

***Comments offered by Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., commanding general, US Army Europe
As prepared for the German American Friendship Festival held in Heidelberg, Germany on 12
May 2013***

- Lord Mayor Dr. Wuerzner
- Consul General Milas
- Distinguished guests
- And most importantly, friends of Heidelberg

Welcome, and thank you for hosting us on this brilliant Sunday afternoon!

Mark twain once called Heidelberg “the last possibility of the beautiful,” and as i stand here today it’s easy to see why.

Heidelberg has long held a special place in the hearts of Americans, not only for its historic charm and beauty—but because of the warmth and kindness of the people who live here.

Since the first American troops entered Heidelberg on March 30th 1945, generations of Americans have called Heidelberg home.

For 68 years, Americans and the people of Heidelberg have lived side by side—as neighbors, as friends, and, in many cases as family.

We have shared many of the most important moments of our lives together with you.

So it is with a heavy heart, yet fond memories, that we say farewell to our home away from home, as we close one long chapter in the history of U.S. Army Europe.

I promise you Heidelberg and the people who live here will forever be in our memories and in our hearts.

But today is not a time for sadness; it’s a cause for celebration—to celebrate 68 years of friendship between the German and American people.

In the seven decades we have lived together, we have witnessed the fall of tyranny in Europe, the triumph of liberty, and the spread of economic opportunity.

Together, we have formed bonds that will last for generations to come, as Americans and Germans continue to work together to make the world a safer place.

I speak on behalf of all Americans stationed here, past and present, when i say “thank you” for being such good hosts, great neighbors, and close friends.

Remember, even though we are moving, we are still close-by and our friendship will always remain strong.

As I always say, it's not farewell, but Auf Wiedersehen.