



Kelley Barracks

Last updated September 2012

Overview

Kelley Barracks, the headquarters of U.S. Africa Command, is located in Stuttgart-Moehringen, Germany. Once the site of a nursery, the land where Kelley Barracks is located was purchased in 1937 by the German military. The military agreed not to cut more than 20 percent of the wooded area, resulting in the natural beauty of the post today. The installation served during the Cold War as the headquarters of the U.S. Army VII Corps, which provided NATO defense to southern Germany. About 1,700 people work at Kelley Barracks, including military, civilians, and contractors.

Key Dates

1937: The German military purchased the land on which the barracks was built.

May 7, 1938: Helenen Kaserne (former name of Kelley Barracks) officially opened, housing members of the 5th Air Signal Regiment of the German military.

December 1945: The barracks became an American installation, initially occupied by the 7700th Troop Information and Education Group.

November 1951: Arrival of the VII Corps.

May 1952: The barracks was renamed Kelley Barracks, after Staff Sergeant Jonah E. Kelley, a VII Corps Infantryman (311th Infantry) who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in World War II. Kelley was 21 when he died.

1992: VII Corps Headquarters was inactivated in 1992, and Kelley Barracks became the headquarters of the 6th Area Support Group (now known as U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart).

February 2007: Following the official announcement of U.S. Africa Command, a U.S. AFRICOM transition team was established at Kelley Barracks, and U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart relocated to Panzer Kaserne. Previously, the majority (42) of African nations were managed by U.S. European Command (EUCOM), which has been located in Stuttgart since 1967.

October 1, 2008: U.S. Africa Command became the Department of Defense's sixth geographic combatant command, led by General William E. "Kip" Ward.

March 9, 2011: General Carter F. Ham became the second commander of U.S. Africa Command.

Buildings

Child Development Center: Opened in 2010, the center provides daycare services for military families.

Shoppette: Opened in 2010, the gas station also includes a convenience store.

Kelley Club: This building hosts a restaurant, a bar area, a small conference room and offices.

Chapel: The former chapel building now houses U.S. Africa Command offices.

Kelley Theater: Opened in 1981, the playhouse is a valuable inter-cultural link in the community, with Americans, Germans and European nationals appearing in its award-winning productions.

Deutsche Kantine: Formerly the VII Corps dining facility, the Kantine offers German cuisine.

Fitness Center: Opened in 1953, the center features a weight room, basketball court, training equipment, and classes.

Craft and Hobby Shop: Opened in 1955, the shop offers framing, pottery, wood-working, and more.

Landmarks

Army Tanks: A WWII U.S. tank and a Soviet-era tank captured from Iraq in 1991 are on display.

Berlin Wall: A piece of the Berlin wall is displayed near the barracks entrance, as a reminder of the role U.S. forces played in the peaceful end of the Cold War and the unification of Germany.