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Installation Management Command-Europe hosting Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge for children with deployed parents

Installation Management Command - Europe release

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- The U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe is hosting a summer camp designed specifically for children of deployed servicemembers.



RAY JOHNSON

Participants in last year's U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge program canoe down a river during the outdoor recreation portion of a sports and fitness camp. The deadline to register for the weeklong camp designed for children of deployed servicemembers is May 4.

Youth and School Services, the camp will have some spaces open to children whose deployed moms or dads belong to the Air Force, Navy or Marine Corps.

Students who have just completed eighth grade are considered eighth-graders for camp attendance and may only apply to the middle school camp sessions.

The weeklong camp, which will be conducted in Germany, is designed to provide concentrations in basketball, culinary arts, soccer, and track and field. In addition, all campers will participate in an outdoor adventure program such as hiking, climbing and canoeing, as well as healthy living classes.

"We want the experience to be fun but also educational," Marton said.

Called Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge -- the acronym stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth -- the June 15-20 program offers a break from family stresses of deployment and a chance for "more than 200 kids to meet other youth facing similar challenges," said Joe Marton, Child, Youth and School Services program specialist for IMCOM-Europe Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Middle school and high school students currently in grades 6-12 whose active-duty parents have deployed or will be deploying between June 1, 2008, and March 1, 2010, are eligible to apply by May 4.

Although the camp is hosted exclusively by IMCOM-Europe Child,

Additionally, the program aims to build positive relationships between military children, noted Marton, who added that "there are scores of stories of these kids building lasting friendships that started in CAC and other similar camps we have sponsored."

Besides Camp A.R.M.Y Challenge, CYS Services will be offering summer programs at every IMCOM-Europe garrison for school-aged children, middle school youth and teens.

For CAC a nonrefundable \$50 camp registration fee is required when a child is selected to attend the camp. The fee reserves a slot in an assigned session.

Central bus pick-up points will provide transportation to the camps; however, Marton stressed that individualized transportation will not be funded, so families are responsible for getting their sons or daughters to the central bus pick-up points.

Complete information and application forms -- which will be accepted only online -- are available at www.mwr-europe.com.



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