

CSTC Commits to Army Family Covenant  
By Amy Phillips, CSTC PAO

The Combat Support Training Center (CSTC) held signing ceremonies at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) and Camp Parks (CP) in November signifying its commitment to Families and Soldiers at the two garrisons.

As recognition to the increased burden on Families while Soldiers are mobilized or deployed and the importance of taking care of its troops, the Army has recently programmed \$1.4 billion to all Family programs which translates to new on-post child care facilities, new and renovation of barracks, new commissaries, and expanding education and employment opportunities for Army Family members.

The CSTC is slowly but surely seeing some of the funds trickle to its garrisons which allowed for a 59% increase in Family Child Care Homes and child care provider positions at FHL and 100% increase in those positions at CP; expansion of on- and off-post youth programs; enhancement of fitness facilities; and hiring of more staff to establish and manage programs that Soldiers and their Family are entitled to.

The CSTC also provides much needed housing for military service members in its surrounding communities: FHL has 85 homes on post; CP located in Dublin has 114 homes; and also 316 homes at the Army Complex at Moffett Field, Mountain View.

The Army has steadily increased funding to family programs in the past several years as deployments have increased. In fiscal year 2007, the Army in partnership with private developers, have created 79,000 new homes at installations throughout the nation; established 19 new Post Exchanges (\$170 million investment); and established 40 new Child Development Centers (\$171.5 million investment) to name a few. Since 2001, 85,000 barracks have been upgraded or replaced.

As a relatively new organization established in 2005, the CSTC continues to grow as funding permits and is committed to enhancing and expanding services to the military and its Families.

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## **ARMY FAMILY COVENANT**

We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.

We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.

We are committed to building a partnership with Army Families that enhances their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving Family readiness by:

- \* Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services
- \* Increasing accessibility and quality of health care
- \* Improving Soldier and Family housing
- \* Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services, and child care
- \* Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members



Photo outline:

(From L to R behind table) MG Bruce Casella, the CSTC's Senior Mission Commander, and COL Kevin Riedler, CSTC Commander, signs Covenant document as Soldiers and their Families witness. Photo by H. Carpenter, FHL Staff