



# IMCOM-EUROPE RETIREE BULLETIN



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Volume XII

July 2013

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IMCOM-Europe publishes the Retiree Bulletin twice a year in accordance with AR 600-8-7. The Retiree Bulletin is available electronically on the IMCOM-Europe website at [http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/europe\\_life/retiree/index.html](http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/europe_life/retiree/index.html). The purpose of the Bulletin is to keep retired Soldiers, their spouses, and Families informed of their rights and privileges, to update them on developments in the Army, and to inspire goodwill and a desire to support the Army in the civilian community. You may send inquiries or comments about the IMCOM-Europe Retiree Bulletin to the editor of the Retiree Bulletin, to IMCOM-Europe (IMEU-GB-RSO), Unit 23103, APO AE 09136-3103. You may also get in touch by e-mail: usarmy.sembach.imcom-europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach-imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil or by calling DSN 544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-1530.

You may direct all other questions to the retirement services office at your local United States Army garrison (USAG) (see page 9).

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Dear Retirees, Family Members, and Annuitants:

This year, the Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day will be hosted by USAG Wiesbaden on 26 October 2013. The event is currently planned to take place in the Community Activities Center (bldg 1011), Clay Kaserne, Wiesbaden.

We invite all of you to the Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day in Wiesbaden. Come and enjoy the event, see your old friends, and make new ones.



MIKE MALONE  
IMCOM-Europe RSO

## **NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR IMCOM-EUROPE RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE**

Effective immediately, the new telephone number for the IMCOM-Europe Retirement Services Office located on Sembach Kaserne is DSN 544-1530 or civilian 0049-(0)611-143-1530.

## **NUMBERS AND SERVICE HOURS FOR THE FEDERAL BENEFITS UNIT, FRANKFURT**

The Federal Benefits Unit (FBU), Frankfurt, numbers and hours are as follows for Americans residing in **Austria, Germany, and Liechtenstein**:

### **Monday to Friday**

0800 to 1100

Telephone: 0049-(0)69-90-555-1100

Fax: 0049-(0)69-749352

E-Mail Address: fbu.frankfurt@ssa.gov

### **The office is closed on—**

- German and American Holidays.
- The last Thursday of the month.

**FBU will not assist** retirees and annuitants **with military retired pay** issues. Please refer to the last page of this bulletin to find a retirement services office to assist you with issues involving DFAS-Cleveland. You may also contact DFAS-Cleveland directly using the telephone numbers on page 6.

## **SCHEDULED USAG RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS (RADs) IN 2013**

Please note that some dates have changed from what was published in the December 2012 issue of the Retiree Bulletin.

**USAG Ansbach:** Wednesday, **9 October 2013 (changed)**, at a location to be determined. Medical services will include flu shots and other vaccinations, medical screening, diet counseling, eye exams, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and

pharmacy information. Representatives of the following services will attend: The Chaplain's Office, customs, Red Cross, ACS, the ID-card office, the passport office, the Installation Access Control System, the National Archives and Records Administration, the legal office, local associations, AAFES, and the Service Credit Union. In addition, a representative from DFAS will be present to assist retirees with pay issues.

**USAG Benelux:** The RAD is scheduled for **Saturday, 5 October 2013, (changed)** in the Chapel Annex at SHAPE, from 0900 to 1200 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1100). Garrison support agencies and DFAS-Cleveland (for retiree pay issues) will be represented. The location may change due to military missions.

**USAG Grafenwöhr:** Friday, **25 October 2013**, in building 244, main post, from 0900 to 1500 (doors open at 0800 for registration). Medical services will include flu shots and other vaccinations, medical screening, diet counseling, eye exams, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and pharmacy services. Dental services will provide retirees with oral hygiene information and screening appointments. Representatives of the following services will attend: The Chaplain's Office, customs, Red Cross, ACS, the ID-card office, the passport office, the Installation Access Control System, the National Archives and Records Administration, the legal office, local associations, AAFES, and the Service Credit Union. Representatives from DFAS-Cleveland and the FBU, Frankfurt (for Social Security and VA information) will also attend. The location may change due to military missions.

**Kaiserslautern Military Community:** The USAG Kaiserslautern will hold a joint RAD with the Air Force on **Tuesday, 22 October 2013**, at the Ramstein Officers Club from 0900 to 1200 (doors open at 0800 for registration and close at 1100). Garrison support agencies and DFAS-Cleveland (for retiree pay-record audits and assistance) will be represented.

**USAG Vicenza:** USAG Vicenza will host a Retiree Health Day on **18 October 2013** from 0900 to 1300 for all retirees and their Family members at the United States Army Health Center Vicenza, Italy. The anticipated services include audiology, blood-pressure screening, information on diabetes control, Family practice, immunizations, infection control, diet counseling, occupational therapy, orthopedics, optometry, pharmacy services, TRICARE, Wellness Center, and dental care. In addition, a representative from DFAS-Cleveland will be present to assist retirees with pay issues.

**USAG Stuttgart:** Thursday, **24 October 2013, (date change)** at Patch Barracks, Swabian Special Events Center (subject to change), from 0800 to 1400. Medical services will include flu shots and other vaccinations, diet counseling, eye exams, medical screening, blood-pressure screening, blood-sugar testing, and pharmacy information. Ophthalmology services may be offered (depending on personnel availability). Dental services will provide retirees only with oral hygiene information and exams. Representatives of the following services will attend: The Chaplain's Office, customs, Red Cross, ACS, the ID-card office, the passport office, the Installation Access Control System, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the legal office. Local associations, such as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), United Services Organization (USO), and United Services Automobile Association (USAA), AAFES, and the Service Credit Union, will be represented. Representatives from DFAS-Cleveland (for retiree pay-record and assistance) and the FBU, Frankfurt (for Social Security and VA information), will also attend. A shuttle bus will be available to and from the Dental/Health Clinic. The location may change due to military missions.

**USAG Vicenza:** USAG Vicenza will host a Retiree Health Day on **18 October 2013** from 0900 to 1300 for all retirees and their Family members at the United States Army Health Center Vicenza, Italy. Some of the anticipated services include audiology, blood-pressure

screening, information on diabetes control, Family practice, immunizations, infection control, diet counseling, occupational therapy, orthopedics, optometry, pharmacy, TRICARE, Wellness Center, and dental care. In addition, a representative from DFAS-Cleveland will be present to assist retirees with pay issues.

**USAG Wiesbaden:** The Army in Europe Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by the USAG Wiesbaden will be on Saturday, 26 October 2013, at the Community Activities Center (bldg 1011) from 0900 to 1500. Registration begins at 0800 and closes at 1300. The event includes a Speakers Program with the CG, USAREUR, and the Co-Chairman of the Chief of Staff of the Army Retiree Council from 0900 to 0945. Representatives from garrison services such as the ID-card office and the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, the Installation Access Control System, and legal assistance will be present. Also, the U.S. Army Europe Regional Medical Command and the U.S. Army Europe Regional Dental Command will be available during the day to answer questions and provide services. Representatives from the Social Security Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs are expected to attend and provide assistance.

## **FRANCONIA MILITARY COMMUNITY RAMP UP CLOSURE OPERATIONS**

The Franconia Military Community (FMC) will need to move mission units and close two garrisons with a population and government housing footprint equal to Fairfax, VA.

This is according to Mitchell Jones, Chief of the Franconia Military Community's Closure Task Force, who organized a gathering of leaders on March 28 at U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg's Warner Barracks to synchronize efforts of USAG Bamberg, USAG Schweinfurt, and USAG Ansbach and focus their attention on what has become the FMC's main mission: closure.

The Department of Defense announced a shift in the force posture across U.S. European

Command, including the closure of U.S. Army garrisons in Bamberg and Schweinfurt by the end of September 2014.

For the Franconia Military Community, that announcement initiated the planning phase of the closure process. Now, FMC has shifted its focus to execution.

Although USAG Ansbach and the caserns it comprises will remain open for the foreseeable future, the garrison will stand shoulder to shoulder as USAG Bamberg and USAG Schweinfurt close.

Most of the meeting attendees consisted of directors and key action officers from each directorate of the three garrisons, some of whom are now part of the FMC's Closure Task Force and closure working groups.

The March 28 meeting covered topics that might seem esoteric to many outside of the meeting; however, the common goal was finding the best way to carry out the transition while preserving the life, health, and safety of the Soldiers, Families, and Civilians of the FMC.

Despite the physical distance between each footprint, the concept of three separate garrisons is now obsolete. As USAG Ansbach Commander COL Kelly J. Lawler told the more than 100 people in attendance, all three garrisons need to come together as one—as the Franconia Military Community.

Lawler addressed the group which included USAG Bamberg's Commander, LTC Michelle Bienias, and USAG Schweinfurt's Commander, LTC Michael Runey and gave everyone fair warning that they will have to make difficult decisions from now into 2014 as thousands of Soldiers, Families, Civilians, local nationals, and contractors transition.

As the garrison builds ready and resilient platform for communities, Lawler said, the only way forward is for FMC to acknowledge and embrace the closure mission.

"The priority is closure," Lawler said. "The priority is [Army Force Generation]. The priority is quality of life."

For USAGs Bamberg and Schweinfurt, this means meeting those priorities while many services are consolidated, modified, and leveraged across the FMC as the population contracts.

Garrisons have already led closure-specific townhall meetings and are updating closure information on a daily basis through Facebook, the garrison websites, and closure blogs. This outreach addresses issues such as housing, relocating services, civilian staff changes, medical care, schools, fitness, postal services, personnel services, and updates on unit moves.

The community will only succeed if its members communicate, take care of each other, remain positive and work as a team, Lawler told the audience. To succeed, the community must embrace the mission, he added, and teamwork will be essential to that process.

Going a step further, Lawler told the crowd to get excited: "You're making history. You're a part of history." Since the end of World War II, the Army has had a home at Bamberg and Schweinfurt. Now, like a handful of other U.S. Army installations in Germany, Lawler said "it's time to give them back to the host nation."

"This closure mission will define you, it will define your garrison, and it will define the FMC," he said. "When we have succeeded and succeeded well, we will have done it together."

Kevin L. Griess, USAG Ansbach Deputy Garrison Commander, stressed the importance of not only working through the change, but excelling throughout the next year and a half. He said failure is not only not an option, it is a word he and other leaders he works with do not even want to hear.

"Your only path forward is to excel," Griess said, adding that members of the FMC will

need to do this while encountering both staff and budget issues.

Jones said it is important that members of the FMC know that "FMC is prepared and ready to execute closure operations. We are on a glide path for successful execution."

The community must come together to do this all while maintaining "the best possible quality of life for Soldiers and Families, redeploying and reintegrating combat units, drawing down the current workforce by 30 percent and maximizing resource savings and recapitalization."

Jones said identifying and addressing problems early is a must. These friction points exist because of simultaneous ARFORGEN and re-stationing operations across the FMC, he said.

"This closure mission is different than prior closures," Jones continued. "This is more robust, but with fewer resources. There is a significant workforce reduction at the same time and prior to closure operations-all while we are still at a full operations tempo."

That is why, he added, it is critical to accurately forecast community needs and implement creative solutions along the way among all three garrisons.

This means shifting not only personnel and resources, but funneling the talents of all FMC personnel to wherever they can have the most impact. This may mean bringing a Soldier or employee from Ansbach to Bamberg or vice versa to lend a hand where needed and to ensure Soldiers and Families keep receiving the quality of life commensurate with their quality of service.

"A combined effort across all three garrisons of Ansbach, Bamberg, and Schweinfurt," Jones said, "will be the main factor in our success."

(IMCOM-Europe, Public Affairs Office, April 19, 2013)

## TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES TO CHANGE FACE OF WIESBADEN MILITARY COMMUNITY

Transformation continues to change the face of the Wiesbaden military community. Scores of projects are changing traffic patterns, creating new facilities and upgrading existing facilities. The following is information about several construction projects that are or will impact employees and residents:

### Clay Kaserne

**Consolidated Intelligence Center.** Among the major projects is the construction of the new Consolidated Intelligence Center, to be located next to the General Shalikashvili Mission Command Center. Preliminary work, already completed, included the construction of a new transformation station next to the Shoppette and the demolition of the old transformation station.

A fence will be erected around the entire site which will close all parking behind the Shoppette, block the end of Lucas Street and call for the installation of a new pedestrian walkway around the fence line to provide access to the parking garage, the Strong Teams Cafe dining facility, and Wiesbaden Fitness Center.

"Signs will be installed indicating the new traffic flow once the pedestrian walkway and fence are completed," said Roger Gerber, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden Transformation and Stationing Management director.

Vehicles approaching the parking garage from the Shoppette and garrison headquarters building will have to proceed down Heinig Street on the so-called Ring Road to reach the garage, dining facility and fitness center. Work on the Consolidated Intelligence Center is expected to be completed by July 2015.

**Two New Parking Garages.** In addition to the Consolidated Intelligence Center construction, work also started in May to erect a new 500-

space parking garage adjacent to the current 1,100-space garage.

Construction of a new 300-space parking garage to serve the north side of Clay Kaserne and the construction of the new Information Processing Center (slated to be finished by December) began this spring and should be completed in the fall.

**Wellness Center.** Another major project on Clay Kaserne is work on the new Wellness Center on the second floor of the Warrior Transition Unit. The center, which offers similar services as those currently provided by a Wellness Center in Heidelberg (treadmill, cycle ergometer, direct gas analyzer, strength testers, education classroom and more) is expected to open by the end of August.

Ongoing Clay Kaserne renovation projects include improvements to buildings 1023, 1060, 1067, and 1206; the motor pool; the postal service center; 5th Signal Command, as well as U.S. Army Europe buildings. All are expected to be completed this year.

**Community Activity Center.** While work continues to improve the Community Activity Center's ballroom ceiling and exterior, Robert Schloesser, Ph.D., Director of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, reminded patrons that the Little Italy Restaurant remains open for business.

"The restaurant and fireside room remain open during this time for your lunch and dinner dining pleasure," he said during the Community Information Briefing on 28 February. (Editor's note: Little Italy also offers take-out and delivery service. Call 0611-705-5888.) Work should be completed by this fall.

**Clay Sports Fields.** Wiesbaden military community members will be able to enjoy a host of new sports fields in Newman Village and on the north side of Clay Kaserne once construction is completed. This includes tennis courts, multipurpose sports fields, baseball

fields, and an outdoor basketball court. One of the sports fields on the north side was funded by money won by the garrison as the Army Community of Excellence Gold Award winner in 2011 while the other is part of the Consolidated Intelligence Center project.

**Auto Skills Center.** The new Auto Skills Center on the north side of Clay Kaserne was completed this spring. Construction of a new military working dog facility, to be built adjacent to the Auto Skills Center, started in June and should be finished by summer 2014.

### Hainerberg and Crestview Housing

"A variety of renovation projects are going on in Hainerberg and Crestview Housing to enhance the overall quality of life for Soldiers and their Families," said Gerber. These include a mix of interior and exterior repairs, extended walkways, a new community gazebo in Hainerberg and other work.

**New Wiesbaden Exchange.** A ground-breaking ceremony in Hainerberg Housing on 22 February signaled the start of construction of a new 14,500-square-foot facility that will consolidate Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores, concessions, food emporiums, and local banks. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2014 with a grand opening tentatively set for the spring of 2015.

For more information and news about transformation projects in the Wiesbaden military community, visit the garrison's Transformation Update page at [www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/directories/transformation.asp](http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/directories/transformation.asp).

(IMCOM-Europe, Public Affairs Office,  
22 March 2013)

### MAILING DRUGS TO A APO ADDRESSES

Mailing medicine and pharmaceuticals, including over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, and nutritional supplements directly to individuals is prohibited. **This continues to be an issue.**

## **DFAS-CLEVELAND MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

The DFAS-Cleveland centralized mail-handling operation addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retirement Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080  
Telephone: 216-522-5955  
Fax: 1-800-469-6559

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
P.O. Box 7131  
London, KY 40742-7131

Telephone: 1-800-321-1080  
Telephone: 216-522-5955  
Fax: 1-800-982-8459

**For Germany only (toll-free): 0800-5891634 (dial as shown). This number cannot be reached from a DSN telephone. This line is seldom used and may be discontinued if not used by more customers.**

Ensure the last four digits of your Social Security number and your signature are on all pages sent by fax. You can change your address online through the MyPay website at <http://www.dfas.mil>.

### **TURNING 65 AND REGISTERING FOR MEDICARE PART B**

Approximately 180-120 days before you reach the age of 65, TRICARE will send a letter to the address you maintain in TRICARE/DEERS. It will inform you that you must enroll in MEDICARE Part A (at no cost) and Part B (\$110.00 per month) and pay the monthly premiums for part B to continue TRICARE coverage (TRICARE for Life).

The letter will inform you that you must sign up for MEDICARE Part B no later than 2 months before you turn 65 to remain TRICARE-eligible and avoid a break in your coverage.

U.S. citizens living abroad are required to file their applications for U.S. Social Security benefits (including MEDICARE) through the U.S. embassy or consulate in their country, unless otherwise directed by the embassy or consulate.

After enrolling in MEDICARE Parts A and B, individuals **need to go to the local ID-card office and have their enrollment entered in DEERS**. You will need to bring the MEDICARE card you received from MEDICARE as supporting documentation.

**If you fail to enroll with MEDICARE Part B you will not be covered by TRICARE after you reach the age of 65. Failure to pay MEDICARE Part B premiums in a timely manner will cause a break in your TRICARE for Life coverage.**

### **TRICARE CLAIMS MUST BE FILED WITHIN 1 YEAR**

The TRICARE claims center requests all bills and claims be submitted no later than 12 months after the first day you receive care on an outpatient basis. TRICARE needs to receive claims for inpatient services no later than 12 months after the day you leave the hospital. File claims by submitting a completed DD Form 2642 (TRICARE DOD/Champus Claim, Patient's Request for Medical Payment). Ensure you include proof of payment with the claim. Claims received later than 1 year after the date that service was provided may not be honored. If, however, the bill is dated later than 1 year after the date the service was provided, TRICARE will honor the claim.

Remember, TRICARE may not cover all host-nation services offered. You should always check with your local TRICARE office

for guidance on services offered versus services covered before accepting them.

Drugs are a big issue. Ensure prescriptions indicate the **American name of each drug**.

## **TRICARE DOES NOT COVER LONG-TERM HEALTHCARE**

**TRICARE does not provide a long-term healthcare benefit.** You may need to look at purchasing long-term care insurance coverage for assistance with long-term care costs. TRICARE, like Medicare, is designed to cover medical care for illnesses and injuries, such as cancer, a broken arm, or a stroke. It will not pay for long-term assistance with activities of daily living, such as dressing, eating, or using the bathroom. For information on long-term care coverage, contact commercial companies that provide long-term care benefits. The Office of Personnel Management provides long-term care coverage through the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). Many TRICARE beneficiaries may be eligible to participate in the FLTCIP. For more information, call 001-800-582-3337.

## **WHO IS YOUR ARREARS BENEFICIARY?**

Who did you designate as your arrears beneficiary for your last month of retirement pay? Since we have no way of knowing how long we will live, we need to ensure that the information DFAS-Cleveland has on file about our arrears beneficiary remains current.

Once a retiree dies, DFAS-Cleveland will recoup the last check either from the bank or the spouse. DFAS-Cleveland will audit and then close the retiree's retired-pay account. If the retiree did not identify a beneficiary for the last retirement pay, DFAS-Cleveland will use the last election on file. Furthermore, DFAS-Cleveland cannot start the annuitant payments of the Survivor Benefit Plan until the retiree's retired-pay account is closed.

Therefore, contact your local retirement services office about completing DD Form 2894 (Designation of Beneficiary Information).

## **MyPAY CORRESPONDENCE MAILING ADDRESS**

If you are a retiree, work for the Government as a civilian, and use MyPay, remember that changing your address on the civilian side of the MyPay screen will not automatically change your retiree mailing address. You must also change the information on the retiree side. In addition, when changing an address in MyPay, remember that APO and FPO addresses are not foreign addresses. Enter APO or FPO addresses in the CONUS field. Many APO and FPO addresses entered in DFAS include information that causes postal problems. Include in your APO or FPO address only the information provided by postal personnel.

For retirees and annuitants, your MyPay correspondence mailing address is your official Army mailing address. For survivors (not eligible for the Survivor Benefit Program) the address of the ID-card office (DEERS) is the official address.

**Ensure you check all spelling and your Social Security number before submitting changes in MyPay.**

## **RECEIVING THE RETIREE BULLETIN BY E-MAIL**

If you wish to receive the Retiree Bulletin by e-mail, you can ask to be included in the electronic distribution list by logging onto <https://aepubs.army.mil/>. Click on *Retiree*, then click on the Add New button, enter the information requested in the pop-up window, and click on *Submit*. This is a one-time registration. Once you subscribe, you will receive all future Retiree Bulletins by e-mail. If you change your e-mail address, you must register again.

**IMCOM-EUROPE  
RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICES**

If you are calling from outside Germany, use the country code 0049.

Do not dial the (0) prefix. (For example, if dialing a number in Frankfurt, dial 0049-69-xxx.

**NOTE:** RSOs are open during normal duty hours only.

To report a retiree's death, call the IMCOM-Europe Casualty Assistance Center at 0049-(0)6302-675883 (open 24 hours a day/7 days a week).

**GERMANY**

**IMCOM-EUROPE (Sembach)**

Unit 23103, APO AE 09136-3103

Tel: 0049-(0)611-143-1530

e-mail: usarmy.sembach.imcom-europe.mbx.usarmy-sembach.imcom-europe-rso@mail.mil

**Ansbach**

USAG Ansbach

Unit 28614

APO AE 09177-8614

Tel: 0049-(0)981-183-3301

e-mail: usarmy.ansbach.imcom-europe.list.rso@mail.mil

**Grafenwöhr**

USAG Grafenwöhr

Unit 28130

APO AE 09114-8130

Tel: 0049-(0)9641-83-8709

e-mail: usarmy.grafenwoehr.imcom.list.rsografenwoehr@mail.mil

**Schweinfurt (closes Sep 2014)**

USAG Schweinfurt

CMR 457

APO AE 09033

Tel: 0049-(0)9721-96-8919

e-mail: usarmy.schweinfurt.imcom-europe.mbx.rso@mail.mil

**Bamberg (closes Sep 2014)**

USAG Bamberg

Unit 27535

APO AE 09139-7535

Tel: 0049-(0)951-300-7514

e-mail: usarmy.bamberg.usareur.list.rso-bamberg@mail.mil

**Heidelberg (closes Sep 2013)**

USAG Baden-Württemberg

Unit 29245

APO AE 09102-9245

Tel: 0049-(0)6221-57-8399

e-mail: usarmy.badenwur.usag.mbx.retirement@mail.mil

**Stuttgart**

USAG Stuttgart

Unit 30401

APO AE 09107-0401

Tel: 0049-(0)7031-15-2010

e-mail: usarmy.stuttgart.imcom-europe.list.retired-services@mail.mil

**Baumholder**

USAG Baumholder

Unit 23746

APO AE 09034-3746

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e-mail: usarmy.baumholder.imcom-europe.list.retirement-service@mail.mil

**Kaiserslautern**

USAG Kaiserslautern

Unit 23152

APO AE 09227-3152

Tel: 0049-(0)631-411-8838

e-mail: usarmy.kaiserslautern.imcom-europe.list.usag-k-ret-serv@mail.mil

**BELGIUM**

USAG Benelux

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e-mail: usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.mbx.rso@mail.mil

**NETHERLANDS**

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