



# Kaiserslautern Military Community Retiree Activities Office

## **Fact Sheet: Driver's Licensing -- Military Retiree (Veteran) or SOFA covered with a USAEUR license**

**Background:** Anyone of us (retired or separated) residing in Germany must obtain a European (German) Driver's License. The old USAREUR POV Certificate Driver's License is not recognized by the German government. It is only valid if you work and are protected under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). The day after you retire you are not allowed to drive in Germany at all on your now invalid USAREUR Driver's License.

You could possibly exchange your stateside license for a German license if your state is recognized by the German government (**See Fact Sheet: Driver's Licensing- Non SOFA for all the details**).. If you do not have a license recognized as reciprocal then your options are (1) fly back to the USA, obtain an International License and return to Germany as a tourist and you could then legally drive with a valid (not expired) stateside license and International License using a rental car for up to -90 days and /or (2) obtain a German License here. The procedure to obtain a German license is not that difficult.

### **Actions Required:**

- 1) Contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles Office at Sembach AB. They provide the translation of USAREUR Certificate of License. The POCs e-mail is [nicole.c.ward3.naf@mail.mil](mailto:nicole.c.ward3.naf@mail.mil). The duty phone is DSN 496-4640/41/42.
- 2) Provide the following for the translation letter:
  - a. German residency permit (Aufenthaltslaubnis) or German Policy Registration (Polizei Anmeldung) or copy of German Residency stamp in your passport (if applicable)
  - b. Proof of loss of logistical support such as ETS or retirement orders, or termination papers from your servicing personnel office (CPO or CPAC) or Human Resources Office for AAFES personnel (if applicable).
  - c. USAREUR license number
    - i. If your USAREUR license was issued after March 1998, the translation letter may not be accepted by German authorities. The Registry of Motor Vehicle office suggests that you verify the translation letter will be accepted by the German authorities PRIOR to obtaining the translation letter.
  - d. Telephone number or email address for contact purposes.
- 3) Costs \$25.00 or Euro check for 20 Euros( if mailing in), and your mailing address. If walking in, cash or credit card are acceptable. They do the memo in English and German stating you have USAREUR License and you are basically authorized with this letter to apply for a German License. They will mail the original memo to your address and you can ask them to e-mail copy of memo if you prefer.

4) Mail Requests to:

HQ USAREUR Vehicle Registry  
ATTN: CUSTOMER SERVICE  
Postfach 12 63  
67673 Enkenbach-Alsenborn

OR

HQ USAREUR Vehicle Registry  
Unit 29230  
APO AE 09136-9230

- 5) This Registry of Motor Vehicles cannot process requests for the following:
- DD Form 348 or SF Form 46 for bus/truck certification
  - For individuals who have been separated for cause, misconduct or dishonorably discharged or barred from USAREUR
  - If you have any outstanding privately owned vehicles or weapons in the files after loss of logistical support, proof of disposition of vehicle or weapon must be submitted before a translation letter can be issued.
- 6) Attend the German Road Side Helper Course –six-hour course. This is normally conducted by the local German Red Cross offices in town/city you live in. Your certificate will be mailed to you.

NOTE: Depending on where you live, you may be able to use an US First Aid Course as a substitute for taking a new course. Acceptance of the course will depend on where you will live. Contact your local county administrative office to determine if you can use your first aid course (with appropriate verification), or whether you will need to take a current course.

The American Red Cross on Ramstein offers health and safety courses. The certificate is valid for 2 years. Go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to take a class. See attached instruction sheet.

- 7) Have a picture taken by German Photo Shop – specifically the one for a German License,  
8) Receive an eye test from local German Optical shop. Some of the Red Cross Offices conducting the course have the photo and eye test folks available during day. It is recommended, however, to take care of those two with local shops.  
9) Take the memo regarding your USAREUR license, picture, certificate from Red Cross, and eye exam results to your local German License Amt (Office) and complete the application. It costs around 72 Euro. They mail your license or you can pick it up.

**Contacts:** Via telephone at DSN 480-5486 or Civilian 06371-47-5486 (Leave a message if no one is in) or write an e-mail to: [86aw.rao@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:86aw.rao@ramstein.af.mil)

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