

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders and Staff

SUBJECT: Commanding General's Initial Assessment

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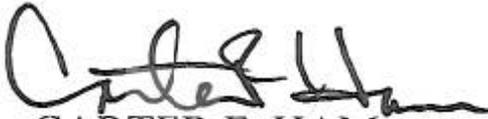
(1) I reaffirm what I said in my initial Commander's Intent back in September: I see great commitment across USAREUR to the quality of life (QOL) of our Soldiers, Families, and civilians. There will be challenges ahead as deployments and our transformation continue. I will do my best to remove some of the uncertainty, but QOL issues will require continuous senior leader emphasis and attention.

(2) Taking care of our Soldiers, Families, and civilian employees is inherent to our readiness. Wherever I go throughout USAREUR, morale is high. This is a credit to each and every one of you.

(3) We have wonderful support programs that span all manner of Soldier and Family needs. I've seen the resources that our Soldiers and Families have at their disposal; I've also met the people who provide these services. We have great support personnel and facilities. I think we can do a bit better in sharing best practices between units and communities. Our senior commanders and garrison commanders have this responsibility.

(4) The Army Family Covenant recognizes the paramount importance of our Families to the Army as an institution. However, the process has not yet matured in Europe and its benefits have not been realized uniformly in the field. I need you to tell me where the Army Family Covenant is coming up short for USAREUR so we can make good on this promise to our Soldiers and their Families. Secretary Geren, General Casey, and Sergeant Major of the Army Preston have stated that 2009 is the year in which we need to deliver on the expectations of the Army Family Covenant. We all have work to do in this regard.

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CARTER F. HAM  
General, USA  
Commanding