



# PCSing to Germany



It's time to think about your next assignment, and you're considering a consecutive overseas tour with a transfer to Germany. However, have you taken into consideration the status of your family members, and what would be required for them to accompany you to Germany? Although Department of Defense agencies may issue assignment instructions authorizing you and your family members to travel to Germany, entry requirements established by the host country for US Military personnel are not the same for US Government civilians, and may also vary depending on whether your dependents are US citizens or third-country nationals, and whether or not your dependents are command sponsored.

Your Military Passport Agent at Client Legal Services can assist you in determining what documentation is necessary based on your status, as well as assist most individuals in applying for the necessary entry permits required by the host country. Below is a list of the required documentation needed based on your status to obtain a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) stamp for Germany:

## **US Citizen civilian personnel on a command-sponsored assignment and all accompanying US citizen family members of both military and civilian personnel:**

- No-fee passport (valid for a minimum of six (6) months from date of entry into Germany).
- Copy of sponsor's assignment orders to Germany.
- DS 4085 – Application for Additional Visa Pages Or Miscellaneous Passport Services.
- DD Form 1056 – Authorization to Apply for a "No-Fee" Passport and/or Request for Visa.

Applications for US Citizen civilian personnel are handled by the US State Department.

## **Third-country nationals (including eligible family members):**

- Passport from the country of which they are a citizen of (valid for a minimum of six (6) months from date of entry into Germany).
- Copy of sponsor's assignment orders to Germany.
- DD Form 1056 – Authorization to Apply for a "No-Fee" Passport and/or Request for Visa.

## **Some third-country nationals (including eligible family members) also require the following:**

- Documentation substantiating the individual's US permanent residence status or approval for US Immigration. Acceptable forms of documentation include one of the following:
  - Copy of lawful permanent residence card (aka "green card").
  - US customs/US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) stamp in passport extending validity of lawful permanent residence card.
  - USCIS documentation confirming an approved immigrant visa petition (Form I-171-Notice of Approval of Relative Immigrant Visa Petition, or Form I-797-Notice of Action).
- **IMPORTANT: Third-country nationals requiring one of the above additional documents are not authorized to travel to Germany as dependents of US Forces members without possession of a required SOFA identification certificate, and boarding on an aircraft cannot be accomplished.**

Applications for third-country nationals are handled by IMCOM-Europe.

*\* This handout is for general informational purposes only. For specific questions concerning individual circumstances, contact the Client Legal Services Office in your area.*

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Bldg 4106, room 229 (ACS building). Please call 738-8111 for an appointment.  
Office hours: M, Tu, W, F 0900-1600 and Th 1300-1600.