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# Chievres/SHAPE Military Community

2009

AMERICAN FAMILY ACTION PLAN  
CONFERENCE

REPORT OUT SESSION

“AFAP...Celebrating 25 Years as the Voice of the  
American Community”

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# Six Most Critical Active HQDA Issues

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497- Allow Soldiers with at least ten years of service to transfer their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their dependents.

521 – Allow in-state tuition rates for military Family Members who reside in a state on military orders and allow Family Member to retain “in-state” status, once established.

526 – Fund the shipment of a second POV for OCONUS tours.

578 – Authorize the use of permissive TDY for fathers upon the birth of a child.

620 – Increase dependent entitlement eligibility for full time students to age 25 years.

621 – Award medical retirement pay for all Service members with a 30% or higher disability rating to the equivalent retirement pay of an E-6 with 10 years service or current entitlement, whichever is higher.

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# Conference Four Most Valuable Services

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- 1- Army Community Service (ACS)
  - 2- Medical Care
  - 3- Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR)
  - 4- Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS)
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# Mobilization Strengths and Challenges

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## Strengths

- 1- Communication between home and downrange
- 2- Training for Service Members
- 3- Family Care/SFRG's/MWR free stuff
- 4- Quality of Life Downrange (MWR, Chaplains etc.)

## Challenges

- 1- Family support (Teen programs, Individual augmentee Families, Command emphasis)
  - 2- Spread too thin /length of deployment
  - 3- Family Stress
  - 4- Mental Health Care
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# Chievres Garrison/SHAPE

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## American Family Action Plan FY09 Conference

### Youth AFAP

Spokespersons: Alexa Erdogan

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# Issue Paper 1

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**TITLE:** Cultural Adaptation Program for Department of Defense (DOD) High School/Middle School-Aged Students

**SCOPE:**

There is no program for incoming Department of Defense (DOD) High School/Middle School-Aged Students about SHAPE and the local Belgian culture. While Headstart and Welcome Everyone to Belgium programs exist for adults, there is no program for teens to assist in transition. A cultural adaptation program would minimize stress and aid in assimilation for incoming DOD High School/Middle School-Aged Students.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Provide interactive cultural awareness program for incoming DOD High School/Middle School-Aged Students.
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# Issue Paper 2

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**TITLE:** Support Groups for Teens of Deployed Sponsors

**SCOPE:**

There is no standardized support group for Teens during the deployment cycle. OP Ready offers educational classes for teens before deployment and before re-integration, but these classes are not available at every Garrison. These classes don't offer emotional support during the actual deployment. Teens whose Sponsor is deployed would have their stress decreased through support groups that offered continuous sustainment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Implement OP Ready classes at every Garrison.
  2. Create on-going support group for Teens whose Sponsor is deployed at every Garrison.
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# Issue Paper 3

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**TITLE:** Student Representation in School Lunch Program

**SCOPE:**

There is no student representation in the school lunch program. Decisions that affect the school lunch program are made by AAFES and DODDS representatives. School lunches are intended to fulfill nutritional requirements, but students are resorting to other less nutritional options because school lunches are over priced and not appealing. Inclusion of student representation would result in increased support for the school lunch program and promote a healthy lifestyle.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Create a school lunch program committee consisting of representation of students, parents, nutritionist, DODDS representative, and AAFES representative.



# Chievres Garrison/SHAPE

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## American Family Action Plan FY09 Conference

### Youth AFAP

Spokespersons: Joanna McLaren

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# Issue Paper 1

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**TITLE:** Electives and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses in Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS)

**SCOPE:**

There are limited electives and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS). The lack of electives and AP courses decreases the quality of education for students. Providing a wider variety of electives and AP courses will give students a more complete and diverse education to better prepare them for their future.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Issue an annual electives and Advanced Placement (AP) course survey to Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) students world-wide.
  2. Use survey results to create the requested courses.
  3. Provide a student determined variety of electives and AP courses in all DoDDS schools regardless of student population.
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# Issue Paper 2

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**TITLE:** European Installation Family Recreation Facility

**SCOPE:**

At European Installations there are limited opportunities for positive Family activities in a safe and clean environment. Existing recreational options are limited and insufficiently address the needs of Families. Separate activities exist for teens and children but there are limited Family opportunities on post. Providing recreation facilities creates a positive and safe environment for Military Families to spend time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Create a recreational facility at every post in Europe with appropriate activities for all ages such as roller skating, rock climbing, paintball, laser tag and a jungle gym.
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# Chievres Garrison/SHAPE

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## American Family Action Plan FY09 Conference

# Single Soldier Work Group

Spokesperson: Michelle Kennedy-Gonzalez

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# Issue Paper 1

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TITLE: Dual Military Family Separation

SCOPE:

The absence of both Service Members in a dual Military Family disrupts the Family unit. Dual Military Service Members can be separated from dependents at the same time. The separation causes disruption in the Family structure. The increase in care requirements and potential relocation costs must be arranged and paid. With both Service Members gone, Families grow apart and financial hardships arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Designate one Service Member of dual Military Families for Family care during the duration of separation.



# Issue Paper 2

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TITLE: GI Bill Options

SCOPE:

Upon initial enlistment you have the choice of enrolling in the GI Bill. After initial enlistment you can not add the GI Bill. By adding an option to get the GI Bill it adds incentive to reenlistment and rectifies an enlistment decision not to have the GI Bill.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Establish reenlistment incentive to add the GI benefit.
  2. Establish a grace period to add the GI Bill in the initial enlistment.
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# Chievres Garrison/SHAPE

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## American Family Action Plan FY09 Conference

### October Work Group

Spokesperson: Stephanie Berg

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# Issue Paper 1

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TITLE: Department Of Defense Dependent School (DoDDS) Kindergarten  
Pupil to Teacher Ratio

SCOPE:

Department of Defense Dependent School (DoDDS) kindergarten Pupil to Teacher Ratio (PTR) is too high. The current PTR for kindergarten allows 29-1. The PTR for grades 1, 2 & 3 is 18-1. Kindergarten students require more one on one interaction than students in grades 1, 2 & 3. Lowering the kindergarten PTR will increase the time available for individual help in development of life, social and physical skills.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Reduce the kindergarten Pupil to Teacher Ratio (PTR) to match the PTR for grades 1, 2 & 3 (18-1).
  2. Maintain an aide in each kindergarten classroom regardless of the PTR.
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# Issue Paper 2

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TITLE: Daily Physical Education for Elementary Students in Department of Defense Dependent School (DoDDS).

SCOPE:

Department of Defense Dependent School (DoDDS) elementary curriculum does not provide an adequate daily program for physical development of students. Daily exercise promotes a healthy active life style and helps combat health problems associated with military life. Lack of daily physical education (PE) introduced at the elementary level fails to prepare students for maintaining life long fitness and health.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Include 45 minutes a day of organized Physical Education (PE) under the direct supervision of a certified PE teacher for all elementary school students.
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# Issue Paper 3

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TITLE: Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) Internship Program For United States (US) Family Members

SCOPE:

Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) there are limited opportunities for jobs and continued job skill development for US Family members. Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) limit the number of jobs for United States (US) Family Members, for example in fiscal year 2008 there were approximately 2000 adult US Family members in the Chievres/SHAPE community. Out of 756 positions available 143 were held by adult US Family members and 419 were held by local nationals. Implementing an internship program would promote greater exposure to job skill development and enhance opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create Family member internship program for Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS).
  2. Designate priority to military Family members for local internships.
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# Chievres Garrison/SHAPE

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## American Family Action Plan FY09 Conference

### February Workgroup

Spokesperson: Markese Greene

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# Issue Paper 1

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**TITLE:** Centralized Army Lodging Web-Based Reservation System for Customers

**SCOPE:**

A centralized Army Lodging web-based reservation system is not available. Customers are required to contact each lodge individually through phone, e-mail or website to obtain reservations. Commercial lodging businesses have effective web-based centralized reservation systems. The current Army Lodging reservation system is inefficient and therefore, inconvenient. A centralized Army Lodging web-based reservation system would benefit the customers by saving time and money.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Create a centralized Army Lodging web-based reservation system for customers.
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# Issue Paper 2

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TITLE: Chievres/SHAPE Housing Handbook for United States (US) Personnel

SCOPE:

A consolidated written resource for United States (US) Personnel regarding obtaining, maintaining, and clearing housing in the Chievres/SHAPE Community does not exist. Housing procedures for arriving personnel are unclear. A Housing Handbook would assist incoming and existing US Personnel to be self reliant in economy and government housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Publish a customer-friendly, comprehensive Housing Handbook with check lists addressing policies, procedures, and potential resources for US Personnel in the Chievres/SHAPE Community.
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