

April declared as month to honor, protect children

Each year, the month of April is set aside as the Month of the Military Child, in recognition of the more than one million of America's children who have at least one parent currently serving on active military duty. They are serving in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and around the world.

According to a proclamation signed by Lt. Col. Paul Pfahler, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder, "More than 40 percent of Soldiers from the USAG Baumholder have families with children. These children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children."

Pfahler signed this proclamation in a room full of preschool children March 22 during a visit to the Smith Child Development Center.

The proclamation also states, "The recognition of a Month of the Military Child will allow



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Children at the Smith Child Development Center received a visit from Lt. Col. Paul (P) Pfahler, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder and Command Sgt. Major Earla Reddock, March 22. While there they signed a proclamation for the Month of the Military Child and then everyone found a spot on the floor and listened as Pfahler read from a Helen Palmer book titled "A Fish Out Of Water."

us to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, their struggles, and their unconditional support of our troops – because when parents serve in the military, their children also serve.

April is also Child Abuse Awareness Month. Children

are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect all over the world. More than 3 million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States and almost five children die every day as a result.

In the Baumholder commu-

nity, 79 cases pertaining to child abuse were substantiated in fiscal year 2009. Why do people commit child abuse anyway? Is it for power or control over smaller individuals, moments of frustration, cultural beliefs or differences, or just plain ignorance? There are plenty

of professionals and abundant research which can answer this particular question, besides using common sense, but the bottom line is that the cycle of child abuse still continues at alarming rates.

In response to the issues of child abuse and neglect, the USAG Baumholder Family Advocacy program is recognizing Child Abuse Awareness month with 79 pinwheels inside the front gate representing the 79 children from FY 2009 that suffered at the hands of their caretaker.

Multiple awareness booths and door hangers will outline the reporting procedures to report child abuse and the agencies who can help.

On April 28 the community is encouraged to wear blue in support of the cause. More information on Child Abuse Awareness Month can be obtained by contacting the Family Advocacy Program at civ (06783) 6-8188.

Show your support for children and National Child Abuse Awareness Month, by wearing blue on April 28.