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Press Release

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IMA-Europe MWR to host camps for youth of deployed Soldiers

By Victoria Palmer, IMA-Europe MWR Marketing

HEIDELBERG, GE—In support of families of deployed Soldiers, Installation Management Agency-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host four Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge sessions this summer.

Each week-long camp will feature team-building challenges and the usual myriad of outdoor adventure, swimming, hiking, creative arts projects and other activities associated with summer camp. But this is a camp with a twist—all campers have the common bond of having one or both active-duty parents deployed.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge—the acronym stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth— will offer not only the opportunity to get away for a week of fun, but also a chance to meet other kids facing the challenges of having a parent deployed. All sessions will include activities to help campers develop strategies to cope with the stresses associated with deployment.

Middle school and high school students whose active-duty Army or Air Force parent is deployed between June 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, are eligible to apply. Although the camp is hosted exclusively by the Installation Management Agency-Europe MWR Child and Youth Services, each Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge session will have four camper spaces for Air Force youth in addition to the 78 spaces filled by Army youth.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge Italia sessions for grades 6-8 will be held July 9-15 and July 23-29 at Camp Darby, Italy. The camp will include teambuilding activities, military skill demonstrations, water activities and sight-seeing trips, including a visit to the leaning tower in Pisa.

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Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge Bavaria for grades 9-12 will be at Grafenwoehr, Germany. The sessions for the high school-age campers will be June 18-24 and August 13-19, and will include adventure activities such as caving, rappelling, water sports and the high ropes course. Teambuilding and self expression activities will also be a core component.

The high school camp sessions will not conflict with either the Summer Hire Program or the high school sports teams' practices.

Campers will only be allowed to attend one session to ensure as many children as possible have an opportunity to attend Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge this summer.

A \$50 camp registration fee will be charged only when a camper is selected to attend. The fee is to reserve the camper's slot in their assigned session and is due by May 31. Refund of the camp registration fee will be given only if written cancellation is submitted at least two weeks prior to the start of camp.

Central bus pick-up points will provide transportation to all camps. Camp organizers stress that no air transportation or individualized transportation will be funded and families will be wholly responsible for getting their son or daughter to the central bus pick-up points.

Complete information and the application form for Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge are available online at www.mwr-europe.com. Applications will be accepted online only; the application deadline is May 5.

Further information on Army MWR in Europe is available at www.mwr-europe.com.

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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 from drivers' licenses to child care to 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.