



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS  
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**A Message from the Director, DoDDS Europe  
to Area Administrators, Educators and Staffs**

As you are all aware, the U.S. military presence in Europe, and indeed throughout the world, is in a process of continuous change. While I have no specific near-term adjustments to announce, I recognize that transformation is causing a sense of uncertainty for many of you.

While it is difficult to predict the impact of the European military force structure after FY 2014, we are planning on how to deal with the changes that are now in progress. Our immediate task is to manage the closure of the Heidelberg military community at the end of this summer. We will close Heidelberg High School, Heidelberg Middle School, Patrick Henry Elementary School, and the Heidelberg District Superintendents Office (DSO) in June 2013. Another school closing next June is Bitburg MS due to the decrease in enrollment within the community. Bitburg MS students will attend Bitburg ES (grades 5 and 6) and Bitburg HS (grades 7 and 8).

The Bamberg and Schweinfurt schools will operate throughout School Year (SY) 2013-2014 with an expectation that the enrollment will decrease during the year and that the schools in both communities will close in June 2014. The Superintendent of the Bavaria District, working with my office, has developed school configuration options to best support the educational needs of Bamberg and Schweinfurt students throughout this period of drawdown. With input from school staffs and the community, we will make a decision about the Bamberg and Schweinfurt configurations after the new calendar year.

The last school that will see a dramatic change is Lajes E/HS. The Air Force announced that tours to this base will be unaccompanied. We expect our Lajes school will close in June 2014.

Other possible changes: we expect some growth in the coming months in Vicenza, Lakenheath, and Wiesbaden. Additionally, in 2014 Rota will see the arrival of the first of four permanently assigned ships, a restationing that we expect will bring more families to that community. I am hopeful that the increase in student enrollment in these four locations will generate additional teacher placement opportunities. There are other military transformation changes possible but these remain speculative or classified.

As the services continue their transformation, we too will transform. In the future, options for teaching assignments and particular locations may not be as plentiful as we have enjoyed in the past. With the closing of so many schools this year, we anticipate over 200 teachers will be excess, along with many school administrators and above school level staff. To

answer these placement requirements, I have tried to limit new, permanent hires by monitoring vacancies, filling them only with educators on appointments not-to-exceed the end of this school year. We have also announced every vacancy Europe-wide in an effort to place excess educators before the end of the school year as long as we can fill behind them on a temporary basis. We are working with DoDEA Headquarters to establish a process that will provide more opportunities for teacher placement within Europe. Similar to last year, we hope to operate a three-phased process, to include in-district placement, then proximity placement, and finally placement through the DoDEA-wide Teacher Transfer Program. Details on the placement process are being worked and will be made available when they are finalized.

I have made a commitment to our schools and communities to do everything possible to limit disruptions caused by transformation. For our staff, I will make every effort to keep you informed of the most current information available. Thank you for your continued loyalty to our students and schools, and especially to the military communities we support. I am proud to serve as your director and humbled to work with such fine educators.



Dr. Nancy C. Bresell  
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