



“Building resilience, self-reliance and satisfaction with military life through prevention, education and training”

The National Guard realizes that Guard Youth face a unique set of challenges and problems. The National Guard Child and Youth Program is available to help provide the support and resources the youth and the families need to help deal with separation during a deployment, child-care issues, difficulties with school, or and many other problems. Children of all ages can be affected at any phase of military life; we have programs to help one and all. “It takes a village to raise a Family” and in today’s Guard’s family it is critical for all members to feel supported and valued for their role and contribution to supporting the Service Member. The primary goal is to keep the youth of deployed members connected to each other as well as to the resources and supporters who can bring benefits to the youth. The Child and Youth Program works closely with the Delaware National Guard Family Readiness Team as well as the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program for training of both the youth and adults on the cycles of deployment, benefits for the youth and family and quality of life and resilience in our youth.

Another purpose of the Child and Youth Program is to develop and promote both local and community based Youth Development and Leadership programs. This effort directly affects the social and cultural wellness of military members and their families. Through Delaware National Guard volunteer support and community partnerships there are many youth development and leadership programs that the military youth can take advantage of.

Benefits: A benefit of the Children and Youth Services is that the program contributes to the resiliency of the children and youth before, during and after the deployment of the military family member.

Service Member Benefits:

- The Service Member feels supported and valued when he knows the Delaware National Guard supports the children and families of the Guard member.
- The Service Member feels secure when Children and Youth Services provide quality programs or refer their families to quality programs that can be trusted.
- The Service Member feels validated when the Guard supports the family and looks at the family as importantly as the Service Member does.

Family and Youth Benefits:

- The benefit will be to give children and the family a more positive outlook on the Guard.
- Youth of Delaware National Guard need to be recognized for their support of the Service Member. The family will support the Service Member when the family itself feels supported.
- The Family becomes a stronger unit when Children and Youth Services provide “age specific” deployment briefings separate from the family or Service Member’s.

Service and Family Members can receive information about the Child and Youth Program from a variety of sources; however, the easiest way is to receive emails and direct mailings from the Airman and Family Readiness Office, Family Assistance Offices or directly from the State Youth Coordinator. The information is also available on the Delaware National Guard website under the Family/Youth section or the Events page. Youth Programs also contributes information to the unit newsletters, Facebook pages and unit visits.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Child and Youth Program, you must be willing to acquire a State Background Check through the SBI Unit. You should contact the State Youth Coordinator for that information before calling the SBI Unit. Youth Programs is seeking volunteers to assist in all aspects of the Child and Youth Program. Some of the programs we provide are teambuilding and educational and some are deployment cycle related. Examples: administrative support, mentors and adult leaders, cooking for our youth events, crafters, subject matter experts to teach workshops to you and military drivers and medical staff.

Resources for the Youth of Delaware National Guard

Child and Youth Programs: (Pat Crilley) <http://www.delawarenationalguard.com/familyreadiness/youth/>
Office: 302-326-7518 Email: patricia.a.crilley.ctr@mail.mil Cell: 302-943-0752

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- Letters to schools about deployment, resources available, yellow ribbon groups
- Staying close to baby during deployment, parenting young children
- Books for youth and teens about deployment
- Articles on how the community can support military youth
- How to speak to kids about war
- Scholarship information
- Deployment calendars, dvds, resources

Operation Military Kids (OMK) (Rhonda Martel)

www.operationmilitarykids.org

Office: 302-730-4000 Email: rhondam@UDel.Edu

U.S. Army's collaborative effort with Delaware's communities to support any child impacted by deployment.

Our Military Kids:

1-866-691-6654

<http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/>

Supports deployed Military Families with financial support for extracurricular activities.

Free Tutoring for Military Youth:

1-800-411-1970

www.tutor.com/military

Free online tutoring 24/7 for Service Members and their Families! DOD sponsored.

Parents as Teachers:

(314) 432-4330

www.parentsasteachers.org

(P.A.T.) Supports Military Families and the very youngest 0-3 years old with play groups and parent education. Locally in Delaware, Parents as teachers will do home visits and teach parents how to access developmental stages and how to support the child with age appropriate activities. They also offer parent and baby play groups in each county. DNG Youth Programs is a referral agency for P.A.T. so you must contact Pat Crilley for more details.

Child Care Assistance:

1-800-424-2246

<http://naccrra.org/military-families>

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies along with Child Care Aware support Military Families by helping them find quality child care and by managing the DOD Child Care Subsidy for Military Families program.

School Support and Yellow Ribbon Groups: Youth Program staff and volunteers attend professional development workshops for guidance counselors and mental health professionals in the school systems and encourage them to seek out the military youth in their school community and offer support through their own network. A list of the schools that our deployed youth attend can be passed along to the Delaware DOE so they could be aware of any DNG Youth in their system.

U.S. Army Child & Youth Services

1-877-811-ARMY

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/ChildYouthandSchoolServices/Default.aspx>

Army Child, Youth & School Services programs exist to support military readiness by reducing the conflict between a Soldier's mission requirements and his or her parental responsibilities

For teens is the DVD "Military Youth Coping with Separation: When Family Members Deploy" in which real teens discuss deployment and various coping mechanisms.

For elementary age children there is the "Mr. Poe and Friends Discuss Reunion After Deployment" DVD. The animated host, Mr. Poe, mentors and provides guidance to children and Family members as they discuss deployment. Videos can be viewed on the [American Academy of Pediatrics Deployment Support](http://www2.aap.org/sections/uniformedservices/deployment/videos.html)
<http://www2.aap.org/sections/uniformedservices/deployment/videos.html>

Air Force Youth Development

1-210-395-7518

(<http://www.afyouthprograms.com/>)

Air Force Services Family Member Programs offer a number of activities to educate, guide, and entertain the young. Programs are available throughout the year at installations throughout the world. Explore the information below or click on the images above to find out more about these great opportunities

Also, check with your local Youth Programs Directors for details on how to participate or enroll.

Coping With Their Parents' War A [Washington Post article](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/16/AR2008071602878.html?sid=ST2008071602969&pos=) about the stress multiple deployments put on children of Military Families, and ways to cope. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/16/AR2008071602878.html?sid=ST2008071602969&pos=>

Additional reading for Military Children Affected by Deployment from Army OneSource
[Resources for Military Children Affected by Deployment](http://www.myarmyonesource.com/ChildYouthandSchoolServices/Default.aspx)

<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/ChildYouthandSchoolServices/Default.aspx>

The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families Sesame Workshop's Talk, Listen, Connect

<http://archive.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/>

A military outreach program that aims to help children cope with the absence – and homecoming – of a deployed parent or loved one. If you missed-out on the show, many of the topics Elmo and his friends discussed and sang about can be found on the Talk, Listen, Connect DVD series, which tells the story of Elmo dealing with his father having to leave home. To download and watch the videos, or for more information on "The Sesame Street Experience for Military Families" or Talk, Listen, Connect, visit <http://archive.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/>

Zero to Three: Military Projects:

1-800- 899-4301

<http://www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/military-families/>

Committed to supporting the youngest of children from military families by providing education and resources to parents and caregivers of very young children Check out the fantastic website!

Free Golf Instruction:

1-904-940-4300

http://www.thefirsttee.org/club/scripts/library/view_document.asp?GRP=17349&NS=PMP&APP=80&DN=GUARDRESERV

The First Tee will offer golf instruction combined with character and life skills education to children of National Guardsmen and Reservists living in communities across the country.

Military Kids Connect:

<http://www.militarykidsconnect.org/about>

MilitaryKidsConnect (MKC) is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr old) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return.

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

<http://www.militarychild.org/about-us>

The work of the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition. A 501(c)(3) non-profit, world-wide organization, the MCEC performs research, develops resources, conducts professional institutes and conferences, and develops and publishes resources for all constituencies.

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

<http://www.mic3.net/>

The goal of the compact is to replace the widely varying policies affecting transitioning military students. The compact leverages consistency: It uses a comprehensive approach that provides a consistent policy in every school district and in every state that chooses to join.

The compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation. Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year are eligible for assistance under the compact.

Student Online Achievement Resources

<http://www.soarathome.com/>

SOAR is an innovative program that makes it easy for parents to play an active role in their children's education. SOAR is designed for military families, and is easily accessible worldwide.

Fostering Resilience

<http://www.fosteringresilience.com/>

Preparing children and teens to thrive through both good and challenging times.

Books for Military Children

<http://www.operationwearehere.com/ChildrenBooks.html>

Scholarships for Military Children/ The Fisher House

(888) 294-8560

<http://www.militaryscholar.org/>

Operation Purple Program / National Military Family Association

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/?ref=operationpurple.org&>

Since its creation in 2004, the Operation Purple program has grown to serve approximately 45,000 military children and teens. The Operation Purple program also includes family retreats at national parks and specialized family camps geared to address the needs of children and families of our nation's wounded service members.

The Exceptional Family Member Program

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/tf/efmp>

Over 100,000 military families have members with special needs. These include spouses, children, or dependent parents who require special medical or educational services. These family members have a diagnosed physical, intellectual, or emotional condition. The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) works with these families to address their unique needs.