

Army leadership Ready Army message

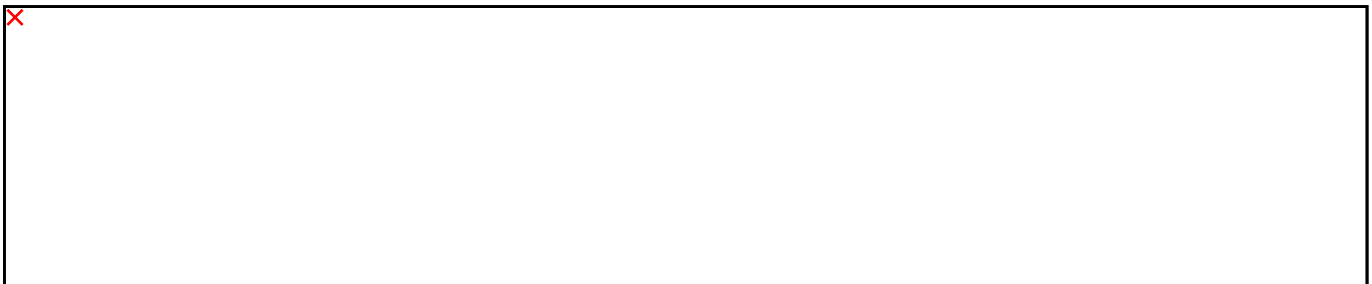
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Oct. 7, 2008 -- An era of persistent conflict requires persistent vigilance to prepare the Army Community at home and abroad. The increased use of asymmetric tactics in modern conflict and the potential for natural crises - such as Pandemic Influenza or Hurricane Katrina - demonstrate the need for every member of our Army Community to be prepared for any emergency.

In September, National Preparedness Month, the Army launched Ready Army – a proactive community awareness campaign to empower our Soldiers, Families and Army Civilians to develop individual and family preparedness plans for all hazards. The Army is the first service to partner with the Department of Homeland Security's national preparedness campaign. Our campaign provides additional targeted information to support the unique needs of our Army Community stationed around the world. Ready Army provides education and outreach materials on 25 diverse man-made and natural threats, mass warning and notification systems, and accountability procedures. It includes a range of templates, checklists, and guidance for family emergency planning. Ready Army provides a sense of security for deployed Soldiers and their Families. These efforts will help build the strategic depth necessary to sustain a strong, resilient and ready volunteer force as we prepare for all hazards of the 21st century.

Readiness begins with awareness. We ask all of you to place the emphasis on this campaign that our Army needs and deserves, remembering that the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of our Families. We encourage you to lead preparedness efforts for your Army Community and remind you that should an emergency occur; we will face the challenge together and side by side with our neighbors, regardless of where we are in the world. For this reason we recommend involving local community leaders and first responders in your Ready Army activities, further strengthening relationships and building partnerships for a Ready Community.

Soldiers support Soldiers. Families support Families. In the Army, we support each other. As we strive to restore balance, increase the readiness of our force and improve the quality of life for our Soldiers and Families, Ready Army offers the tools to prepare the centerpiece of our Army for challenging times. We took to you to ensure Ready Army is a prominent and active part of life on your installation or in your organization. We are proud to offer this support to our Soldiers and Families and ask our Army leaders to promote these simple and important steps: Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Be Informed. Thank you for your leadership and for your service to our Army Community.



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