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Press Release

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Deadline nears for Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge registration

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Children of deployed servicemembers have until May 2 to apply for a summer program that ranges from attending space camp to exploring a German coastal island.

The adventures are part of Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge, which provides for a select group of youth to participate in four events hosted by Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge – the acronym stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth – offers not only a welcome break from the family stresses of deployment, but also a chance for “kids to meet other youth facing similar challenges,” said Joe Marton, child and youth programs specialist for IMCOM-Europe.

Besides CAC-specific happenings, there also will be one-week day camps offered at selected garrisons for school-age children, middle school youth and teens. Additionally, Child and Youth Services programs for school-age children in grades 1-5 will be available at every garrison.

“Deployments can be a very difficult time for some family members,” Marton said. “These camps are a way for these children to share and express their feelings, along with creating lasting memories of unique summer fun.”

As for Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge, middle school and high school students in grades 6-12 (during the 2007-2008 school year) who have a active-duty parent currently deployed, will be deployed by March 1, 2009, or have deployed anytime since June 1, 2007, are eligible to apply. Students having just completed eighth grade are considered an eighth-grader for camp attendance and may apply only to the middle school camp sessions.

Although the overall program is geared primarily for the children of Soldiers, each CAC venue will have four spaces open to Air Force, Navy and Marines participants.

A sports and fitness camp will be the first venue available for middle school youth in grades 6-8. The camp will be held June 16-21 in Germany, followed by a July 5-12 island adventure session near the German coastline, focusing on environmental awareness.

For high school students in grades 9-12, a sports and fitness camp will be held June 16-21 in Germany. And in Belgium during Aug. 3-8, a space camp – including a simulated launch – will provide a hands-on “shoot-for-the stars” science and technology experience designed to challenge teenagers, Marton said.

During space camp, participants will use actual tools employed by astronauts. Plus they will operate a simulated space flight center and life-size shuttle while under the direction of a team of specialists.

To ensure as many youth as possible have the opportunity to attend Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge, participants can attend only one session.

A \$50 camp registration fee will be charged only when a camper is selected to attend. The fee, which is due May 31, reserves a slot in an assigned session. Refund of the registration fee will be given only if written cancellation is submitted at least two weeks prior to camp starting.

Central bus pick-up points will provide transportation to all camps; however, organizers stressed that individualized transportation will not be funded, with families being responsible for getting their son or daughter to central bus pick-up points.

Complete information details and application forms, which will be accepted only online, are available at <http://www.mwr-europe.com/>



Cutlines:

SHUTTLE:

Manning a space flight center and operating a life-size shuttle will be one adventure offered during Installation Management Command-Europe's Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge. (Photo by Roger Verschraegen)

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Europe Region (IMCOM-Europe) is one of six regional offices created Oct. 24, 2006, (formerly known as Installation Management Agency) as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMCOM-Europe 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, IMCOM-Europe is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.