

## **U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army**

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### **Spaces still available in 2009 Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge summer camp program**

#### **U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Europe Public Affairs Office**

**HEIDELBERG, Germany** -- Children of deployed servicemembers in Europe can still apply for residential summer camps filled with specialized instruction ranging from culinary classes, soccer, track and field, and basketball.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge is designed specifically for teens and middle school students and is hosted by Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge -- the acronym stands for Adventure, Resilience, Memories, Youth -- is set for June 15-20 and offers not only a break from the family stresses of deployment, but also "provides a perfect venue for kids to have fun and learn at the same time," said Joe Marton, Child, Youth and School Services program specialist for IMCOM-Europe.

The program also aims to build social skills, Marton added, "that can used for a lifetime."

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.

Although the camp is hosted exclusively by IMCOM-Europe Child, 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 just completed eighth grade are considered eighth-graders for attendance and may only apply to the middle school camp sessions.

CAC, which will be held in Germany, will focus on basketball, culinary arts, soccer and track and field. All campers will also participate in an outdoor adventure program (such as hiking, climbing and canoeing) and healthy living classes. "We want the experience to be educational and entertaining," Marton said.

Dylan Smith, a participant in last year's sports camp, said he welcomed the sharp coaching, which he believes improved his soccer game. "The instructors really pushed fundamentals. They encourage you to have fun, to loosen up and to not be so hard on yourself."

Those interested in applying must provide a nonrefundable \$50 camp registration fee when a child is selected to attend. The fee reserves a slot in an assigned session.

Central bus pick-up points will provide transportation to the camps; however, Marton stressed that families are responsible for getting their sons or daughters to central bus pick-up points.

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



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