



29 April 2004



**Teacher Appreciation Week
2 through 8 May 2004**

1. The week of 2 through 8 May is National Parent Teacher Association Teacher Appreciation Week. This observance gives us the opportunity to honor the many outstanding educators whose work deserves special recognition and appreciation. It also gives us an opportunity to think about the importance of teachers in our military communities and to express our gratitude to them for their continued contributions to our Nation.
2. Although we have been honoring our educators with this special week for the last 20 years, this year is especially important because of the unique circumstances and challenges we face in Europe today. DODDS - Europe teachers, counselors, psychologists, and school nurses have provided critical support during deployment, redeployment, and reintegration by helping students maintain a sense of normalcy and stability. Many military families have turned to teachers for help during these difficult times.
3. Teachers keep democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship. We all remember teachers who made an indelible mark on our character or who have given direction to our lives. Much of our success today can be attributed to the work of those exceptional educators.
4. Teachers are also the cornerstone of our Nation's education system. Because of them, our military, political, and social leaders are among the best in the world. I therefore ask you to join me in paying special tribute to teachers throughout our great military communities for their continued dedication and exceptional service, as USAREUR Soldiers continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

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ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!