

STARS  AND STRIPES®

MAY 2026 / FREE

TATTOO

armed forces



Inside

- Regulations
- Ink Reveals
- Tattoo Conventions

VELLOMENT

COLLECTIVE

TATTOO



LIMITED SAME-DAY AVAILABILITY



SERVING THE KMC & RAMSTEIN COMMUNITY



velloment.collective



St.-Marien-Platz 18
67655 Kaiserslautern



+49 173 8522322

SOUTH INK

★ STUDIO ★

TATTOOS THAT LAST. MEMORIES THAT STAY.

**WALK-INS
WELCOME!**

NO APPOINTMENT? NO PROBLEM!
JUST WALK IN AND LET'S CREATE
SOMETHING **AWESOME.**



ALL STYLES

REALISM • BLACK & GREY • TRADITIONAL
JAPANESE • LETTERING • MINIMALIST • AND MORE



OPEN DAILY

13:00 – 22:00



WE SPEAK

ENGLISH • GERMAN • SPANISH



CALL OR WHATSAPP

017636519046



KAISERSTRASSE 4
66849 LANDSTUHL
GERMANY



MILITARY DISCOUNT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



CLEAN STUDIO



PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS



TOP QUALITY



SAFE & STERILE

See You Soon!

MILITARY ★ FRIENDLY ★

PROUDLY SERVING

OUR MILITARY COMMUNITY



CONTENTS



MILITARY REGULATIONS	08
FOCUS ON FANDOM	10
ON THE COVER.....	12
TATTOOING TODAY: TECHNOLOGY & TECHNIQUES IN THE MODERN ERA	14
TALKING TATTOOS WITH DRILL SERGEANT FITNESS.....	20
TATTOO PICTORIAL	22
TATTOO SELFIES: READER SUBMISSIONS.....	30
TATTOO CONVENTIONS.....	32

STARS AND STRIPES®

A Stars and Stripes Community Publication

Europe Office

COMMANDER

Dan "DQ" Quinlan, Lt Col, USAF

BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER

John Rodriguez

PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN, MANAGER

Carrie Farrell

PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN, LEAD EDITOR

Kat Nickola

WRITER-EDITORS

Tamala Malerk, Katie Wells

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Daniela Gammon, Rryan Joye,

Mandy Mills

ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Kay Moncada

MARKETING COORDINATOR

Kristen Thoenes

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Al Green

MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING, MANAGER

Doug Dougherty

MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING, CONSULTANTS

Sean Adams, Heidi Bayfield, Kandace Blevin,

Nate Jamison, Jennifer Kordos,

Caitlin Weaver

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Danny Padro

COVER DESIGN BY

Carrie Farrell

ADVERTISING OFFICE

OPC 469 Box 12, APO AE 09227-9001

Postfach 1980, 67607

Kaiserslautern, Germany

+49 (0) 152-5672-5020

@StarsandStripesEurope



Washington Office

PUBLISHER

Max D. Lederer, Jr.

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Laura Law

REVENUE DIRECTOR

Scott Foley

ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Chris Verigan

PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN, DIRECTOR

Marie Woods

KITSONI

Burgstraße 15 • 67659 Kaiserslautern



Laura

Junior Artist

Tattoo Artist
since 2022

- Fineline
- Microrealism
- Cybersigilism
- Whimsical Tribal



Tine

Studio Owner

Tattoo Artist
since 2020

- Fineline
- Microrealism
- Surrealism
- Color



Larry

Junior Artist

Tattoo Artist
since 2023

- Vintage
- Traditional
- Medieval
- Woodcut



📷 @AuraTatts



📷 @jaycnell.ink



📷 @stopcryingtatts



Guest Artists

Our guest artists bring a variety of styles to *KITSONI Studio* from fine line to anime, black & grey realism and color tattoos.

They return regularly · limited spots available



Birne Estetica

nail designer for statement looks
basic → high-end fashion nails
specialized in creative & unique designs

☎ +491602719911
📷 @birne.estetica
📅 appointments on request





**MULTI
AWARD
WINNING
STUDIO**

with professional artists
and international guests

We speak German,
English and Vietnamese



Tuan

Resident artist, Tuan, has been tattooing since 2008. Originally from Vietnam, he is a multi-award winning international tattoo artist who has tattooed in many countries.

- Bright, colorful
- Japanese
- Neo-Japanese
- Ornamental arts
- Cover-ups

@tuan468

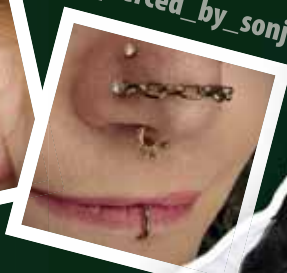




Carolina

Owner, Carolina, is a multi-award winning artist and has been tattooing since 2008 in Germany and the U.S.A.

- Neotraditional
- Blackwork
- American traditional
- Color
- Cover-Ups
- Ornamentals



@pierced_by_sonja

Sonja

Sonja, piercing apprentice and studio manager, has been with us since 2025 for all your piercing needs.



Naomi

Tattoo apprentice, Naomi, has been tattooing since 2025 and has already won two awards for her work at conventions.

- American traditional
- Blackwork

@tattoos_by_narumi



Neue Amberger Str. 22,
92655 Grafenwöhr
(Main road near McDonald's)



+49 151 2361 7965



hells_kitchen21@yahoo.de

FIND US
ON SOCIALS:



witches_loft_tattoo_piercing
facebook.com/witcheslofttattoo

TATTOO REGULATIONS

in the Military

If you are an active-duty service member and are considering getting a tattoo, be sure to inform yourself of the rules and regulations. Here is an overview of current military tattoo policies.

ACCEPTABLE

All branches

- No limit—in number or size—for tattoos on the chest, torso, arms, legs and feet.
- One ring tattoo.
- Ultraviolet tattoos are allowed as long as they follow all branch-specific standards.

Army

- One tattoo on the back of the neck, not to exceed two inches in any direction.
- One tattoo behind each ear, not to exceed one inch in any direction.
- One tattoo on each hand, not to exceed one inch in any direction. No limit on tattoos between fingers that are not visible when hands are closed.
- Permanent facial makeup that adheres to grooming standards.

Air Force

- One tattoo per hand not exceeding one inch.
- A single tattoo on the back of the neck or behind the ear, not exceeding one inch.
- Cosmetic tattoos to correct medical conditions.
- Permanent facial makeup that adheres to grooming standards.

Marine Corps

- No additional branch-specific permissions.

Navy

- Any number and size of tattoos on hands.
- One tattoo on the neck or behind the ear, not to exceed one inch in any direction.
- Cosmetic tattoos to correct medical conditions.
- Sailors with sleeve tattoos can be assigned to Recruiting Command positions and Recruit Training Command.

Space Force

- One tattoo on the back of the neck or behind an ear that does not exceed one inch in any direction.
- Cosmetic tattoos to correct medical conditions.
- Permanent facial makeup that adheres to grooming standards.

Coast Guard

- One inch tattoo behind the ears.
- One back of hand tattoo not exceeding 2.5 inches.
- One finger tattoo per hand from first to second knuckle.
- Permanent facial makeup that adheres to grooming standards is allowed for female service members and microblading is allowed for all service members.

PROHIBITED

All Branches:

- Tattoos are prohibited on the head, scalp, tongue or face.
- Content must not be indecent, sexist, racist, obscene, extremist, gang-related, overtly sexual, discriminatory, incite violence or represent an organization that does.

Army:

- No tattoos on the front of the neck, or front of ears.

Air Force:

- No tattoos above the open collar on the head, neck or face.

Marine Corps:

- No tattoos above the seventh vertebrae on the back or above the collarbone on the chest.
- No head, neck or hand tattoos.
- Certain duties still prohibit full sleeve or full leg tattoos due to interaction with and respect for other cultures.

Navy:

- Tattoos cannot be visible through Whites.

Space Force:

- No tattoos on the front of the neck, front of ears, or hands beyond the allowed ring tattoos.
- Chest or back tattoos cannot be visible through any uniform.

Coast Guard:

- No visible tattoos above the line of a crew neck t-shirt in the front.
- No visible tattoos above the line of a standard blue tropical shirt in the back.



2024 was a landmark year for tattoos in the U.S. Army when Captain Isis Sake, originally from Apia, Samoa, received a waiver for her traditional Samoan hand tattoos. Known as “tuālima,” they are hand-poked by a Samoan tattoo artist and symbolize her selfless service. Sake has both tuālima and traditional Samoan leg tattoos, called “malu.” It was her tuālima, the hand tattoos, that fell outside of regulations in 2022. She sought a waiver, which was approved in 2024. ■

Save for the Moments That Last Forever

Service Credit Union helps you plan for what matters most.

- Build a dedicated savings goal in digital banking
- Use automatic transfers to fund your next session
- Turn credit card rewards into statement credits



Visit servicecu.org/tattoo or scan the QR code to get started.

Checking | Auto | Credit Card | Foreign Exchange

Proudly Serving the U.S. Military Since 1957

Insured by NCUA





— Focus On — FANDOM

By Tamala Malerk and Erica Fowler

One look at me and you would know that I am a fan of Sailor Moon, DC, Marvel, musicals, the Tudor dynasty and that I got a Game of Thrones tattoo before the series finale (no regrets). Like attending Comic-Con, binge-watching a show repeatedly or writing fan fiction, getting a fandom tattoo is just one more way to demonstrate love and dedication to a community.

Through the hundreds of submissions Stars and Stripes has received over the years, there doesn't seem to be a fandom that goes unrepresented. However, there are two types of fandoms that keep appearing: anime tattoos and Tim Burton tattoos.

Anime Tattoos

If you are like me, Japanese animation, more well known as "anime," dominated your after-school and Saturday-morning cartoon watching.

I dreamed of being one of the magical girls from "Sailor Moon" and one day finding my own Tuxedo Mask. I wanted my own Pokémon as pets, even the comically large Snorelax, and to capture the escaped Clow Cards from "CardCaptors." I would rush home after school to see if Goku had finished charging up his Super Sayan powers to defeat the big boss of the season on "Dragon Ball Z."

As an adult, I have solidified my nostalgic love of anime with tattoos, and I am not alone in that. Service member, Aurelio C. noted that he is "a huge anime fan; I had to get my Naruto/Jiraiya tattoo while I was in Kyoto, Japan." There is something comforting about re-watching these shows and staying involved in the fandom even though we all grew up.

“I have always enjoyed Pokémon since I was a child collecting cards, which I still have to this day! Pokémon has always helped me through deployments with Pokémon Go, being able to see around the world and the cool PokéStops from the States, Philippines, Guam, Japan and now in Italy and around Europe. Pokémon helps me stay who I am and keeps my mind busy, if I need a day away to just escape, I can always go to Pokémon for a distraction to clear my head.”

— Monica Cervantes —



Tim Burton Tattoos

A touch of whimsy and darkness goes a long way in appealing to those who grew up on Tim Burton's cinematic creations.

Many people have an affinity for exuberant characters like Jack Skellington and Sally or "Alice in Wonderland's" Cheshire Cat, with its enigmatic grin. Ink incorporating "Beetlejuice" does not shy away from the slightly ghastly characters, stitched skin, bugs and all. It is easy to identify with Burton's playful, light-hearted approach to such gravity-inducing subjects as death. This affinity can sometimes be accompanied by a dark sense of humor, which the military community has often adopted to cope with stressful situations.

Over time, we take different lessons from the Burton films we loved in childhood. I can remember being slightly afraid of Oogie Boogie growing up but then gaining a love for the film as a Hot Topic teenager.

As kids, we might have enjoyed creative stop-motion movies such as "Corpse Bride" or had an affinity for certain actors like Johnny Depp, who showed up prominently in the weirdest films. But "weird" is often what speaks to fans of Burton's macabre genre. Some folks relate to finding hope or love in even the bleakest of circumstances, tatting Jack's dog, Zero around an ankle or giving pranksters, Lock, Shock and Barrel from "The Nightmare Before Christmas" a permanent home. No matter the reason, Burton's creations have inspired a plethora of tattoos, and we love seeing them.

Throughout the pages of this magazine, you will see references to many different books, movies, musicians, anime, fashion, manga and comics. Do you see your fandom represented? ■



“Tim Burton has always been an inspiration, and it was only natural to have his work prominently displayed on an exposed body part such as my legs. From the well-known Jack and Sally to my Frankenweenie, I have had children and adults alike stop me to check out my ink and share their stories of homemade Halloween costumes, or the first time they saw "Nightmare Before Christmas." I love connecting with people and these tattoos have been the greatest segue into some amazing friendships.”

— Jonathan Pronovost —



On The Cover

Photo By Brittany Atkins

“

Corey Warner

I have a pirate ship, divers helmet, and anchor that are my connection to my parents and the family's military tradition. Frankenstein's monster, bride, coffin and dead-head moth represent my love of horror movies.

Amber Warner

My grim reaper sipping coffee reminds me to enjoy the moment. We'll all get there in the end. My pinup is an alter-ego. I have an eagle that ties to my service (and the sacrifices it costs), my rose is for my husband and my envelope is for my grandma.

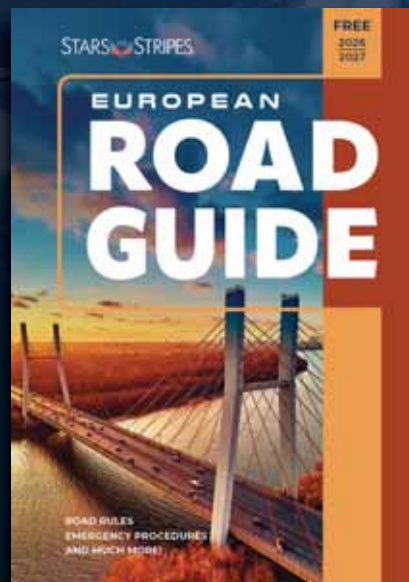


STARS  STRIPES.

Ready for your next **ROAD TRIP?**

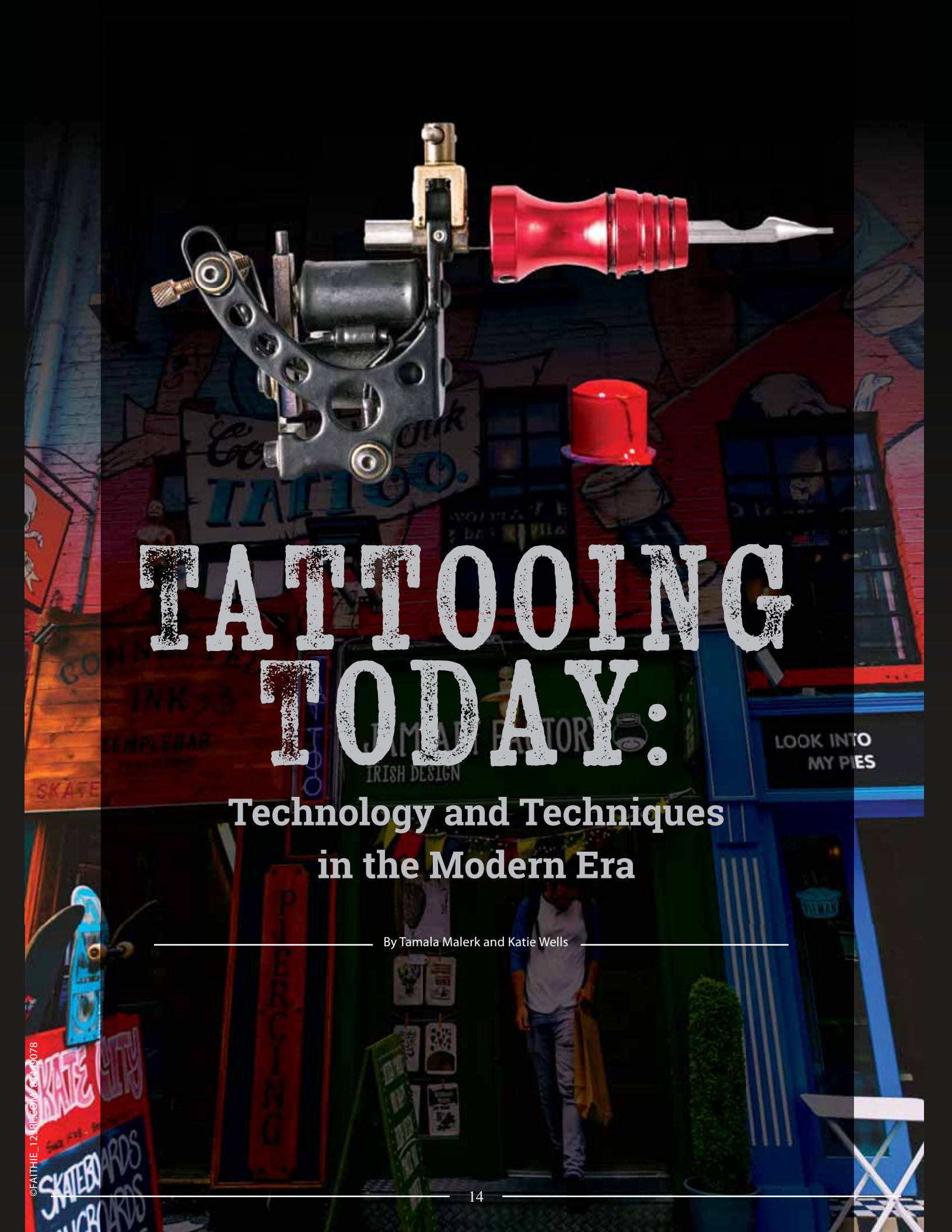
GET YOUR **FREE** COPY

The Stripes European Road Guide will
be available at your installation's
M&FRC, ACS and FFSC!



Check out
the digital
version





TATTOOING TODAY:

Technology and Techniques in the Modern Era

By Tamala Malerk and Katie Wells

No. 464 801

S. F. O'REILLY.
TATTOOING MACHINE.

Patented Dec. 8, 1891.



The Professor Tattooing at work.
Santo St. Shetland.

Tattooing has come a long way since the days of sharpened bamboo sticks, bones, stones and shells being used to get ink into the skin. Limited ink colors, machinery and social acceptance meant that tattoos of the past had a different style and creativity. However, today, so much has evolved in the world of tattoos.

ABOVE The professor of tattooing at work, W.A. Rogers, 1889. Library of Congress | RIGHT Portrait of Mrs. Maud Stevens Wagner, showing her tattoos, ca. 1907. Library of Congress.



Evolution of Machines

In 1891, Samuel O'Reilly patented the first electronic tattoo machine in New York. This allowed for increased consistency and speed in tattooing. Then came coil machines, rotary machines, pen machines and pneumatic machines. Coil machines, first appearing in the late 1800s, allow for the bold lines that make up the American Traditional (aka "Old School") style. Rotary and pen machines help create fine line detailing and realism styles.

Today's tattoo machines have morphed from O'Reilly's original patent to not only increase speed and consistency, but also precision and flexibility. Modern machines are made from materials that allow for safer and more sanitized tattoo application. Now, machines can be cordless for better movement of the artists and tattoo recipient as well as more precise application of the tattoo itself.

Machines have even evolved to be completely self-running. That's right. No artist sitting next to you. It's just a robot arm manipulated by an artist in a different location. The "world's first" tattoo completed by an industrial robot was done in 2016 and the world's first "remote" tattoo (where the artist was in a different location) was done in 2021. Would you get a tattoo from a robot?

Evolution of Ink

Machines are not the only thing that have changed in the world of tattooing. Tattoo inks come from humble beginnings made from charcoal, plants, fruits and minerals. This meant that color choice and pigmentation was limited; however, these ingredients also had much more local cultural ties than modern inks.

Today, the color choices for inks are seemingly limitless. These choices let artists create seamless shading in the tattoo to give not only a brighter look, but also a more realistic and/or stylization to the tattoo. These modern, bold colorful inks also hold their vibrancy longer,



creating less of a need for touch-ups later in life. It's not just the color choice that has changed over the years with inks.

Early 20th century inks could contain heavy metals and chemicals that are no longer present in modern ink. For the eco-conscious, there are vegan tattoo inks. For those who are not 100 percent committed to an idea, there is disappearing ink which contains bio-absorbable ingredients that shrink and fade over time. There are also black-light inks that only appear under an ultraviolet light.

Evolution of Safety

Getting a tattoo begins from the moment you enter the studio and does not end until the tattoo is completely healed. It is not just the hours you sit in the chair.

As more tattoo shops popped up all over the world, the industry became more regulated. It is now common practice for artists and shops to be subject to licensing, certification, documentation and inspections. This creates a more comfortable and safer environment for both artists and customers.

The use of single-use needles, tubes and ink containers as the standard means that there is much less risk of infection and cross-contamination. Sterilization techniques have also advanced for equipment and work surfaces. Getting a tattoo in the modern era is surprisingly similar to getting a medical procedure done in terms of prep, cleaning and sanitation.

There has also been significant progress in terms of aftercare. Many of today's artists recommend using derm bandages to help with the healing of tattoos. These breathable, medical-grade barriers allow for the tattoo to heal for 3-5 days without interference from the outside world (dirt, dust, pet hair and people touching it).

As tattoos and the industry continue to gain momentum and popularity, more and more ideas for innovative styles, methods and technologies emerge. With robot tattoo machines, disappearing ink and new styles constantly appearing, there is no telling where tattoo culture will go next.



Mobile tattoo trailer with tattoo artist on highway near Fort Beauregard, Alexandria, Louisiana. Library of Congress, Wolcott, Marion Post, 1940 Dec.

Traveling Tattoos

As tattoo technology continues to progress, the sharing of ideas becomes easier with social media and travel. You may have heard of the term “Tattourism.” This is when travelers get a tattoo in a country they are visiting as a memorable souvenir.

I got my first tourist tattoo when my spouse and I took a trip to Japan. I had been following an Osaka-based tattoo artist, Ivoly, on Instagram and loved his unique style, which blended Irezumi/Wabori traditional Japanese tattooing with storytelling. The day we met him for our tattoos, confused tourists that we were, we took the train the wrong way and after taking too many right turns walking in the rain, we finally met up. He was wearing black from head to toe with a long black raincoat and hat. He had a woman with a similar vibe on his arm as they walked across an empty street holding a black umbrella shading their eyes. After confirming it was him, he walked us back to his studio. While he started on my kitsune mask tattoo, my husband chatted with his mysterious companion. She was a visiting tattoo artist from Korea with her own unique style and was there to learn and share techniques with Ivoly.

In the last decade, tattoo artists have more frequently become the travelers, taking up guest residencies at fellow tattoo artists’ studios and attending large conventions like Gods of Ink in Germany or Le Mondial du Tatouage in France. Artists

from all over the world are collaborating and sharing their styles to create new, innovative designs.

So why are tattoo artists traveling more frequently? A large part of it is driven by social media demand. Artists are traveling to meet their followers, to expand their clientele and to build global brand recognition. Working as the “Guest Spot” in popular studios or attending conventions helps artists network and grow their brands. Many tattoo artists have incorporated their tattoo designs into a brand. Designs might be featured on clothing, shoes, bags and other artisanal merch; this is another way fans of the artists can celebrate their artwork, even if they don’t want, or cannot afford, permanent ink. Another reason artists are traveling is that clients seek specialized styles that are high-quality and not locally available. This allows tattoo artists to charge higher prices for their signature styles.

Over the years, I’ve seen some of my favorite artists styles grow with innovative and unexpected choices. I can only imagine this is in part from the collaboration that comes from sharing inspiration, concepts and techniques.

What’s really cool about this trend is that you can be following a tattoo artist from Australia or Spain or Japan on social media and find that they are coming near where you live. You can actually get the tattoo you’ve been dreaming of, even when travel isn’t feasible. ■



WORLD'S LARGEST
TATTOO COMPANY

17 COUNTRIES 150+ STUDIOS 1000+ AWARDS

Cleopatra Ink is not just a tattoo studio. It is a global network of award-winning artists, united by precision and artistic vision.

Across 19 states in the United States and multiple international locations, we deliver a consistent, high-end experience where each design is treated as a permanent mark of identity.

From the first conversation to the final result, every step is structured and intentional.

Today, Cleopatra Ink stands as a recognized name in the industry, trusted by a diverse community, including clients from nearby bases and structured institutions.

We don't follow trends.
We create work that lasts.

Cleopatra Ink, where identity becomes permanent.





Cleopatra Ink brings together expertise across a wide range of tattoo styles, from fine line to realism, with a level of precision that remains consistent in every piece.

Each design is created from scratch, shaped around the individual rather than adapted from existing references, ensuring that every work is truly personal and one of a kind. Our artists are not only experienced but also recognized for their craft, carrying a refined understanding of both technique and composition.

This approach is supported by a clear and structured process that prioritizes transparency, guidance and trust at every stage. Across all locations, Cleopatra Ink maintains a unified standard — delivering work that is original, consistent and built to last.



TURKEY - USA - GERMANY - SPAIN - CZECH
FINLAND - NETHERLANDS - SWITZERLAND
AFRICA - SWEDEN - T.R.N.C - NORWAY - AZARBAIJAN
UKRAINE - GREECE - JORDAN - MEXICO

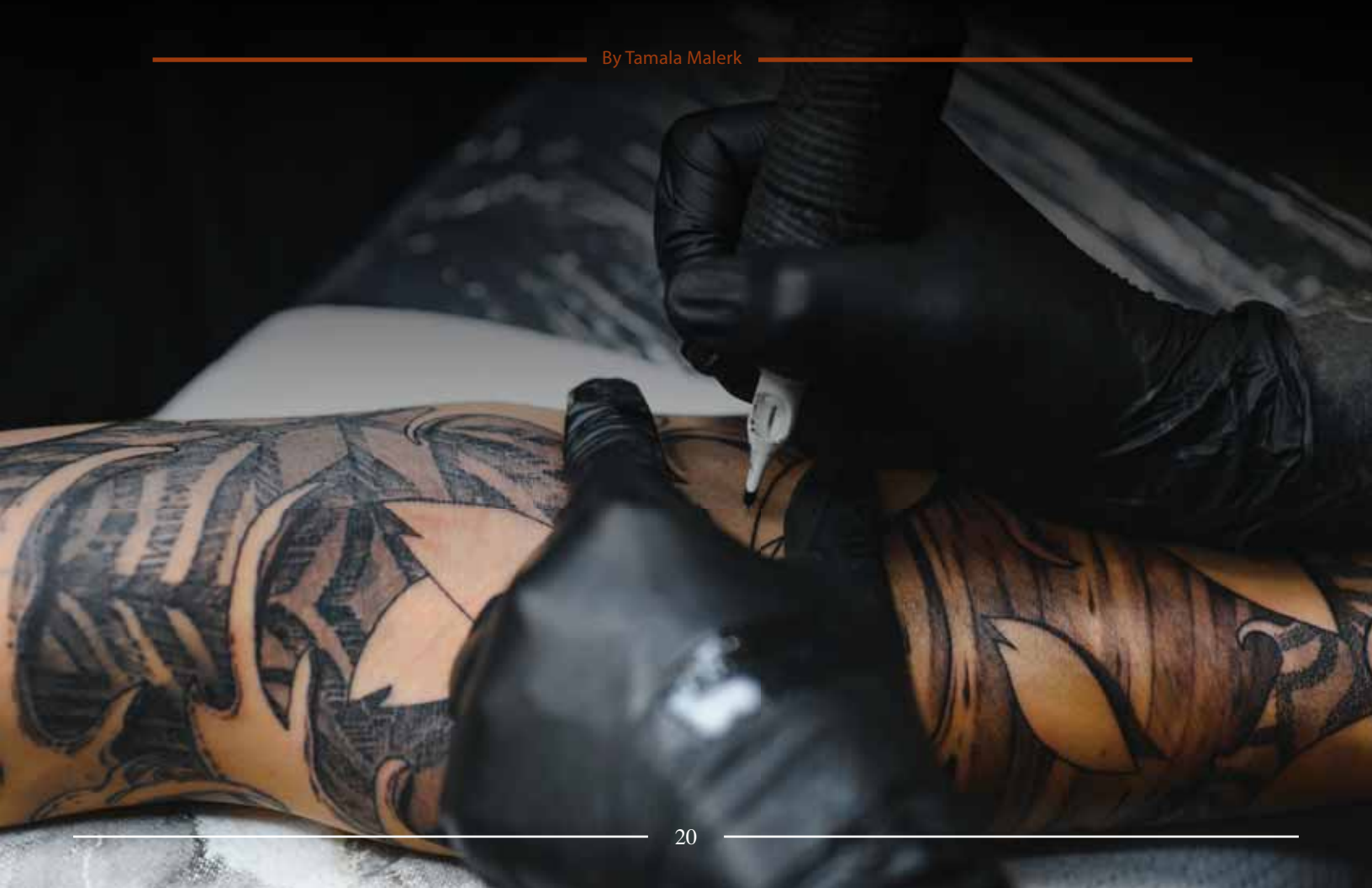
Scan to find
studio near you



TALKING TATTOOS

WITH
DRILL SGT FITNESS

By Tamala Malerk



"Almost all of my tattoos are cover-ups. I started getting tattoos when I was 18, when I didn't really know anything about the tattoo world. Now that I'm older and the industry has grown so much, I had to get new ink by artists who have amazing abilities and talent."

**- Master Sgt. Adam Black,
aka Drill SGT Fitness**

As I sat down to talk tattoos with Master Sgt. Adam Black, I knew I was in for a good time. He made jokes. He reviewed the questions beforehand; he wasn't nervous, and playfully noted that we had to skip question one on the questionnaire because "all of my props (that we would use in the photoshoot) are in transit." He was in the middle of a PCS, so I appreciated him taking the time to chat.

On top of his career in the U.S. Army, he also manages his Drill SGT Fitness digital brand that has over one million TikTok followers, in addition to being a dad and PCS'ing in the middle of a government shutdown.

Despite having tattoo sleeves on both arms and several large tattoos on his legs, somehow he claims that he only has five tattoos. With that response, I knew that my questions needed to get more specific.

"So how many tattoo sessions have you had," I inquired.

"Over 20," he replied. That makes much more sense.

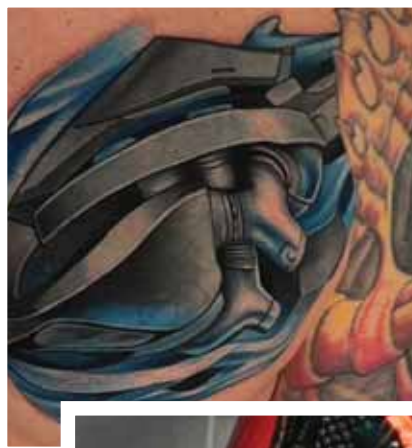
Black has been tattooed in several countries, including Germany. He commented that in Germany, he has actually covered a lot of the tattoos that he originally got in the States. When speaking about a tattoo he got here in Germany, he stated, "...I loved it. I love the detail. I loved the atmosphere (of the studio), so, I've just been going back."

He also noted some differences (he perceived) between here and the States in terms of tattoo culture. "I think it's better here to be honest."

In the States, Black felt that many, not all, tattoo artists act as if the customer is "bothering them." He continued, "Whereas the experience I've had here is that they (the artists) pitch a lot of ideas, work with you. They take what your vision was or what you had in mind and what their artistic ability is and there is a nice medium. It's not a 'take it or leave it' kind of situation. They make you feel very welcome....It's just overall a better experience."

He went on to talk about how the artists kept reaching out, not only before the sessions with directions and parking information (because Germany does not always guarantee a place to park), but also days and weeks after the completed tattoo session to check in with care instructions and the healing process.

Family means a lot to Black, and that is reflected in his tattoos. Black grew up watching horror movies with his father, a tradition that he has since gone on to share with his son. He has a horror sleeve featuring characters from his and his son's favorite films and video



games from the genre. He has a tattoo on his chest symbolizing his father and brother.

"The Spartan helmet on my chest is a tribute to my father and brother. We were all born on the 14th day of different months, and we all got a special tattoo to symbolize that bond between us three."

Black's pop culture tattoos also connect him with his memories and his friends. He talks about reading "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" series and watching the movies with his friends back in high school. Today, a giant, gorgeous, colorful Gandalf tattoo covers his leg. He comments that, "Getting pop culture tattoos...is just a way for all of us to have something to remember that moment by...."

Before letting Black go, I ask him for a little more detail about his covered tattoos. It turns out he covered his very first tattoo that he got when he was 16. A former musician, Black had adorned his leg with a drumming tattoo that years of Army life, wear-and-tear, and boot-wearing had faded. It made me nostalgic for my first tattoo that I got when I was 18, also a music tattoo. I haven't covered that first tattoo myself, but have learned a lot more about getting tattooed and tattoo culture since then.

We wanted room on these pages to highlight Black's awesome tattoos, so make sure to scan the QR code for the entire interview with MSgt Adam Black, and follow him on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok at Drill Sgt Fitness. ■





MARIKO FRAZEE

For Frazee, having tattoos has been “all positive. It’s done wonders to help grow and improve my self-confidence and self image. I love wearing beautiful art that I love and am proud of, all done by one of my closest friends. They’re all very meaningful for me. It’s also brought me into a very awesome community I’ve made such amazing friendships through.”

However, not all of Frazee’s tattoos got to stay: “I had a matching infinity sign tattoo with my boyfriend from when I was 19 years old which I had lasered off and now covered by my sleeve.”

You can see Frazee’s love of anime and the anime community through her tattoos: “All my large tattoos (more than 90 percent) are from one artist, Kim Graziano, that I grew a close friendship with over the years. I developed a passion for tattoos and plan to work in a tattoo shop after I retire from the Air Force (doing anything from shop management, content creation/social media, to apprenticing). I am also very involved in the anime tattoo community, and I attend/volunteer at Anime Ink Con every year, which Kim owns.... I grew up loving Sailor Moon. I remember reading the manga, watching the anime, and drawing the characters since I was 5 years old. I have always loved the artwork so much. My tattoo artist Kim has also been a lifelong fan of Sailor Moon, so it was meaningful to get the tattoos from someone who loves it too, and we ended up becoming very close friends.”





ANNIE SMITH

"Each one of my tattoos represents a time in my life that was special or meaningful. They also represent a time of personal growth and a reminder of how important it is to nurture and love the person I have become."

The mouse on her arm has the most meaning for Smith out of all of her tattoos: "So, I left a 17-year-marriage thinking that I didn't matter, that what I wanted, what I needed, what I deserved, wasn't important. And, when I left, I just left...."

"I was on this self discovery of almost like a rebirth, trying to figure out who I was...." "I took my very first solo trip to Sardinia for a week; I was absolutely terrified, but at the same time I was super excited because I was discovering who I was. And, I had this vision in my head that I needed to commemorate my solo trip by myself, and I wanted a mouse, and I wanted to remind myself that I mattered. Why the mouse? Because the mouse is always overlooked..."



MICHAEL JOHNSON

"Tattoos in the military while stationed overseas are like a badge of honor. No matter what the design, placement, or meaning. Everyone stationed overseas knows what it means and how memorable of a lasting moment it can be, including military members, spouses, visiting family members and dependent children. Overall, the tattoo experience has been overwhelmingly positive, including in my post military civilian life away from military bases. My sister and I got tattoos together while stationed in Okinawa, Japan: forever memories."





CANDACE JACKSON

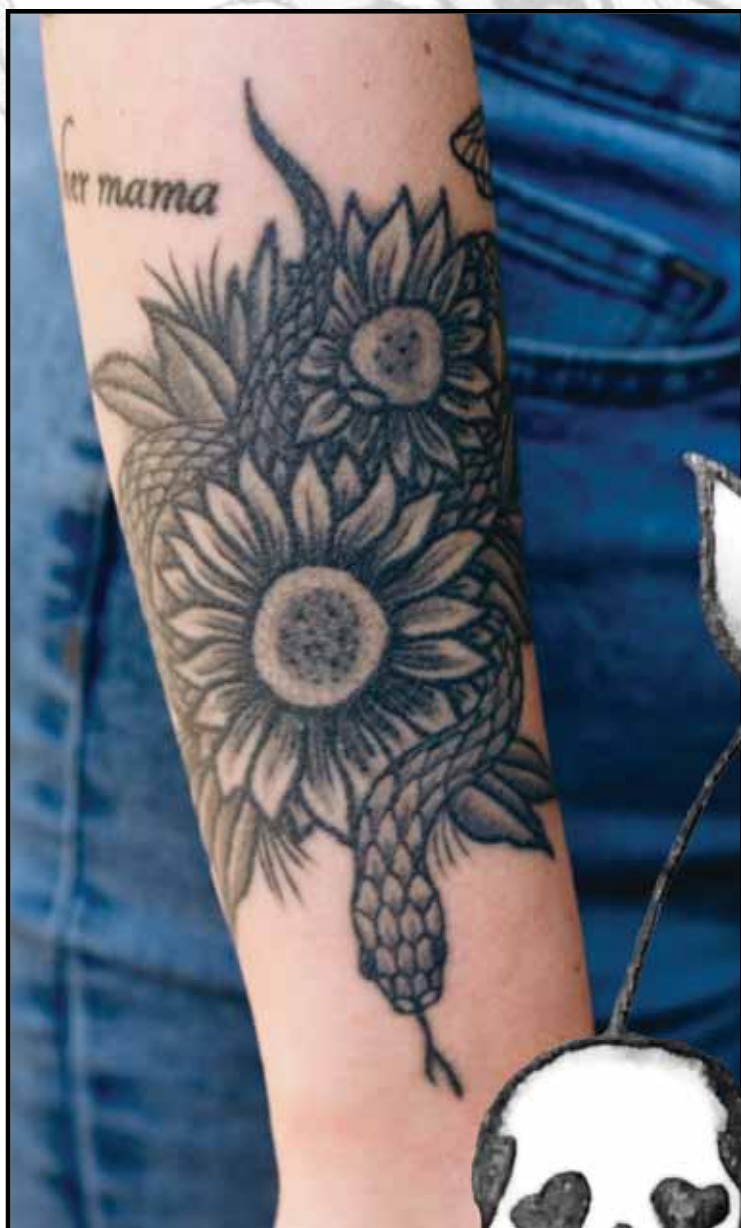
"It [having tattoos] has allowed me to express to the world without words, some of my greatest joys as well as my deepest pains....My first was of Tinkerbell. I was getting divorced and had the idea that if you think happy thoughts you can soar.... She [is] old and faded, but she helped me find my way through some tough times. No regrets! All of mine (tattoos) have significant meaning." Jackson also has a family tree tattoo on her shoulder: "This is the family I created....This has a lot of meaning for me because obviously I love my kids."



REBECCA SCHAKE

On having tattoos, Schake stated, "I feel more like myself, like little me would see me now and think I'm the coolest person ever."

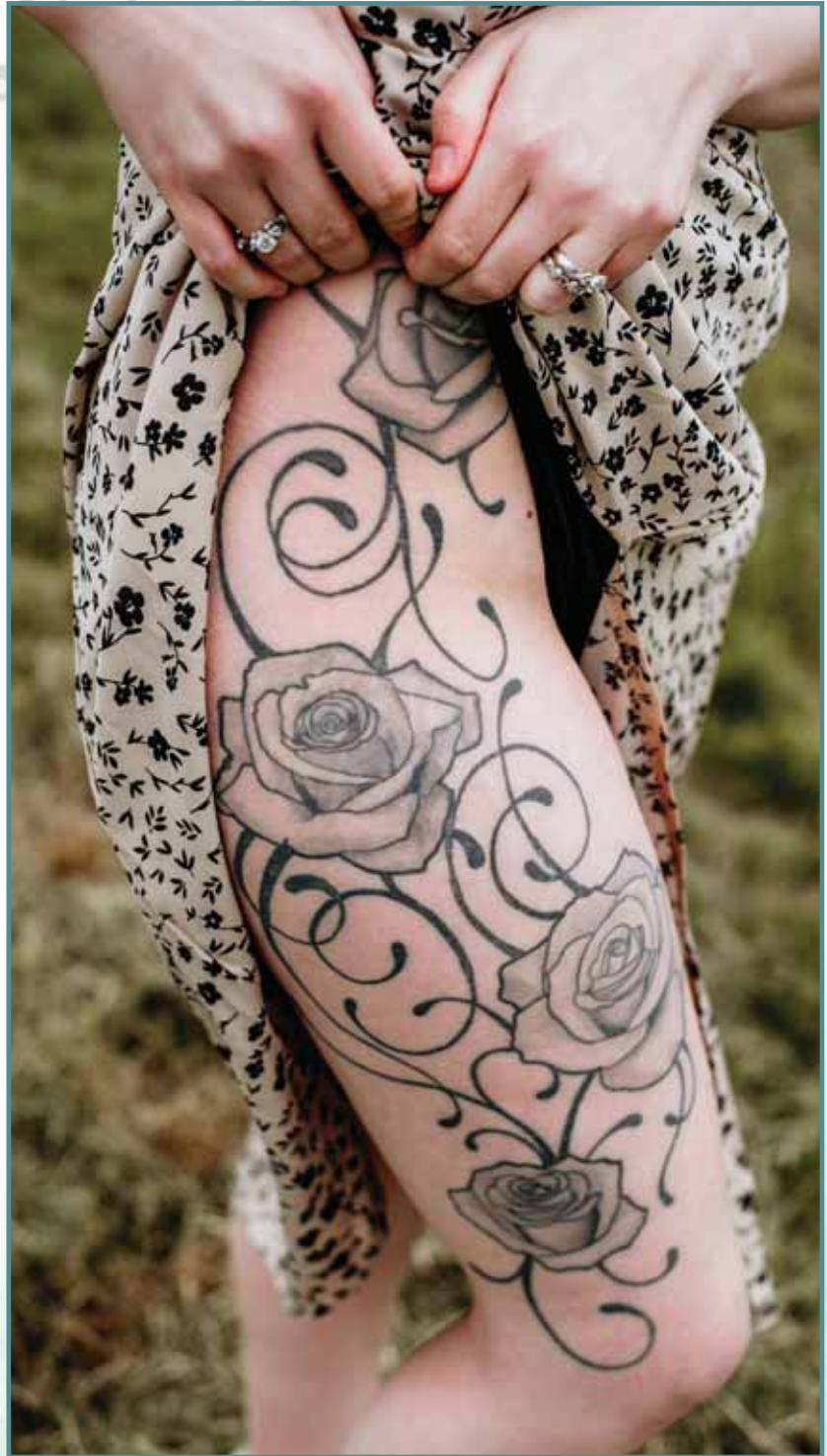
"I originally joined the Army and got stationed in Grafenwöhr in 2020 and only had four small tattoos. Being so far away from home, I chose to get tattoos that equally reminded me of who I am, and my travels in across Europe. My right sleeve are pieces from Berlin, Dublin, Krakow, Budapest, Italy and the U.K. My leg [tattoos] feature pieces of home like my parents' names or my Hebrew name but also represent a piece of me now. I got a female boxer in the American Traditional style after my struggle with MST in the military."





ROSE ALMENDAREZ

"I would say tattoos have impacted me positively because it's a form of expression and a form of art. It makes me appreciate my body and find beauty in it.... My leg tattoo has four roses each to represent one of my siblings....It was my very first tattoo, and I had recently just joined the military, and so it was symbolic to get something that resembles my family, even being so far away from them. The filigree in between (the roses) is like how we are all connected, no matter the distance." Almendarez was 18 years old when she got her first tattoo.





GREG & STACI FRANKLIN

"My tattoos have affected me positively by giving me confidence. I used to hate my arms and always felt self-conscious about wearing short sleeves and dresses. When I finally made the leap to get my sleeves done, I felt so much happier about wearing items that showed off my arms. I even get compliments on my art, which also boosts my confidence. My tattoos make me feel prettier and can show off the things I like at the same time."

"My right wrist tattoo is my Aunt Tara's name and birthdate; I lost her in 2009, and my artist at the time said that we should use her birthday instead of the day we lost her because she is never really gone from my heart. I also have two black cat silhouettes on my left lower arm to symbolize my girls, Maisy and Cleo, who are 13 years old now. I got them as kittens when we were stationed in Mildenhall in 2012, and they have traveled everywhere with us ever since. I also have a friend tattoo that matches on my left ankle, and every time I see it, it makes me smile."





TREVOR ZENS

For Zens, who has loved anime since he was a kid, it was important to find the perfect artist to give him his "pristine" sleeve, thigh and leg anime tattoos.

He once went to a tattoo convention to finish his sleeve tattoo and ended up dealing with some complications: For unknown reasons, the convention shut down unexpectedly! This meant that people receiving multi-day pieces, like Zens and his wife, had to scramble across the city to find a spot for their artists to complete their new tattoos. His wife ended up getting her tattoo in a hotel. All ended well, and he notes, "Having a piece of art on you, and something so well done is just amazing."





DOROTHY DELERME

"It may sound cliché, but all my tattoos have special meanings. I try to get work done in almost every country or state I visit. I share a tattoo with my cousins; we all have a small red infinity sign meaning that our love for each other is forever infinite, no matter where life takes us. It's special to me because we all got it together before I left [for] basic training."

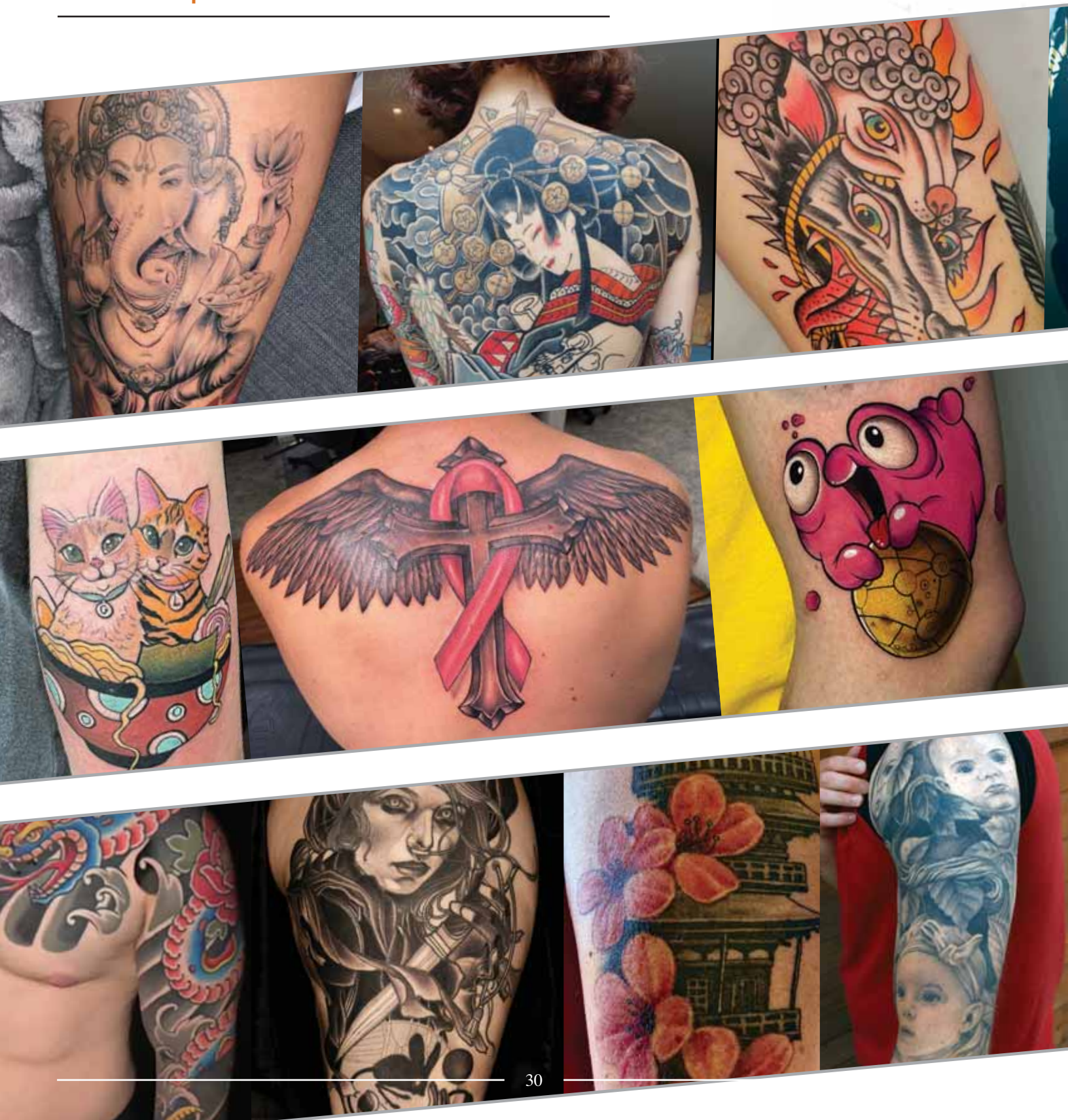
"It [having tattoos] definitely has made me confident.... I think it's great, but I also sometimes feel like there's judgement with the older crowd. I take it in stride because I love all my pieces, and they tell a story for me."



READER SUBMISSIONS

TATTOO SELFIES

We asked and you answered. Here are self-submissions from our Europe-based readers.





TATTOO CONVENTION DIRECTORY

Germany

Tattoo Convention Landsberg | May 16-17, 2026 | Eissporthalle Landsberg

Tattoo Show Stuttgart 2026 | May 16-17, 2026 | Phönixhalle

Bamberg Tattoo Convention | May 16-17, 2026 | Hauptsmoorhalle Strullendorf

Royal Ink Tattoo Convention | May 23-24, 2026 | Stadthalle Troisdorf

Dortmund Tattoo Con | May 29-31, 2026 | Westfalenhallen

Tattoo Convention Kempten | May 30-31, 2026 | Eisstadion

Pirmasens Tattoo Convention | May 30-31, 2026 | Messe Pirmasens

Tattoo Convention Kerpen TattooTattoo | June 6-7, 2026 | Jahnhalle Kerpen

Tattoo Convention Traunreut | June 20-21, 2026 | K1 Kultur und Veranstaltungszentrum

Tattoomesse Meschede | July 4-5, 2026 | St. Georgs-Halle Meschede

Tattoomesse Balve | July 11-12, 2026 | Balver Höhle

Tattoo & Art Messe TattooTattoo Ramstein | July 25-26, 2026 | Congress Center Ramstein

Bodensee Tattoo Convention | July 31 - Aug. 2, 2026 | Graf-Zeppelin-Haus Friedrichshafen

Tattoo Convention Coburg - Am Gleis | Aug. 1-2, 2026 | Alte Pakethalle

Tattoo Event Hamm | Aug. 15-16, 2026 | Westtünnen

ArtFusion Expo | Aug. 29-30, 2026 | Emslandhallen Lingen

Lippstadt Tattoo Convention | Sept. 5-6, 2026 | Lippstadt

Riesa Tattoo Convention | Sept. 5-6, 2026 | WT Arena Riesa

Tattoo Convention Bielefeld TattooTattoo | Sept. 12-13, 2026 | Ravensberger Park

Halle (Saale) Tattoo Convention | Sept. 12-13, 2026 | Messezentrum

Kaiserstadt Tattoo Expo | Sept. 18-20, 2026 | 100'5 Arena

Emsdetten Tattoo Convention | Sept. 19-20, 2026 | Emsdetten

Tattoo Convention Mülheim-Kärlich TattooTattoo | Sept. 26-27, 2026 | Core by Frames Event & Kongress

Tattoomesse Dorsten | Sept. 26-27, 2026 | Kaue Fürst Leopold

Neuwied Tattoo Tattoo | Oct. 3-4, 2026 | Stadthalle Heimathaus

Tattoomesse Kamen | Oct. 3-4, 2026 | Stadthalle Kamen

Schwabach Tattoo Convention | Oct. 3-4, 2026 | Markgrafensaal

Chemnitz Tattoo Convention | Oct. 10-11, 2026 | Kraftverkehr Chemnitz

Eichsfeld Tattoo Convention | Oct. 10-11, 2026 | Eichsfeld

Tattoo Convention Jena TattooTattoo | Oct. 10-11, 2026 | Sportforum Jena

The King of Ink Tattoo Championship Convention | Oct. 17-18, 2026 | Jakob-Kiefer-Halle Bad Kreuznach

Magdeburg Tattoo Convention | Oct. 17-18, 2026 | Messezentrum Magdeburg

Neu-Ulm Tattoo Convention | Oct. 17-18, 2026 | Ratiopharm Arena

Ludwigsburg Tattoo Convention | Oct. 24-25, 2026 | Reithaus Ludwigsburg

Tattoomesse Wuppertal | Oct. 24-25, 2026 | Stadthalle Wuppertal

Wilhelmshaven Tattoo Weekend | Nov. 7, 2026 | Gorch Fock Haus

Altenburg Tattoo Convention | Nov. 7-8, 2026 | Stadthalle Goldener Pflug

Tattoo Convention Grafenwöhr | Nov. 28-29, 2026 | Stadthalle Grafenwöhr

International Tattoo Convention Hagen | Dec. 5-6, 2026 | DoganArena Hagen

Tattoo Convention Löbau | Feb. 27-28, 2027 | Exhibition & Event Park Löbau

Tattoo & Lifestyle Leipzig | Mar. 13-14, 2027 | Agra Messepark

Smaller tattoo conventions may pop-up throughout the year, scan the QR to read our most recent "What's Up This Weekend" in the KMC, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart and Bavaria to find more cons and things to do near you.



Italy

Rovereto Tattooart Convention | May 15-17, 2026 | Progetto Manifattura S.r.l.

Passion Art Tattoo Convention- Brescia | May 15-17, 2026 | Brixia Forum

Napoli Tattoo Expo #3 | May 29-31, 2026 | Mostra d'Oltremare, Naples

Bologna Tattoo Show | June 13-14, 2026 | Bologna

Adriatic Tattoo and Sport Festival | June 26-28, 2026 | Senigallia Centro Storico

Tatuami Tattoo Convention | Oct. 3-4, 2026 | Hotel Crowne Plaza Milan Linate, Milan

Como Tattoo Convention | Oct. 3-5, 2026 | LarioFiere Exhibition Centre

Urban Land Tattoo Expo Roma #9 | Oct. 9-11, 2026 | San Paolo District

Passion Art Tattoo Convention- Bolzano | Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2026 | Fiera Bolzano

Ancona Tattoo Expo #5 | Nov. 6-8, 2026 | Palaindoor

Icons & Prodigies Tattoo Convention Venice | Nov. 14-15, 2026 | Terminal Passeggeri

Catania Tattoo Convention | Nov. 21-22, 2026 | Catania

Padova Ink Show | Nov. 27-29, 2026 | La Fiera di Padova

Milano Tattoo Convention | Feb. 5-7, 2027 | Superstudio Maxi, Milan

Lucca Tattoo Expo | Apr. 9-11, 2027 | Sorbano del Giudice Lucca

Poland

Krakow Tattoo Fest | June 13-14, 2026 | Expo Kraków

Art In The Castle | June 26-28, 2026 | Zamek Książąt Oleśnickich

Festiwal Tatuażu Ostróda Ink-Masters | July 18-19, 2026 | Amphitheatre in Ostróda

World Of Ink #3 | Nov. 20-22, 2026 | Poznań International Fair

The U.K. and Ireland

Big Tattoo Meltdown | May 16-17, 2026 | Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham, U.K.

Tattoo Factory Bedford | May 30-31, 2026 | Bedford International Athletic Stadium, U.K.



*We're going places.
Are you?*

Hidden gems. Bucket-list cities. Real travel.

Start exploring at **StripesEurope.com**—your source for resources
in your local community and across the continent.

So, what are you waiting for?

StripesEurope.com



TATTOO CONVENTION DIRECTORY

Belfast Tattoo Convention | June 5-7, 2026 | Europa Hotel, Belfast, U.K.

Leeds Tattoo Expo | June 6-7, 2026 | Leeds First Direct Arena, U.K.

York Tattoo Convention | June 20-21, 2026 | New Earswick Bowls Club, York, U.K.

Ink and Oil Tattoo Convention | June 26-28, 2026 | Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, U.K.

The Royal Down Tattoo Convention | June 26-28, 2026 | Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, U.K.

Yeovil Tattoo Fest | June 27-28, 2026 | Yeovil Rugby Club, Yeovil, U.K.

Bristol Tattoo Convention | July 4-5, 2026 | Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol, U.K.

Dino Tattoo Show | July 11-12, 2026 | Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham, U.K.

Great Western Tattoo Show | July 25-26, 2026 | STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, Swindon, U.K.

Hull Tattoo and Gaming Convention | July 25-26, 2026 | Malet Lambert School Sports Centre, Hull, U.K.

Mancunia Tattoo Convention | Aug. 1-2, 2026 | Wythenshawe Forum, Mancunia, U.K.

Newbury Tattoo Convention | Aug. 1-2, 2026 | Newbury Racecourse, Newbury, U.K.

Ink and Engines Fest | Aug. 14-16, 2026 | Norfolk Showground, Norwich, U.K.

Tatcon Blackpool | Aug. 15-16, 2026 | Norbreck Castle Hotel, Lancashire, U.K.

Maiden City Tattoo Convention | Aug. 21-23, 2026 | Everglades Hotel, Derry, Ireland

Lincoln Tattoo Con and Music Fest | Aug. 21-23, 2026 | Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, U.K.

Cornwall's Tattoo Convention | Aug. 21-23, 2026 | Royal Cornwall Showground, Cornwall, U.K.

Shropshire Tattoo Show | Aug. 28-30, 2026 | Ludlow Race Club Ltd, Ludlow, U.K.

Seven Hills Tattoo Convention | Aug. 29-30, 2026 | Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield, U.K.

Wirral Tattoo Extravaganza | Aug. 30-31, 2026 | Floral Pavilion Theatre, Wallasey, U.K.

Big London Tattoo Show | Sept. 4-6, 2026 | ExCeL London, London, U.K.

Locked Up Tattoo Convention | Sept. 5-6, 2026 | Shrewsbury Prison, Shrewsbury, U.K.

Chester Tatt Fest | Sept. 26-27, 2026 | St. Mary's Church, London, U.K.

Halloween Tattoo Bash | Oct. 24-25, 2026 | Wolverhampton Racecourse, Wolverhampton, U.K.

Galway Tattoo Show | Jan. 30-31, 2027 | Galmont Hotel, Galway, Ireland

Tattoo Freeze | Jan. 30-31, 2027 | Telford, U.K.

Brighton Tattoo Convention | Feb. 27-28, 2027 | Brighton, U.K.

Portsmouth Tattoo Fest | Apr. 3-4, 2027 | Portsmouth, U.K.

Benelux

The Famil'ink ASBL | May 22-24, 2026 | Salle Perwex, Perwex, Belgium

Elektrik Ink | May 23-24, 2026 | Expo Gowalt, Wetteren, Belgium

Carolo Tattoo Fest | May 30-31, 2026 | Grand Palais de Charleroi, Charleroi, Belgium

Sint-Niklaas Tattoo Expo | May 30-31, 2026 | 't Bau Huis, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

Wild Tattoo Show | June 26-28, 2026 | Ciney Expo, Ciney, Belgium

Fut Métal & Your'Ink | June 27-28, 2026 | Centre Culturel, Saint-Georges-sur-Meuse, Belgium

Black Ink Tattoo Convention | Aug. 1-2, 2026 | Hall Omnisports, Villers-le-Bouillet, Belgium

Amsterdam Tattoo Convention | Sept. 4-6, 2026 | NDSM Loods, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Tox Cit' Ink - a Tattoo Convention | Sept. 5-6, 2026 | Liège Expo, Liège, Belgium

Brugge Tattoo Convention | Sept. 25-27, 2026 | Bruges Meeting & Convention Centre, Brugge, Belgium

Butterfly City Tattoo Convention | Sept. 26-27, 2026 | Themepark & Resort Slagharen, Netherlands

Skin Art Expo | Oct. 3-4, 2026 | Klein Boom, Putte, Belgium

Mons Tattoo Convention | Oct. 11-12, 2026 | Lotto Mons Expo, Mons, Belgium

Luxembourg Tattoo Convention | Oct. 16-18, 2026 | LuxExpo The Box, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

The Art Of Ink Show | Oct. 23-25, 2026 | GIA Trade and Exhibition Center, Den Haag, Netherlands

Kempen Tattoo Convention | Oct. 31- Nov. 1, 2026 | Herselt, Belgium

Brussels Tattoo Convention | Nov. 13-15, 2026 | Tour & Taxis, Bruxelles, Belgium

Bulgaria and Romania

Transilvania Tattoo Expo | May 29-31, 2026 | State Philharmonic Sibiu, Sibiu, Romania

Fish Tattoo Convention | Aug. 7-9, 2026 | WERK Events, Hunedoara, Romania

Bulgaria Tattoo Expo | Sept 26-27, 2026 | Sofia, Bulgaria

Spain

Expo Tattoo Estepona | May 22-24, 2026 | Ayuntamiento de Estepona, Málaga

Valencia Tattoo Convention | June 5-7, 2026 | Feria Valencia

Almería Tattoo Convention | June 12-14, 2026 | Pabellón de Congresos Cabo de Gata-Ciudad de Almería

Urban Art Fest Málaga | Sept. 4-6, 2026 | Palacio de Congresos Torremolinos

Old Navy Tattoo Expo | Sept. 5-6, 2026 | Attica 21 Coruña

Barcelona Tattoo Expo | Oct. 2-4, 2026 | Fira de Barcelona

Merida Tattoo Convention | Nov. 13-15, 2026 | Palacio de Congresos in Mérida

Alicante International Tattoo Convention | Mar. 5-7, 2027 | Alicante, Spain ■

Scan the QR code for more up-to-date information on upcoming convention dates.

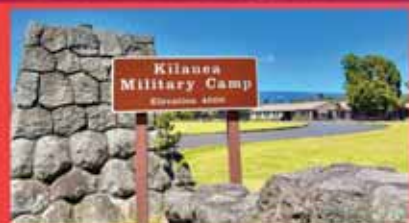


KILAUEA MILITARY CAMP

KMC

ISLAND OF HAWAII

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK!



DISCOVER ADVENTURE AT KILAUEA MILITARY CAMP!

Escape to the rustic charm of Kilauea Military Camp, a historic lodging retreat nestled on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Stay in cozy, comfortable accommodations, savor island-inspired dining at our Café, and step right into the awe-inspiring beauty of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or a longer island escape, make Kilauea Military Camp your home base for adventure, relaxation, and unforgettable memories—book your stay and experience it for yourself.

Your Adventure Awaits:

- Cozy Cabins & Lodging
- Delicious Dining
- Hike Crater Rim Trails
- Play: Bowl, Pickle Ball and more
- Tour Hawai'i Island
- Plan your Wedding or other event
- Relax at our Bar and Grill
- On-Site General Store

BOOK ONLINE NOW AND GET 15% OFF YOUR LODGING!



KILAUEA MILITARY CAMP
Proudly Serving Those Who Serve Since 1916
FAMILY • MORALE • WELFARE • RECREATION

USE PROMO CODE: **EUR15**



PAGE: KMCHAWAII
GROUP: hellokilauea



kmcvolcano



RESERVATIONS:

BOOK ONLINE:

www.kilaueamilitarycamp.com

EMAIL:

usarmy.kmc-reservations@army.mil

PHONE:

+1 (808)-967-8333



SCAN ME



RAMSTEIN & WIESBADEN DENTAL CARE

*Your teeth can be
a work of art too!*



American Doctors & Staff

UNITED CONCORDIA



TRICARE
PREFERRED
PROVIDER

RAMSTEIN DENTAL CARE

- 06371 406230
- Poststrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
- RamsteinDental.com
- RamsteinDental@gmail.com



WIESBADEN DENTAL CARE

- 06119 887 2650
- Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
- WiesbadenDental.com
- WiesbadenDentalCare@gmail.com



We Offer

- Family Dentistry
- Implant Surgery
- Veneers
- Crowns / Bridges
- Root Canals
- Oral Surgery
- Wisdom Tooth Removal
- BlancOne Whitening
- Sports & Night Guards
- Therapeutic & Cosmetic Botox at Ramstein