Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services

May 2015

CYSS CONNECTIONS

Monthly Highlights:

National Military Appreciation Month
National Youth Traffic Safety Month

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

10 MAY	Mother's Day
16 MAY	Armed Force's Day
25 MAY	Memorial Day

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CYSS Mission: To support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities

Military Kids Connect

Military youth live in a world of constant change and experience many challenges including multiple deployments of Family members and frequent moves to new schools and neighborhoods. Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an interactive website for military youth to help with the unique needs that are part of the military lifestyle. MKC offers a well designed and easy to use online community for military children age 6-17 years old. This interactive web page provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children. MKC has online sections for kids ages 6-8, tweens ages 9-12, and teens ages 13-17. Each online environment offers informative activities, fun games, helpful videos, and resources that are categorized by age group. These online modules reinforce understanding, resilience, and coping skills for military children. In addition, there are helpful links and resources designed specifically for teachers and parents/caregivers. Youth can share their ideas, experiences, and suggestions with other military children through the new feature of a discussion board. This allows youth to connect with other military children and to know they are not alone in dealing with the stressors of military life.

To learn more about Military Kids Connect, view a video as AR youth share their personal stories relating to deployment.

Source: Military Kids Connect, http://militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil/

This information has been provided by Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services.
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4-H Military Partnerships: Supporting Military Youth through Collaborations

4-H Military Partnerships create opportunities and provide support to military connected youth whether they live on or near an installation, in a community, or on an overseas installation. 4-H clubs and opportunities provide consistency in belonging and an opportunity to develop life skills through a positive youth development framework.

4-H Military Partnerships represent a collaboration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Military Community and Family Policy, Army Child, Youth and School Services, Air Force Child and Youth Programs, Navy Child and Youth Programs, the Coast Guard, and the National Guard Bureau. The 4-H Military Partnerships support military youth through collaboration with military partners providing 4-H Clubs, afterschool programs, camps, activities, and events on military installations and in local communities.

Military youth have unique issues including frequent relocations, adjusting to new communities and schools, separation anxiety regarding the safety of a deployed parent, and increased responsibilities at home especially when a parent is deployed. 4-H provides a safe, educational supportive environment for the youth to come to after school when they are more likely to make poor choices or follow the crowd. It can also empower youth to be able to stand up to bullies and others that may be trying to get them to participate in risky behaviors.

The 4-H Program is built upon four Essential Elements ensuring that youth feel a sense of belonging in a safe environment, develop independence in both group and individual work, share with others in the community through generosity, and develop a sense of mastery that continues throughout life as they practice and share what they have learned with others. These programs have served youth in all military branches and components. These programs educate the public about the unique challenges of military youth; recruit volunteers; train educators, volunteers, and military youth program staff on the impact of deployment and 4-H curriculum.

As military families move frequently and experience the difficulties surrounding deployment and reintegration, 4-H provides predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment for military connected children and youth. 4-H provides a support network delivering recreational, social and providing quality developmental programs so military members can pursue their critical assignments.

To find and enroll in a 4-H club, visit http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/

Compiled by Juanita Warren, Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC

PURPLE UP!
for military kids

Army Reserve Family Programs CYSS offered many events in April, the Month of the Military Child. These events and art contests were designed to recognize and applaud Families and their children for the sacrifices they make in supporting America's Army.

April 15th is recognized as Purple Up! for Military Kids Day. Staff and youth wore purple in support of Military children. Purple symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Marine red, Coast Guard navy and Air Force blue.

Puletasi, American Samoa,
"My Rainbow" 9th MSC

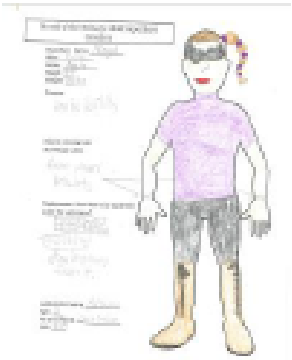
Alexis, Vermont,
"Father Daughter Embrace" 316th ESC

Youth Human Knot,
Teambuilding Exercise,
USARC Yellow Ribbon Event 1 and 2

Khaliah, Georgia,
"Army Strong"
335th ESC

Pioneer Days,
Atlanta Outdoor
Classroom,
335th ESC

Fitness with a Twist, Youth Enrichment Program
108th TC



Autumn, Indiana
"Invisible Megan" 310th ESC

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Command/Unit Updates

THE SPOTLIGHT

Month of the Military Child

In Kentucky and all over the United States, April 15th, 2015 was declared Purple Up! for Military Kids Day. This event coordinated by AR CYSS staff provided an opportunity to celebrate the service and sacrifice of military children. On this day, everyone was encouraged to wear purple which symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Marine red, Coast Guard navy and Air Force blue. At the 84th Training Command, Soldiers and staff showed their support of military kids by wearing purple.

Community Events
MAY 2015

Please note that events listed in this newsletter, with the exception of AR CYSS events, are not endorsed by the Army Reserve and are provided only for community awareness.

What's Happening in Your Neck of the Woods...

Name of Event	City	State	Dates	Age Group	POC/Website
Ft. Knox Community Play Group	Ft. Knox	KY	8 May 10:00-11:30 am	5 and under	Knoxmwr.com/event/taeid/55/default.aspx 502-624-4483
I'm Alone Parent Workshop	Ft. Knox	KY	12 May 3:30-4:30 pm	Parents	Knoxmwr.com/event/taeid/55/default.aspx 502-624-6615/7882
The Final Frontier Camp	St. George	Utah	1-5 June	3rd-8th grade	http://utah4-h.org/htm/4hmilitarykids
Military Maker Camp	Clearfield	Utah	22-26 June	Ages 10-14	http://utah4-h.org/htm/4hmilitarykids
DoD Career Pathfinders Camp	Tucson	Arizona	23-26 June	Ages 13-18	http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015camps/2015_youth_camps/ youth_campsyouth_camp_az_dod_career.html
Joint Reserve Component Teen Leadership Summit 2015	Dahlonega	Georgia	28 June-3 July	High School	http://georgia4h.org/jointreservesummit/
Georgia Military Youth High Adventure Camp	Dahlonega	Georgia	19-23 July	Ages 12-15	http://georgia4h.org/military/highadventurecamp/index.html

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CHECKING THE FOLLOWING LINKS REGULARLY FOR EVENTS IN YOUR AREA:

CYSS Events: www.arfp.org/cyssprogram.php
4-H: www.4-h.org
YMCA: www.ymca.net/

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Resources and Web Links

For Deployed, AGR, Wounded, Ill, Injured or Fallen Soldiers

Army Fee Assistance will be provided by General Services Administration (GSA) working with those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through the fee assistance program, families are eligible to receive monthly fee assistance to help offset the cost of child care in their communities. For more information visit, http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal.

Army Respite Care The Army Respite Child Care will provide the family between 8 to 16 hours of hourly child care each month for each of the eligible children. Parents can use this time to run errands, attend appointments, or just take some well-deserved time out for themselves. The Army recognizes the challenges and extraordinary stress the parents and their families may be experiencing, and wants to help support them in meeting their unique child care needs. Eligibility: Deployed; Temporary Change of Station; Unaccompanied Permanent Change of Station; Temporary Duty; Wounded, Ill or Injured Status; Survivors of Fallen Warriors.

Our Military Kids provides grants for K-12 youth dependents of overseas deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel or severely injured Service Members . Visit www.ourmilitarykids.org/

For Various Duty Statuses

Army Reserve Family Programs provides programs, training, services, resources, youth programming and camping opportunities to Army Reserve Families. Visit www.arfp.org/

Military OneSource provides an online library, web resources, and non-medical counseling to Military Families. Visit: www.militaryonesource.mil/

Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr. olds) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Visit: http://militarykidsconnect.t2.health.mil

Zero to Three has information and resources for parents of infants and toddlers. A new phone app, Babies on the HomeFront, provides Military and veteran parents with strategies for enhancing everyday moments with their child. Visit: http://zerotothree.org/

Military Child Education Coalition Military (MCEC) is a non-profit organization focusing on academic and school-related needs of military-connected youth. Visit: www.militarychild.org

National Military Family Association has programs that provide Military Families with camps, family retreats, and healing adventures during deployment, reintegration, and coming together after an injury. Visit http://www.militaryfamily.org/

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The mission of Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services is to support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between Military Mission requirements and parental responsibilities.

Family Programs Director-Acting
Christa Burns
81st Regional Support Command
2179 Sumter Street
Fort Jackson, SC 29207
Email: christa.l.burns.civ@mail.mil

Contact **Mrs. Burns** for assistance with:
- Family Support Services
- Family Programs Training
- Family Readiness

School Services Specialist (SSS)
Shante Ellis
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
84thTC (KY, OH)
230 Old Ironsides Blvd
Bldg. 203 Room 212
Fort Knox, KY 40121
Phone: 502-624-2091
Email: shante.ellis.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Mrs. Ellis** for assistance with:
- Command/Unit Support
- Educational Events and Activities
- Scholarship Information
- College Prep
- Academic /Tutoring Resources
- School Support Services

Youth Services Specialist (YSS)
Joyce Hall
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
84thTC (KY, OH)
230 Old Ironsides Blvd
Bldg. 203 Room 212
Fort Knox, KY 40121
Phone: 502-624-2450
Email: joyce.m.hall.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Ms. Hall** for assistance with:
- Command/Unit Support
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council

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