



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army Commits to Soldiers and Families

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – The Army is reaffirming its commitment to Soldiers and their families through a ceremonial covenant resigning ceremony, at the Nehelani Banquet and Conference Center, here, March 18.

The Army Family Covenant restates the Army’s promise to improve family readiness through increased accessibility to health care; better Soldier and family housing; ensuring excellence in child, youth and school services; and expanded education and employment opportunities for family members.

“Over the years, our Soldiers and their families have endured the stress and hardship of multiple overseas deployments and prolonged absences due to training exercises, and throughout (it all), family members have served side-by-side with our Soldiers, enduring the same trials and tribulations,” said Col. Matthew T. Margotta, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.

“Just as the Soldiers and family members alike have shown great commitment and dedication to the Army, so too is the Army’s commitment to guaranteeing that Soldiers and their Families have the best resources and programs available to provide a quality of life commensurate with their service.”

Nationally, roughly \$1.5 billion has been allocated for Army Family programs since 2007. Funding has been approved for more than 100 new child development centers Armywide. More than 41,000 military spouses have landed jobs through the Army Spouse Employment Program, and more than 21,000 new or refurbished homes for military families have been provided through the Residential Communities Initiative throughout the past two years.

In 2009, the Army in Hawaii implemented more than 20 Army Family Covenant initiatives which include approximately 360 new homes, increased care providers in Family Practice, Pediatrics, Troop Medical Clinic and the Acute Care Clinic, as well as providing additional reintegration programs for returning Soldiers.

Although the Army has made substantial positive impacts into the lives of Army families, the

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process is ongoing, and there is still more work to be done, according to Margotta. In order to ensure that the Army is making progress in meeting its obligations, Soldiers and family members, representing a cross-section of Army life, are participating in the 2010 annual Army Family Action Plan (AFAP), here, March 16-18.

“The (AFAP) gathering provides a forum and opportunity for participants to influence and provide direction in future command decisions on how the Army should proceed in living up to its pledge.” Margotta explained. “The covenant is more than simply words on paper; it is a promise to those that have served our nation so well.”

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MEDIA NOTE: For further information or to attend the AFAP or Army Family Covenant signing, please contact Loran Doane, Media Relations chief, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs at (808) 656-3157 or cell (317)-847-2222.