DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT AGENCY
2511 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3926
February 23, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

SFIM-OP-R

6 APR 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Physical Fitness Center Age Policy

1. Physical Fitness facilities are the hub of an installation's fitness and sports program, access to which is vital for the total Army community. This comment comes directly out of AR 215-1, which governs the Army Sports and Fitness programs. However, AR 215-1 continues on to state:

"e. Youth use. Youth may use adult indoor physical fitness centers only under the provisions below. All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a reasonable, responsible, and prudent manner in accordance with facility rules and regulations:

(1) Soldier programs are not displaced.
(2) Children 12 years old and under are not authorized in the cardiovascular, strength, sauna, or steam rooms or Jacuzzi areas at any time
(3) As a family member, children and youth (16 years old and under) must be actively participating in the same activity and under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian.
(4) As a participant in a special program, organized and conducted by CYS, schools, or other authorized youth organizations."

2. This regulation is in place for the safety and protection of all and will not be superseded by installation, base support battalion (BSB), or regional regulations. Current regulation aligns the Army's physical fitness centers with industry standards and is an essential component of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and Army Risk Management practice.

3. This does not give an installation, BSB or Area Support Group (ASG) the authority at any time to create or establish a "psuedo child care site" in a physical fitness center, racquetball court, or any other location other than a certified or accredited childcare facility. Regulations and the Military Child Care Act of 1989 prohibit creating a childcare area in any non-Children and Youth Service (CYS) or Army Community Services (ACS) certified or accredited area. Fitness Centers will not be used in lieu of a safe, certified childcare facility.

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4. Child Care is provided in 98% of all military communities with the Army and will be utilized. This is a risk management issue. If there is a need on an installation for care during peak fitness center usage by family members, the CYS and Sports and Fitness Coordinator will coordinate to ensure that authorized childcare is available. If an installation or BSB would like to request an exception to this policy, the memorandum must be routed through the region and HQ, IMA to the U. S. Army Community and Family Support Center for approval.

5. For questions or additional information, please contact my point of contact for this action, Ms. Kimberly Combs, commercial (703) 602-1662, DSN 332-1662 and e-mail kimberly.combs@hqda.army.mil.

THOMAS E. SITTNICK
Colonel, IN
Chief, Operations Division

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