DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON - STUTTGART
UNIT 30401
APO AE 09107-0401

IMEU-STU-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: USAG-Stuttgart Command Policy Letter 9, Support for Dependent Education

1. Time and again, service members rank dependent education as one of the top three Quality of Life issues. Active parental involvement with teachers and administrators to support student success is paramount. It is thus imperative that local commanders and directors regularly emphasize the importance of parental involvement in our schools. Total community support for our students, teachers and administrators will ensure solid educational opportunities and experiences for our youth well into the future.

2. Parent-teacher conferences are an important tool in the education of our children. It is therefore directed that unless a service member is deployed or traveling, the parent-teacher conference is the appointed place of duty for that appointed time. Additionally, new parent orientations, kindergarten home visits, open houses, and back-to-school events are important events for both parent and student. These venues allow administrators and teachers to brief standards, expectations, and course content. Please make military parents available to attend these sessions.

3. Every school year provides opportunities to refine and improve our community school partnership programs. Stuttgart schools seek not only guest speakers, but also help in mentoring, tutoring, reading to children, and Parent-Teacher Associations, among other needs. When you become a mentor to a child through one of these programs, you can change that child's life forever. Children with a mentor are less likely to skip school, less likely to use drugs, less likely to use alcohol, and less likely to engage in violence at school. Military and spouse participation in these programs keep us involved in our school, validate our commitment to quality education, and provide an added layer of richness to our children's education.

4. The Robinson Barracks School is worthy of particular attention. Because of the driving distance to this school, it suffers from a lack of military volunteers. I would ask that you consider special encouragement of partnership programs at Robinson Barracks, most of which begin at 1430 and run until 1600. Where possible, I would ask that you consider allowing Robinson Barracks parents the opportunity to leave work at 1400 once a week while school is in session to support a program at this school. This sacrifice of time will yield untold benefits for years to come.

5. Government service employees are allowed and encouraged to participate, within the provisions of federal regulations. If a government service employee wishes to spend his or her lunch hour to mentor or tutor a child that is acceptable.

If a government service employee wishes to dedicate more than his or her lunch hour to a program on a particular day, it is allowable if the employee's work schedule is modified to ensure the completion of an eight-hour work day (i.e. start the work day earlier and/or extend the work day).

6. While the rich diversity of contractors can greatly enhance such partnerships as well, please use great caution to ensure that any contractor participation is within the legal guidelines of the contract.

7. We, as a community, also want to do a better job in recognizing the efforts of our school volunteers. I have asked that the Stuttgart Local Mentorship Board track the contributions of time made during the year in order for me to personally thank Stuttgart's mentors at the end of the school year.

8. Stuttgart needs your help, understanding, and cooperation to guarantee a first-class learning environment in our community. Your personal involvement will make the difference.

KENNETH G. JUERGENS
COL, OD
Commanding