

Family Support Work Group – Issue #1

Title: Maximum OCONUS Childcare Fees

Scope: Full-time childcare fees for military Families OCONUS are excessive at government-provided childcare agencies. Based on statistics from 2000, national average childcare costs are 9% of income. Some military Families with multiple dependents are paying as much as 25% of their income towards childcare. The overwhelming cost of childcare diminishes morale and causes financial hardship for OCONUS tours.

Recommendation: Implement childcare fees that do not exceed a total of 10% of combined household base pay.

Family Support Work Group – Issue #2

Title: Military Spouse Preference for New Spouses

Scope: Spouses who marry Soldiers in transition or during current assignment do not get Military Spouse Preference (MSP) until they PCS to a new duty station. Spouses who live in a military community find it difficult to obtain employment as they are competing against incoming spouses who are already authorized MSP. Career opportunities for spouses are important to the overall fundamentals of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program.

Recommendation: Immediately amend Sponsor's orders to qualify spouses for MSP effective to the date of marriage.

Family Support Work Group – Issue #3

Title: Authorized Work Requirements for Foreign-Born Spouses OCONUS

Scope: Foreign-born non-U.S. spouses are ineligible to obtain federally funded work positions in OCONUS locations. The Naturalization requirements for Appropriated Fund (APF) positions severely limits employment opportunities and causes feelings of resentment based on this discrimination against foreign-born spouses.

Recommendation: Authorize Army spouses who have obtained a green card and a Social Security number to work in APF positions commensurate to security clearance requirements, if any.

Youth Work Group – Issue #1

Title: Condition of Community-wide Athletic Facilities

Scope: Sports facilities in our community, including tennis courts and multi-purpose fields, are in ill-repair. The poor condition of the facilities is a hindrance on the players' ability to play to their full potential. These inadequate conditions lead to an increased risk of injury and loss of scholarship opportunities.

Recommendation:

1. Repair High School Softball Practice field, BFV Tennis Court, and High School Practice Field.
2. Enforce upkeep and safety of sports facilities.

Youth Work Group – Issue #2

Title: Community Youth Council

Scope: In our community there is not a youth council to voice youth opinions. Events and certain building projects are being set in motion, which the youth do not desire. Due to no youth council, projects are being funded that are going unused and unappreciated.

Recommendation:

1. Establish a youth council.
2. Include youth council on Garrison team.

Youth Work Group – Issue #3

Title: Publicity for Youth Events

Scope: The publicity for community wide youth events is insufficient. Many events, including the teen work group in the AFAP Conference, are not being announced throughout the community. The lack of publicity leads to confusion and low participation.

Recommendation:

1. Establish better advertisement via newspaper, flyers and bulletin boards, enabling the community to be informed of youth events.
2. Provide teen representatives in town hall meeting

Single Soldier Work Group – Issue #1

Title: 24 Hour Manual and Guest Sign-in Accessibility at Coleman Barracks Main Gate

Scope: There is no manual sign-in at Coleman Barracks main gate. There is a pod gate that is not 100% operable and doesn't service non ID card holders. Therefore Soldiers and non ID card holders have to walk approximately 3 unsecured miles to the barracks, thru the back gate, compared to a secured 300 meter walk from the Coleman Barracks main gate. This is a potential hazard issue during inclement weather and poses a safety issue due to poor visibility and traffic control and no pedestrian crosswalk. This increases the risk for Soldier/civilian's safety.

Recommendation: Create and fund a 24 hour manual sign-in at Coleman Barracks main gate.

Single Soldier Work Group – Issue #2

Title: Accessibility of MWR Outdoor Recreation Facility at Coleman Barracks

Scope: Coleman Barracks Soldiers are unable to participate in outdoor recreational activities and events. There is insufficient transportation for soldiers and the unavailability for telephonic and internet sign up for activities and making reservations with the MWR facility. The Morale of Soldiers is adversely impacted.

Recommendation:

1. Move the MWR outdoor recreation facility to Coleman Barracks.
2. Create a website for sign up and payment.
3. Provide transportation from Coleman for single soldiers.

Single Soldier Work Group – Issue #3

Title: Survey for Determining USAREUR COLA

Scope: The COLA rate is not sufficient in comparison to the Euro exchange rate. The survey is not being utilized by every member of the community due to lack of completion and awareness of the survey. Without use of the survey DA doesn't have an accurate idea of the cost of living in USAREUR. This causes inadequate quality of life for single Soldiers.

Recommendation:

1. Mandatory completion of survey from every member of the communities.
2. Base COLA off the value of goods on the economy.

Force Support Work Group – Issue #1

Title: Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) program not continually offered in United States Army Europe (USAREUR).

Scope: FAST program is not being provided to Soldiers in USAREUR. In accordance with AR 621-5 (Army Continuing Education Services), all Soldiers with a GT score below 100 are mandated to attend FAST program.

Recommendation:

1. Provide Army funds to reestablish FAST program in USAREUR for Soldiers that meet the requirement.
2. Utilize video teleconferencing (VTC) capabilities currently available in USAREUR to link USAREUR Soldiers with ongoing Continental United States (CONUS) FAST program classes.

Force Support Work Group – Issue #2

Title: Snow and Ice Treatment at United States Army Garrison Mannheim (USAG-M).

Scope: Snow and ice is not treated and removed in all high pedestrian, high traffic, and common-areas in the Mannheim footprint. Areas that are treated are usually not completed before Soldiers and Family Members start their day. Pedestrians and vehicles are placed at a higher risk of injuries and/or damages due to accumulation of snow and ice that is not treated by 5:00AM.

Recommendation: Treat and remove snow and ice from all high pedestrian, high traffic and common-areas in the Mannheim footprint by 5:00AM.

Force Support Work Group – Issue #3

Title: US Army Garrison Mannheim (USAG-M) Website

Scope: Current information is not being disseminated throughout USAG-M. Information available on USAG-M website is not current. The inconsistent and untimely updating of the USAG-M website results in low community awareness and participation. This leads to misinformation and lack of clarity.

Recommendation:

1. Publish and maintain community calendar on USAG-M website.
2. USAG-M leadership must hold all force support organizations accountable for updating links on website.
3. Actively promote USAG-M website on all media.