

# ***AER campaign helps maintain Army strong***

Since 1942, Army Emergency Relief has helped more than 3.2 million Soldiers and their Families with more than \$1 billion in assistance. AER assists with emergency financial needs such as food, rent, or utilities, emergency travel, vehicle repair, funeral expenses and personal needs when pay is delayed. In addition, AER provides undergraduate-level education scholarships and tuition assistance, based primarily on financial need, to children and spouses of Soldiers. U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder's AER representative, Yaelmie Gomez, explains the importance of helping fellow Soldiers. "Soldiers may never know when they may need AER since emergencies are unexpected. In an emergency, AER can step in and assist with an interest -free loan. I recommend that the Soldier come see me first before seeking a loan at a bank."

AER is about Soldiers helping Soldiers. Your donation is very important as it ensures the continuation of AER assistance. In conducting the annual fund raising campaign, AER has three main goals: First, to promote awareness of AER benefits and programs that are available to active duty Soldiers, retirees, widows, and Family members; second, allow active duty and retired Soldiers to contribute to the welfare of their fellow Soldiers; and third, to ensure that AER meets the requirements for status as a non-profit, tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization.

This year's campaign theme is, "Helping Maintain Army Strong." The official kick-off date for Baumholder was March 16 and continues through May 15. To donate, contact your unit coordinator, or your local AER officer, Gomez. If you would like more information about AER or more information on donating, call Gomez at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

**Leading by example Lt. Col. Paul (P) Pfahler, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder and Command Sgt. Major Earla Reddock were the first to officially donate to Baumholder's AER Campaign, demonstrating the importance of AER.**