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PRESS RELEASE

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Voice Your Opinion on IMA-E MWR *Army Leisure Needs Survey now in progress at 92 sites worldwide*

HEIDELBERG, GE-Soldiers have the opportunity to voice their opinion on Installation Management Agency – Europe (IMA-E) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs by participating in the 2005 Leisure Needs Survey now being distributed at 20 Army installations throughout Europe.

The Army Leisure Needs Survey is a key source of information for MWR managers, local commanders and senior Army leadership. Survey data is used in program planning and decision-making to improve the MWR activities that are important to quality of life in the community.

This year's LNS survey is being fielded at 92 Army installations, with 266,415 surveys distributed worldwide. Over 36,800 surveys are being distributed in Europe, with 21,439 targeted for distribution to Soldiers.

Soldiers and civilian employees selected through random sampling distribution will receive a survey through their unit or workplace, or through their mailbox at some sites. The survey is also being mailed directly to spouses and military retirees at Stateside installations. The survey ends May 31.

While participants will receive the Army LNS survey in the traditional paper format, they now also have the option of completing the survey online through a secure Web site. The online survey provides the convenience of being able to complete the survey quicker and allows the option of partially filling out the survey and coming back at a later time to complete it.

Each paper survey has a unique code on the cover, which the respondent enters at the survey site log-in page to create their unique survey "account." The online survey has skip patterns built in, which means that the respondent will not be asked questions which don't apply and will move through completing the survey quicker. Once a participant finishes the online survey and hits the "submit" button, the site locks out that unique code and submits the data directly to the survey database. All survey responses are anonymous and confidential and can in no way be traced back to the individual.

Conducted every three years by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va., the Leisure Needs Survey includes common questions which are being asked of all participants, as well as tailored questions customized for each participating installation.

With the goal to gather information to better provide the MWR programs community members want, the comprehensive 16-page survey covers everything from recreation, entertainment and travel; to sports and fitness activities; child and youth services; libraries; fast food and casual dining; golf and bowling; and Army Community Services. Questions range from measuring MWR facility usage and satisfaction to things like frequency of participation in leisure time activities, how patrons hear about MWR events and rating the importance of MWR programs.

Soldiers and civilian employees who receive an Army Leisure Needs Survey are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to voice their opinion on Army MWR. The greater the number of responses, the more accurate and helpful the information is in guiding the Army in providing the MWR programs the community wants and needs. This makes it critical that every recipient of the survey take the time to complete it.

A comprehensive report in digital format will be provided to each participating installation in fall 2005. Each report will provide survey results in the form of an electronic, queryable database of both installation-specific and cumulative Regional and Army-wide data.

Further information on IMA-E MWR in Europe and the Army MWR 2005 Leisure Needs Survey is available at <http://www.mwr-europe.com>.

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Sidebar:

Installations in Europe that are MWR 2005 Leisure Needs Survey sites:

- 6th ASG Stuttgart
- 22nd ASG Vicenza
- 80th ASG SHAPE (Chievres)
- 100th ASG Grafenwoehr
- 221st BSB Wiesbaden
- 222nd BSB Baumholder
- 233rd BSB Darmstadt
- 235th BSB Ansbach
- 254th BSB Schinnen
- 279th BSB Bamberg
- 280th BSB Schweinfurt
- 282nd BSB Hohenfels
- 284th BSB Giessen
- 293rd BSB Mannheim
- 409th BSB Vilseck
- 411th BSB Heidelberg
- 414th BSB Hanau
- 415th BSB Kaiserslautern
- 417th BSB Kitzingen
- AST Livorno

The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe including MWR, drivers licenses, child care and force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.