

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY EUROPE, and SEVENTH ARMY
THE PROVOST MARSHAL
UNIT 29931
APO AE 09086**

AEAPM

12 Nov 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: WAFFENBESITZKARTE(WBK) HOLDERS

SUBJECT: Compliance with German/EU Weapons Law

1. I am sending this correspondence to you as a weapons owner to remind you that you must comply with both the German law and U.S. Forces requirements for ownership, possession, use and disposition of privately owned firearms (POF). This includes the requirement to turn in your WBK when you clear your POF for transport out of Germany or for authorized disposition within Germany by sale to an authorized person, destruction or donation to a Rod and Gun Club.
2. The WBK is issued to U.S. Forces Members by agreement between the German Government and the U.S. Forces. It is valid only for the period of time you are stationed in Germany. Once you depart Germany on a permanent basis for return to the United States (PCS), or separate from service and remain in Germany, you must turn in your card to the U.S. Forces registration office for return to the German Federal Administration Office (Bundesverwaltungsamt, or BVA) in Cologne. This is not optional. It is the law.
3. German authorities must comply with EU Directives. EU Directive 91/477 EC concerning weapons law harmonization mandates that EU member states keep up-to-date records of POF owners and registered POF. Member states are also required to report registered POF and their owners to a central EU database. In addition, member states must record the disposition of registered POF when their owners permanently depart those countries. If a registered POF owner departs a member state without properly clearing registered POF and, in Germany, surrendering a WBK to the appropriate authorities (through the U.S. Forces Registration Office to the BVA), the POF and their owner will be "flagged" in the EU central database. Since this flag is shared with law enforcement personnel in all EU countries, it may result in serious consequences should the owner return to an EU member country without having cleared the flag.
4. Failure to properly dispose of POF and to surrender a WBK upon departure from Germany or separation from service could result in criminal prosecution. The owner of the POF registered on the WBK may be subject to arrest and the weapons subject to confiscation should that person transit any EU border or airport. To preclude this from happening and to comply with German law and the POF agreement, you must turn in your WBK when you depart Germany or separate from service. There are no exceptions to this rule.

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5. Once you PCS or separate, and surrender the WBK to the field registration office, it will be forwarded to the BVA for deregistration of the POF and archiving of the WBK in the BVA records. The BVA will retain the WBK in their archives, and should you return to Germany on a future tour it can be reactivated upon proof of continuing qualification to maintain the WBK as a sport shooter or hunter.

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'D. B. Lemaux', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

DAVID B. LEMAUX

COL, MP

Provost Marshal