

## ARMY COMMUNITY COVENANT (ACC)

- **BLUF:** The ACC is designed to develop and foster effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve quality of life for Active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers and Families. Through the ACC, communities recognize the commitment Soldiers and Families make every day.
- ACC is tailored at the local level, with civic leaders at both local and state levels participating in signings, commencing on 17 April 2008.
- Since the ACC inception, there have been 85 covenant signing ceremonies; 19 governors and lieutenant governors, 37 Members of Congress, 96 state representatives, and 216 mayors have participated.
- There are 1,540 best practices with 314 newly identified in 2008. Best practices are shared through the ACC web site and include:
- **Education:** 11 states enacted the *Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children*, replacing the widely varying treatment of transitioning military students with a unified, comprehensive approach in every school district, in every state that joins the Compact. 3 states, Arizona, Florida, and Indiana, offer Purple Heart recipients free or reduced undergraduate tuition at state colleges and universities and 1 university, Central Texas College, offers 30 semester hours of free tuition to spouses of Purple Heart recipients.
- **Wounded Warrior Support:** Two communities implemented *House of Heroes* where volunteers assist disabled Soldiers and Veterans repair and improve their homes. *Returning Heroes Home*, a private not for profit organization, donated funds to build a Warrior and Family Support Center on Fort Sam Houston to support Wounded Warriors and their Families who receive treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center.
- **Family Support:** *Operation Kid Comfort*, with support from local Armed Services YMCA chapters and local quilting societies, creates unique quilts and pillows for military children featuring pictures of their deployed or wounded Soldier. *Operation Eagle's Nest* provided funds to build a handicap accessible playground on Fort Campbell so Wounded Warriors can interact and play with their children.

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**Q: There are many Americans eager and willing to help and support Soldiers and their Families, but often ask me how they can get involved. How can they get help?**

**A:** In April 2008, Army launched the Army Community Covenant. The ACC is a commitment by communities to support and recognize the commitment Soldiers and Families make every day. It brings awareness to all the great organizations and communities supporting our Army Families. I would encourage anyone interested in helping Soldiers and their Families to visit the ACC web site ([www.communitycovenant.army.mil](http://www.communitycovenant.army.mil)) and explore the opportunities available. The site lists over 1,540 best practices and organizations supporting Soldiers and Families today.

**Q: What is the Army Community Covenant?**

**A:** The ACC is a commitment by communities to support those who serve and recognize the commitment Soldiers and Families make every day. The ACC develops and fosters effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve quality of life for Soldiers and their Families. These partnerships support the strength, resilience, and readiness of Soldiers and their Families and assists in the implementation of the Army Family Covenant.

**Q: What is the connection between the Army Family Covenant and the Army Community Covenant?**

**A:** The Army Community Covenant complements the Army Family Covenant. Through the ACC, communities commit to assist in the implementation of the Army Family Covenant and build partnerships supporting the strength, resilience, and readiness of Soldiers and their Families.