-KONTO) to pay local bills. In Germany, money to pay bills is usually transferred from one account to another. Checks are not used to pay bills or to make cash withdrawals. The reason for this is the issuing bank is not required to establish the identity of the person cashing the check. It's concerned only with the signature. Anyone, therefore, who obtains a signed check can cash it. If you pay bills by check, it is necessary to write NUR ZUR VERRECHNUNG (not negotiable, only for account) for your protection on the check. When that is done, the person who takes it to the bank cannot obtain cash for it; the amount is transferred to the account of the party named.

There are three ways to pay bills from your account: first, for bills that are received every month for the same amount you can set up a transfer or DAUERAUFTRAG (a standing payment order). Just fill out a bank or a postal account form. The amount will be automatically deducted from your account. For bills you receive every month in different amounts (phone bills, etc.) use a LASTSCHRIFTVERFAHREN or ABUFVERFAHREN (debit or recall procedure). This form of payment allows a firm to withdraw varying amount of money from your account every month.

For bills that are not received on a regular basis, you can use an UEBERWEISUNG form. When a bill is received, fill in the required information on the form and mail it to your bank. A transfer will then be made to the payee and the

debit will be shown on your bank statement. On the form, the EMPFAENGER is the person or form who is to receive the money. You are the AUFTRAGGEBER. Your account number (Konto-Nummer) and that of the recipient must be filled in. Your signature goes on the bottom line.

To obtain cash, fill out a withdrawal form (AUSZAHLUNGSFORMULAR). German banks usually offer overdraft service. Your overdraft amount is usually allowed to the amount of your normal monthly deposit.

The Eurocheck system offered by banks and the German post office partially fills the function of charge accounts as well as that of letters of credit. Ask for a Eurocheck-Heft (book) and also you will be issued a yearly identification card. These checks (with your card) are accepted virtually all over Europe since the issuing bank guarantees payment. There is a charge for each check. You can obtain up to 200 EUROS in cash in many countries in Europe at any of the participating banks which include all the major ones. Eurochecks can make shopping easier because Eurochecks can be written in different currencies. Currency conversion is accomplished at the rate when the check clears the bank.

POSTAL FACILITIES

The NATO School US Unit Mail Room (UMR): Mail is picked up at and delivered from the nearest US Post Office in Garmisch daily. The UMR offers the assignment of a mailbox to US military and civilian members (up to 90 days prior to arrival) and delivery and pick up of personal and official mail (letters, packages, etc). Packages may not be mailed from the UMR.

There are three US drop boxes for personal and official letters, post cards or larger envelopes; one is located in the entrance hallway of the Academics Building, another is located in the NATO School Distribution Room of the Personnel Branch of the Support Division (CJ-1), and the last one is a slot in the door of the UMR. Pick up time from Garmisch is normally 1010 daily except weekends and US and NATO School holidays. Mail is usually distributed in the UMR boxes by 1300.

US Military & Civilian

Non-US Members

General Delivery
Member's name
NATO School
Unit 24503
APO AE 09712-4503

Member's Name
NATO School
Am Rainenbichl 54
82487 Oberammergau, Germany

US Army Post Office (APO) – Garmisch

The APO is located at the Artillery Kaserne. Some of the services offered by the APO include: Money Orders, stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, priority and SAM shipping, accountable mail service, claims, limited customs information, inquiries, express mail, and materials for packaging items. The hours are posted outside the building. Phone: DSN 440-2713 or Commercial: 08821-750-713.

NATO military staff members are only authorized limited military postal service (only to purchase stamps and send/receive mail to and from the member's home country [IAW AE Reg 600-700]).

One of the benefits of living in Germany is you may send personal correspondence through the military postal system **absolutely free** - to any place with an APO AE address within the European Theater. Write "MPS" in the upper right hand corner and deposit the letter at the APO or give it to the unit mail clerk - most APOs have a special drop slot just for MPS mail.

Deutsche Post (German Post Office)

In addition to providing mail service and telegraph services, they also provide bill paying services for telephone bills, traffic tickets, etc. Telephone bills should be paid in EUROS at this office, bring your phone bill. German mail is also delivered daily. Be sure your name is on your mailbox to facilitate delivery. Do not pay a delivery fee for packages without getting a receipt. Hours: Mon – Fri, 0900 - 1200 and 1430-1730; Sat, 0900 - 1200. Phone: 08821-73508. The closest branch is Rothenbucherstrasse 36, D-82487 Oberammergau. Generally speaking, letters sent to other parts of Germany move more quickly through the Deutsche Post. However, German postage rates are higher than American and British rates. The Deutsche Post picks up this mail daily and delivers it through its system. Deutsche Post has a zip code system, the Postleitzahl. Zip codes for various cities can be found in the back of the German telephone directory.

The proper form for a German mailing address is:

Herrn
John Smith
Aufackerstrasse 11
D-82487 Oberammergau

To send mail through the Express System (extra-fast), ask for Eilpost-Service. There are two classes of packages, Paket and the Paeckchen. The Paket is a normal package sent by parcel post methods, the rate depending on the weight and distance sent. In addition to the address on the package itself, a separate card (Paketkarte) must be filled out. If the value of the contents is indicated on this card, you get up to 250 EUROS worth of free insurance. Additional insurance may be purchased for a fee (called Wertgebuehr). If your package is small, ask if it will go as a Paeckchen. A Paeckchen goes first class, but at a much cheaper rate. No Paketkarte is required for it. If you want rush service on a package, send it as a Schnelapaket (within the Federal Republic) or as a Dringendes Paket (to foreign countries).

There are two kinds of German postal money orders, the Zahlkarte and the Postanweisung. The Zahlkarte is designed for paying money into a postal checking account. Most firms and businesses have such an account (individuals have them too), and they provide a convenient instrument for transferring money.

The system works like this: Let's say you get a bill from a German business - your insurance company or your garage, for example. Chances are it will show a KONTO (account) number at a bank. There may be two; one for some named private bank and another for a postal checking account (Postcheckamt, or PSCHA) in such-and-such a city. If you don't have a checking account, just fill out the Zahlkarte (pale-blue form) to his KONTO number at the proper Postcheckamt. The post office will credit the money to his account and he will be notified of the action. He is thus relieved of all bookkeeping on the transaction. Businesses naturally prefer that you pay bills owed to them into their bank accounts, either postal or private, rather than to the business.

There is a second money order form used for sending money directly to a person or firm, or to an account in a private bank. This is called Postanweisung (a pink form). There is also an Auslandspostanweisung for sending money to foreign countries. In both cases, you pick up the form at the counter, fill it out, and take it back to the counter. Both forms have a space for a short message to the recipient labeled Fuer Vermerke Des Absenders. The fee for both kinds of money order depends on the amount sent. Money may also be wired from a post office (Telegrafische Postanweisung). You also can bank Saturdays at the Deutsche Post. If you are a Deutsche Post account holder, there is no fee to cash a Eurocheck on the weekend.

British Forces Post Office (BFPO)

British personnel may contact their BFPO representative for additional information on sending letters and parcels through the BFPO system.

CHAPTER 10

TRANSPORTATION

AIRLINES

Some useful telephone numbers for commercial travel are:

American	0180-3242324
British Airways	0130-3636 (Toll-Free)
Delta	0180-3337880
Lufthansa	089-545600
United	069-605020
Northwest	069-6666611

AIRPORT

The nearest airport to Oberammergau is the Flughafen Franz-Josef-Strauss, which is located north of Munich. From Oberammergau, take autobahn A95 to Munich. In Munich, follow the signs to Nürnberg (autobahn A9). Follow the Flughafen signs and get off at "Autobahnkreuz Neufahrn" and take autobahn A92 in the direction of Landshut. Exit next at "Flughafen Franz-Josef-Strauss Halbermoos" and go towards Parkplatz 1-4 (not Terminal F). You will then be on the airport grounds and will see signs marked "Ankunfi" for arrivals and "Abfahrt" for departures. This drive takes approximately 90 minutes from Oberammergau.

BUS SERVICE

Orange, white, and green buses marked "RVO." These buses leave from the main bus depot in front of the Bahnhof and link Garmisch with neighboring towns of Linderhof, Oberammergau and Füssen (Neuschwanstein). Bus doors normally are marked "Einsteig" (entrance) and "Aussteig" (exit). Use these doors accordingly unless the driver indicates otherwise, and pay the driver the fare as you enter. Exact change is not necessary, but it is advisable to have small bills or change on hand. You will receive a ticket which must be canceled in the orange box, located in the front or rear of the bus. This ticket is valid for one hour of travel in one direction, even if you get on and off several times. In larger cities, many buses or streetcars have a conductor. In this case, get on through the rear door, have the fare ready and tell the conductor your destination.

TAXI SERVICE

Taxi fares are expensive in Germany, so to be on the safe side, ask the driver the approximate fare before starting the trip. Up to four passengers may ride at no additional cost. There is a small charge to order a cab and a small charge for each piece of luggage. Two local taxi services are:

- Richter, Welfengasse 2, phone 08822-4742
- Goetz, An der Knableite 10, phone 08822-3456

TRAINS

There is frequent train service from Garmisch to Munich and from Garmisch to Innsbruck. Trains from Munich link with the rest of Europe. Schedules change twice a year, for summer and for winter, so it is best to check the current schedules before making your plans.

In German train stations, you will find two large schedules: a white schedule marked "Ankunfi" (Arrivals) and a gold one marked "Abfahrt" (Departures). The schedules have several columns with the following headings; "Zeit" (time), "Zug Nr" (train number), "Aus/Richtung" (destination), "Gleis" (track) or "Bahnsteig" (platform). Times of arrival are shown after the city of destination and are printed in small numbers in the "Aus/Richtung" column. German trains usually run on time, so be on the correct Gleis or Bahnsteig from which your train departs.

Types of trains (not to be confused with Class of Travel) are:

Regional Bahn – stops at every station

Regional Express – makes fewer stops

IC (Intercity) – "IC" in red before train number - requires purchase of extra fare known as "Zugschlag"

EC Eurocity – luxury inter-city trains

ICE (Inter-City Express) – “ICE” in red before train number These are brand new, very fast trains

TEE (Trans Europe Express) – special trains with first class accommodations - very fast and runs between major cities

There are two classes of travel, first and second, with the first class costing about 50% more than the second. Second class is not uncomfortable but may be crowded, especially during the tourist season. A “Platzkarte” can be purchased when buying your ticket at least a day in advance, and will ensure your reserved seat. To check hand-carried baggage temporarily at a station, go to the window marked “Gepackautbewahrung.” To check baggage for pick-up at your final destination, go to the window marked “Reisegepack.”

Classes of cars are prominently marked “1” or “2.” Check whether your car allows smoking (rauchen) or no smoking (nicht rauchen). There is only one restroom per car, with water only for washing - do not drink! Crossed knife and fork means the train has a dining car. A wine glass means the train has both food and drink. A bed means the train is a sleeper (schlafwagen). Make reservations for sleepers at the time you buy your ticket. Train etiquette requires asking whether a seat is occupied before you sit down. It is also customary to say “Good-bye” (Auf Wiedersehen) to the other occupants when you leave the train. Rail travel can be cheaper if you take advantage of several deals offered by the Deutsche Bahn (DB). The most popular available to Americans is the Eurail Pass (called InterRail in other countries). This pass allows unlimited travel for a specific time period throughout many European countries. For more information or special plans, go to the Information Counter in the Garmisch Bahnhof or to the ABR Travel Office located next to the Garmisch Bahnhof. Phone: Bahnhof 08821-52521; ABR Reisebureau, 08821-55125.

CHAPTER 11

DRIVING IN EUROPE

DRIVING IN EUROPE

Driving in Europe can be as exhilarating as speeding down an Italian autostrada or as frustrating as maneuvering a traffic circle in the United Kingdom. Learning to drive in Europe can be one of the most memorable experiences you will have during your overseas tour.

Driving in Europe is a privilege and many steps must be taken to obtain a valid license. An International Driver's License is needed when traveling outside of the country you are stationed in, but it is not valid for driving in the issuing country. Applications can be obtained through the Garmisch Driver Testing Station, or in the US, through AAA. A green insurance card, also required for international travel, can be obtained from the servicing insurance agent.

Driving in Italy is considerably different than driving in the US. While at first there may seem to be no logic to the traffic patterns, a closer look will show that there are distinct rules of the road. Learning the rules and customs quickly will help you adjust to driving in Italy.

Driving in Belgium can be equally frustrating because of the amount of foreign drivers. Each country represented in Belgium, especially Brussels, represents a different style of driving. Alertness is of the utmost importance.

Some driving restrictions are similar from country to country. Many are also common sense measures. Here is a sampling of what you may find: drunk driving, speeding and reckless driving are serious offenses, on post and off. Picking up hitchhikers is not a good idea and is prohibited on freeways. In unprotected intersections, the vehicle on the right has the right-of-way (this rule does not apply in the UK). Low beams are used on main highways, dark roads and in tunnels.

In Germany, turning right on a red light is prohibited unless a green arrow mounted next to the traffic light allows it. Left lanes on the autobahn are for passing only and passing on the right is forbidden. Tailgating, using a horn, flashing lights, and making hand gestures is prohibited and may result in fines.

When involved in an accident in Europe, you will likely fall under the jurisdiction of the local police. You are required to remain on the scene in most cases and be courteous and helpful to all involved. The incident must also be reported to the local Military Police.

Under Italian law, you are required to assist anyone injured in a traffic accident regardless of whether you are involved or not. You may also be required to transport the injured. This should be done rapidly and safely. When you turn on your headlights, honk your horn and display a white cloth from your window, your vehicle will be regarded as an emergency vehicle. Germany also has a Good Samaritan Law that requires you to assist accident victims.

In Germany, drivers involved in traffic accidents occurring at speeds exceeding 130 kph can be held liable, whether or not that vehicle was the cause of the accident. Insurance companies can refuse coverage for high speed accidents. Since driving in Europe is faster-paced than driving in the US, stricter restraint laws are enforced. Seatbelts are required for all passengers. Infants are required to use approved car seats. All children less than 1.25 meters (4 feet) are required to use a booster seat at all times.

Car insurance for Americans in Italy and Germany is very expensive, especially if you are single and under 25. In the United Kingdom, insurance is costly for US-made cars. Most often, reasonable insurance rates can be obtained through US-based companies. In Belgium, the UK and Germany, a letter from your insurance company stating that you have not had an accident in the last five years or more can reduce the cost of your policy.

The cost of insurance is very low in Turkey, but likewise is the coverage. Many stateside policies are not valid for use in Turkey. American-made vehicles can cause problems because they are expensive to maintain. US auto parts are limited in supply at exchange facilities; shipping parts from the States can be time consuming, but ordering through catalogs and via the Internet has made this process a little simpler.

New US-made cars can maintain their service warranty under the exchange automotive services or at local car dealerships under a written agreement (for example, many Opel garages in Germany will service GM vehicles).

Unlike in the States, cycling is considered a mode of transportation. Bicycles follow the same rules of the road as automobiles and children are expected to be aware of traffic laws to prevent bicycle accidents. Most European countries operate under the metric system, so speed limits, even on post, are posted in kilometers. If your speedometer registers miles only, you should know that one kilometer is equal to 5/8 of a mile. A quick conversion is to multiply the kilometers by 6 and drop the last digit of the result. Driving in Europe is a learning experience. You'll undoubtedly end your overseas tour a better, safer, and more conscientious driver.

USAREUR POV OPERATOR'S LICENSE

To obtain a license to drive in Germany, an orientation course must be taken and accompanied by a written test. Those with a valid stateside license are exempt from taking a road test. Those without a valid stateside license are required to attend a local driving course at their own expense.

A USAREUR Driver's License may be used to drive in Germany and other NATO countries and is required before you can register a vehicle through USAREUR to obtain a USAREUR license plate. If driving in Europe, US military members and their dependents must have a USAREUR license. US civilians and personnel from SOFA nations (Belgium, Canada, France, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) are also eligible to obtain a USAREUR license.

[USAREUR Pamphlet 190-34, Driver's Handbook and Examination Manual for Germany](#), is helpful for study purposes. The manual can be obtained from the Support Division prior to your arrival. The test is administered by the Garmisch Driver Testing Station. The cost of a license is \$10.00, paid by check or money order. Cash is not accepted. You will pay for the license after you pass the written and road sign test. A temporary USAREUR POV Operator's License (AE Form 190-1G), valid for a maximum of 60 days will be issued at that time.

POVs

ADAC (German Automobile Club)

The German Auto Club has over 1,000 trained mechanics who cruise the autobahns in yellow vehicles, equipped with tools, auto parts and gasoline. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, the ADAC can be notified quickly with a call on any of the yellow emergency telephones, which are located every 1/2 kilometer on the entire German autobahn system. Mechanics provide free labor to ADAC members. ADAC also provides insurance, road maps, and tour information. Membership is open to any driver for an annual fee. The Garmisch ADAC Office is located on Hindenburgstrasse 14 in Partenkirchen. Phone 08821-2258.

Auto Crafts Shop

An Auto Crafts Shop is available in Garmisch. Work bays, tools, and equipment are available to perform self-help automotive repairs with the assistance or supervision of an Auto Crafts associate. Phone: GAP Com 08821-759-580

Auto Repairs

- Schwaiger, Rottenbucherstrasse 7, phone 6770 - **V.A.G. AUDI - VW**
- Krause, Rottenbucherstrasse 5, phone 6365 - **OPEL**
- Aurhammer, Bahnhofstrasse 6, phone 4248 - **SIMCA - FIAT**
- Bogner, Rottenbucherstrasse 13, phone 4544 - **FORD - BMW**
- Reiter, Rottenbucherstrasse, phone 864 - **MERCEDES**
- Thomas Jochen, Rottenbucherstrasse 9, phone 4139 - **RENAULT**

Auto Salvage

The Auto Craft Shop will take your vehicle for \$80.00. There are additional costs if the vehicle requires towing.

Car Wash

Car wash is available at the Bundeswehrverwaltungsschule (BWVS) IV for 35 EUROS a year, and one located on Artillery Kaserne.

Fuel Cards

AAFES fuel ration cards can be issued to personnel with a USAREUR vehicle registration, please contact Garmisch Vehicle Registration Office for further information.

To obtain fuel coupons for travel through Belgium, Greece, Portugal, and Spain, contact the BX/PX or the Provost Marshall on Post in the country you are traveling through. Leaded gas is no longer available in Germany, so vehicles require leaded fuel use unleaded with a special additive.

Gas Stations

There is one AAFES gas station in Garmisch located on Artillery Kaserne. Fuel cards can be used at Esso stations throughout Germany. The Esso located in Garmisch is on the Zugspitzstrasse, on the right side coming from the Marienplatz direction of Artillery Kaserne.

Inspection

The POV inspection point is located in Bldg 202 on Artillery Kaserne. Call for an appointment. Phone: DSN 442-3608 or commercial 08821-750-3608.

Insurance

Due to the high level of liability insurance required by German law, auto insurance is higher in Germany than in the US. If you currently have a stateside insurance carrier that operates in Europe (such as GEICO or USAA), please contact them before shipping your vehicle. Insurance is also available from local German insurance companies once you arrive. Insurance from a German company is less expensive if you have documentation of claim-free driving from insurance companies used in the past. However, many German companies will not insure USAREUR-plated vehicles.

Legal requirements for POVs

Your POV must be registered and insured, but you will also need:

- a. An authorized warning triangle of an approved German pattern
- b. First Aid kit box (to DIN 13164, a German Government Standard)
- c. Safety belts – cars built after 1 May 79 require safety belts for rear seats too
- d. Four-way flashers on all new cars
- e. One (LHD) or two (RHD) external rear view mirrors
- f. The following are useful: tow rope, fire extinguisher, spare petrol can (5 liters)
- g. Warning Vest
- h. Lights should be on when driving through Austria
- i. Winter tires or MandS equivalent during winter season (this is an insurance issue)

There is also a requirement in Germany for an Environmental sticker in order to drive in most inner cities. The following categories apply:

- a. Gasoline vehicles 1993 and newer receive the highest category of 4 (Green)
- b. Diesel vehicles 1997-2000 receive the lowest category of 2 (Red)
- c. 2001-2005 receive intermediate category of 3 (Yellow)
- d. 2006 and newer receive the highest category of 4, as well (Green)

Note: It is mandatory for drivers and front seat passengers to wear a seatbelt while driving in Germany and the Low Countries. Children under 12 may not normally occupy the front passenger seats of a car. There is a legal requirement for you to carry the following documents with you when driving:

- a. Proof of Insurance
- b. Identification Card
- c. Driver's License
- d. Vehicle Registration Card
- e. Green Card (when travelling outside of Germany [mainly in Austria])
- f. International Driving Permit (when traveling outside of Germany)

Picking up your POV

Upon inprocessing you will be given a handout listing all the required documents and the procedures for picking up your vehicle.

Purchasing, Selling and Transferring POVs

It is advisable to contact your Vehicle Registration Office in Garmisch. Registry of motor vehicles has a website, which covers all possible transactions and lists the requirements. Please use the below website:

www.hqusareur.army.mil/rmv

Rental Vehicles

For rental vehicle, see the local Yellow Pages under "Autovermietung." Most German rental car agencies have personnel who speak English. Keep in mind that the 16% VAT (value added tax) can be avoided by obtaining a tax relief form prior to paying for the car.

- Auto Buchbinder, Rottenbucherstrasse 9, phone 4139
- Herz Autovermietung, Zugspitzstrasse 81, Garmisch, phone 08821-18787
- Autovermietung Avis, Hindeburgstr.35, Garmisch, phone 08821-55066
- Autohansa Biersack, St. Martinstrasse 17, Garmisch, phone 08821-72051
- Auto Craft Hobby Shop

Registration Requirements

To register a vehicle you must be in possession of a USAREUR POV Operator's License, have proof of ownership (Title, Bill of Sale or last registration of the motor vehicle), a double white insurance card with date of issue not older than 60 days from an insurance company located within Germany showing the correct vehicle and owner's data. Also, if it's the first time registering a vehicle with USAREUR two (2) copies of AE Form 190-1N, Application for Motor Vehicle Registration, are required. Forms can be picked up at the Garmisch Transportation Office. Currently, the registration fee is \$12.00. This must be paid by check or money order; cash is not accepted.

A German customs clearance is required if your vehicle had plates from any country except Germany. It must be stamped in item number 29 on the back of the AE Form 190-1Ns by the German Customs office located at Bahnhofsplatz, Garmisch. Operating hours are from 0800 - 1200 Monday through Friday. There is no fee required. POVs belonging to US personnel, which are shipped to Germany will have the customs clearance completed at the pick up point.

US vehicles shipped to Germany will be inspected at the point of pickup. Other nations must have the vehicle inspected at the Garmisch Transportation Motor Pool before USAREUR plates will be issued. For additional information on registering a vehicle contact the Garmisch Transportation Office at (49) 08821-750488.

Towing of Trailers and Caravans

The maximum speed limit when towing trailers or caravans on all roads in Germany is 50 mph (80 kph), unless a lower speed limit is in force.

Transferring ownership of a POV while retaining the same USAREUR plates on the POV

- a. The buyer will need: One AE Form 190-1N, double white insurance card, USAREUR Driver's license, and a \$15.00 check or money order (No cash).
- b. The seller will need: White and blue registration

The buyer and seller will proceed to the inspection point, prior to the transfer at the Vehicle Registration Office. After successful completion of the inspection and receiving a stamp on the reverse side of the AE Form 190-1N, the buyer and seller will present the above listed items to the clerk at the Vehicle Registration office. Both parties at this time will complete the reverse side of the seller's white and blue registration. The vehicle registration office will then issue new registration decals.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Once on the road, you'll be glad you learned, and remembered the road signs and right-of-way situations represented on the USAREUR Driver's test. Conduct on the roads in Germany is dictated by law. Drivers expect these laws to be obeyed and take action on this assumption. There are a number of driving tips which should be emphasized. The following are a few of the basic rules.

Stay in Your Lane

Keep to the right hand side of the roadway. The use of the left lane is permitted for passing only. This also applies when driving on autobahns. Check carefully in your rear view mirror before entering into the fast lane of the autobahn. A car traveling at more than 100 mph is upon you before you know it. Lane discipline is strictly enforced in Germany. Crossing a solid white line while changing lanes is illegal. Use blinkers when turning and changing lanes.

Right-of-Way

If not indicated by traffic signs, traffic from the right has priority. Cyclists proceeding along a cycle track have the same priority as drivers on the road. Thus a driver turning across a cycle track must look both ways to see if a cyclist is approaching and must give way. Cyclists approaching from behind must be allowed to proceed before the motorist turns.

Making Turns

When making a left-hand turn, priority must be given to on-coming traffic. Do the following:

- a. Look in your review mirror.
- b. Signal you intention well before the junction.
- c. Look in you rear view mirror again.
- d. Filter to the center of the road (when possible).
- e. Keep off tracks of rail traffic.
- f. Give priority to oncoming traffic and complete your turn.

Speed

Drive only with a speed which allows you to be in constant control of your vehicle. Keep an adequate distance from the vehicle in front. Speed limits in Germany are as follows (unless otherwise indicated):

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| a. Inside built-up areas (e.g., villages/towns/cities) | 50 kph (31 mph) |
| b. Outside built-up areas | 100 kph (62 mph) |
| c. On autobahns (recommended maximum speed) | 130 kph (81 mph) |

Lights

Driving lights should be used from the onset of darkness or when weather conditions (rain, snow, fog, or poor visibility) demand it. Driving with only parking lights is forbidden and is a finable offense.

Wet Roads

Be very careful in heavy rain as roads are more susceptible to aquaplaning conditions than roads in other countries.

Pedestrians

Pedestrians using or clearly intending to use a pedestrian crossing must be given priority. Pedestrians sometimes have the right of way as you turn at a crossing **even though the lights are in your favor.**

Seat Belts

Always wear seat belts. They are required by law and failure to wear them can result in insurance companies refusing to pay for injuries because of "neglect."

Children

Keep children under age 12 in the back seat of a car seat or booster seat with a seat belt or you may face a fine.

Important papers

When operating your privately owned vehicle always have with you your identification card, driver license and USAREUR driver license, vehicle registration, and green insurance cards.

Rules of Pedestrians

Pedestrians must use footpaths. The roadway may only be used on streets without a footpath. Within a built-up area pedestrians may walk on the right or left side of the roadway; outside built-up areas they must walk on the left side facing oncoming traffic. Roadways should be crossed at a proper place by the shortest route. Pay attention to road traffic before crossing. Look first to the left and then to the right. It is safer to use pedestrian crossings; it is illegal to cross when the pedestrian signal is at red. However, once on the crossing, keep going. If the pedestrian traffic lights change to amber or red there is sufficient time to clear the crossing as the lights are phased to allow this.

Rules for Cyclists

Cyclists must ride in single file. Cycle paths must be used when provided. When crossing the road from one cycle path to another, no other traffic should be endangered or impeded. When turning left, priority must be given to oncoming traffic and a cyclist must remain to the right of a motor vehicle turning in the same direction. Cyclists over the age of 16 years may transport children under the age of 6 years, but only if the bicycle has been specifically adapted for this.

Minor Traffic Offenses

Under German law, the German police and Traffic Wardens are empowered to warn an alleged offender for a minor infringement of German law, such as in the case of slightly exceeding the speed limit or for jay walking, and to charge a warning fee from 15 EUROS to 50 EUROS. The procedure is for the German policeman to warn the alleged offender of the offense and to invite him to pay an on-the-spot fine. If you are without money at the time, you have up to one week to pay. The warning is complete if the fine is paid immediately.

Traffic Accidents

Both local German Police (Polizei) and the American MPs have jurisdiction in traffic issues. The Polizei may fine you on the spot for certain offenses (it is always a good idea to keep an extra 50 EUROS on hand for this type of emergency). Both may require you to take a blood alcohol test, if you appear to be driving under the influence. Refusal to take the test may result in revocation of your license. When conditions permit, your commanding officer or civilian superior may withdraw or suspend your driver's license and may revoke your automobile registration.

Traffic Accident Procedures

Should you find yourself in an automobile accident while in Bavaria, contact the Garmisch Military Police at DSN 440-3801 or 3827 or Commercial: 08821-750801 or 750827 and follow the steps outlined below:

- a. Remain at the scene. Leaving the scene of an accident is a criminal offense, which can result in a prison term or a revoked license or both.
- b. Protect the injured and the site of the accident from the approaching traffic. In Germany, by law you must use a reflectorized warning triangle immediately. It should be placed at a sufficient distance away from the scene (to the rear) to adequately warn other drivers and signal other motorists away from the accident. Make sure if it is dark, that you use a flashlight, flare or other easily identifiable device. German police can fine POV operators for failure to use the warning triangle in the event of an accident or breakdown.
- c. Call for medical help and an ambulance if required (or have a bystander do it for you, if possible). Try to make the injured party comfortable, but never move them unless absolutely necessary. First aid should be limited to controlling any severe bleeding and keeping the patient warm.

- d. Inform the police immediately -- Military Police and the German Polizei. They may request you take a blood alcohol test.
- e. Obtain the other driver's name, address, age, and telephone number. Check his license. Note the number, date of expiration, traffic violations, and restrictions (such as "must wear glasses"). Ask to see his auto registration certificates. This will give the owner's name and address (in case someone other than the owner is driving) as well as the year, make, and license number of the vehicle.
- f. Gather the names and addresses of as many witnesses as you can. Be very cautious about what you say. Cooperate with the police and the other driver, give the police the facts, but never admit liability. You are not required to do so. Any admission you make can be, and is used against you in court. Always be polite, but never say "I'm sorry" or even "I'm sorry this accident occurred." Even if in your state of excitement you think you are responsible, later on, a calm recollection of all the facts may indicate otherwise.
- g. Write down all the facts surrounding the accident. Draw a rough sketch and show traffic signs and signals, position of vehicles before and after, and locate the point of impact. Take pictures, if possible. Note time, weather conditions, type of road, etc. Contact your insurance company as soon as possible.

CHAPTER 12

PETS

PETS

Upon arrival in Europe, you must register your pet(s) with the Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF). This allows Veterinary Services to start or continue a medical record and to issue a local rabies tag. Veterinary Services offer basic preventive health care. This includes routine physical examinations, vaccinations, health certificates, fecal exams, heart-worm and feline leukemia tests, spays and neuters. They offer appointments for non-emergency sick calls, though given the distance of the primary VTF in Vilseck from Garmisch, it is most necessary for you to establish a relationship with a local German veterinarian for emergencies and for any pets that have chronic conditions that require frequent monitoring, such as diabetes or allergies.

The family pet in Germany is rarely a problem. German restaurants and establishments will post a sign, "Sie müssen hier bleiben" if the animal is not permitted inside. In general, pets are not permitted in US public facilities and strict leash laws are in effect. All animals must be leashed or under firm voice control. In addition, a posted sign, "Tollwut" means that there is a prevalence of rabies in the area, and the animal must be leashed. The purchase of pet insurance is encouraged for animals venturing outside your home because German law imposes total liability on the pet owner. For example, if your pet is hit by a car, you are responsible for any damage to the car.

Dangerous dogs

Germany has extremely strict laws about owning and/or importing that are considered by German law to be dangerous. There are two categories of dangerous dogs, I and II. Category I dogs are completely prohibited by Germany and if you attempt to import such a dog, it will most likely be confiscated at the airport and euthanized by German authorities (you will probably have to pay whatever costs that are associated with euthanasia). Category II dogs must be temperament tested. The dog must be at least 18 months old to undergo this testing. This test can be done by authorized German testers only, can be expensive and takes several weeks to complete. If the dog fails any portion of the test, there will likely be restrictions placed on the dog, i.e. it can only be out in public if leashed and muzzled and walked by someone strong enough to control it, or you may have to purchase costly liability insurance in case the dog were to bite anyone, etc.

Category I dogs include:

Pit Bulls, American Staffordshire Terriers, Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers or any mix or cross of the listed breeds

Category II dogs include:

Alano, American Bulldog, Bullmastiff, Cane Corso, Dogo Argentino, Dogue de Bordeaux, Fila Brasileiro, Mastiff, Mastiff Espanol, Mastino Napoletano, Pattbull Bandog, Perro de Presa Canario, Perro de Presa Mallorcin, Rhodesian Ridgeback and Tosa Inu.

This list can change any time the German authorities see fit to alter it, so if you own any kind of large, strong dog that may be considered a 'fighting dog' anywhere in the world, you should investigate whether or not the German law considers the breed a dangerous dog.

Transportation of Pets

Please inform your sponsor of any pet you may be bringing. There is no quarantine in Germany. To ship pets you need a current shot record. Rabies vaccine must be over 30 days old and not expired based on the approved duration of immunity on the label (i.e. your pet can have a 3 year rabies vaccine and as long as it is not expired, even if it has been more than 12 months since the vaccination, your pet will meet the intent of the German law - the only exception is if the 3 year rabies vaccination was the first rabies vaccine your pet ever had, it **MUST** be boosted one year after administration. You must get a health certificate for your pet to fly and it must be dated within 10 days of arrival in country along with several copies of PCS orders. Make reservations with the airline for your pets at the same time you make your own. Airlines can help you with shipping cage specifications. Airlines also sell cages, often at less than the cost in pet shops. Remember to hand carry the health certificate and shot records, to include rabies certificate SIGNED BY THE VETERINARIAN THAT ADMINISTERED THE VACCINE, for pets. It is recommended to not travel through England because a delay on the ground may result in leaving your pet(s) there due to British

due to British quarantine requirements. For travel in Europe, keep in mind each country has different regulations. The consulate of the destination country has the current requirements. Many countries need proof of current immunizations (shots within the last 11 months) when crossing their borders.

Tierheim

The German word for humane society is "Tierheim." There is a Tierheim located behind Artillery Kaserne, on the road leading to the Almhutte and the Kramer Platzweg. The Tierheim operating hours are short (Mon - Fri 1500 - 1700; Sat 0900 - 1100) and their empty spaces fill up quickly; therefore, it is recommended that reservations be made at least 2 weeks in advance. Phone: 08821-55967

(More specifically: a Tierheim is a humane society that also boards animals; in Germany a boarding kennel is known as 'Tierpension' (cats and dogs) or 'Hundepension' (usually dogs only) or 'Tierverein' or 'Hundeverein' (dog or animal club that sometimes does boarding as well). It is important to be familiar with these words so as to search for the correct type of facility.)

The Vilseck VTF does not have the capability to provide boarding kennel space so you will have to utilize German boarding kennels. Guidelines for using the Veterinary Treatment Facility and some rules and regulations for responsible ownership according to USAREUR Supplement 1 to AR 40-904 state that:

- a. Animal owners will cooperate with official directives and host nation laws and regulations in preventing and controlling animal diseases (i.e. timely deworming and vaccinating of your pet).
- b. Will ensure animals are registered at a US military veterinary services facility. Animals must be registered within 2 weeks from the date that they arrive in Europe or within 2 weeks after they are acquired. If animal owners live in a remote location, compliance with host nation immunization and treatment requirements will be adequate for registration purposes.
- c. Be liable for abandonment, disposal by inhumane means, and abuse. Animal owners may be liable under host nation civil law for any damage caused by an animal to property or injury to persons whether or not the animal is in the owner's possession, lost or abandoned. Liability insurance is recommended.
- d. Ensure animals are not bred or maintained for commercial purposes without written permission of Community commander. Even if you have written permission, you will not be able to utilize any military Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) as per AR 40-905, states that VTFs will not provide services for animals used for commercial purposes (i.e.: breeding and selling the offspring, charging stud fees for male dogs, etc.)
- e. Prohibit pets from entering areas and buildings that are off limits to animals.
- f. Owners need to ensure their animals do not become a public nuisance or menace to humans, other animals, or property. Animals require attendance of a responsible person when not inside their owner's quarters or otherwise restrained.
- g. Owners must:
 - (1) Pick up their animals' excrement in areas other than those designated for that purpose.
 - (2) Ensure their animals do not go unattended on balconies, in hallways, stairwells, basements, or similar places in government multiple dwellings.
 - (3) Keep their dogs on a leash when outdoors and when required by host nation laws. Animal owners will keep dogs with aggressive tendencies or with one or more reports of unprovoked attacks on a leash and muzzled when outdoors.
 - (4) Exercise their dogs only in places designated for that purpose. Keep animals on a leash or in a carrier when entering and waiting in military veterinary services facilities.
 - (5) Contact animal shelters or military veterinary facilities for disposition advice when animals cannot be shipped or otherwise disposed of before leaving the command.

- (6) Ensure new owners report ownership changes and register animals when ownership is transferred to persons under US Forces jurisdiction.
- (7) Report missing and stolen animals promptly to the local military police, or shore police.
- (8) Contact local military veterinarians or licensed host nation veterinarians for exporting information and procedures 60 days before exporting animals.
- (9) Ensure animals are examined by a military veterinarian, Department of Defense employed civilian veterinarian, or licensed host nation veterinarian to obtain necessary health certificates and export documents within 10 days of exporting an animal. Ensure all arrangements are made to ship privately owned animals. Animals will obtain information on and comply with animal export and import laws of the origin and destination countries according to [Army Regulation 40-12](#). Information on requirements for caging and sanitary measures for international shipment of animals may be obtained through common carriers.

Veterinary Services

US military facilities in Vilseck, DSN: 476-2370 provides veterinary services for our community. Veterinary services does not provide emergency services. All emergency cases are referred to the economy. The Garmisch Health Care Handbook contains additional information about veterinary services available on the local economy. A local veterinarian in Oberammergau is:

- Köpf J., König Ludwigstrasse 5a, phone 233. Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri, 1100 - 1200 and 1500 - 1700 and by appointment.

CHAPTER 13

GENERAL INFORMATION (A to Z)

AMMERGAUERHAUS

The Ammergauerhaus has a library and reading rooms and is located at Eugen-Papststrasse 9A, Oberammergau. Phone: 08822-92310. It also has a Tourist Information and Travel Agency of which is jointly operated with Amtliches Bayerisches Reisebuero (ABR) GmbH. Phone 08822-92310. Hours of operation are: Mon–Fri, 0830-1800, and Sat, 0830-1200. Library hours: Tue, 1600-1800, and Fri, 1600-1800. To reach the evening booking office, phone 08822-4016. Restaurant phone is 08822-6457.

US ARMY GARRISON, GARMISCH

The US Army installation in Garmisch is classified as a US Army Garrison and its primary mission is to support the various tenant units located in the area. This support includes Child Development Services (CDC), Community Chapel, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Directorate of Logistics, Directorate of Emergency Services, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities. All US ID card holders assigned to the Garrison, or any of the surrounding tenant units, are welcome to use the Garrison facilities. The Garrison Director's Office is located in Bldg 203 on Artillery Kaserne. Phone: DSN 442-3825 or Commercial: 08821-7503825.

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE (ACS) CENTER

The ACS Center was established to provide essential information and specific social services to active duty service members, retirees, eligible civilians and their family members. The center is located on the ground floor of building 203, Artillery Kaserne. Office hours are M-F 0800-1700, closed US Holidays, DSN 440-3777 or CIV 08821 750 3777. All services are free of charge.

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

Providing emergency financial assistance to active duty service members, retirees, and their family members when there is a valid need. AER holds reciprocal agreements with aid societies from all military branches.

Army Family Action Plan (AFAP)

An avenue for Community members to let leadership know what works, what doesn't, and give suggestions on what they think will fix it. A Garrison AFAP conference is conducted annually.

Army Family Team Building (AFTB)

Education and training program for spouses and family members; enhances knowledge, skills and behaviors that contribute to a successful military lifestyle.

Army Integrated Family Support Network (AIFSN)

Installations and organizations working closely together to coordinate service delivery to every one eligible regardless of geographical location.

Army Volunteer Corps (AVC)

If volunteering is your interest, stop by ACS and talk with the Volunteer Coordinator for more information and to get started.

Emergency Family Assistance Center (EFAC)

In response to a natural or manmade disaster or mass deployment, the ACS Center will be converted into an EFAC; providing and coordinating an array of essential services at one central location up to 24/7. It is the place to gather critical information and obtain needed support. The EFAC is a mobile agency that will be set up in the safest and most strategic location depending upon the type of emergency; however, whenever possible it will remain at the ACS Center.

Employment Readiness Program (ERP)

Assists family members seeking employment in such areas as: job search, resume building, and interview techniques. A job board and computer lab is located in the center.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

A comprehensive and coordinated support program for families with special needs. Mandatory enrollment is required for those who have a family member with a physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disorder.

Family Advocacy Program (FAP)

Education and prevention programs and services dedicated to spousal and child abuse. Services include: providing mandatory unit/organizational training and individual, family or group sessions to enhance relationship skills, and improve quality of life.

Financial Readiness Program (FRP)

Assists with individual and family financial planning including: building a budget, debt reduction, savings/investing, and retirement planning. An Accredited Financial Counselor and a Certified Credit Report Reviewer is on staff.

Information, Referral and Follow-up (landR)

Provides information about the community, its services and resources. Your "GO TO" people!

Mobilization and Deployment Program (Mob/Dep)

Valuable source of support for families of deployed service members and Family Readiness Groups (FRG), services include: pre-deployment briefings, reintegration training, outreach to families, and FRG training.

New Parent Support Program (NPSP)

Provides in-home visits, a weekly playgroup, advice, and guidance to parents with children under the age of 3 years old in the home.

Relocation Readiness Program (RRP)

Provides information, guidance, and assistance to personnel moving from one installation to another. Incoming personnel can take advantage of the Community Newcomer's Orientation program to become familiar with their new surroundings. Welcome packets and sponsorship training is available. Visit <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil> or www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil for information about other military communities worldwide. A lending closet is available to all US ID card holders in temporary need of household items while in a PCS status. It is well stocked with dishes, cookware, silverware, ironing boards, small electrical appliances, and some infant items: pack-n-plays, high chairs, car seats. Items are signed out for 60 days with extensions possible.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

Coordinates services 24/7 for victims of sexual assault with local on and off post agencies and Unit Victim Advocates when applicable. Contact the MP desk to reach the on call SARC.

Social Work Services (SWS)

Provides individual, family and group counseling on a variety of issues.

****Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC)**

Assists our Warriors in Transition and their families with a variety of services until they can return to full duty or successfully transition to the civilian sector.

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)

Provides outreach and support to widows and widowers in our AOR.

**Service not available on site at Garmisch, but can be coordinated with other installations as needed.

BIRTH REGISTRATIONS and PASSPORTS

Birth registration is an easy process. The Kreiskrankenhaus has a bilingual liaison person on staff to assist with birth registration. The service member needs to apply for an International Birth Certificate from the Rathaus (City Hall). A copy of the Hospital Report of Birth, the passports, and birth certificates of both parents, and the marriage certificate must be presented at the Rathaus. A small fee will be charged. The Rathaus will provide an International Birth Certificate and an Abstammungs-Urkunde (German documentation that you are the parents). These important legal documents are necessary to obtain a US passport and citizenship.

The service member then visits the Personnel Branch to register the child. This must be done within 30 days of birth. The following items will be needed:

- a. The child's Hospital Report of Birth.
- b. Evidence of both parent's citizenship.
- c. Original or certified copy of parent's marriage certificate.
- d. If the child was born out of wedlock, a sworn and notarized affidavit of paternity from the child's natural father.
- e. Two identical photographs (head and shoulders) on thin, non-glossy paper, no smaller than 2x2 or 5.1x5.1 (cm).
- f. A US postal money order, made payable to the appropriate American Consulate.

The Personnel Branch will process these documents with the Munich Consulate. This action will take 5 to 7 weeks. The child cannot be included on PCS orders until this registration has been completed.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC)

The Garmisch CDC offers "center-based" child care for youngsters from 2 months to 12 years of age. Services include the Child Development Center, Part-Day Preschool, and the CDC Babysitters List. Located in Bldg 723 in the Breitenau Housing Area, the Child Development Center is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs as a quality early childhood program. Providing full-day, part-day, and hourly care to both Community and AFRC guests' children, ages 2 months to 6 years (with up-to-date shot records), the CDC is a well-equipped facility with a well-trained staff. Reservations are recommended and accepted up to 2 weeks in advance for hourly care. Space is limited during ski season due to the heavy demand by AFRC guests. Phone: DSN 440-2684 or Commercial: 08821-7502684.

- a. **Part-Day Preschool:** The part-day preschool program is located in the CDC and is available to children ages 3 to 5 years of age. This program is designed to provide a safe, nurturing environment to stimulate the intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth of the child. Two-day, three-day, and five-day program options are available. Tuition is charge based on the program selected and the income of the family.
- b. **CDC Babysitters List:** The CDC maintains a referral list of babysitters, who can provide short-term care in your home. All babysitters on the list have completed training offered by the CDC. This list is available upon request from the CDC receptionist.

CHILD BENEFIT FROM GERMANY

Under certain qualifications the German Government pays child benefits to foreigners who are living in Germany (no guarantee). See the DEU First Sergeant for more information.

CUSTOMS

For information, call the MP Station. Phone: DSN 440-2801 or Commercial: 08821-7503801.

DIRECTORATE OF LOGISTICS

This office is one of your most important stops. They take care of all transportation needs, official travel, vehicle registration, weapon registration, claims, and driver's license. This directorate is located in Bldg 203, Room 114 (second floor, end of hall), Artillery Kaserne. Phone: DSN 440-3727 or Commercial: 08821-7503727.

- a. **Claims:** Packets containing forms and instructions are available. Completed packets are forwarded to the JAG Office in Bad Aibling for settlement.
- b. **Official Travel:** This office makes all arrangements for official US TDY and PCS travel and also makes arrangements for US personnel's college-age children's government paid trips to/from Europe.
- c. **Transportation:** New arrivals need to contact this office to complete travel and arrange for delivery of household goods. When it is time to PCS, arrangements for pick-up of household goods are made through this office.
- d. **USAREUR POV and Military Driver's Licenses:** All applicants must attend an orientation class and successfully complete all required testing. The test consists of 50 road signs and 100 multiple choice questions (largely focusing on right-of-way). This class and testing is conducted bi-monthly in Bldg 203, Artillery Kaserne.
- e. **Vehicle Registration:** Incoming personnel who have shipped a vehicle to Germany need to obtain a temporary registration and license plates from this office **prior to pick-up** from the Inland Movement Point. They must also have a warning triangle, first aid kit, and appropriate child seat in accordance with German Law. Personnel who have made an intra-theater move and have a vehicle will need to stop by as part of in-processing.
- f. **Weapons Registration:** All weapons must be registered upon arrival in Germany or upon acquisition of the firearm. Proof of ownership, in the form of a bill of sale or listing on Household Goods Inventory, is required. Personnel who have made an intra-theater move will need to stop by as part of in-processing.

GEORGE C. MARSHALL CENTER FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY STUDIES

The George C. Marshall Center was established in the summer of 1993 as an element of the United States European Commercialand. The Center facilitates new forms of defense cooperation and partnership between the United States, European nations and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Phone: DSN 440-2882 or Commercial: 08821-7502882. Website: www.marshallcenter.org

HOTELS

AFRC Garmisch

Runs the General Von Steuben and General Patton Hotels and the travel camp in Breitenau Housing Area. All hotels have undergone major renovations. Each of the rooms have a private bath, telephone, and TV with US stations. German pay phones are located in the lobbies of both the Von Steuben and General Patton hotels. The Central Reservations Office for Garmisch is located in the General Patton Hotel. All US Forces (military and civilian personnel) stationed in USAREUR, their family members, and visiting immediate family (when accompanied by sponsor) may use the AFRC facilities. AFRC hotel room rates vary according to the sponsor's grade. Reservations can be made up to 6 months in advance. Central Reservation Office: DSN 440-2575 or 2860 or Commercial: 08821-7502575.

INSURANCE

Not all national insurance may be valid in Germany. It is recommended to check with your insurance agency and to talk to your Senior National Representative. Following are examples on insurance available/useful in Germany:

- Car
 - Personal Liability
 - Household Contents
 - Trip Abroad Health
- | |
|--------------------|
| Household Renter's |
| Legal Costs |
| Health |
| Private Accident |

INTERNET

See Adjudant Jansen, CJ-2 Security Division, for a list of Internet providers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Military Police (MP)

To report accidents, crimes, suspicious characters, or any other emergency, contact the Garmisch MP Station. The MP Station is located in the US Shopping Center, on your right as you drive in. Phone: DSN 440-3801 or 2827 or Commercial: 08821-7503801 or 750827.

LIBRARIES

In addition to the NATO Recreation Center Library, Garmisch has a library located on the second floor of the Pete Burke Community Center, Bldg 725 in the Breitenau Housing Area. This small, but modern facility maintains a collection of over 10,000 fiction, non-fiction, and reference books for adults and children, over 1,000 video tapes, a small collection of cassette tapes, CDs, and magazines. To supplement the book collection, patrons may request inter-library loans. Additionally, there is a paperback and travel information exchange. Computers are available to access the Internet or e-mail servers. There is a coin operated copy machine for patron use. Phone: DSN 440-2565 or Commercial: 08821-7502565.

LOCAL BULLETINS

The NATO School and Garmisch Community Bulletins contain official and unofficial announcements of community events and other items of interest. Included are information about upcoming tours and concerts, community sports events, host nation events, a "buy and sell" column, and occasional job vacancies. All NATO School personnel receive the bi-weekly NATO School Community Bulletin. The Garmisch Community Bulletin is provide electronically and posted in the NATO School Intranet as it comes available. For information on how to have announcements printed in the Garmisch Community Bulletin, phone: DSN 440-3843 or Commercial: 08821-7503843.

LOST PROPERTY OFFICE

Schnitslergasse 6, opposite the Town Hall.

RADIO

AFN Radio "Power Radio": AFN provides the radio listener with 24-hour daily broadcasting and a wide variety of music. In Garmisch, AFN can be received at 90.3 on your FM dial.

RATION CARDS

Ration cards are necessary for purchasing coffee, tobacco, and alcohol. If you are from one of the Status of Forces Signatory (SOFA) countries with Germany, you are eligible to receive a ration card. For the NATO School, the current countries are Belgium, Canada, France, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States. Ration cards will be issued when you in-process through the Personnel Branch.

REGISTRATION IN OBERAMMERGAU

For most of the countries present at the NATO School it is not required to be registered in Oberammergau, but nevertheless you should talk to your SNR or Legal Officer about advantages/disadvantages of a registration in Oberammergau.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Protestant and Catholic worship services are held each week at the USAG-Garmisch Community Chapel located on Sheridan Barracks. Catholic Masses are on Saturdays at 1630 hours and Sundays at 0900 hours. The Protestant service is on Sundays at 1045 hours. Sunday school (Kid's Club) is conducted. Pastoral counseling is available upon request. For a counseling appointment, call the chapel office. Phone: DSN 440-2819 or Commercial: 08821-7502819.

Additional worship services available are as follows:

- Pfarrkirche (Catholic): Tue - Sat 1900 Sunday and holiday services (0830 and 1000)
- Protestant: Theaterstrasse 10, services on all Sundays and holidays at 0945.
- Benedictine Monastery Ettal: Services at 0700, 0800, 0930 and 1100

SCOUTING

The Community offers a full scouting program for boys and girls of all ages. However, the program depends entirely on adult volunteer leaders and is adapted to meet the needs and interests of the scouts involved. Organizational information is published in the Community Bulletin.

TAX RELIEF

Austria

The value-added tax of 20% in Austria may be partially recovered by obtaining a Form U34 from the merchant at the time of purchase. The Austrian Customs Official at the border must stamp the form as you leave Austria. You may receive a refund in person at that time or mail the form to the shop where the item was purchased.

Germany

The 19% value added tax which is added to most every new item sold in Germany can be avoided by US ID card holders. Before purchasing an item, ask the merchant if he will accept a value added tax form. The buyer must have the form before making the purchase. The merchant and the buyer complete the form together and the tax-free price can be charged. A copy of this form then needs to be returned to the Personnel Branch to clear the serialized form from the computer. For purchases over 1500 EUROS, a more complicated procedure is required. See the Personnel Branch for additional information.

TELEVISION

AFN

Personnel residing on the economy as well as in the German Ministry of Defense Housing Area must purchase or rent a satellite and decoder to receive four AFN television stations (News/Sports, AFN Europe, Spectrum, and AFN Pacific). AFN features popular shows taped from American stations and live broadcasts of some US sporting events.

Satellite/Local Stations

Residents of Oberammergau with multi-system TVs and the proper cable (sold at AAFES and the Pick-Up Point) may receive German, Austrian, Russian, British, and other American Stations (TNT, CNN, NBC).

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is operated by the American Women's Club of Garmisch. Items for sale include clothing, sports items, kitchenware, and baby items. Once operating costs are met, all profits go back into the Community. When an individual consigns an item, he or she receives 80% of the requested price when the item sells. The Thrift Shop accepts donations and is open to all ID card holders. The Thrift Shop is located in the US Shopping Center. Hours are every Tue, Fri, and Sat, 1000 - 1400 (unless otherwise posted). Phone: DSN 440-3552 or Commercial: 08821-7503552.

TRAVEL AGENTS/TOURIST INFORMATION

SATO Travel Office

Located on Sheridan Kaserne, offers airline travel bookings and ticket sales, as well as information and bookings on package tours to various locations. A percentage of the income generated by this office is returned to Garmisch MWR. Phone: 08821-7503872.

Amtliches Bayerisches Reisebuero (ABR)

Jointly operated with the Gemeinde Oberammergau, located at Eugen-Papststrasse 9a (Ammergauer House), phone 08822-92310.

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Services (YS) offers a wide range of social, developmental, and recreational activities for children, ages 5 - 19. Sports programs such as baseball, basketball, and soccer are offered, along with ski and hiking clubs, and a special club exclusively for kindergartners. In addition, YS plans a monthly calendar with fun and exciting things to do. In the summer months, YS extends its normal operating hours to offer several day camps, the biggest of which is Outdoor Adventure Week. In the winter, YS presents the Wonderful Wednesday ski program. Located in Bldg 715. Phone: DSN 440-2654 or Commercial: 08821-7502654.

School Age Services (SAS)

A new program offered by Youth Services. It offers after school care on an hourly, weekly, and monthly basis (space available). Care is offered on a full time basis during summer and holiday breaks. SAS offers many exciting activities such as computer classes, arts and crafts, field trips, and much more. For information, please contact Youth Services. Phone: DSN 440-2654 or Commercial: 08821-7502654.