

From: Phillips, Steven

Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 2:11 PM

Subject: FW: letter from Rheinland Pfalz Germany - Rep Kean

Hey guys:

As you know, we represent the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz where many of our US bases are located, such as **Ramstein AFB, Spangdahlem AFB, Baumholder** and the **Landstuhl** hospital.

The Minister of Interior of the State, Minister Ebling has sent a letter to the Congressman, and I wanted to send you a copy and see if you can make sure to share it with the Congressman. (see attached)

(the Minister enjoyed meeting the Congressman the last time he was here)

The letter includes several key items:

- **An update on the continued investment the German State is making in and around these major U.S. installations in the State.**
- **The importance of the enhancements being made as a result of the Milcon projects.**
- **And he invites the Congressman to come visit the State, if he happens to coming over to see the bases in the State**

Hopefully the Minister will make a trip to Washington later in the year. Maybe we can arrange a meeting then?

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks !

Steven R. Phillips

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DER MINISTER

United States House of Representatives
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Mein Aktenzeichen	Ihr Schreiben vom	Ansprechpartner/-in / E-Mail	Telefon / Fax
Bitte immer angeben!		Dr. Jörg Zorbach Joerg.Zorbach@mdi.rlp.de	06131 16-3482 06131 16-17 3482

German-American Partnership in Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany

Dear Representative Kean,

congratulations on your re-election to Congress.

As the new Congress gets under way, I wanted to thank you for your past support for transatlantic cooperation and share with you some updates on efforts in our State in Germany to enhance our support for the US bases and the soldiers as well as their families stationed here.

The German State of Rhineland-Palatinate (also known as Rheinland-Pfalz) is the proud home to several major US Army and Air Force installations that together help form part of the backbone of the U.S. military infrastructure and serve as forward operating bases for the US' projection of power towards eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

These installations include the Baumholder Army Garrison, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (part of the US Army Medical Command), Ramstein Air Force Base and Spangdahlem Air Force Base.

For the past three years, armed conflict has returned to the European continent with the Russian aggression against Ukraine. In addition, we saw a brutal terrorist attack towards Israel and are facing a multitude of challenges in Africa. During this difficult time, the importance of having well established, state-of-the-art bases to meet this challenge has become even more important.

Significant American and German investments have been made in these installations, and substantial funds have been allocated to ensure that these world-class facilities



provide US and Allied forces with the accommodations and capabilities necessary to fulfill their missions.

Our State of Rhineland-Palatinate has been honored to host these US bases and personnel totaling approx. 50,000 US citizens, including service members, civilian employees and their families. For generations we are committed to a good neighborly relationship with our American friends and allies.

For us, German-American partnership is not just a theoretical concept but also a very practical endeavor. Together we have developed a number of initiatives to lower the cost of stationing and to improve the quality of life for service members and their families. Some of our current and recent initiatives include:

- Our State Government is investing annually in improving the quality and availability of housing for US service members and their families, including the subsidies we provide for the modernization of housing units in the local communities surrounding US installations.
- The State Government is also partnering with the US to contribute to road infrastructure enhancements around the US military installations.
- We have expanded German-American programs to enhance the positive and welcoming sense of community in our State, thus contributing to an attractive and safe living environment for US military families. Please have a look at our one-stop program homepage to see the various activities we offer. (<https://www.welcome-to-rlp.org/>)
- As a new initiative, we are supporting our communities in the vicinity of US military bases in enhancing infrastructure resilience, thus, hardening support and supply lines to the US installations against joint adversaries.

In sum, the US military installations in Rhineland-Palatinate benefit from a highly advantageous combination of US investment, excellent infrastructure linkage in Germany, reliable and efficient German-American administrative cooperation on all levels, and my State's considerable efforts to provide an outstanding quality of life.

As we are convinced that we are stronger together, please rest assured that we will remain committed to German-American cooperation and friendship for the good of both sides.

As Secretary of the Interior of Rhineland-Palatinate, I am responsible for the military contacts in our State. I made my first visit to Washington since assuming office last year. I look forward to a return visit to meet with representatives of the Department of Defense and other agencies, and key members of Congress, including you. And we would be



honored to welcome you to visit our State and the US bases, if you would like to get a first-hand insight into our activities and programs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

We look forward to working with you to continue advancing the US and NATO missions to promote stability and security in these increasingly challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ME'.

Michael Ebling

*Secretary of the Interior,
State of Rhineland-Palatinate*