

WHO CAN SHOP AT US SALES FACILITIES IN GERMANY AFTER MILITARY RETIREMENT AND LOSS OF INDIVIDUAL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT?

ELIBILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH AER 550-175:

- Retired military personnel and their dependents who permanently reside in Germany.
- Retired military personnel and their accompanied dependents who visit Germany for at least 30 uninterrupted days.
- Dependent spouses of retired military personnel who reside without their sponsors permanently in Germany.
- Widow(er)s of retired military personnel who have not remarried and reside permanently in Germany and their dependents.
- Retired reservists (reservists who are otherwise eligible for retirement, but are under the age of 60).
- 100 % disabled veterans.
- Unaccompanied dependent children of active duty or retired military personnel whose sponsor doesn't reside in Germany.
- Unaccompanied dependents of active duty service members who are assigned to a restricted short tour outside of Germany.
- 20/20/20 former spouses of retired military personnel.
- As of January 2020: Veterans awarded a Purple Heart and Medal of Honor, veterans who were prisoners of war as well as disabled veterans.

HOW DO I TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR SHOPPING?

You will need to obtain a status verification (AE Form 550-175K) from a military Customs Office in Germany. You will have to present following documentation:

- **Respective ID cards (e.g. Military Retiree ID card, Dependent Retiree ID card, Widow(er) ID card, VHIC)**
- **Passport or Personalausweis**
- **Valid residence permit if residing or ordinary resident in Germany**
- **Travel Documents if visiting for 30 days or more**

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO NEXT?

The AE Form 550-175K must be presented to your **local** German customs office for issuance of the Pink Card. To access US Forces sales facilities, you will need both your respective ID card and "Pink Card".

German Customs will levy duties in the amount of 17.5% MwSt (German Value Added Tax) for items with a single item sale price of less than the US \$ equivalent of 50 Euros and at the regular tariff of 19% MwSt for items equivalent to 50 Euros and more. For further information on tariff rates used to determine duty rates for items go to:

www.zolltarifnummern.de (German)

<https://www.tariffnumber.com/> (English)

What do I need to know about my Pink Card?

- Retirees, Disabled Veterans, Widow(er)s and their dependents must have a valid Pink Card and a U.S. Forces ID card (or VHIC) proving their status as an eligible patron.
- Personnel who hold a valid Pink Card may only purchase nonrationed items for their personal or domestic use. Sales personnel **MUST** annotate the purchase of items costing 250 dollars or more on the Pink Card.
- Pink Cards are for the **sole use of the individual for which it is issued.** Allowing others to use, or purchasing items for others is illegal.
- Shopping assistants (SAs) must have the following documents in their possession:
 - A valid installation access document.
 - A valid Pink Card identifying them as a SA.
- SAs **will not make purchases for their personal use.**
- Pink Cards **MUST** be validated by the servicing German Customs Office a minimum of once **every 6 months.** If more than 6 months have passed since the last German customs entry, managers and employees of U.S. Forces sales facilities **will not allow any purchases.**
- Pink cards with an altered or modified expiration date **are not valid.**

What MWR Facilities and Services can I use?

Beneficiaries Authorized to Use Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation "For-fee" Services

MWR Services and Facilities	Retirees	VHIC Holders
ACS Programs	Yes (Except home-based businesses)	No
Armed Forces Recreation Centers (Edelweiss Lodge and Resort)	Yes	Yes
Army Lodging – Unofficial Overnight Stays	Yes	Yes
CYS Programs	Yes	No
Value-added Tax	No	No
Restaurants / Catering	Yes	Yes
Auto Skills Center and Service	Yes	No
Retail Sales (with Pink Card)	Yes	Yes
Vehicle Donation and Disposal	Yes	Yes
Sports and Fitness Center	Yes	No
Trips and Tours	Yes	Yes
Outdoor Recreation Equipment Rental	Yes	Yes
Retail Sales (with Pink Card)	Yes	Yes
Paintball	Yes	Yes
Bowling	Yes	Yes
Slot Machines or other gambling services	No (Restricted by HN gambling laws, for example Spielverordnung and Spielhallengesetze)	
Theater	Yes	Yes

Can I use the APO?

Only retired military personnel who reside in or visit Germany for at least 30 days are authorized Military Postal Service (MPS). Disabled Veterans are not authorized MPS, regardless of the length of their stay in Germany.

To obtain approval, authorized personnel must submit a completed AEA Form 600-8-3C to their local MPO (AEA Reg 600-8-3). If the application is approved, authorized personnel may receive mail through the Box-R service or the Family member general delivery service only. The following restrictions apply to mail delivered through these services:

- Incoming and outgoing mail may not exceed a weight of 16 ounces.
- (Noncommercial mail exclusively for personal use (for example, gifts) received without payment from a private person located in a third country outside the EU may be received if the customs value of the goods does not exceed 45 euros.

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

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

USACA Investigations office, investigates all Black Market and Customs related offenses to preserve everyone's ILS. Offenses can result in the revocation of your privileges.

ALL THINGS CUSTOMS (Retiree/VHIC Edition)



**U.S. Army Customs Field Office
Ansbach**

Customer Service

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Hours of Operation

**MONDAY-FRIDAY
0800-1600 HRS**

Closed on US Holidays



<https://www.europeafrica.army.mil/customs/>