

## How we got here?

Dr. Weydert and Dr. Hennessy worked together as employees in a dental practice near the Ramstein Air Base from 2010-2013. As Dr. Weydert was commuting from Stuttgart and Dr. Hennessy was commuting from Heidelberg, it made sense to find a better location.

We wanted to be near the Panzer base and schools to be conveniently located for our expected patient population. We determined the old Volksbank building in Schönaich to be big enough and started renovations in 2016 to transform an old bank (after removing the walk-in safe!) into a two chair dental office with room to grow. With the help of Stars and Stripes advertisement we started getting phone calls before we were officially open, and started seeing patients in April 2017. Word of mouth spread and we had more patients than our first two chairs and first few staff could handle, so we quickly (July 2017) added a third chair and more staff. We have since completed our expansion and are a five chair practice with five dentists and three hygienists all rotating on part-time basis to share the space.

Many people ask us “why are you called Midwest?”. Dr. Weydert grew up on a farm in Iowa, and Dr. Hennessy grew up on a farm in Ohio. We hail from the Midwest region of the United States, but the name means more than that. To be “midwestern” is colloquially synonymous with sociable, considerate, dutiful, traditional, and honest. That is a lot of meaning to pack into one word and it is only a generalization. But it suits our hard-working, caring and honest team to identify as midwestern. The rest of the team, however midwestern in attitude, hail from all over the world!

We have a fairly international staff, many of whom are married to members of the US armed services. Although all official communication and documentation in our office is in english, we are able to provide translation and native speaker communication with our Spanish and German speaking patients. Sooo, short answer: The practice founders grew up in the Midwest, USA.