



Guard en of Youth

New York National Guard Youth Program

August 2007 Issue

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

FAMILIES FOR THE TROOPS

A non-profit organization dedicated to supporting American's Local Troops and their Families.

Ticket A Basket Fundraiser

(All New Merchandise)

Saturday August 11th, 2007

City of Newburgh Activities Center

Doors Open at 5:00pm

Calling Starts at 7:00pm

Door prizes, raffles, food and specialty baskets.
For more information please call: 914-805-4191

*We would like to thank all of the local businesses,
Families, and friends who helped arrange this event!!!*

Long Island Camps and Private Schools Support our Troops

FREE SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Dear Families,

The Long Island Camps and Private Schools organization, represent Camping on Long Island at its finest. Our organization has been active for over 50 years with a 23 camp membership. With representation in Nassau and Suffolk counties of New York, we pride ourselves on abiding by the highest standards of the American Camping Association.

To honor our troops overseas, we would like to donate a Summer Camp Experience for an immediate family member. If you would like more information and a consideration for one of our many scholarships, please call our association and speak to Cheryl at 516-623-4550. You can then expect a phone call from an age appropriate camp where the program and details will be outlined.

Happy Camping!!

Brookhaven Day Camp
Camp DeBaun
Camp Tioga Sleepaway Camp
Crestwood Country Day Camp
Driftwood Day Camp
Hampton Day Camp
Ivy League Day Camp
Kenwal Day Camp
Mark County Day Camp
Merrick Woods Country Day Camp
North Shore Day Camp
Twin Oaks Day Camp
West Hills Day Camp

ARTS FOR VETS

***Telling Your Stories:
At War and on the Home Front
Sponsored by The Orange County Arts Council***

Experienced Orange County writers are offering veterans and their families ***four introductory workshops*** on beginning the writing process using snapshots, memories and letters. Workshops are free and designed to jump start the writer in all of us through oral and written exercises.

***This is an opportunity to tell the stories of your experience
in the military, at war and at home.***

**August 4 from 10am-12:30pm at the National
Purple Heart Hall of Honor at the New Windsor
Cantonment State Historic Site**

**August 16 from 7pm-9:30pm at Museum Village
1010 Route 17M Monroe**

Each workshop is limited to 12 participants. No writing experience is necessary. Workshops will be scheduled in convenient Orange County locations.

VetsWrite is part of the Orange County Art's Council's "Arts for Vets" program, in which Orange County artists work with veterans and families.

For more information on the workshops or to volunteer to work on this project or other Arts for Vets projects contact:

Megan Cooke at 845-469-8111 or artsforvets@hotmail.com

The Art and Craft of the Stone Wall

Sponsored by The Orange County Arts Council

Taught by mason and stone artist Bob Hilfiger

Participants will be rebuilding the stone wall at the Veteran's Cemetery in Goshen and the stone wall at The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor. There is no charge for workshops for veterans and families.

Workshops are scheduled for:

**Saturday August 11 from 8AM-10AM
The Veterans Memorial Cemetery
111 Craigville Road, Goshen, NY**

No experience is necessary.

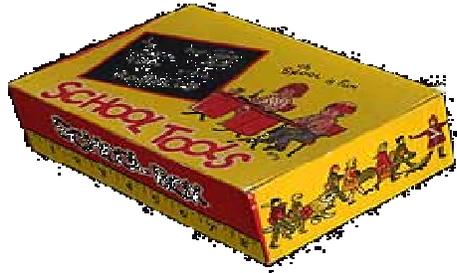
The Art and Craft of the Stone Wall is part of the Orange County Art's Council's "Arts for Vets" program, in which Orange County artists work with veterans and families.

ARTS FOR VETS

To sign up for this workshop, for more information on the workshops or to volunteer to work on this project or other Arts for Vets projects contact:
Megan Cooke at 845-469-8111 or artsforvets@hotmail.com



Empowering Parents School Box



A Parent's School Box packed with information to help your child succeed

“Getting every child to graduate high school with a meaningful diploma...is one of the biggest challenges our country faces.”

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings

Including:

Explanations of opportunities under *No Child Left Behind*;
Tips on working with your child from birth to high school;
Skills children will need in preschool, elementary, middle, and high school;
Ways to be involved with your child's school and teachers;
Information about financial aid and scholarships; and
Resources

Online: www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/schoolbox

To Order, Contact:

ED Pubs and
ask for product number ED003651K
Online: www.edpubs.ed.gov
Toll-Free Phone: 1-877-4-ED-PUBS
Mail: ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, Maryland 20794-1398
All publications are free. Shipping is free.

Additional U.S. Department of Education supported websites with information about parental involvement:

- **Help with homework or school projects** <http://free.ed.gov>
- **National Assessment of Educational Progress Sample Questions**
<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/eyk/index.asp?flash=true>
- **Federal Student Financial Aid:** <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - **Choosing A School For Your Child**
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/schools/find/choose/choosign.pdf>

LINKS OF THE MONTH

Cakes Ready To Eat™

C.R.E™

*Send a Celebration anywhere in the world and money goes to
Military Families!!!*

<http://www.spectacularsweets.com/crecakesreadytoeat.html>

A sure way to sweeten someones day

BACK TO SCHOOL ALREADY?????

Getting Ready for Back to School-great site for the whole family!!!

[http://www.familyeducation.com/home/?wtlAC=1 FE Daily Day1_email-h](http://www.familyeducation.com/home/?wtlAC=1_FE_Daily_Day1_email-h)

NEW YORK STATE FAIR

<http://www.nysfair.org/fair>

CHECK IT OUT!!!

**Operation Military Kids will be in attendance from August 23rd to
September 3rd.**

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!!

JELLYSTONE PARK OF WESTERN NEW YORK

Enjoy our one-of-a-kind, outstanding, full daily activity schedule and themed weekends. Our full time FUN Activity Directors will make sure your family is entertained. Activities happen in our 2,500 square foot Activity Center or anywhere within the park.

<http://www.wnyjellystone.com/events.html>

1-800-232-4039

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Dial 311 for all Parks & Recreation information,
outside of NYC call 212-NEW-YORK.

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/index.php>

YMCA

REACH OUT FOR YOUTH

Capital District YMCA
Administrative Offices:
465 New Karner Road
Albany, New York 12205
518-869-3500

<http://www.cdymca.org/reachoutforyouth/reachoutforyouth.htm>

Teaching Your Children to Engage in Democracy

Knowledge of how to engage in public life is one of the most important rights and responsibilities a parent can bestow upon a child. Here are steps you can take to help ensure that your children grow up knowing when and how to make their voices heard in the public realm.

For parents with children of all ages

*Be sure you take the time to vote—model for your children the importance of taking part in elections (and other civic processes such as school and town meetings).

*Take your children to the polls when you vote, or at least be sure they know you voted.

*Keep up-to-date on public dialogues and decision making in your community. Speak out whenever you can on issues that affect young people.

For parents with children ages 6 – 9

*Practice “voting” in your family on decisions that affect everyone. If you put an issue to a vote, be sure you are able and willing to follow through with the results.

*Take your kids to visit public sites in your community such as parks, libraries, schools, courthouses, and offices of public safety. Explain in simple terms how all who live and work in the area invest in and share these resources.

*Begin now, if you haven’t already, to have conversations with your kids about all kinds of issues—from local to global. Learn how your children think and feel about issues. Explain your views and if, how, and why those views influence the way you vote or the choices you make.

For parents with children ages 10 – 15

*Make sure that your son or daughter learns basic civics lessons (whether at home, school, or through a special program or activity designed for this purpose). It’s important that children understand the principles that form the foundation of our democratic institutions: our three branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, and our Bill of Rights.

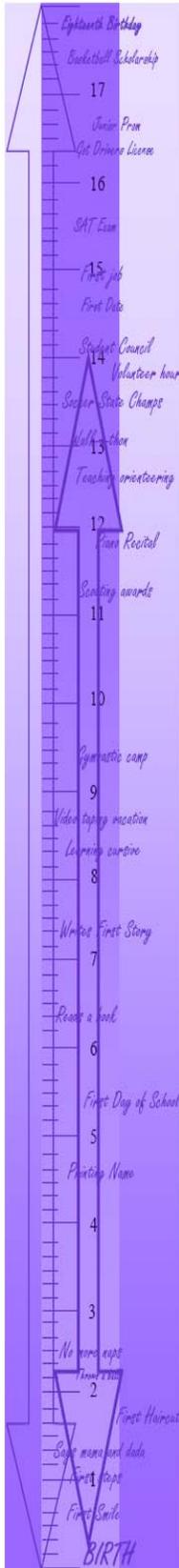
*Give your children access to books, movies, or other types of media (including fiction and nonfiction) that focus on politics, civic engagement, and democracy. Talk about the content—what seems realistic and what was interesting or intriguing to them.

*Encourage your child to participate in debate, mock trial, student council, or other activities that can help her or him develop skills and knowledge related to public dialogue and democracy.

For parents with children ages 16 – 18

*Help your older teen learn about registering to vote, registering for selective service, and other privileges and responsibilities that go along with becoming a “legal” adult.

*If your child will be living away from home after high school graduation, help her or him figure out how to file an absentee ballot.



FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

NACCRRA is working with DoD to help those who serve in the military to find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through several innovative civilian/military efforts among DoD, NACCRRA, and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, we are building the quality and capacity of child care throughout the country.

Operation: Military Child Care: Child care fee assistance for families of activated or deployed National Guard and Reserves for licensed child care. All income levels and ranks are eligible.

Child Care for Families of Severely Injured Military Service Members:

NACCRRA and the Department of Defense (DoD) have partnered to provide families of severely injured military members with assistance to find and pay for safe, licensed child care services for a period of six months during their period of recuperation. The program is available nationwide wherever the injured member is receiving either inpatient or out-patient medical care.

To apply for any of these programs, families and service members can call 1-800-424-2246 or visit

<http://www.NACCRRA.org/military>.

To find suitable child care please visit:

www.childcareaware.org

If you have any questions on how to apply, or if you need help with completing the application to receive assistance, please contact me at anytime.

Shelly Aiken New York National Guard Youth Program

Shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

914-788-7405



Our mission is to support the social, emotional, and academic needs of National Guard children and youth

FT. HAMILTON

Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Hotlines

Report Child Abuse or Domestic Violence, please call the Military Police at (718) 630-HELP (4456).

For all confidential matters or questions pertaining to domestic violence, you may contact Family Advocacy Case Manager Elizabeth Winslow at (718) 630-4242 or Family Action Plan Manager Vincent DiMaira at (718) 630-4460.

Strike Zone Happenings

Monday Madness - now to August 27

\$5 pizza all day - \$1.25 extra for topping

- offer to eat in or to go.

\$1 per game, \$1 shoe rental.

Children's Day

- Mon and Wed. One hour of bowling, free shoes and choice of one "Children's Meal." \$8 per child ages 8-15. Children under 8 must have an adult sponsor.

For more information, call Rodney Boyd at (718) 630-4440

Waiting Families

Support Group Meetings

Every third Wednesday of the month. At 6-8 p.m. at ACS, Building 405. Denise Chappell for information at (718) 630-4462

Community Activities Center - Rodney Boyd (718) 630-4293

Bowling Center - Kenney Campbell (718) 630-4440

Army Community Service - Carmen Borrero (718) 630-4754

Community Club - Wallace Grant (718) 833-9772/9773

Child & Youth Services Departments (718) 630-4805/4812

WEST POINT

TEAM DEPLOYMENT

Last year, children of deployed Soldier's ran honored of their loved ones by running on our TEAM DEPLOYMENT at the USMA Kids fun run (see pictures of team above!). What a great response we received from the families and from the community! If you would like your child/ren to participate in TEAM DEPLOYMENT, just let me know the following information and send a digital picture of your Soldier (I am making TEAM DEPLOYMENT tee shirts with pictures of each child's Soldier on the back for all of our runners!) Children of Soldier's recently returned from deployment are WELCOME to participate!

Information I need is...

Child's name, age, tee shirt size, and a picture of your Soldier!!

The information YOU need is.....

USMA 5K/10K & Kid's 1mile Fun Run, August 25, 2007, West Point, NY

Buffalo Soldier Field inside Thayer Gate

5K starts at 8:00 — 10K starts at 8:30

Kids 1 mile Fun Run starts at 8:45

Please call or email if you have any questions! This is going to be great fun! We will decorate our TEAM Tee shirts at our August meeting on the 18th from 5:00-7:00 at the Youth Center!

Have a great day,

Tea :-)

Galatea Badger, MSED

Ph: 845-938-5654

FT. DRUM

Operation Ready

Operation Ready provides Soldiers, their Families, Family Readiness Group Leaders, Commanders including Rear Detachment, First Sergeants, Chaplains, activated Reserve and National Guard Units the necessary training and resources to ensure mission readiness, including the tools for training and preparing for future deployments and reunions. Volunteers can bring classes to units or Family Readiness Group. Childcare is provided.

For more information or to set up a class please call 772-0470.

Attraction Tickets

Cinema (Salmon Run Mall)
Restricted \$6.75,
Unrestricted \$7.25

National Baseball Hall of Fame Free admission
military ID card holders
Adult \$13. / Youth \$3.25

Rosamond Gifford Zoo,
Syracuse Adult \$4 / Child \$2

Darien Lake
Adult \$22.50/Children
\$18.50

Enchanted Forest
One rate \$20

Six Flags - Lake George One
rate \$24

Call 772-5169 for info.

Help Save our Earth and Win

If you had 60 seconds to convince all of your friends that they needed to take action to stop the climate crisis, what would you say? How would you get the attention of millions of people all over the world? Well, now you have the chance! Current TV and the Alliance for Climate Protection have teamed up to sponsor 60 Seconds to Save the Earth. The premise is simple: make the best 15, 30, or 60-second ad showcasing how you or someone you know is taking action to alleviate the climate crisis -- or create an original, persuasive message that will open eyes, inspire change and empower your audience.

Get the details and create your ad by visiting:

<http://www.current.tv/ecospotcontest>

After you submit your ad, our panel of celebrity judges will narrow the field to 20 finalists. Then you will be able to help pick the winner through an online vote. The top ads will be aired internationally on Current TV, featured in the Alliance's national campaign, and showcased on MySpace's Impact channel.

In addition, the grand-prize winner will receive a Toyota hybrid car, while three finalists will win Sony electronic products, and 16 semi-finalists will receive T-Mobile Sidekicks.

So get started -- in 60 seconds you can save the planet. Learn about this incredible contest and submit your ad today by visiting:

<http://www.current.tv/ecospotcontest>

Thank you, Al Gore

TRICARE UPDATE

DO NOT DELAY.

Week of July 30, 2007

Data for nearly 600,000 households enrolled in TRICARE stored on a government-contractor's unprotected computer server could have been exposed to hackers. The Department of Defense and the Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) are mailing letters to beneficiaries whose data was put at risk. An incident response center has been set up and can be reached toll free within the United States at 1-888-862-2680, or collect at 1-515-365-3550 from outside the United States. Information on steps TRICARE beneficiaries can take to protect themselves from identity theft is available at the TRICARE ID

Theft:

Resources webpage
www.tricare.mil/tmaprivacy/itpr.cfm

Detect suspicious activity by routinely monitoring your financial accounts and billing statements. If you are unable to take these steps while you are deployed, consider placing an "active duty alert" on your credit report.

Your credit report. Credit reports contain information about you, including what accounts you have and your bill-paying history.

The law requires each of the major nationwide consumer reporting companies—Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion—to give you a free copy of your credit report every year if you ask for it.

Visit www.AnnualCreditReport.com or call 1-877-322-8228, a service created by these three companies, to order your free credit reports each year. You also can write: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Sesame Workshop Seeks Your Vote for American Express Members Project

The Sesame Workshop has joined the American Express® Members Project to help military families with deployment. The Members Project provides American Express® Cardmembers with the opportunity to raise awareness of a project that will have a positive impact in the world. American Express will fund the winning idea with up to \$5 million. To vote, please visit <http://www.membersproject.com/> and go to #01372 "Helping Military Families with Deployment."

If it is successful, the Sesame Workshop hopes to use the funds to expand on the success of the *Talk, Listen, Connect* DVD which features the popular Sesame Street character Elmo and is designed to help preschool children cope with the absence of a parent because of deployment. The PBS special program about the DVD, *When Parents Are Deployed*, featuring Cuba Gooding, Jr. was recently nominated for a Primetime Emmy. Learn more about the Sesame Workshop at <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/>.



Armed Services YMCA is Awarded Funds to Support Military Children

The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) has been awarded \$1.9 million by the Iraq-Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund to provide programs and services for children of junior enlisted military personnel who are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan including, scholarships to summer camp, tutoring and mentoring services for young children, and safe and reliable transportation to and from support programs. The grant money will also be used to expand "Operation Hero," a successful tutoring and mentoring program that has helped more than 5,000 children ages 6-12 who are experiencing difficulty in school due to a parent's deployment. For more information on the ASYMCA, an affiliate of the YMCA of the USA, please visit <http://www.asymca.org>

America's Promise Voices Study

contains good news (75% say that they do have caring adults in their lives), needs identified by the 10-17 year olds surveyed (45% expressed a desire for more adults to turn to when they need help) and recommendations based on the study (Youth participation in constructive, supervised after-school activities is an important option for children and youth, however "the extent to which such activities must be fun for participants can not be underestimated"). www.americaspromise.org

Spanish Language Version of "Your Soldier, Your Army: A Parents' Guide" Now Available

AUSA Family Programs is pleased to announce that "Su Soldado, Su Ejército Estadounidense: Guía Para Los Padres" is now available. The guide is designed to help parents of Soldiers understand how the Army works and provides information about deployment, family readiness programs and advice on how to cope with having a child deployed. In writing the book, Mrs. Cody drew on her own experience as an Army wife of thirty years and the mother of two sons, both of whom joined the Army and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Since it was first published in 2005 the book has proven to be a tremendous success and many thousands of copies have now made their way to the parents and grandparents of Soldiers. Both the English and Spanish language versions of "Your Soldier, Your Army" are available free of charge although quantities may be limited. To obtain a copy, please contact AUSA Family Programs at 1-800-336-4570, ext. 151 or familyprograms@ausa.org

Army Establishes Free Respite Care for Children Enrolled in EFMP

Army families with a child enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) can now take advantage of up to forty hours of respite care for each certified EFMP child. Family members should contact their Army Community Service center for more information. EFMP ensures that that the military personnel assignment process takes into consideration the housing, educational and medical needs of a special needs family member. Currently, enrollment in EFMP is limited to active duty Army families. More information about the program is available at <http://myarmylifetoo.com> under "Home and Family Life."

Helping Children Cope with Deployment

Parents and caregivers looking for a way to help children cope with the impact of having a parent deployed may find three videos especially helpful. "Talk, Listen and Connect: Helping Families Cope with Military Deployment" is produced by the Sesame Workshop especially for preschool children and follows the story of Sesame Street's Elmo when his father goes away. The DVD comes in both Spanish and English and may be requested free of charge through Military OneSource (<http://www.militaryonesource.com>).

Older children may benefit from "Military Youth Coping with Separation: When Family Members Deploy." This short video includes interviews with teenagers who describe their experiences when a parent deployed. To view the video go to the Army's behavioral health web site and click on the "Children" link: <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil>.

A new cartoon feature, "Mr. Poe and Friends Discuss Family Reunion after Deployment", aimed at 6 to 11 year olds, will be available for download in July 2007.

The American Academy of Pediatrics also has information and resources to help children cope with deployment: <http://www.aap.org/sections/unifserv/deployment/ysp-resources.htm>.

Big Brother & Big Sister Of NYC

As Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC celebrates over 100 years of mentoring, we are proud to announce a partnership with the New York National Guard Youth Program, specifically focused on NYC children of deployed service members. We invite children of deployed service members who may need support while their parent is away from home as well as those children who have lost a family member in the line of duty, to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister.

A Big Brother or Big Sister is a special friend whose influence on a child's development can be powerful. In the relationship the adult serves to guide and lend a helping hand to a child. The match meets every other week to have fun and engage in activities all over the city.

TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD OR VOLUNTEER :

Call Lilli Golberg, LMSW at 212-994-7743 or email her at Lgoldberg@bigsny.org

Big Brother & Big Sister of the Capital Region

Serving 4 counties

**1492 Central Ave
Albany NY 12205
518-862-1250
Ask for Jessica**

Little Moments, Big Magic



OPERATION PURPLE CAMP NEWS

Our own Proud New York National Guard Kids have made the news, while attending Operation Purple Camp this year. This years Operation Purple Camp was located in two locations; Camp Wabasso and Camp Deerun and all of the kids had a great time and cannot wait to go back next year!!!

Way to go Stars!!!!

THE TIMES HERALD RECORD-ORANGE COUNTY

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070722/NEWS/707220345>

WNBC REPORTS

<http://video.wnbc.com/player/?id=131463>

FREE IT TRAINING

Free IT Training for 18-24 year olds. Available in locations surrounding these major cities: NY, Boston, DC and Providence. If you know anyone in these metropolitan areas (see details in the site) with a high school diploma or a GED who is between the ages of 18-24 yrs and has an interest in IT, please refer them to this site:

<http://www.yearup.org>

This program asks for a 1 year commitment between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. They provide the student with a stipend and after six months, internships at companies such as Freddie Mac and AOL to name a few.

New York National Guard Youth Program

Program Director:

Shelly Aiken
Camp Smith, Bldg 501
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
(Phone) 914-788-7405
(Fax) 914-788-7407
(Cell) 518-727-0628
shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil
www.guardfamilyyouth.org

New York National Guard State Family Program Office

**330 Old Niskayuna Rd.
Latham, New York
12210**

Program Director:

Beverly Keating: 518-786-4525
beverly.keating@us.army.mil

Family Assistant Manager:

Patricia Bradt: 518-786-4904
Patricia.bradt@us.army.mil

Family Readiness

Assistant:

Stephanie Duell: 518-786-4774
stephanie.duell@us.army.mil

Call Toll Free:

1-877-715-7817

**PROJECT PEN PAL
Connecting Military Children around the Globe**

Pen Pals are a great way to keep your child learning thru the summer!!!

Attached at the end of newsletter is a permission slip to become a pen pal.

Sign up today, Pen pals are waiting :)

Making Friends around the world

PROJECT PEN PAL
PERMISSION SLIP

Would your child be interested in making a new friend and getting to know another child like him/herself? **Why not sign them up for the Project Pen Pal.** What a great way for them to share stories about Military life and or learn different cultures from around the Globe. If your child is interested please fill out the information below. Parents, **please don't forget to sign** the permission slip and either fax it or mail it to the number below and **Please print clearly. Thanks :)**

Child's Name _____
Age/Grade _____
Hobbies/Interests _____

Do you speak or write another language besides the English language?
Yes ___ **or No** ___
If so what Language do you speak or write?

PROJECT PEN PAL PERMISSION FORM

I, _____ (parent/guardian) give my permission for
_____ (child's name) to participate

In Project Pen Pal. I understand that it is my (parent/guardian) responsibility to supervise my child's contact with another Military child and not the responsibility of the New York National Guard Youth Program.

Date _____ **Email address** _____

Parent/Guardian signature

Address

Phone/Fax

***Please mail or fax this permission slip to:**

Shelly Aiken
NY National Guard Youth Program
Camp Smith, Bldg 501
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
Fax (914-788-7407)

*If you have questions about Project Pen Pal please **email Shelly** at:
shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil Or Call me at 914-788-7405