

A Soldiers GUIDE TO WHAT THE Hell is Really going on Here in Ansbach



NOTE: Every Soldier has the right to keep one copy of this publication in their possession, this is the private property of the recipient, and this may not be confiscated by their superiors. (See Department of Defense directive 1325.6)

Here is some information about the Rules, Rights, and Regulations that protect you as a soldier. You may be in the US Army, however that doesn't mean you're not allowed to have your own opinion.

First off I would recommend contacting the Military Counseling Network. The Military Counseling Network is a non-profit organization based in Germany dedicated to provide guidance, and help find legal information for US Army Personnel. They can help you find information on discharges like Hardship/ Dependency, Medical/Disability, Other Designated Physical and Mental Conditions, Discharge in Lieu of Court-Martial, and Conscientious Objection. They can also help you know your rights regarding AWOL, IRR (Individual Ready Reserve), desertion, and finding PTSD help.

MCN can discuss the various discharges with you, help you decide if one is good for you, explain procedures, work with you to gather the necessary documents, and support you throughout the process. Whether getting out is what you need, or just knowing your rights, they are there to help.

MCN is not just for getting out, its also there to protect you. Forget the Chaplain or IG, MCN gets results, and can offer you real help and support. IG and the Chaplains mission is first and foremost to maintain the combat readiness of a unit. As an independent organization MCN is tasked with helping the individual needs of soldiers.

To contact MCN call 06223-47506 or email them at mcn@dmfk.de

First off, one of the most important rules to learn is Article 138 UCMJ. Your chain of command may have Article 15's, but you have Article 138. Article 138 provides you with the right to request redress for any grievance from your commanding officer. If the commanding officer refuses to grant a redress or correct a situation after given an opportunity, the article 138 will be filed at your request in your commanding officer's personnel file. While this may not have immediate effects, it may have serious repercussions when your commanding officer is sitting before a promotion board. (Please contact MCN before seeking this route to get proper guidance on the forms and procedures).

You can also contest any Article 15, (ask MCN for legal help) but you always have the choice to fight an article 15 in a fair and open court martial and you may have a good chance at being exonerated.

Another thing that is covered in DoD directive 1325.6, is that you are still covered by the Bill of Rights INCLUDING the 1st amendment (freedom of speech), The directive states that you can keep this flier (part 3.5.1.2) though you may not distribute it. You may write (this includes blogging) for and to publications and newspapers as well (part 3.5.4).

You may write to and address grievances and problems to your congressman (to find your representatives see www.congress.gov).

Remember, arm yourself with the facts, and learn about your rights. At the end of the day, no matter

what your commander's tell you to do, you have to answer to yourself. Myself, the Military Counseling Network, and the people of Ansbach are always here to help you regarding you if you make the decision to break the silence.

WARNING: WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ IS NOT AN AFN PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT OR ANYTHING THAT RIDICULOUS!!! IF YOU HAVE BECOME ADDICTED TO AFN COMMERCIALS THAN I SUGGEST YOU CLOSE THIS NOW AND WATCH RERUNS OF THE "DON'T SHAKE YOUR BABY" AND "KEEP YOUR VIRGINITY" COMMERCIALS!

Alright, so you've received this flyer. That means you've probably ignored the retarded safety briefing telling you not to touch the protestors unless you have condoms on your hands or some other such BS. You've probably already heard your chain of command's narrow minded version of events to what is actually going on, so it can't hurt to hear the other side can it?

Most of the people here in front of this base belong to a Buergerinitiative (a Citizen's Initiative) which stands against the expansion of the bases here. About now you're probably thinking "Stupid Germans! Don't they know that this will be good for their economy? Don't they understand that these helicopters are protecting their ass from terrorists?" Well, no on the 1st and no on the 2nd also.

To begin with, I want to say this, the people here do not carry a grudge with individual soldiers, but the same entities many soldiers themselves carry a grudge with, the ridiculousness of the US Military sometimes, and the still continuing operations in Iraq. They understand many of you enlisted for better educational and employment opportunities and to serve your country as well. They understand that you have to deal with:

- A Draconian Stoploss Policy
- A constant 15 month deployment rotation

- A Corps of NCO's that is rapidly deteriorating (as many quality NCO's and talented junior enlisted people who should have done their 20 years are ETS'ing, leaving behind some people who probably couldn't handle civilian life),
- You live in an environment in which nearly every breath you breathe is sometimes at your chain of command's discretion
- That many of you rely on the US Military to sustain your families
- That often times legitimate trauma (mental and physical) and injuries from the war are ignored and people who carry them are often treated as "sh-tbirds" inside the Army.

And when you get out they understand that:

- You're not really out, there is still always the IRR
- The Veterans Administration is wholly inadequate and under funded to handle returning veterans
- That the suicide rate and homelessness among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans has skyrocketed in recent years.
- The US government just recently started fixing the inadequate GI bill.

The people of Ansbach acknowledge the situation, and stand ready to listen to and address your grievances as best they can. They feel that many of you should be out here protesting with them, but know the reality of being inside the Army. You don't have the right to participate in this demonstration (DoD directive 1325.6 again, though if you were back CONUS you could), however you have the right to participate in other events of theirs that are not demonstrations when you are off duty, off base, and not in uniform.

Enough about what they know about you guys, here are their grievances with what is going on. 1st off the war in Iraq is widely regarded as an illegal war by the Germans, and that it is a breach of the UN charter and several UN resolutions (the last UN resolution [1441] regarding Iraq before the invasion did not authorize the use of force against Iraq). Germans take international law very seriously

because of the Nuremburg trials after WWII. It is not that they regard you most of you as war criminals, rather they see this as cowboy unilateralism by the US that has had tragic consequences for the people of Iraq (4 million refugees and hundreds of thousands dead). Germans are still grateful to the US for the liberation of Germany from the Nazi regime, and as they've told me: "Americans are always welcome, just please leave your weapons at home". Imagine if the Germans were waging a war against Bolivia from your hometown regardless of the feelings of the residents there, would you have the guts to organize a Citizen's Initiative against it?

Second, for nearly everybody here, this is their home. Let's face it, they're going to be training inexperienced pilots here in Ansbach soon, which endangers the safety of normal citizen's living here. The noise more helicopters would create is not something a normal family wants to live with, and it drives away tourism from Ansbach, which though small, is a very historic city. I'm sure you've also noted how green Ansbach can be, German's take their ecosystems very seriously and consider it a national treasure, the recent destruction of a green space next to their town is considered tragic to many of the people who live out here in the countryside to enjoy the nature. Finally, as far as being good for their economy, the expansion of the base is not going to be paid for exclusively by US taxpayers, but about 20 million Euros of it is going to come out of German taxpayer money as well, which is money badly needed in a time of financial crisis.

So, is this what your chain of command has been telling you about what is going on here?

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