



# Cyber & Specialist Operations Command

## FORCE INFORMATION NOTE: 2025 – 10926

### Removal of Entry Exit System (EES) record for Article 6 NTS- ZA registered personnel in Germany

Released: 5 November 2025

Expires: 4 November 2026

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| REFERENCE                                 | GSO-GEO/02 Command or Direct or Manage the Unit  |
| AUDIENCE                                  | All UK NSE, and other UK supporting elements, in support of all UK defence personnel resident in Germany under the Supplementary Agreement. All military, civilian component members, and the entitled Dependants of both.   |
| REFERENCE(S)<br>SUPPORTING<br>INFORMATION | A. <a href="#">NATO - Official text: Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty regarding the Status of their Forces, 19-Jun.-1951</a><br>B. <a href="#">NATO SOFA Supplementary Agreement (sharepoint.com)</a><br>C. <a href="#">Travel to Europe</a> |
| SUPERSEDES                                | N/A  |
| AUTHORITY                                 | UK Head of Mission - Germany   |
| CONTACT                                   | Germany Enabling Office<br><a href="mailto:GSO-GEO-CmdGrp@mod.gov.uk">GSO-GEO-CmdGrp@mod.gov.uk</a>  |

Cyber & Specialist Operations Command (CSOC)

GERMANY ENABLING OFFICE

(The United Kingdom's Military Mission to the Sending  
States in Germany)



## **PREAMBLE**

***Reference to, or presentation, of information belonging to authorities other than the Germany Enabling Office (GEO) are correct at the date of publication and provided for guidance only without recourse to this office.***

## **Understanding of SOFA status registration with Germany Enabling Office (GEO)**

1. UK Defence personnel residing in Germany under the Supplementary Agreement (SA) at Ref. B are registered for residence with HQ GEO within the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). This registration, completed under Article 6 of Ref. B, remains valid for the duration of their permanent assignment, posting, or contract (tour), ensuring legal residence in the FRG. SOFA registration with HQ GEO ensures privileges under Article III of Ref. A and Article 5 of Ref. B, including exemptions from passport and visa regulations, immigration inspections, and alien registration and control requirements when entering or leaving Germany.
2. The EU Commission Migration and Home Affairs recognise the exemptions provided through the NATO military agreements between participating NATO sovereign nation states. UK defence personnel in Germany are not stationed in the EU but rather in Germany a NATO member state. The NATO nation state exemptions are presented in the EU Commission narrative. However matters pertaining to immigration and residence are matters for the sovereign nation state, it is beholden on the NATO receiving State to provide the necessary documentation supporting exemption.
3. The SOFA Certificate (travel) and the SOFA Card (residency) issued by HQ GEO are endorsed and registered in German legislation. This registration documentation has not yet been communicated by the Federal Government to the Schengen frontiers other than Germany.

## **Entry Exit System**

4. As described in Ref. C. the Entry / Exit System (EES) introduced on 12 Oct 25 with full implementation by 10 Apr 26, is an automated system for **non-EU nationals** travelling for a **short stay**. It is designed so that each time the person crosses an external border of the [29 European countries](#) using the system, it records their personal information and biometric data<sup>1</sup>.
  - a. A non-EU national means a traveller not holding the nationality of any European Union country or the nationality of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland.
  - b. A short stay means up to 90 days within any 180-day period. This period is calculated as a single period for all the European countries using the EES.

## **SOFA (Resident in Germany) status and EES**

5. Those non-EU nationals that are registered for residency in Germany, under the SA, are deemed to have residence (in Germany) for the duration of their tour<sup>2</sup>. That are in possession of a SOFA Certificate and Residency Card are exempt from EES. However, the absence of formal communication to the Schengen frontiers of endorsed documents means that you are likely to be subjected to EES measures on entry or exit, until such time as formal communication is delivered or routine recognition becomes common place.
6. Entering and exiting direct via German ports should negate EES measures. However, despite the documentation, SOFA Certificate and Residency Card, being recognised in German

<sup>1</sup> The system registers the person's name, travel document data, biometric data (fingerprints and captured facial images) and the date and **place of entry and exit**, in full respect of fundamental rights and data protection.

<sup>2</sup> Length of stay is aligned to the SOFA status of the individual; this date is predicated on the tour expiry date (assignment / posting / contract end date) of the HoH. Individual dates may vary due to the expiry date of passports, or age in relation to young persons.

legislation it is sometimes the case that the border representative or those of the carrier are simply unaware and demand compliance with EES measures.

7. Military personnel travelling on-duty with a NATO Travel Order are exempt.

### Removal of EES record

8. The Federal authorities in Germany have provided the military missions of the sending States in Germany (UK = HQ GEO) with a process that enables UK defence personnel that have passed through a Schengen Border and been subjected to EES measures, to have the electronic record of the movement across the border removed.

9. It is important to appreciate that an EES record may restrict future travel within the Schengen area for the individual passport holder. If the EES record is not deleted, the person will be subject to the short stay provision for non-EU national passport holders and restricted to 90 days within any 180-day period within any European country using EES.

10. **Process for removal of EES record.** If a UK defence registered person<sup>3</sup> is subjected to EES measures at any frontier, they are to:

a. Complete the form at [HQ GEO EES Reporting](#), confirming that all mandated fields are completed. defnet ONLY.

b. Persons without access to defnet are to liaise with their supporting administrative organisation<sup>4</sup> to register their entry. The supporting NSE will be the point of contact for all follow-on communication.

11. The process is **only** available to those entitled persons that are registered for residency in Germany with HQ GEO.

### GEO POLICY CENTRE

12. These, published instructions, once released, are routinely available through [HQ GEO Policy Centre](#) as is the case with all other Whole Force Policy.

13. Where applicable these instructions should be read alongside more detailed extant policy delivered through Force Standing Orders/Force Standing Instructions. Where any change in policy is introduced, these instructions are to be regarded as having primacy. Force Standing Orders and/or Force Standing Instructions will be reviewed and republished in due course at which point the Information Note/Directive may be withdrawn.

### OPEN-SOURCE INFORMATION

14. The Germany Enabling Office wherever possible seeks to provide information on the matters that is suitable for the public domain through its World Wide Web supporting capability.

15. Further access to Information and Guidance is available on:

<sup>3</sup> An entitled person that is registered resident in Germany under the concession provided by Ref. B.

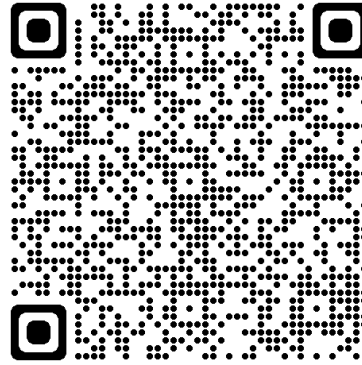
<sup>4</sup> This will be completed through an administering NSE in Sennelager, Goch, Ramstein or Ulm, or using DCS through the GEO.



[GEOWeb:](#)

*Original Signed*

**UK Head of Mission**



[UK Defence in Germany and Europe:  
Information notes - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](#)