

## U.S. MISSION GERMANY

### ADDRESSES & CONTACT INFO:

- **BERLIN:**  
Clayallee 170  
Tel: 030-8305-0  
0830-1200 M-F
- **FRANKFURT:**  
Giessenerstr. 30  
Tel: 069-7535-0  
0730-1130 M-F
- **MUNICH:**  
Königinstrasse 5  
Tel: 089-2888-0  
1300-1600 M-F

[For more information,  
click here.](#)

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# American Citizen News

## Ambassador's Greetings

### My Fellow Americans,

I am both exhilarated and humbled by the honor of being appointed your new Ambassador to Germany. Every U.S. Ambassador is the President's personal representative to their country. It is the Ambassador's mission to advance America's interests and to facilitate America's relationship with the host country. And beyond doubt, the U.S.-German relationship is one of the most important relationships the United States has.

It is a relationship that runs very deep and takes many forms. Up to one-third of all Americans claim at least some German ancestry. It is estimated that over a quarter million Americans currently reside in Germany, roughly equivalent to the population of Pittsburgh. You, Americans living in Germany, are a testament to the depth and breadth of the friendship between our two countries.

It is not just the people, it is a whole range of deeply shared values that form the backbone of the U.S.-German bilateral relationship: the joint philosophical underpinnings of both countries' societies, the profound commonalities in our views of the world, our dedication to freedom and love of liberty, and our firm mutual commitment to stand by each other in times of adversity. This was epitomized by President Kennedy standing on the Cold War's fault line and famously declaring his solidarity with the people of divided Berlin. This was starkly evident when, in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Germany supported the invocation of Article 5 of the NATO Treaty to stand by our side against a common enemy and joined us in committing troops to ensure that Afghanistan would never again be a safe haven for terrorists. And, in a much less dramatic but no less profound way, our shared values are on display virtually every day: in the weeks following my arrival in Germany on August 21, I could not help but marvel at the multitude of election campaign posters adorning virtually every lamppost on German cities' streets. I watched with great interest the televised debate between the two leading candidates and followed the intense television coverage of the election night. This free and democratic process reminded me of what we were doing in America exactly a year ago.

Indeed, the democratic process and civic affairs have always been dear to my heart. From 2006 to 2009, I served as the National Finance Chair of the Democratic National Committee. While building a career at Goldman Sachs (where I spent 23 years), I served on boards and committees of a number of prominent non-profit organizations ranging from the NAACP to the U.S. Soccer Foundation. I am now delighted to have been given a truly unique opportunity to serve my country in a new capacity.

It is a particular pleasure for me to represent America here in Germany, a country to which I feel a deep personal connection. I lived here for four years in the mid-90's, heading the Frankfurt office of Goldman Sachs. My wife Tammy and I have fond memories of those days, and we are grateful for an opportunity to live here now with our four children.

We are looking forward to rediscovering and exploring this beautiful country, watching – and playing – plenty of soccer (a long-time passion of the entire Murphy household), and to meeting many of you. I hope that, together, we can make the American community in Germany even more vibrant and further strengthen the friendship between our two countries.

**Sincerely,  
Philip D. Murphy**



For more information and great tips on international travel, please visit: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

For current Warden Messages from Mission Germany, click [here](#)



For current Travel Warnings from the U.S. Department of State, click [here](#)

## Security in Germany

While many cities in Germany are generally considered to be safe and have low crime rates, residents should adhere to the same common sense personal security practices that are an everyday part of life in any major U.S. city. When criminal activity does occur, the most common incidents include theft of unattended personal property, pick-pocketing, vehicle vandalism and break-ins (snatch and grab); however, these crimes are rarely violent and weapons are seldom used. Use of firearms during a crime has been on a steady decline since 1997, and in the last 15 years, burglaries, car theft, and murders are down. However, drug offenses and fraud are on the rise. The most common places for street crimes to occur are train stations, Internet cafes, crowded restaurants, and outdoor market places. There have been a few incidents of personal assaults/attacks on individuals by foreigners, but the attacks did not appear to be directed at Americans.

While the German population is generally supportive of the U.S., there is still strong sentiment in Germany against the war in Iraq. The U.S. Embassy in Berlin and constituent posts around Germany experienced a number of anti-American, but peaceful protests in 2007, particularly from Kurdish groups who objected to Turkish military operations in Northern Iraq. Numerous spontaneous demonstrations concerning education and other economic and social issues occur almost daily throughout Germany. These protests frequently take place on the major streets of larger cities. For example, demonstrations in Berlin typically take place on Unter den Linden near the Brandenburg Gate and in Frankfurt at the Roemer City Hall and Opernplatz. Residents are encouraged to stay away from large crowds.

Germany is not immune to attempted terrorist attacks. In July 2006, two suitcase bombs were planted on commuter trains in western Germany in response to the publication of cartoons featuring the Prophet Mohammed. Both of these bombs failed to detonate. In November 2006, police uncovered a terrorist plot to blow up a passenger plane in Frankfurt. A suspected terrorist's 15-year conviction for his involvement in the September 11 attacks on U.S. soil was upheld by German courts in May 2007. Law enforcement officers arrested three militants belonging to an Islamic group linked to Al-Qaeda in September 2007 for planning imminent attacks against Americans in Germany. The men had acquired military-style detonators and enough chemicals to make bombs more powerful than the bombs used in the 2004 Madrid and 2005 London attacks. German authorities continue to investigate particularly dangerous individuals, and conduct raids on suspected groups throughout the country. Since the beginning of this year, there have been numerous videos by terrorist members/groups warning against attacks in Germany or against German interests abroad.

### H1N1 (Swine Flu)

For most current information about H1N1 Influenza: from the U.S. Department of State, click [here](#).

For information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), click [here](#).

## How to Register the Birth of a Child Born to a U.S. Citizen in Germany

United States citizenship is granted at birth in one of two ways, either through *jus soli* (*location of birth*) or *jus sanguinis* (*through bloodlines*). The U.S. uses primarily *Jus Soli* to grant citizenship at birth. With very few exceptions, this means all children born in the United States are automatically granted citizenship, regardless of their parents' nationalities. *Jus Sanguinis* is used only for children born overseas to American parents. U.S. citizenship law requires that parents meet certain requirements in order to transmit citizenship to children born overseas. The regulations vary depending on which version of the law was in effect at the time of the child's birth. In very general terms, an American citizen parent must prove a certain number of years of physical presence in the United States prior to the child's birth in order to transmit citizenship.

Because these regulations are very complicated and often specific to each case, we recommend that American parents of children born in Germany contact the Passport and Citizenship Section at their nearest Consulate or Embassy to schedule a birth registration appointment. In order to prepare yourself for this appointment, please collect the following documents before scheduling an appointment with the Consulate or Embassy nearest you. You will be given the proper application forms to fill out at your appointment.

### For the Report of Birth Abroad:

- German Birth Certificate: Please bring the child's **Geburtenregister**, which is issued by local authorities.
- Photo ID of the child if you have it. This is not necessary for newborns.
- Evidence of Parents' Citizenship and Identity. Acceptable evidence of parents' citizenship includes:
  - U.S. Passport.
  - U.S. birth certificate bearing a raised seal or a certified copy issued by the court where document was originally issued.
  - Certificate of Naturalization.
  - Consular Report of Birth Abroad.
- Marriage Certificate: Original certificate issued by local, state, or national government authorities. If your marriage certificate is in a language other than English or German, a certified translation must generally be provided.
- Divorce Decrees / Death Certificates: It will be necessary to show termination of all prior marriages for both parents (and certified translations if appropriate).
- If the father is not listed on the birth certificate, evidence of acknowledgement of paternity by U.S. citizen father and agreement to pay child support under U.S. law.
- Primary evidence documents that may establish your physical presence in the U.S. before the child's birth:
  - DD214 – Military Separation Statement
  - Transcript from High School and/ or College
  - Wage Statements
- Secondary evidence documents that may establish your physical presence in the U.S. before the child's birth:
  - Former/ Current Passport with stamps.
  - Airline ticket stubs.
  - Credit Card Bills.
  - Utility Bills.
  - Tax Forms
 Notarized Affidavits from former and current employers
- Fees: The application fee is U.S. \$65.00. Accepted payment methods are:
  - Cash – either dollars or euros.
  - Credit card – Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or Diners Club
  - International Money Order to the exact dollar amount made payable to the "United States Disbursing Officer."
  - Cashier's Check drawn in dollars on a bank in the United States made payable to the "United States Disbursing Officer."

### For the Passport:

- Any foreign passport that the child may currently hold or is included in.
- Two identical passport photographs, measuring 2 in. x 2 in. or 5 cm. x 5 cm. Subject must be facing front, on a white background. The face must be clearly visible. Pictures can be taken at the Consulate for 6.00 Euro in coins only.
- A self-addressed, German Registered Mail envelope with 3.60 Euro in stamps (available at any German Post Office) in which to have your documents returned to you once processing is completed. Fees: The application fee for a child under the age of 16 is U.S. \$85; aged 16 and over is \$100. Accepted payment methods are the same as above.

### For the Social Security Card:

- Processing for the social security card application can be done following your interview for birth registration. There is no fee for this service.

## Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center Information

*Living in an abusive household or relationship is a painful and isolating existence. It is difficult enough living a parallel life when you have family and friends there to offer support. However, imagine living in another country, with different customs and cultural norms, suffering everyday in horrific silence without having anywhere to turn. There is no one to talk to and you have no idea about how to navigate through an unfamiliar system in order to get the help and resources that you so desperately need.*

### Abuse is **NEVER** okay!

- In **Europe**, domestic violence is the major cause of death and disability for women aged 16 to 44.
- In the **United States**, a woman is raped every 6 minutes; a woman is battered every 15 seconds.
- Nearly three out of four (74%) of Americans personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence.
- Women accounted for 85% of the victims of intimate partner violence, **men accounted for approximately 15%**.
- The health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide by intimate partners exceed \$5.8 billion each year.
- 60% of senior executives said that domestic violence has a harmful effect on their company's productivity.

The **American Domestic Violence Crisis Line (ADVCL)**, in collaboration with the Ending Violence Against Women & Children Committee of the **Federation of American Women Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)**, invites you to participate in a Volunteer Outreach Ambassador Training Program. There will be a general informational presentation in the morning, and a training session for prospective volunteer ambassadors in the afternoon.

The goal of this program is twofold: first, to educate all participants on issues of domestic violence and the services that the ADVCL provides to American domestic violence victims living in foreign countries, and, second, to train ambassadors to raise awareness of domestic violence issues and ADVCL in their host countries by speaking to local women's organizations, women's shelters, international schools and other groups.

### An Informational Session and Training will be held in Frankfurt Saturday morning, October 24, 2009 Guest Speaker: Frankfurt Consul General Edward (Ned) M. Alford

**Location:** The session will be held at the Parish Hall next to the St. Leonard's Church, located on the Main River, near the Römer (City Hall). Am Leonhardstor, Frankfurt 60311, Germany

**Sessions and materials will be free of charge. Lunch will be provided for a small fee.**

**Online pre-registration is required** for all participants; please visit [www.866uswomen.org](http://www.866uswomen.org) and select "European Information & Training Sessions".

### Passport Card Reminders:

- U.S. Passport Card allows you to have an easy-to-carry, credit card-sized proof of U.S. citizenship.
- The U.S. Passport Card cannot be used for crossing international borders, with the exception of the following: entry from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or Bermuda by land or sea only.
- For more information, click [here](#).

### Tell a Friend!

**Have American friends here in Germany? Ask whether they receive our newsletter. If not, suggest that they go to <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>, so that they can receive our newsletters, important announcements, and warden messages.**

## Greetings from Consul General Edward (Ned) M. Alford



Dear Fellow Americans,

It is my great pleasure to greet you as one of the newest members of the American community in Germany. For whatever brings us to Germany – be it family, work or simply a twist of fate – we do not merely work or study here; we live here. And as much as I am looking forward to working in my present assignment, I am also very excited about my new home for the next few years. There is an old adage among career Foreign Service Officers: Home is where you currently are.

And home for me now is Frankfurt.

It is a great privilege to lead the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt, the largest Consulate in the world. I take very seriously our core business of helping American citizens in our consular district (Baden-Wuerttemberg, Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate, and Saarland). We are **your** Consulate, a place that offers some crucial services to Americans in Germany – from issuance of U.S. passports (we have one of the busiest passport sections in the world) to keeping you informed about things that matter to you. We are here to serve as your link to America.

I encourage you to visit us at <http://frankfurt.usconsulate.gov/> to learn more about the services we offer and to register with us at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> to ensure that you can receive the important notices and announcements that we send out periodically. (If you are receiving this newsletter directly from us, you are already on the mailing list.)

In addition to helping American citizens, the Consulate is responsible for a range of diplomatic and logistics functions. We are a key conduit for developing, deepening and capitalizing on the U.S.-German bilateral relationship. The Consulate is also a complex regional support center, playing an important role in assisting U.S. Government missions in many parts of the world

As I settle into my Frankfurt home, I look forward to representing America, enjoying all that Germany has to offer, and meeting many of you in the greater Rhein-Main Region.

Sincerely,  
Ned Alford

## Opening Hours and Contact Information

**U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt**  
Giessener Strasse 30  
60435 Frankfurt am Main  
<http://frankfurt.usconsulate.gov>

**Passport Unit**

Open by appointment: 7:30am to 11:30am, M-F  
Tel: (069) 7535-2100, 2:00pm to 4:00pm only  
Fax: (069) 7535-2304  
Email: [frankfurtpassports@state.gov](mailto:frankfurtpassports@state.gov)  
[frankfurtbirthabroad@state.gov](mailto:frankfurtbirthabroad@state.gov)

**Special Consular Services**

Open by appointment: 7:30am to 11:30am, M-F  
Tel: (069) 7535-2102  
Email: [GermanyACS@state.gov](mailto:GermanyACS@state.gov)  
After-Hour Emergencies: (069) 7535-0

## Holiday Closures

<p><b>Monday, October 12:</b> <b>Thursday, October 29:</b> <b>Wednesday, November 11:</b> <b>Thursday, November 26:</b> <b>Thursday, December 24:</b> <b>Friday, December 25:</b></p>	<p><b>Columbus Day (observed)</b> <b>Staff Administrative Day</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>Staff Administrative Day</b> <b>Christmas</b></p>
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