



USAREUR Public Affairs
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New rules in Germany for privately-owned firearms

USAREUR News Release

HEIDELBERG, Germany – For many Americans, owning and storing privately-owned firearms in the home is commonplace. German law forbids such a practice unless the privately-owned firearms are properly licensed by the German government. U.S. soldiers, civilians, and family members here have until Sept. 30 to comply.

According to USAREUR Command Policy Letter 31 dated May 20, soldiers, civilians, and family members who currently possess privately-owned firearms in Germany have four options to comply:

- Store the privately-owned firearms at a Rod and Gun Club, community arms room or unit arms room.
- Ship the privately-owned firearms to the United States at government expense. Privately-owned firearms may be shipped at government expense in household goods or unaccompanied baggage to the U.S. if the owner is within 6 months of PCS.
- Ship the privately-owned firearms to the U.S. at personal expense.
- Obtain a German *Waffenbesitzkarte* (Weapons Possession Card, a permit to acquire and possess privately-owned firearms, which also authorizes the holder to store privately-owned firearms in quarters if they are properly secured).

The USAREUR privately-owned firearms registration card, AE Form 190-6B, is no longer valid under German law as a sole basis for possessing, acquiring, or using privately-owned firearms in Germany. Soldiers, civilians, and family members who desire home-based control of privately-owned firearms must have them registered at the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles and must also possess a German *Waffenbesitzkarte* covering the privately-owned firearms they wish to store at home.

Until Sept. 30, personnel without a *Waffenbesitzkarte* who possess privately-owned firearms

in their home must store them unloaded in a double lock-and-key system. An example of this is locking the door to the home with the privately-owned firearms also locked in a container such as a gun safe, desk, closet, or footlocker. Gun cases designed for transporting guns do not qualify as a lockable area. Ammunition must also be stored in a locked container separate from privately-owned firearms. Trigger locks are not required for privately-owned firearms, but are highly encouraged.

Under the new rules, privately-owned firearms can't be sold or otherwise disposed of without first obtaining written approval from the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles. If privately-owned firearms are to be moved in connection with a permanent change of station or similar move, they must remain stored under the double lock system until they are transferred to a shipper with an approved shipment document. Anyone who elects to mail privately-owned firearms to the United States must do so in accordance with host-nation and U.S. customs and postal regulations.

Arrangements for government shipments of privately-owned firearms may be made by appointment with local base support battalion transportation counselors.

USAREUR Regulation 190-6 provides more detailed information on acquiring, registering, storing, shipping, and exporting privately-owned firearms and ammunition in Germany. Military personnel who violate this policy are subject to adverse administrative action and punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Civilian employees and family members who violate the policy are subject to adverse administrative action under the provisions of USAREUR Regulation 27-9, Misconduct by Civilians.

The following web page has links to information related to privately-owned firearms issues: <http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/> then click on the "*Morale, Welfare and Recreation*" link found near the top of the page, followed by the link "*Privately Owned Firearms Information.*"

From a certified military computer you can access privately-owned firearms related AE Form 190-6 series forms, by going to the secure web site: <https://www.aeaim.hqusareur.army.mil/library/Home.htm> and following the links to "AE Forms."

For more information call the USAREUR Registry of Motor Vehicles at DSN 386-7271.

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