

Resources for Marines on Unaccompanied Orders

Marines on Unaccompanied Orders do not receive Command Sponsorship, therefore some services are limited. The following resources are available to assist Marines on Unaccompanied Orders make an informed decision about bringing family members to Stuttgart. These resources list a brief description of services provided. Please visit the included web-sites for further information.

The **Family Readiness Program** is available to all Marines regardless of the status of orders while in Stuttgart. The Family Readiness Officer (FRO) is an information and referral specialist and may have the answers to your questions or know where to find the answers. The FRO can be reached at 07031-15-3593 or fro@mfe.usmc.mil

Medical: TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Standard). TOP Standard is a fee-for-service option available to eligible unaccompanied ADSMs living overseas. TOP Standard works like the U.S. TRICARE Standard program, with similar benefits, requirements, and costs. Please view more information on this benefit at

http://www.tricare-overseas.com/top_program_standard.html

It is also advisable to register for the "Hospital Tour" by visiting the Welcome Center at Panzer Kaserne. Important information regarding medical emergencies and how to utilize the German medical system is included in this tour.

SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS:

DoDD Schools: Non-Command sponsored Marines will be considered on a SPACE AVAILABLE basis. The school principal will make the decision to accept Space A students based on DODEA policy and classroom sizes. No guarantee will be given to reserve a spot in any DoDD school. **MARFORAF/MARFOREUR CANNOT provide advocacy for unaccompanied Family Members.** If a child is accepted into the school, there is no guarantee that space will be available for follow on school years. Please contact the respective school for further information. Resources for special needs children are limited and may not be available for Space A students.

Public German School Choice: Children aged three to six may attend kindergarten. After that school is compulsory for nine or ten years. From grades 1 through 4 children attend elementary school (*Grundschule*), where the subjects taught are the same for all. Then, after the 4th grade, they are separated according to their academic ability and the wishes of their families, and attend one of three different kinds of schools: *Hauptschule*, *Realschule* or *Gymnasium*.

Private Schools: The International School of Stuttgart and Swiss International School are IB World School with high expectations and rigorous educational standards. Swiss International webpage is www.swissinternationalschool.de and the International School of Stuttgart webpage is www.international-school-stuttgart.de

Home Schools: A host nation, state, commonwealth, or territory where a DoD sponsor is stationed may impose legal requirements or restrictions on home schooling practices. For more info:

<http://www.dodea.edu/foia/iod/pdf/02OD002.pdf>

Army CYS Services Strong Beginnings: Pre-school program for children ages 4-5. Contact the Child, Youth and School (CYS) Services Parent Central Services at DSN (314) 430-7480 or (011) 49-711-680-7480 for more information.

Off-Post Housing: Living off-post requires a Certificate of Non-Availability (CNA). Government quarters may be directed for Marines only. If a Marine is directed to live in government quarters, off-post housing for non-command sponsored family members, will be at the Marines expense.

Automated Housing Referral Network: Register for AHRN at <http://www.ahrn.com> The site is user friendly and gives a lot of information about the units and also provides some pictures for a first impression. The landlords accept the housing contract rules. There is no finder's fee. Prior to arrival, you can search for housing to get an idea of what's available. The first step is to in-process with the housing office and complete a customer housing routing form. You cannot enter into a rental contract nor can a house "be saved" until you arrive.

ASPEN Consulting: The ASPEN Consulting contractors maintain the content (adding unit information) of AHRN for Stuttgart. ASPEN Consulting is cost free for military and DoD civilians. Aspen Consulting will assist military members with scheduling appointments and accompanying you to your off post housing inspection. They are able to drive military members to three viewing appointments per family. Please do not attempt to locate housing on your own. You could encounter expensive realtor fees that may not be reimbursed.

Passports: Marines on orders are eligible for "official" passport for themselves only. Expenses related to Passports for unaccompanied family members are the responsibility of the Marine. Passport applications can be found at http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html

Driver's License: Marines with a CMR are eligible to obtain a U.S. Forces in Germany driver's license. Applicants must bring the following: ID card, Stateside driver license or EU, NATO, German driver license, MAILING ADDRESS (Unit, CMR, Box, APO AE), Corrective lenses if needed (Applicants 65 and above need a certificate "Eye test") and \$ 10.00 check, money order or credit card. Orientation is required prior to testing. TEL.: 431-2007 OR CIV 07031-15-2007

Value Added Tax (VAT) Forms: Marines on orders may take advantage of the VAT program. Family members not listed on orders are NOT eligible to use the VAT program. The VAT Program permits US Forces members to make common purchases without paying the Value-Added Tax (VAT), including: Groceries, Clothing, Furniture, Light fixtures, Electronics, Car repairs, Train tickets in Germany, Parts of medical and dental, Cosmetic Surgery, and Vet care. Please check with VAT office on home repairs or upgrades.

VAT forms can be purchased by visiting the VAT office in Bldg. 2915, 3rd Floor, Panzer Kaserne. Please visit <http://www.stuttgart.armymwr.com> for more information on the VAT program and a list of participating businesses.

Utility Tax Avoidance Program (UTAP): The finance ministries of the NATO Forces established the (UTAP) Program to allow authorized customers tax-free utilities with participating utility companies. The UTAP program is designed for service members assigned to Europe, or U.S. civilians working for the U.S. Forces and some contractors, provided they are under the Tessa Agreement. Some utilities could fall under additional cost "Nebenkosten", paid directly to the landlord, these costs are not covered by UTAP. UTAP can save you hundreds of dollars annually off your utilities. With UTAP you will save 19% Value Added Tax on Electrical and Gas and 7% on water. You can save up to 11% additional cost per kWh on energy tax. Providing your banking information is a requirement to enter the UTAP program. Please visit the UTAP page at <http://www.stuttgart.armymwr.com> to download forms.

Army Community Services (ACS): Services are ACS are available to all Marines and family Members. When moving into the area, there are a few services offered by ACS that are very beneficial to look into.

Household Goods Lending Closet: When relocating to a new installation, you can borrow basic household goods such as Pots and pans, Dishes, High chairs and car safety seats. This is a temporary loan system, items are expected to be returned in a timely manner and clean. Contact the ACS Relocation Manager at DSN (314) 431-3436/3362 or CIV +49 (0)7031-15-3436/3362 for more information.

Adjusting to My New Country - Culture College offers all in-processing personnel and their Families orientation on the local culture, language, transportation and tourism offerings.

Orientation to the Stuttgart Job Market - New to Stuttgart and want to find a job or simply new to job-seeking in Stuttgart? Either way, the Orientation to the Stuttgart Job Market is the class you want. Sign up for this class and learn where the main sources of employment are located within your community and how to apply for available jobs. DSN: (314)431-3363/3362, Commercial: +49 (0)7031-15-3363/3362

A complete list of classes available can be found at <http://www.stuttgart.armymwr.com/index.php/europe/stuttgart>

SOFA Status: SOFA status is NOT tied to Command Sponsorship. As long as the family members are DEERS eligible and the Marine is on orders, the family member is eligible for SOFA status. Report to the G-1 to have the AE600-77A completed and proceed to the Passport Office for SOFA card issue.