- Valid registration for the vehicle
- Written permission from the vehicle owner authorizing the visitor to operate the
- vehicle (must be made out in the languages of the countries to be visited)

Visiting Spouses
Visiting spouses are an exception to the procedures outlined above as they have tax privileges by being the spouse of a SOFA status / U.S. ID card holder in Germany., The Customs Customer Service Representatives will issue AE Form 190-1AQ for visiting spouses This document, along with all other required supporting documents needs to be with the visiting spouse when driving the USAREUR-registered vehicle of the sponsor. The term "visiting spouse" refers to a non-command sponsored husband or wife temporarily in Germany for less than 90 days.

Please bring with you:

- **Sponsor's / vehicle owner's ID card**
- **Vehicle registration(s)**
- **Full name(s) of the visitor(s)**
- **Temporary German address of the visitor(s)**
- **Passport(s) or clear copy/copies of passport(s) of your visitor(s)**
- **Driver's license(s) or clear copy/copies of the driver's license(s)**
- **International driving permit(s) (or a clear copy/copies) or official German translation(s) of the driver's license(s) (or a clear copy/copies)**

All forms will be issued on a walk-in basis

GEILENKIRCHEN Customs Field Office

Phone: DSN 458-6030 / 6031

Phone: (CIV) 02451-5058

470abs.lgt@geilenkirchen.af.mil

470 ABS/CUSTOMS
Preveza Lane
Bldg 84, Room 9
Closed Weekends & US/GE Holidays

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday-Thursday 08:00 - 16:00 hrs
Friday 08:00 - 14:00 hrs
1st Thursday/month closed @ 12:00 hrs

Letting visiting friends and relatives drive your POV in Germany

with

AE Form 550-175D

(Authority to Operate a Privately Owned Vehicle/ *Berechtigungsausweis*)

Published by: **US Forces Customs-Europe**
Customs Executive Agency

http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm

July 2011

Letting visiting friends and relatives drive your POV

One big plus of being in Germany is that friends and relatives can visit and get that real European travel experience. But if you want to let your visitors drive your USAREUR-plated vehicle in Germany independently, you must get an approval (AE Form 550-175D) from customs first. You do not need this approval, if you, or a member of your household that is in possession of a valid USAREUR driver's license, is in the car whenever your visiting friends or relatives drive.

To obtain AE Form 550-175D, visit your local military customs office. The Customs Customer Service Representative will fill out an application form, the AE Form 550-175C ("Request for Exception to Policy for Authorization to Operate a Privately Owned Vehicle") with you, and issue AE Form 550-175D ("Authority to Operate a Privately Owned Vehicle"). Please bring the following documents with you: your ID Card, your POV Registration(s), your visitor's/visitors' passport(s), and international driving permit(s)* or (a) driver's license(s)* valid in Germany with (an) official German translations for your visitor(s). If your relatives or friends are not in country yet, bring along clear copies of the above mentioned documents for your visitor(s). Note, that you cannot apply for AE Form 550-175D if your visitor(s) is/are (a) resident(s) of Germany.

*International driving permits & other driver's licenses

- Only international driving permits issued by the American Automobile Association (AAA) or the National Auto Club (NAC) will be accepted for visitors from the USA.
- An international driving permit must be issued outside the country of intended use!
- Official German translations of valid US driver's licenses or other countries' driver's licenses will be accepted.
- Driver's licenses issued by a member country of the European Union or the European Economic Area will be accepted without translation.
- Driver's licenses issued by one of the following countries will be accepted without translation: Andorra, Hongkong, Monaco, New Zealand, San Marino, Switzerland and Senegal.

Once approved, your guests can use this exception to policy / AE Form 550-175D to drive a USAREUR-plated POV in Germany independently. AE Form 550-175D must be in the car when your guests are driving, along with the vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and their international driver's license, or an official translation of their (stateside) licenses. The authorization is only valid inside Germany. AE Form 550-175D can be granted for 90 days maximum within a six-months-period.

Driving in Germany is tax- and duty-free for US Forces Service Members stationed in Germany, members of the civilian component and their dependents. Your guests do not enjoy this privilege; therefore, this customs authorization is necessary. However, AE Form 550-175D does not allow your guests to use the Fuel Ration Card to buy tax-free gasoline (whether at an AAFES or at an ESSO gas station).

Exception to policy

Visitors who request to extend this authorization past the maximum granted 90 days require an exception to policy coordinated with the German Federal Finance Ministry. Call DSN 370-4942 / CIV 06221-57-4942 for more information, or fax to DSN 370-4967 / CIV 06221-57-4967).

Forms sent through the German postal system with a self-addressed stamped envelope will be sent back through the German postal system. This is the fastest way to get the forms back by mail. However, you must use correct postage and remember U.S. size 10 envelopes require more postage when sent via the German postal system. Mail addresses are as follows:

Using APO

U.S. Army Europe
Office of the Provost Marshal
ATTN: AEAGC-DPD
Unit 29351
APO AE 09014-9351

Using German Postal System

HQ USAREUR CEA
ATTN: Customer Service
Postfach: 10 57 09
69047 Heidelberg

Driving outside of Germany

People authorized to operate a USAREUR-plated vehicle should not encounter problems when driving in other European countries if they keep the following documents with them:

- A valid passport
- Valid insurance, covering the vehicle for use outside of Germany ("green insurance card")
- Valid driver's license with translation, or a valid international driver's license (issued
- outside the country of intended use).