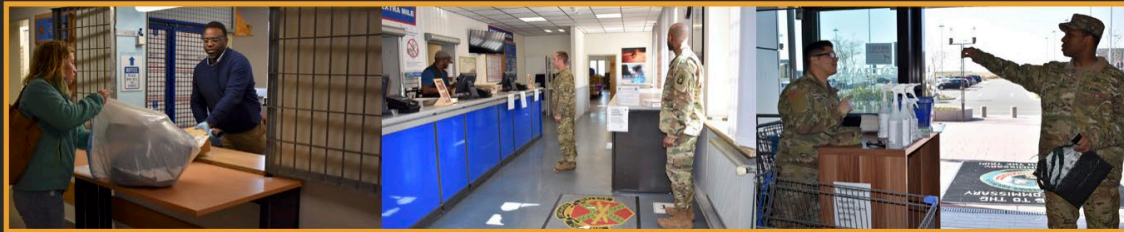




## The BEST Hometown in Europe!



Community Newsletter # 4

April 6, 2020

## News You Can Use From Our Garrison Facebook Feed

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1. In order to protect operational security as we preserve combat readiness and to comply with Department of Defense guidance, USAG Ansbach will no longer post numbers of those affected by COVID-19. We will continue to report daily through our chain of command and to provide information to local health officials. Updates will be provided to the Department of Defense daily and reported publicly by the Army or respective military service.

USAG Ansbach leaders want all members of the community to understand this change and remain confident that we will continue to communicate transparently with you, and in full cooperation with local health officials. When we do have positive cases, we will immediately initiate tracing interviews and medical professionals will notify anyone who has been in contact and tell them what their follow-on actions should be. Unit leaders will coordinate thorough cleaning of areas where personnel may have worked or visited.

Our priority remains protection of the force and our community to preserve readiness. Our best defense is to stay home to the max extent possible, practice social distancing and wash your hands. It is important that we take care of each other and ourselves. We are a strong and resilient community and we will get through this together.

2. Effective April 2, you may see the POND Contract Security Guards wearing additional personal protective equipment during access control point operations. POND, the company that provides Contract Security Guards for all garrisons in Germany, has offered their employees the opportunity to wear additional personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, and eye protection. This will not change the manner in which we are conducting screening or access control operations. Individuals coming onto the installation will continue to hold their own ID cards as they present them to the guards, and Soldiers will continue to ask screening questions before allowing access.

3. Commissary Update: As an additional precaution, the commissary is discontinuing the use of reusable bags at the register.  
 Post Exchange Update: The PX is limiting hand sanitizers, face masks, disposable gloves, rubbing alcohol, thermometers, paper towels, toilet paper, bleach, disinfecting wipes and cleaners to one per item per customer.  
 Dunkin Donuts is temporarily closing, effective April 4.
  
4. April is Autism Awareness Month. This month we celebrate differences by creating awareness:
 

“Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that affects essential human behaviors such as social interaction, the ability to communicate ideas and feelings, imagination, self-regulation, and the ability to establish relationships with others.”

If you would like to learn more about Autism please contact your Exceptional Family Member Program at 09802832883.

**AUTISM SOCIETY 101**

Founded in 1965, the Autism Society is the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, and exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. Annually, the Autism Society and its 78 local affiliates served over 620,000 individuals impacted by autism through advocacy, education, information and referrals, support services, and community building at the local, state and national level.

<p><b>Founded</b> in 1965.</p>	<p>The nation's largest and oldest grassroots autism organization.</p>	<p>Approximately <b>78 affiliates</b> across 37 states</p>	<p>Our mission is to measurably improve the quality of life for all affected by autism.</p>
<p>Annually support over <b>600k+ people</b></p>	<p>Our network trained over <b>7,100 first responders</b> to be better prepared and understand proper protocol for interactions with autistic individuals.</p>	<p><b>157,000 people</b> attended over 8,000 Autism Society events across the country</p>	
<p><b>138 Advocacy events</b> were held by affiliates across the country.</p>	<p><b>Five core services:</b> advocacy, education, information and referrals, support, and community.</p>	<p><b>Over 3,500 individuals</b> send letters to representatives through the Autism Society Action Center annually.</p>	<p>Our network fielded over <b>225k</b> phone calls, emails and support inquiries.</p>

We believe every individual and family affected by autism should lead a quality life, and is accepted, supported, and treated with dignity and respect.

Find a local affiliate in your area to get the help, support and resources you need.

Our National Helpline offers our trained Information & Referral (I&R) Specialists to provide resources to services and supports across the country. To speak to an I&R Specialist directly, call 800-3-AUTISM (800-328-8476), or email [info@autism-society.org](mailto:info@autism-society.org). Visit [www.Autism-Society.org](http://www.Autism-Society.org) to learn more.

**NAAM**  
**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
Celebrate Differences

5. The Telephone Operator for the European Theater would like to take a moment to ensure that each community is aware that Telephone Operator Service is still available during COVID19 to all customers. They are able to assist (especially the personnel working from home at the moment)

with conference calls, dialing instructions, Garrison and Directory information and connections to DSN/VoIP & Toll-Free Numbers. Customers can reach the operator at any time by simply dialing 0 from their VoIP/DSN number or 0711-680-1110 from their landline or cellphone.

6. The OHA survey has been extended until April 15 for service members stationed in Germany!



OSD MILITARY COMPENSATION

# GERMANY OHA UTILITY EXPENSE SURVEY MARCH 1- APRIL 15



All Service members receiving Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) that meet the following qualifications SHOULD participate in the survey:

1. Stationed in Germany for at least 6 months
2. Reside in Privately leased quarters (not a homeowner or sharer)
3. Pay most utilities separately

Spouses can take the survey if Service member is not available

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/ohaSurvey.cfm?ID=mar-util>

Survey results directly impact the amount of housing allowance each Service member receives.

**"Have a say in your pay!"**



7. ACS is not closed during the COVID-19 Prevention Effort!  
Services are still available Monday-Friday from 0800-1200 & 1300-1700. Most services available depending on critical need or safety risk. Services provided one-on-one or in groups less than eight people. Services are offered by phone, email, or in person as needed. Most emphasized services are Army Emergency Relief (AER), Family Advocacy (FAP), and Military and Family Life Consultants (MFLC).

First step – Call 09802-83-2883 or DSN 467-2883 for more information.

Available MFLC Contact Information

Adult Service 0151 533 90375 ACS Katterbach

Adult Service 0160 625 6487 ACS Katterbach

Adult Service 0160 6259 834 ACS Illesheim

Adult Service 0175 4866 208 12<sup>th</sup> CAB Embedded

MFLCs and Child and Youth Behavioral MFLCs (CYB-MFLCs) will be able to provide Telehealth Services, including telephonic and video non-medical counseling in areas where face-to-face support is difficult due to COVID-19.

For Adults: Telephonic and Video Non-Medical Counseling, Personal Financial Counseling

For Children & Youth: Individual Video Non-Medical Counseling Sessions, for ages 13-17

and Family Video Non-Medical Counseling for Minors 6 to 12 Years of Age

Personal Financial Counseling 0160 5878 982 ACS Katterbach

8. Tax Relief

We are open Sat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pay \$5 per tax relief form (maximum of 10 at any given time) and save up to 19% on VAT purchases up to €2,499.

Contact MWR Central at DSN: 467-1780 • CIV: 09802-83-1780

9. Another Health Alert was issued by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin for U.S. Citizens.

Health Alert - U.S. Embassy Berlin, Germany, March 31, 2020

Please visit our webpage and click on the drop-down box for Health Alerts.

<https://home.army.mil/.../Garrison/publi.../coronavirus-covid-19>

10. The Department of Defense is engaged in one of the great global challenges of our time as we work together to combat the spread of the coronavirus. While the situation continues to evolve, I want to assure the force that we will take all necessary measures to protect our people and win this fight. As we aggressively respond to this pandemic, my priorities remain: protecting our troops, DoD civilians, and their families; safeguarding our national security capabilities; and supporting President Trump's whole-of-nation response. Read more here:

[https://home.army.mil/.../MESSAGE\\_TO\\_THE\\_FORCE\\_-\\_COVID-19\\_RES...](https://home.army.mil/.../MESSAGE_TO_THE_FORCE_-_COVID-19_RES...)

USAG Ansbach Postal Service is experiencing significant personnel shortages due to current events. They want to continue to provide a capability for the community to stay connected to home as it is vital to the morale of the force. As a result of staffing shortages, they are going to consolidate the majority of the postal services to Katterbach in an effort to maintain mission capabilities while staying within compliance. Once they regain capability, they will restart services.

UPDATED HOURS OF SERVICE:

Katterbach Kaserne

Postal finance (buying stamps, money orders, mailing packages)

Monday & Wednesday: 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday: CLOSED

Package Pickup Window

Monday-Thursday: 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday: 1300-1800

Storck Barracks - Illesheim

Postal finance (buying stamps, money orders, mailing packages)

Wednesday: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Package Pickup window

Monday- Friday: 1-5 p.m.

11. Bavaria's Minister President Markus Söder delivered an update to the people of Bavaria. Here is an initial translation of what he said:

All restrictions remain in effect until at least April 19, 2020. Read the Bavaria decree outlining the restrictions in English at <https://go.usa.gov/xv3Ey>.

The coronavirus situation remains serious. There is no reason for false hope or discussion about any exit strategies.

Most people infected with the coronavirus in Germany reside in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Most affected counties in Bavaria are at Tirschenreuth and Rosenheim, both will receive additional medical support.

While protective measures in place are working, there is always a 14-day time lapse between taking measures and their effects. Thanks to measures we are only seeing a doubling of infections currently every 5 days (before the measures were taken, numbers doubled every 2.8 days).

Protective measures are necessary and must be extended. There will be a mid-April assessment based on the extension.

Do not relax protective measures. Continue practicing social-distancing. Our goal is to stop the spread of the coronavirus and prevent death.

This is our test. We must live up to the challenge. We will prevail. The Bavarian government stands steadfast to overcome the challenges.

12. Chancellor Merkel held her 2nd "COVID Crisis Council" via teleconference with Germany's 16 Minister Presidents. After the meeting, she and two other Minister Presidents (representing the governing parties of SPD, CDU, and CSU) addressed the media. Highlights:

Key message: The federal and the Länder governments are all extending the current restrictions at least until the end of the Easter holidays (April 19). Citizens "are urged to keep contacts with other people outside their own households to an absolute minimum, even during the Easter holidays and to generally refrain from private travel and visits, including by relatives". This is part of a resolution agreed upon by Federal and State governments. No new measures were agreed upon.

Chancellor Merkel: we see "some very small improvements" regarding the situation of new infections. After Easter: RKI (Robert Koch Institute - CDC equivalent) will give an assessment on April 14. This will be our guideline for the time after the Easter holidays. We will continue to coordinate all measures very closely between federal and state governments. A harmonized approach is key in this crisis. I can't tell you right now how long we have to uphold these measures. We have not discussed "tracing apps" today. But I would be happy to recommend such an app once it will be available. We need to become more independent when it comes to producing key medical supplies. We - especially Minister Altmaier (Minister of the Economy)- are in close contact with companies to tackle this problem.

Minister President Markus Söder, Bavaria: "We don't need an "exit debate" right now. We need more time. Reduce infections, improve the situation in hospitals/the public health system. We are very worried about the situation in retirement and nursing homes. We need more face masks ...billions of face masks. But wearing a mask is not mandatory.

Söder speaking for Bavaria and of the COVID Council:

State Premiers were of one opinion during conference call, to continue down the path we started. We will not start debates how to exit from the current situation (relieve restrictions). Now is not the time.

Now focus on execution of measures.

There is currently no obligation to wear masks in Germany because of the corona crisis. The federal government and the Länder have agreed on this point.

19 or 20 April will not mean we automatically return to previous state.

Our only gauge will be the number of infections and deaths. Bavaria has highest rate of infection per capita.

Our measures are beginning to show effect (rise in new infections 25 % before, now 15 %). We need to continue and strengthen our health care system. Bavaria/Germany needs to have our own internal supplies of Masks and other PPE. State Premiers are united in response to this crisis and the fight against the virus.

14.


**USAG Ansbach Safety Office**

Hello parents! Safety Bob here with a suggestion to ease some of the boredom your kids may be experiencing as they stay home, to stay safe.

Conducting a basic safety check around your home is an excellent way to share quality time while you teach them how to develop a safe home environment.

Any basic home safety checklist can be used for this. Just search the internet for "images of home safety checklists" to find a bunch of them.

Be sure to reward or praise them every time they do their part to keep the whole family safe. Thanks!



DSN: 468-7780/7240/1670 Com: 0981-181-7780/7240/1670

The image shows two overlapping safety checklists. The top one is titled 'SAFETY CHECKLIST' and lists various home safety items with checkboxes. The bottom one is titled 'IS YOUR HOME SAFE?' and has a similar layout with checkboxes and a 'NEEDS FIXING' column.