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PRESS RELEASE

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Personnel in Germany Have Two Years to Register Firearms with German Government

HEIDELBERG, GE -- The deadline to get privately-owned firearms (POF) out of the arms room and/or registered with the German authorities has been extended until June 30, 2005, giving firearm owners in Germany additional time to comply with German registration requirements, ship their POFs stateside or legally dispose of them.

The deadline has been extended; however, POFs that are not registered with the German authorities must still be stored in the arms room and not be in the possession of the owner. Owners can take POFs out of arms rooms only to ship them to the United States or after they have been registered on a valid German *Waffenbesitzkarte* (WBK - German Weapons Possession Card).

U.S. personnel may qualify to obtain the WBK by successfully completing requirements in the US Forces hunting course or the US Forces sport-shooting program. More information on these programs is available from local MWR Rod & Gun Clubs or by contacting the IMA-Europe MWR Business Branch at DSN 379-6083 or civilian 06202-80-6083.

The deadline change was published in an update to USAREUR Regulation 190-6, Registration and Control of Privately Owned Firearms and Other Weapons in Germany, June 26, 2003. The update supersedes CG policy letter 31 which has been rescinded. The policy letter had mandated POF compliance by Dec. 1, 2003. POF owners now have until June 30, 2005, to bring their POFs into compliance or ship them home.

After June 30, 2005, POFs owned by U.S. personnel, even if they are in unit, community or Rod and Gun Club arms rooms, can remain in Germany only if they are registered with German authorities. POFs that are not registered with German authorities, shipped out of Germany, turned in for destruction or sold to authorized persons by the deadline will be considered contraband, seized and disposed of in coordination with host nation authorities.

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In addition to complying with German law, U.S. personnel must comply with registration requirements contained in USAREUR Regulation 190-6 which is USNAVEUR Instruction 5300.15M for Navy personnel and USAFE Instruction 31-205 for the Air Force. The procedures for complying with German law and USAREUR Regulation 190-6 can be found on the MWR web site www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/mwr/index.htm

More details concerning this policy can be obtained from the U.S. Forces Registry of Motor Vehicles, DSN 386-7271 or civilian 0621-718-7271. More information on shipping your firearms stateside is available from the USEUCOM Customs Executive Agency at DSN 381-7466 or civilian 0621-730-7466.