



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*News Advisory***



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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337-531-2011

EVENT TO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP:

Fort Polk will host a partnership signing ceremony 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, July 1 with the new family housing partner, Picerne Military Housing. Geoffrey G. Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army- Installations and Management; John G. Picerne, president and chief executive officer of Picerne Military Housing; and Brig. Gen. Jason K. Kamiya, commander of the JRTC and Fort Polk will participate.

MEDIA INVITATION:

Fort Polk to host RCI Signing Ceremony

-Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army

& CEO of housing partner to visit

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2003

Plan to Meet No Later Than 12:45 p.m. at the Public Affairs Office

- 1. You are invited to attend and cover the Residential Communities Initiative Signing Ceremony to be held at 1:15 p.m. on the lawn of 5309 Fryar Court, a Fort Polk housing area on South Fort, Tuesday, July 1, 2003. Meet at PAO, Building 411, Radio Road by 12:45 p.m., and be escorted to ceremony location. Media will be escorted to site by convoy. Interviews with key participants will be made available. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held indoors at the RCI office.**
- 2. Picerne Military Housing, Fort Polk and Department of the Army officials will publicly sign a partnership charter recognizing the importance of the work being done on the new 50-year housing plan for Fort Polk's future. Invited dignitaries; military families and soldiers of Fort Polk will attend.**
- 3. The event will include speakers, a ceremonial signing of the partnership charter, a symbolic presentation of a gold key, recognition of families and focus group participants, a cake cutting, tour of present-day houses and a view of draft concepts for new family housing of the future.**
- 4. Please contact Paula Schlag at (337) 531-2011 or Karla Gonzalez at (337) 531-6134 if you are planning on covering event.**

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Background:

Picerne is working with the installation to develop a 50-year plan for family housing under the Residential Communities Initiative. The RCI program brings business and industry together with the Army to provide top-notch family housing communities to military families.

Geoffrey G. Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army- Installations and Environment will serve as a featured guest speaker, along with John G. Picerne, president and chief executive officer of Picerne Military Housing.

Brig. Gen. Jason K. Kamiya and wife, Carmen Kamiya, are key participants as the post formally recognizes the importance of the partnership and family involvement.

Picerne Military Housing was selected April 11 to develop, in conjunction with Fort Polk, the Community Development and Management Plan (CDMP) for all family housing at Fort Polk. Under the RCI program, the Army plans to privatize Army family housing at 28 installations throughout the United States.

Picerne Military Housing is working with the Army at Fort Polk to develop the CDMP that will serve as the blueprint for the Army's residential community here for the next 50 years. This planning phase is expected to take approximately six months. Upon acceptance of the CDMP by the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress, the project is expected to begin in April 2004.

The program will provide drastic improvements to on-post family housing that will provide top-notch on-post neighborhoods in comfortable, attractive homes in the future, as well as, stimulate regional development through use of business and industry.