

Fort Jackson

Making the Army Covenant a Reality



Photo by Mike Glasch

Fort Jackson's commanding general, Brig. Gen. James H. Schwitters, signed the Army Family Covenant November 19, 2007 at the MG Robert B. Solomon Center. The covenant is an Army-wide initiative that pledges to provide support for Army families, increase the accessibility and quality of healthcare, improve Soldier and family housing and fund family programs and services.

"It's a recognition that the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army are committed to improving the quality of life for Soldiers and family members," Schwitters said. The covenant provides \$1.4 billion for fiscal year 2008, and Army leadership is looking to include similar measures in the budget for the next five years. According to Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody, the Army has committed \$40 billion over the next six years to support family programs. (Mike A. Glasch, Leader Staff)

- ✓ Increased ACS staff to better serve FJ Soldiers & Families who are in need of Family services/programs
- ✓ Funded Exceptional Family Member respite care (to provide temporary rest periods for Family members responsible for regular care of persons with disabilities)
- ✓ Funded childcare for Family Readiness Group (FRG) meetings
- ✓ Expanded New Parent Support Services (provide home visitors to expectant parents & parents of children from birth to 2 years of age)
- ✓ Expanded FRG resource library
- ✓ Information reference job search/employment opportunities for teens (Barb's new efforts)