Guard En Of Youth

To Support the Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs of National Guard Children and Youth

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Quilt Assembly Day 11-11-11

Latham--Over 50 kids, from both military and non-military families from the Capital region, came together on Veterans Day to honor past and future hero's and support each other.

Youth participating in Operation Military Kids joined forces with boys and girls from the Cohoes Community Center on November 11, to honor veterans by putting together a quilt that will be sent to Soldiers serving overseas to remind them of their families back home.

The quilt was made from approximately 300 fabric squares created during a half-dozen New York Army National Guard Yellow Ribbon events. "The quilt squares include drawings and messages to Soldiers from children who have experienced a previous deployment," said Colleen Casey, New York National Guard Youth Program Coordinator. "It's therapeutic for the kids and very moving for the Soldiers who receive the quilt."

In addition to assembling the quilt, the youth spent time creating "Hero Packs" which will be given to children of Soldiers deploying overseas.

Quilt Assembly Day 11-11-11

"The hero packs are just one way to say thank you to the families of service members for their sacrifice," said Barbara Kessler from Operation Military Kids. According to Kessler, the Hero Packs have three main elements; appreciation, staying connected and support.

The packs include a letter from a local non-military child expressing their appreciation for the recipients' loved ones service and the families sacrifice. A letter writing kits composed of stationary, stamps and pen pal information is included so the military child can communicate with their Soldier or other kids. For support, they will find a stuffed animal or small toy as a reminder that they are not alone during this difficult time. Also included in the pack is a list of family resources available should they be needed.

The day was filled with fun activities and included a rock climbing wall, face painting, pizza, ice cream and a veteran speaker.

"This was a great experience and the perfect way to celebrate Veterans Day," said Crystal Bariteau, a school-age youth coordinator for the Cohoes Community Center. "We spent the week teaching the children about Veterans Day through projects and activities, creating holiday cards for Veterans and now they get to have fun and make new friends with military kids."

The event was hosted by the New York National Guard Youth program, which offers programs and services to military youth through safe activities, skills training and peer mentorship.

NYNG & USO Bike Event

The New York National Guard Family Program teamed up with the USO to recognize the Military children of the Hudson Valley on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Camp Smith Training Site, Peekskill, NY.

Approximately 50 children of Hudson Valley veterans, deployed and deploying service members received bikes that were donated by a Westchester insurance company, Endurance Services Ltd,. The bikes were put together by company employees and then given to the USO for distribution to Family Assistance Specialist, Kelly Stroh, at Camp Smith.

With about 200 people in attendance the children were rewarded with a brand new bike, tagged with their name, for the sacrifices they have to make at their young ages as a Military child.

Guard En Notes

News From Your SYC's

We Hope that Everyone had a fantastic Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. We are ready and revved up for another busy year with Youth Programs.

It's also been very busy this fall for us! We are happy to say that we have had the opportunity to keep up to date with our information and resources by attending Zero to Three and an Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Trainings. Colleen also had the great honor in attending the Zero to Three National Conference in Washington, DC. We also got the chance, this fall to go around to some of the Boys & Girls Clubs in our area. We were given tours of some of the locations and were able to meet some of their amazing staff.

We are extremely thrilled to announce the restructured and fully staffed Teen Council. The Teen Council consists of 15 Teens with a President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian and 11 General Members. We are hoping to have our first virtual meeting in February, so be on the look out for the Teen Council section in the next newsletter.

Preparations are now in full force for this years Volunteer and Youth Workshop, in Saratoga, NY. As a little preview we will be taking the youth offsite to a high/low ropes course, and the largest indoor rock wall in NY.

With the varying deployment cycles throughout the state over the next few months, we have been trying to reach out to school administrations. We are looking to make face to face contact with as many schools as possible, so schools are aware of the Youth Program and the resources available.

Guard En Notes

Volunteer & Military Child Of the Quarter

Gail Schlotter is one our most reliable and committed volunteers with the NYNG Youth Programs. She volunteers her weekends anytime support is needed. Gail has traveled all over NY to support the Youth Program in the last year, and since May of 2011 Gail has accumulated an amazing 80 volunteer hours. Gail loves to be around the children to help and guide them through the steps of deployment. She especially loves to get down on the floor and play with the little kids.

Gail is retired, after over 25 years, from the Benet Weapon Lab at the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, NY. She currently spends her time substituting at the Center For The Disabled in Glenville, NY.

In her free time she loves to spend time gardening and she loves to watch movies. She has a horse name Little Miss, that she loves to ride and take care of with her daughter. Gail has 2 children, Sandy (A Yellow Ribbon Specialist) and John, and 4 Grandchildren. (No Picture Available)

Luke Casey is an 11 year old attending 5th grade at Hartford Central School. He is an 'A' student with a knack for writing poetry and essays. Luke recently made it to the top 10 applicants (out of 700) for his essay on "Americanism" for the Whitehall Elks. His favorite subject however is math. In his spare time he loves to read and play baseball and soccer. He also enjoys his snowmobile and entering tractor pulling contests at his local county fair.

He volunteers his time with the Youth Program as a Counselor in Training (CIT). Luke is a positive mentor and role model to other Military Youth. At various events it's not unusual to see him helping the Soldiers load and unload trucks and performing multiple tasks for them. You may also see him conversing with a General or two. He's a very personable and likable kid. Luke will be a great future addition to the Youth Program Jr. Counselor's.

The Family Readiness Program Presents....

STEWART MILITARY TEEN GROUP

LOCK IN

February 17th-18th 2012
9am-8am
Stewart Housing
Community Center
New Windsor, NY

ALL Military Teens invited ages 13-18

OMK BABYSITTERS COURSE

American Red Cross

RED CROSS CPR CERTIFICATION

FUN GAMES
GREAT FOOD
GOOD MUSIC

You must RSVP to participate..
email: shelly.aiken@usmc.mil...845-541-3024

Teen Sitter Training

Basic Course

The Babysitting Basics training course will teach you the responsibilities and qualities of being a good babysitter and what to expect from the parent who hires you. You will also learn how to:

- Interview for a babysitting job
- Make responsible decisions
- Supervise children
- Adjust your actions based on the age of the child
- Keep children and yourself safe in the house and outside
- Choose safe and age-appropriate toys and games
- Handle an emergency or illness
- Perform CPR & first aid, including responding effectively to life-threatening emergencies
- Perform basic care routines, like diapering, feeding, and dressing infants and children
- Handle bedtime issues effectively
- Market yourself safely

The Babysitting Basics course also provides training for real life:

- Essential professional, leadership, and care-giving skills
- Safety skills to prevent emergencies
- How to manage real-life problems, including emergencies
- Tips on finding babysitting jobs

Message for Parents

Babysitting Basics is also excellent training for young people ages 11-13 years old who find themselves home alone with younger siblings at the end of the school day.

Class Schedule

The CYS Sitter Classes are held quarterly at the Child and youth Services Building which is located at 125 Wainwright Drive
Please call for upcoming dates

February 11th 2012

Registration and General Information

The Babysitting Basics class is 6 hours long and the participant must attend the full session to receive certification
The class is free and Pre-registration is required. All registration is done through Fort Hamilton Child and Youth Services..
Please call 718-630-4805 to register
Space is limited so please register early

SHRINE CIRCUS

MARCH 15th thru MARCH 18th

at

THE EVENT CENTER (AGRI-CENTER)
ON THE HAMBURG FAIRGROUNDS

5820 South Park Ave., Hamburg, NY

SHOW TIMES - FREE PARKING

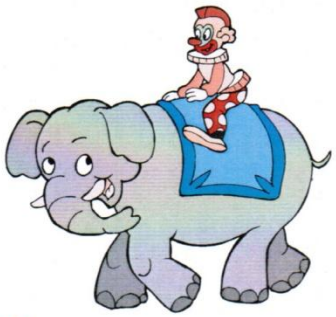
Thursday, March 15th ..... **10:30 am & 7:00 pm**
Friday, March 16th ..... **10:30 am, 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm**
Saturday, March 17th ..... **10:00 am, 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm**
Sunday, March 18th ..... **1:00 pm & 5:00 pm**

RESERVED SEATING

Adults	Senior Citizens	Children Under 10
$13.00	$10.00	$8.00

GROUP RATES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

TICKETS ON SALE AT
SHRINE CIRCUS OFFICE
1600 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, NY
AGRI-CENTER BOX OFFICE and ON-LINE AT TICKETS.COM



CALL 674-8666 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Benefits Ismailia Shrine Activities Fund. Donations Not Tax Deductible.

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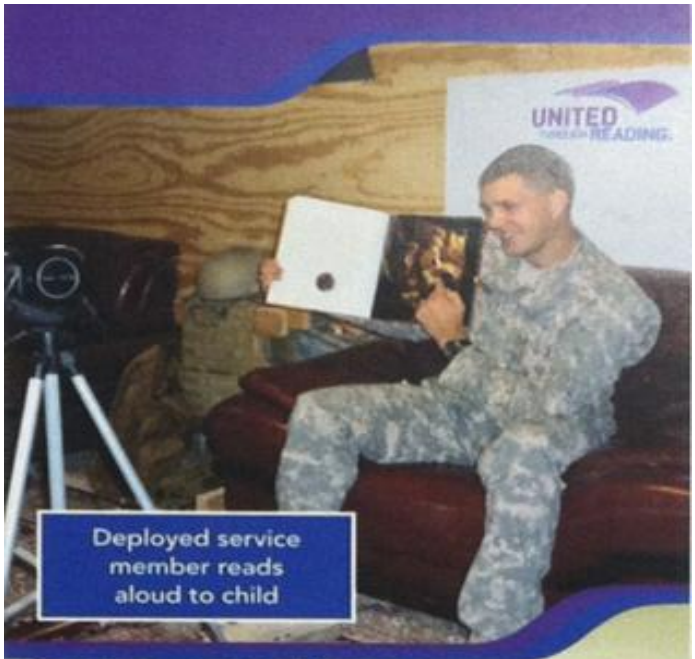

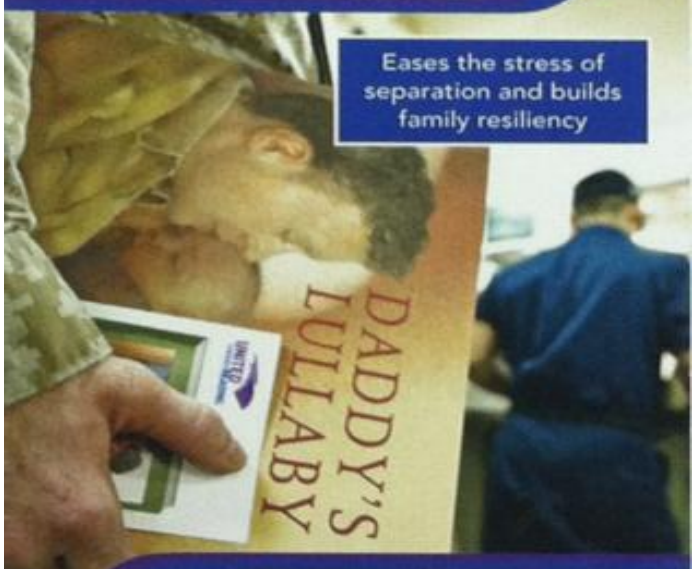

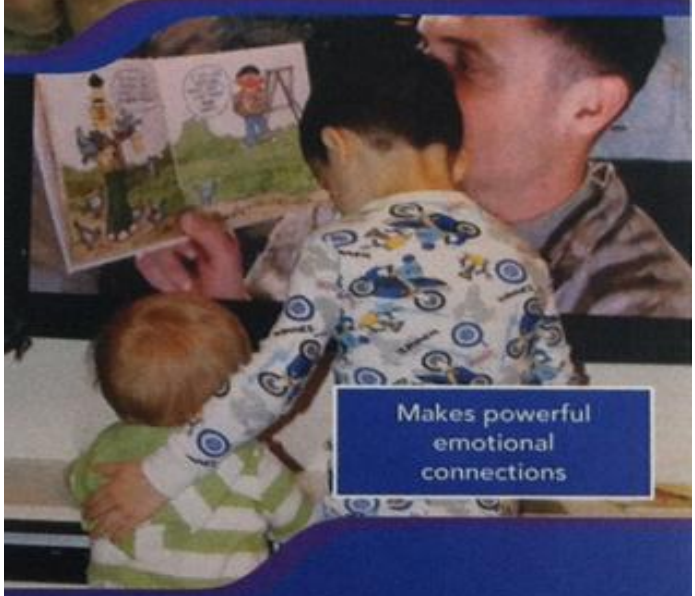

Makes Homecomings Easier!

The Soldiers Project

Free, Confidential Psychological Counseling For
Military Service Members And Their Loved Ones

Long Island Military Youth

Someone you know may need help!

THE SOLDIERS PROJECT offers private psychological counseling to active military, veterans and their families (mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents or children) who have served in any branch of the military since 2001, including the National Guard and Reserves.

ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL!

CONTACT US BY CALLING (516) 284-7531

Or email us at longisland@thesoldiersproject.org

www.thesoldiersproject.org

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YOU SERVE OUR COUNTRY.

LET BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS SERVE YOUR CHILDREN.

MISSION YOUTH OUTREACH

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

AS A MEMBER OF A MILITARY FAMILY, YOUR CHILD CAN RECEIVE A NO-COST MEMBERSHIP TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Clubs provide a fun, safe and supervised environment, where your child can –

- Get active with games and athletics
- Enrich creative skills
- Explore academic and career goals
- Receive the guidance of caring, adult professionals

FIND THE CLUB IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

GO TO BGCA.ORG/MILITARY OR CALL 800-854-CLUB.

MISSION: Youth Outreach is a partnership of the U.S. Armed Forces and Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Boys & Girls Clubs have proudly supported the children of America's service members since 1991. Today, BGCA partners with all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces to provide critical programs, support and stability for young people. On installations around the world and in communities across the nation, Clubs are there for military youth.

A partnership between the Joint Military Services and Boys & Girls Clubs of America

OPERATION COM
Children Of the Military©

A program created to support our children of the military with their heroic journey

Designed to establish positive coping skills to help children deal with the stresses of deployment, encourage them to express their feelings, strengthen their self-confidence & resiliency & most importantly: Have Fun With Other Military Children!

Groups Meet Every Other Friday Evening
27 January 2012 - 6 April 2012
6:00pm - 7:30pm
PRE-REGISTRATION IS A REQUIREMENT!

We meet at the Mental Health Association
999 Delaware Avenue

To Make a Referral to the Program or To Sign Up Pre-Registration Is REQUIRED:
Please Call Mary at (716) 886.1242 or
Email: mcparlane@eriemha.org

Families are welcome to join at any point during the 5-week session. However, we do require that you register ahead of class time to ensure we know you are joining.

Call Mary at MHA: 886.1242

Families getting ready to deploy & those who are returning are all encouraged to attend & meet others that can offer support!

This unique program was honorably created by a "child of the military." Coming from three generations of military service, the creator of this program has experienced and lived all extremes of military life since birth. Two continents, 12 countries, 18 states, 10 military bases, 62 cities & 12 deployments: A true understanding of what your child lives, feels and sees everyday!

M&T Bank

Operation C.O.M. is honored to receive funding from M & T Bank for this program.

DEPLOYMENT RESOURCES

Our resources provide strategies and support to help ease the way for children, teenagers, and the non-deployed parent. Go to www.MilitaryOneSource.com and click on "deployment" for our entire range of deployment-related materials, including articles, booklets, and CDs.

Ages 2 to 5

Talk, Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes

A 2-DVD Sesame Street kit designed to support families with young children as they manage the feelings and challenges of all phases of deployment. In English and Spanish.

These Boots

A spouse's guide to stepping up and standing tall during deployment

When your spouse deploys, the challenges -- emotional and practical -- can seem overwhelming. On this recording, Jacey Eckhart, a military wife for 18 years and columnist for the Virginian-Pilot, offers suggestions and strategies to help you prepare for deployment, survive (and even thrive) while you're "married but single," and get ready for homecoming.

Over There

Stories and Insights from mothers who have deployed

Being "over there" when the rest of your family is back home can be hard for any military parent, but mothers may find it especially challenging. On this new 60 -minute audio CD, you'll hear mothers of children ranging in age from toddler to teenager.

Double Duty

Staying connected with your kids when you're a deployed dad

In the *Double Duty* CD, fatherhood expert and former Marine Armin Brott talks about ways to stay close with your child from before you deploy to after you return. Service members from all branches with children of all ages from newborn to teenager share their experiences as deployed dads.

The Kids Korner Waiting Room

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A safe, fun, FREE place where your children can wait while you're at VA appointments

Room 424A in Buffalo VA Medical Center
Call at least 8 hours ahead: 716-862-8802

Discounted Lift Tickets Are Here!

Whiteface Mountain

Adult = $37 (regular $79-$84)
Teen= $30 (regular $64-$69)
Junior= $23 (regular $51-$55)

Gore Mountain

Adult= $50 (regular $68-$79)
Teen= $43 (regular $55-$63)
Junior= $26 (regular $37-$44)

Contact the MWR to get your discounted tickets
1-518-885-5138

There are no black out dates with these tickets

Guard En Notes

107th MP's During Deployment Event Utica, NY

3-126th AVN Pre Deployment Rochester, NY

Guard En Notes

November 22nd SYC's Colleen and Keri with ESGR's CSM Van Pelt (R) and CSM Willsey (R) scooping Ice Cream at DMNA to honor Military Family Month.
Honoring Service, Honoring Families.

145th Maintenance & 42nd Infantry Division's Holiday Party
Staten Island, NY

Resources

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Jr. Counselor Training
- Teen Council
- Military Youth Pen Pals

Operation: Military Kids (OMK) builds partnerships to increase capacity for youth, families and communities to support youth of Military Families.

Providing high-quality, affordable military-sponsored child care subsidies for qualifying Service Members.

24/7 program offering information, referrals, and support to Service Members and their Families.

Grants available to pay the fees for children of deployed Service Members to participate in youth sports, fine arts, and tutor programs.

A national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers.

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)'s work is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.

Keri J. O'Neil and Colleen E. Casey, Youth Coordinators and Editors
330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110
(518) 786-4904 office (518) 786-6075 fax (518) 786-4614 office
Keri.j.oneil.ctr@us.army.mil Colleen.e.casey@us.army.mil