



MAYEN, GERMANY

BUNDESWEHR OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATION CENTER

Position: GE-04
(Last Updated DEC 2023)



Support Organization

HHC BDE, AFNORTH BN, USANATO BDE

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USA NATO BDE Intro:

To our newest members of the US ARMY NATO Brigade

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family. We are excited to add you to the USANATO Brigade team.

Our mission is to conduct individual training, logistics, human resources, and service-specific support at 38 locations in 21 countries in order to provide ready & resilient Soldiers to NATO, maintain our joint and multinational partnerships, and enhance the Alliance. The inclusion of administrative control for the MPEP and SON personnel expands our current mission to support the security cooperation among allied nations to one additional country and 43 new locations. USANATO Brigade will conduct Routine Admin Support and UCMJ actions such awards, DD Forms 93, SGLV, leave and passes, SRB updates, MEDPROS updates, FVAP, and all other HR related actions through the G5 IOD section. Their mission is to ensure individual Soldier and Family Readiness through administrative, HR, logistics, operations, and communications support. They receive direct guidance from Brigade leadership.

You can find out more about us and our team at <https://www.usanato.army.mil/About-Us/Leadership/>. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact us at +49-(0) 611-143-549-5302

Although USANATO Brigade manages the support for the MPEP and SON population, the program is run from USAREUR-AF. The USAREUR-AF Program Manager exercises the responsibility of establishing and closing positions, coordinates agreements with DOS and partner nations units, accepts nominations for replacements, makes decisions on extensions and curtailments of tours, sets rating schemes, approves duty descriptions, and conducts program assessment.

For questions about the program please email USAREUR's PM at lee.s.fennema.civ@army.mil

Again, welcome to the Brigade and we look forward to supporting you and your operations with our partner nations.

Warm Regards

1. CASUALTY

Provide the staff duty number to your supervisor to contact us if you were to be seriously injured, hospitalized, or become a fatal casualty.

NATO BDE Staff Duty NCO/After Duty Hours: +49 (0)172-291-5836.

2. IN-PROCESSING

USANATO Brigade will help you in-process. Most of the in-processing actions will be done virtually. DO NOT go on TDY for in-processing without the explicit approval of the USANATO Brigade regardless of what your PCS orders state. For information on in-processing action contact the USANATO Brigade G5 at usarmy.sembach.hq-usanato-bde.list.mpep-sons@army.mil.

Send your travel plans to G5 IOD USANATO Brigade POCs. You will report directly to your Partner Nation duty station in Mayen. Once you arrive at your Partner Nation unit, you will contact the G5 IOD USANATO Brigade. We will send a memo to your resourcing unit asking them to arrive you in the system. We do not have access to arrive you.

Prior to your arrival, G5 IOD USANATO BDE will contact with you a set of instructions for in-processing S2, S6 and Finance. Many of these Online Certificates can be completed before your arrival to Germany.

Shortly after your arrival to Mayen, it is recommended to travel to USAG Wiesbaden and visit the Welcome Center. There is no requirement to in-process USAG Wiesbaden but the Welcome Center is a useful starting point to access services at USAG Wiesbaden.

3. FINANCE

Travel reimbursement takes longer than usual for MPEP and SONs. In some cases it can take from 60 to 90 days. Make sure your GTCC is put in VIP status by your current S8 and that your limit is increased to at least \$10,000. Ensure to stop your BAH/OHA before departing your current unit to avoid incurring a debt for overpayment. Three (3) months advanced pay is highly recommended, to be paid by the losing finance office IAW DOD Pay Manual, Table 4-1-1, Rule 7.

4. GARRISON SUPPORT

USAG Wiesbaden is the closest military installation to Mayen. It is roughly one and a half hours away. USAG Wiesbaden can support you with your vehicle registration, driver's license, Esso fuel card, housing office, DEERS, PX, and Commissary. You will also be able to utilize the Wiesbaden Health Unit. Family members may, by exception, be seen at Wiesbaden Health Unit. Ensure that you print off the Special Instructions of your PCS Orders as these will list USAG Wiesbaden as the supporting garrison. Without these Special Instructions, many offices will initially refuse to help you as you are not "assigned" to Wiesbaden. Despite likely initial resistance, every office will eventually support you.

5. MEDICAL/DENTAL

You are required to complete all PHA and dental requirements 30 days prior to arriving to the unit.

During your tour, you will obtain dental care at a host nation clinic. Family members will receive dental care through enrollment in the TRICARE Overseas Dental Program managed by United Concordia. The Servicemember can receive dental care at the dental clinic at USAG Wiesbaden.

For Medical care, you will enroll in TRICARE Overseas Program Prime Remote, which provides health care through International SOS.

Website: <http://www.tricare.mil/PLANS/HealthPlans/TPRO.aspx>

Phone number: +44-20-8762-8384

International SOS will refer soldiers and family members to local health care providers. ISOS is a paid contractor for Tricare. You must call ISOS to receive an authorization to get care every time you need care from a provider. International SOS maintains a list of local hospitals, clinics, and providers who speak English. However, once you arrive at your scheduled appointment, an English-speaking receptionist or nurse is not guaranteed. ISOS can provide live translations during your appointment, via telephone, if coordinated prior to your visit.

There are no Tricare network providers in the Mayen area. Be prepared to locate and schedule your own appointments with local German providers. Payment at point of service will be out of pocket with reimbursement occurring after submission of claim to International SOS.

There are several local Hospitals and emergency rooms located in the larger cities surrounding Mayen. There are no urgent care clinics in Germany, so the hospital emergency room will be your only option for immediate care. Most doctors will have a high fluency in English.

In certain instances when specialty care is not found in the local community, ISOS will refer Soldiers and Family Members to the most appropriate Military Treatment Facility where the needed specialty care can best be provided. In these cases, you will be authorized to travel on Medical TDY.

The Army does not authorize Medical TDY to address medical readiness issues. You must address medical readiness concerns in conjunction with, personal leave if near an MTF, other operational TDYs, or other qualified medical care at a military MTF. You can also conduct a PHA virtually through Virtual Health or from the BDE Surgeon. You can make an appointment with Virtual Health through ISOS. For more information contact Virtual Health Care Coordinators at +49 (0)6371-9464-4600 for assistance.

6. EFMP

Health care for exceptional family members is difficult to obtain, and potentially unavailable or substandard. EFMP issues can result in the service member being required to perform an unaccompanied tour and/or termination of the assignment.

7. SCHOOLS

If service member has school-aged children, he/she must inform the USAREUR MPEP Coordinator in order to receive guidance concerning dependent schooling options and registration instructions. Prior to arrival, service members with dependent school-aged children must register with DoDEA@NDSP.Admin.Europe@hq.dodea.edu and obtain pre-authorization before seeking schools for their children. Service members will be financially liable for any school fees, tuitions, and other costs not authorized by DoDEA or call CIV 571-372-5863/1897 DSN 312-372-5863/1897.

There are no DoD schools or international schools in the local area. The closest international schools are located in Frankfurt and Bonn. Children will attend local German schools in German. There are private kindergartens in the area that will accept Children starting at two years old. The price for full time kindergarten is around 350 Euro a month. The school year begins the first week of September and ends in June.

8. HOUSING

Finding and securing housing is the responsibility of the individual. Wiesbaden Housing Office will provide support, but as the position is located far away from Wiesbaden, support is limited.

Mayen (pop. 20,000) is located in the Eifel Region of Rhineland-Palatinate. Several smaller villages with older homes surround the town, but new residential options continue to be built as the area grows in popularity. The nearest cities are Koblenz (pop. 115,000) and Bonn (pop. 300,000). The housing market in and around Mayen is diverse, with plenty of housing options for families or single Soldiers.

Cheaper options are available around Mayen, as the town and surrounding area are rural. Expanding your search radius to Bonn or Koblenz provides more diverse options, but generally smaller quarters with higher rent.

Service members will only be paid Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) based on the duty location with locality code specified in their PCS orders. Duty locations not listed will be paid at the "Other Rate" locality code specified in the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO). For planning purposes, OHA and COLA are location code DE655 (Germany: Other – Rhineland Palatinate). For more information regarding allowances, visit: <https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/>.

9. PASSPORTS/VISA

The USG is in the process of determining any negative impact from the European Union (EU) Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) rollout, currently estimated for "late 2024". Once determined, clear guidance will be provided within the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide to address any impact on US DoD official (PCS/TDY/TAD/Deployment) travel to EU member countries, and to ensure consistency with international agreements and current USG procedures.

Special Issuance - Official Passport (SIP) is authorized for MPEP officers, but limited for official travel to countries that specifically require it, but not to enter and/or exit Germany. Common Access Card (CAC) or Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification (USID) Card and Travel Orders can be used to PCS.

Family members traveling overseas are required to have a SIP. "No-fee passports" can be obtained at Government expense. The application process may take 4 to 6 weeks, so, you should begin the passport application process as soon as you receive your travel orders. After applying for an Official Passport and if it cannot be obtained prior to departure, use of a Regular (blue) Passport in lieu of the Official Passport is permissible for travel via MILAIR, contract and commercial air. Traveler will not be reimbursed for the cost of the Regular (blue) Passport. The Regular (blue) Passport must have sufficient validity to cover the entire travel period. Upon receipt of the SIP, traveler must confer with the local DoD Passport Agent in Germany to ensure the SIP contains a SOFA stamp. If the SIP does not, the traveler must obtain a SOFA Certificate within 90 days of arrival in country. For travelers who already hold a SIP and only need a SOFA, may travel to Germany and obtain a SOFA Certificate within 90 days after arrival in country.

Visas are not required for entry into Germany.

Refer to the DoD Passport Matters website for guidance on how to apply for a Special Issuance Passport (SIP) and/or visa, and the DoD Passport Matters Contact Us page to obtain or request status of an existing SIP/visa application. <https://passportmatters.army.mil/>.

AR 140 and 6305 implement the FCG and furnish supplemental U.S. Army requirements. Check the passport and visa website to obtain updated information for passport and/or visa requirements: www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm.

Tourist passports are needed for personal travel in Europe. You may apply for tourist passports on arrival, but for convenience it is recommended that you apply for the tourist passport while you're still residing in the United States. You can find more information on tourist passports from your local personnel services detachment, passport office nearest you, or from the U.S. State Departments official website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>.

10. POSTAL SERVICES

An APO is available at USAG Wiesbaden about 1.5 hours from Mayen. This box can be applied for

30 days before arriving to arrange for forwarding with your local post, or upon arrival to Germany. It is highly recommended to establish your APO as early as possible to assist with banking, insurance, housing, etc.

11. BANKING

Community Bank is available at USAG Wiesbaden. The application process for this account takes 1-2 hours. A debit card is available and you can deposit and withdraw both Euro and USD on base. An ATM is also available right outside the bank. Mailing addresses for credit cards can be changed over to the APO box. Community Bank will provide you with an IBAN which allows you to conduct financial transactions as if you were using a normal German bank. Online bill pay takes 24-48 hours to process.

If establishing an account with a traditional German bank, you will need to make an appointment, and be required to show proof residence in Germany and military orders. There are also a few online banks if you don't need traditional services of a brick-and-mortar bank (e.g. IBAN and debit card). It is recommended to have an account capable of direct deposit (with IBAN and SWIFT code) and the ability to withdraw cash. Most services in the area, especially those in rural locations, do not accept non-cash payments (e.g. credit/debit card, contactless payment, digital wallet, etc.). If you have a US-based bank account with a debit card, you can withdraw funds from most ATMs. Banks often provide more competitive conversion rates, so it may be best to transfer USD to local currency within your account to avoid excessive transaction fees or conversion rates at the point of sale. Many credit cards do have favorable conversion rates without large fees.

12. VEHICLES REGISTRATION

The choice to bring or buy cars should be carefully considered. Roads are narrow, parking spaces are small, parking garages are very tight. Most cars in Germany have manual transmissions. Insurance is generally more expensive in Germany than in the US. Some bank-financed cars may not be allowed to leave the continental US. Visit USAG Wiesbaden Vehicle Registration Office website for information specific to registering a shipped vehicle to Germany or our one purchased in Germany.

A mechanical inspection must be completed not more than 75 days before registration renewal. Other than new vehicles, POVs may not be registered for more than 24 months. POVs may be inspected and registered for a 24 months inspection. An inspection is also required when the registration has been canceled for failure to renew the registration or to provide proof of liability insurance. U.S. Forces members may obtain a courtesy inspection before selling or buying a U.S. Forces-registered POV or before buying a German-registered POV if the POV is properly registered and operational.

DoDID cardholders in Germany (service members, Family members, assigned civilians and some contractors) are allowed to register their personally-owned vehicles (POV) with the U.S. military. These vehicles are not subject to German taxes or German vehicle registration.

DoD ID card holders are eligible to obtain a USAREUR driver's license. With this license, ID card holders are authorized to drive a USAREUR-plated vehicle or other German-registered vehicles. They are also authorized to purchase a limited amount of gasoline or diesel fuel without paying taxes.

13. DRIVER'S LICENSE

To drive in Germany, U.S. personnel must have a valid stateside driver's license and obtain a USAREUR driver's license. The driving age is 18 and above in most European countries.

USAREUR driver's licenses are valid for five years. If someone's tour extends beyond five years, they must renew the license and pay the fee. Personnel must carry U.S. Stateside license with USAREUR license. Keep in mind, only USAREUR license holders are authorized to drive a USAREUR registered vehicle. A USAREUR license is not a substitute for an international license. Personnel planning to travel should obtain an international driver's license through a local, German licensing facility. Soldiers, civilians and Family members incoming to the Wiesbaden local area who have never previously obtained a USAREUR POV license will be required to take the in-person class scheduled and offered in Wiesbaden. For more information visit the Wiesbaden Logistics Readiness Center webpage. <https://www.afsbeurope.army.mil/Logistics-Readiness-Centers/LRC-Wiesbaden/>.

After passing the test, the Wiesbaden Driver's Testing and Training Station will have applicants fill out an application (190-1T), take an eye test (applicants over 65 years must bring an eye examination from an optometrist) and pay a fee for the USAREUR driver's license. The current fee is \$30 with debit/credit card, check or money order. Personnel will receive a temporary driver's license on-site (valid for two months). The hard-copy license will be sent to their APO mailing address within three to four weeks.

14. VEHICLE PROCESSING CENTER - VPC:

The VPC is located at USAG Wiesbaden. The VPC is co-located with the inspection site. Your vehicle must pass the inspection before it can be registered into the system and license plates issued. This inspection ensures that your vehicle complies with German law which has different regulatory requirements than the US. Consult the Wiesbaden LRC website for more information regarding the inspection.

15. TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation office is located at USAG Wiesbaden. The arrival of Household Goods (HHG) and Unaccompanied Baggage (UAB) will be coordinated through this office. After arrival of goods, they will clear customs and be delivered to you. Contact transportation personnel to ensure the delivery of your HHGs after you find a home. Once your housing contract is complete you can track your move at: <http://www.move.mil/>. Upon notification of a shipment's arrival, you must schedule a delivery date and be at your quarters on that date to accept delivery. If you have loaner furniture, you need to arrange pick up of the items before HHG delivery.

16. IT SUPPORT

There is no US government computer assigned to the position. However, USANATO BDE will provide access to Microsoft Remote Desktop and if needed, a mobile CAC-reader, aiding you with access to DoD websites and email. During in-processing, the Bundeswehr will provide you with a computer and access to the German IT systems. If needed, your resourcing unit at Fort Liberty may be able to assist with issuing a DoD computer. Contact your resourcing unit for further information. In the past, Soldiers were required to be present at Fort Liberty to receive their computer. Costs associated with travel are not covered.

17. REASSIGNMENTS

USANATO Brigade will contact you 180 days from your departure date to provide you with guidance. They will put in contact with the MPD that representative that will issue your orders. You will have to draft your own award and provide the draft to your Senior Rater. Senior Raters do not know what your activities are and will need your input to submit the award.

18. TDY

DO NOT go on TDY without first getting a DTS authorization. It is against all policies in this theater. You must first request a travel approval number. Contact USANATO Brigade G5 to request approval.

MPEP/SON program funding only DIRECTLY supports requirements to enable the exchange program. This is a centralized Army funding for program management of worldwide exchanges and

Schools of Other Nations program. In general – mandatory admin requirements, medical TDY, program management, MPEP conference, etc.

The following are not funded by HQDA (exceptions may apply on case-by-case basis):

- TDY trips for conference, training, exercises, site visits, and other travel conducted for the benefit of the partner nation is not funded by the MPEP program and should be covered by the partner nation.
- DA PHOTOS: MILPER MSG 20-209 announces the elimination of Department of Army (DA) Photos, and race, ethnicity and gender identification data for officer, warrant officer, and enlisted DA Centralized Selection Boards and DA 640-30 states: Soldiers assigned to areas where photographic facilities are not available or conditions prevent them from being photographed are temporarily exempt from the requirements of this paragraph. These Soldiers will be photographed within 90 days after reassignment to an area where photographic facilities are available.
 - MITIGATION STRATEGY: During the next MPEP conference schedule your DA Photo in advance; take advantage of TDY and Leave periods near a DA Photo Lab.
- MEDICAL READINESS - AR-40-502 Ch 4-17 b. Soldiers in isolated areas. The commander concerned for those Soldiers stationed in isolated areas may delay PHAs; for example, Army attachés, military missions, and military assistance advisory groups, where medical facilities are not available.
 - MITIGATION STRATEGY: Delayed PHAs will be accomplished at the earliest opportunity in conjunction Conferences, with leave, temporary duty, or when the individual concerned is assigned or attached to a military installation with a medical facility. Medical examination of such individuals for retirement purposes may not be delayed AND medical TDY is allow.
- WEAPONS EXEMPTION - AR 350-1 para F-7 (7) (d): Exemptions from weapons qualifications are as follows: Individuals in duty positions not assigned individual weapons.
 - MITIGATION STRATEGY: None needed.
- SENIOR RATER VISITS: This will not justify TDY funding.
 - MITIGATION STRATEGY: During the MPEP Conferences you may be able to meet in-person with your Senior Rater (pending their availability). In the meantime, the use of 365 TEAMS is encouraged where possible.

19. CLEARANCE

The NATO Secret, SF 86 renewals, and other clearances are process by USANATO Bde G2. If fingerprints are required and embassy does not provide this service, the Service member may have to travel on TDY. Depending on the position selected or any schools attended, NATO Secret is likely. Contact USA NATO BDE S2 to receive your NATO Clearance Memo. You will need this during in-processing in Mayen.

20. LEAVE REQUESTS:

Finance is no longer accepting DA FORM 31. IPPS-A absence requests can be submitted on demand by using the Self-Service functionality. You will need the certificates below IOT request leave. Recommend you complete these training before departing current PDS. You may not have the connectivity needed once you arrive to new PDS.

- AT level 1 Certificate
- SERE 100 (JKO) Certificate
- STEP (proof of enrollment)

Information about STEP: Even if SMs are going back to CONUS, they must enroll in Department of State Enrollment Program (STEP) for the country that they are assigned to. This allows for them to receive current events/updates (i.e. Do Not travel update / COVID information / demonstration /

places to avoid, etc.) from the US embassy of that particular country while they are in the USA.
<https://step.state.gov/>.

21. WHICH PATCH WILL I WEAR?

According to AR 614-10 you must wear your Parent Unit patch. To show comradery with your partner unit, it is recommended to wear the BWOC patch in lieu of a deployment patch.

22. WHO IS MY RATER AND SENIOR RATER?

Recommend that you contact the MPEP Program Manager in U'R G5. They manage the Rating Scheme. The PM is Mr. Lee S. Fennema and his emails address is lee.s.fennema.civ@army.mil.

On rare occasions, Army policy provides for International allied Officers and NCOs to serve as raters. To facilitate rater profile and rater tendency requirements, an HRC issued International Officer/NCO rater identification number is required for those International allied Officer/NCO, not in possession of an issued DOD CAC containing a valid EDIPI number within the DMDC database. The ability to serve as a rater occurs once an allied rating official is approved to serve, as designated on an approved rating scheme. You must educate your rater to ensure he understands the rules of raters' profiles. Only certain number of personnel can be rater as "excel"

DA Form 67-10 series Officer Evaluation Reports (OERs) contain a managed rater's assessment, known as a rater's profile. A rater's overall box check assessment on an OER is limited to the number of left justified (EXCELS) check-box assessments a rater may give. Left justified check-box assessments (EXCELS) are managed to less than 50%, separated by grade, of evaluation reports rendered by the rater. DA Form 2166-9 series Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports (NCOERs) contain a rater's overall box check assessment known as a rater tendency assessment. These rules continue to be in effect even when the rater is from a foreign nation. Access to EES requires the possession of a valid DOD issued CAC. This is due to security restrictions outside of the Army's Evaluation Branch control. EES's full capabilities and functionality are severely limited due to this restriction. When completing reports manually, the ability to select a "top box" is limitless, however, the report received by HQDA for processing is still validated against the rating foreign officials profile to ensure such an assessment rendered is supported. When not supported and profile mismanagement occurs, top box is downgraded

23. HOW DO I SELF-NOMINATE FOR MY JOINT EXPERIENCE CREDIT?

To self-nominate for a joint experience, submit your request through the MilConnect website at the following link: <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>

Once you are fully logged in, you will click on the "Correspondence/Documentation" tab and then on the JQS (Joint Qualification System) link from the drop-down menu. After you submit your joint experience summary, you must go back in and attach the required supporting documents. All experiences require supporting documentation. We will not action your request until we receive the required documents. Be sure to put a valid email address that you check REGULARLY after submitting an experience. HRC will send you an email with the status of your packet and if it is missing any documentation. There is a limited amount of time for you to submit corrections, so do not delay and get your information together to give you the best chance for an approved experience.

When should I self-nominate for my joint experience credit? Is there a deadline? An officer performing a joint experience in a non-JDAL assignment must submit their joint experience via the self-nomination web site within 12 months (365 days) of completing that joint experience. Submissions received after this deadline are not eligible for consideration by the joint panel. You must be complete with your joint experience before submitting a request. Submissions while still serving in the experience are not authorized. Don't worry about adding JDAL billets.

24. CIVILIAN CLOTHING ALLOWANCE & REQUIRED MILITARY UNIFORMS:

IAW AR 700-84, Service members not directed to dress in civilian clothing more than half the time when performing duty are NOT eligible for civilian clothing allowance.

Service member is to bring a set of Army Service Uniform (ASU), Army Combat Uniform (ACU), Mess Dress, and Army Physical Fitness Uniform(s) (APFU).

25. UCMJ

UCMJ authority falls under USANATO Brigade

26. SHARP

SHARP POC is the US Army NATO Brigade SARC, SFC Brandy JacksonFrazer at DSN 314-549-6666 or brandy.n.jacksonfrazer.mil@army.mil

27. DEPLOYING WITH PARTNER NATIONS:

The USAREUR-AF legal team needs to determine if the MPEP's participation in an exercise in a different country (with or without weapon) falls under the Deployment Guidance.

If USAREUR-AF's legal team determines that your event falls into the category of a deployment, then USAREUR-AF would need to submit a deployment request through HQDA for SECDEF approval which takes at least a month.

28. THINGS I WISH I KNEW BEFORE ARRIVING:

Be familiar with and comply with provisions of AR 614 10, U.S. Army Personnel Exchange Program with Armies of Other Nations and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Army and the German military.

Dependents traveling with you will benefit from some German fluency. This will help with routine, daily activities, especially for school age children. Take advantage of any language resources for family members offered by DLI or MWR.

Ensure you have a personal computer and CAC reader, allowing you to access official government websites. The army offers a NIPR virtual machine. Ask the USANATO BDE for download information.

ACFT's are provided in Sembach, Germany twice a year at the MPEP conference. You may not always be able to attend events due to competing priorities. You may be able to take one with a unit in Wiesbaden if you need one sooner than the conference.

Must have a recent DA Photo uploaded on DAPMIS prior to departing losing command. There is no way to take photos at new PDS outside of visiting the nearest Army installation at personal expense (TDY is not authorized for DA Photos).

Ensure that MEDPROS is up to date prior to reporting, as it will be challenging to visit US Military medical facilities while assigned in Mayen.

Establish an email exchange with the current/outgoing officer assigned to the position and get to know the assignment before coming.

Have an open mind come ready to be flexible. Administratively, this assignment can be very challenging. The USANATO BDE team will do their best to support you and your Family. Be patient with them, but follow up on requests and come up on the net when issues arise.

Expect to live on your own personal income for the first couple of months in country. This is due to

the normal Finance Office PCS change of assignment timeline as well as the very unique requirements/timelines that exist to start your pay entitlements while stationed in Germany.

Order the AAA international driver's license at least 1-2 months before your arrival. This will allow you to arrive in country with your international driver's license in hand.