

Bavarian tax centers are now open

Free tax preparation and e-filing services help community

By 7th Army JMTC Office
of the Staff Judge Advocate
News Release

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — This week marks the opening of the tax filing season for U.S. Army tax centers in Bavaria. Local commanders joined taxpayers at opening ceremonies at each of the Bavarian community tax centers to usher in the free tax preparation services.

The program, which provides free tax preparation e-filing to Soldiers, spouses and DoD civilians, operates from Feb. 1 until the overseas filing deadline of June 15, 2012.

Soldiers and civilians should bring all of their relevant documents when scheduling appointments and visiting the tax centers. Soldiers, civilian employees and retirees can download W-2 forms and other tax statements from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at www.dfas.mil.

Most banks and investment companies mail statements of interest and dividends, Form 1099, in January. Taxpayers should bring all W-2 and 1099 forms to the tax center, as well as a Social Security Card for each family member, and bank routing and account numbers for refunds.

In order to claim a child on a tax return, the child needs a Social Security Number. Overseas, this should be done in conjunction with the birth registration process through the passport office, or by calling the Federal Benefits Unit at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt, 069-7535-2440.

Although taxpayers may file their taxes before the SSN is assigned, they may not claim that child on their tax return. After the number is assigned, they may

amend the return, but this is a burdensome process.

Taxpayers with complicated returns should dedicate extra time at their tax appointments and ensure that they have all necessary documents. Taxpayers should bring a copy of their prior tax year return to their appointment. A tax return is considered complicated when it includes capital gains (sales of stocks or bonds), rental real estate income or losses, foreign earned income, foreign taxes paid or when spouses have different states of residences and must prepare multiple state returns.

Individuals who are deployed or otherwise unavailable during the tax season can have their spouse file their return during their absence as long as the spouse has a notarized power of attorney that specifies the ability to file taxes on their behalf. Soldiers deployed to combat zones have a minimum of 180 days after leaving the combat zone to file the current year's taxes.

Taxpayers must report all income from sources outside the U.S., whether or not they reside inside or outside the U.S. and whether or not the taxpayer receives a Form W-2 of 1099 from the foreign payer. This reporting requirement applies to earned income (salary, wages, tips) and unearned income (interest, dividends, capital gains, pensions, rents and royalties). However, when filing the return, nonfederal employee taxpayers may be able to exclude up to \$92,900 of foreign earned income.

Most centers will close June 30, however the Grafenwoehr and Schweinfurt centers anticipate staying open until Sept. to assist returning 172nd Soldiers.

Last tax season, 7A JMTC tax centers prepared 11,979 federal and state returns, saving clients \$1.78 million in preparation and filing fees and generating \$23.36 million in direct deposit refunds.

Tax centers in Bavaria

Ansbach/Katterbach

Katterbach Kaserne, Bldg. 5817
DSN 467-2324, CIV 09802-83-2324
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., closed lunch
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments

Ansbach/Illesheim

Stork Barracks, Bldg. 6506 (Law Center)
DSN 467-4511, CIV 09841-83-4511
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., closed lunch
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments

Bamberg

Warner Barracks, Bldg. 7000
(Law Center)
DSN 469-8261, CIV 0951-300-8261
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., closed lunch
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments
Sat (Feb.), 9 a.m.-noon, appointment only

Garmisch

Artillery Kaserne, Bldg. 203
DSN 440-3516, CIV 088217-50-3516
Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., open lunch
By appointment only

Grafenwoehr

Main Post, Bldg. 216
DSN 475-9258, CIV 09641-83-9258
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wed, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Open lunch, last walk-in at 3:45 p.m.
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments

Hohenfels

Bldg. 313 (Law Center)
DSN 520-5564, CIV 09472-83-5564
Mon, Wed, Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., open lunch
Tue, Thu, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
1st Sat of each month (Feb-April),
9 a.m.-noon; by appointment only

Schweinfurt (new location)

Conn Barracks, Bldg. 7,
(Conn Annex Rooms 101-103)
DSN 353-8286, CIV 09721-96-8286
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., open lunch
Walk-ins, drop-offs and appointments

Vilseck

Rose Barracks, Bldg. 245 (Law Center)
DSN 476-2714, CIV 09662-83-2714
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., open lunch
Walk-ins and scheduled appointments