

# Guard En Of Youth

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

Fall Edition 2011



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# Quilt Assembly Day

## Please Join Us In Assembling The 27<sup>th</sup> BCT Youth Quilt

November 11<sup>th</sup> , 2011

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Division of Military and Naval Affairs

330 Old Niskayuna Rd Latham, NY 12110

**PIZZA AND ICE CREAM WILL BE SERVED!!!**

### Quilt Facts:

During the Yellow Ribbon Pre Deployment Events youth participants each are given a quilt square that they design and decorate for their Service Member, they are then assembled together. With the 27<sup>th</sup> BCT leaving soon, we now have over 300 squares that need to be tied together to create a quilt. This is something that the Service Members **LOVE** to receive. The unit will hang the quilt in their headquarters in Afghanistan as another reminder of home!!

**\*\*To RSVP or for more information contact: \*\***

**Keri or Colleen by November 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Keri O'Neil

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# Jr. Counselor Training At Pioneer Camp July 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

Summer 2011 was a very exciting and busy one for The New York Youth Program. In July (10<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>) The Youth Program attended Pioneer Camp, during their “Take A Break” Session in Angola, NY. “Take A Break” camp is specifically for military youth and teens to attend at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, located just south of Buffalo on the beautiful shores of the Erie Lake.

The New York Youth Program was excited to teaming up with OMK and the Red Cross throughout the three day training. Teens were able to learn a wide variety of leadership skills, babysitting tools, First Aid and CPR. After completing the training all 14 teens were certified in the 4-H Babysitting Course, CPR and First Aid at no cost to them or their families.



The group was able to spend time amongst their fellow military peers and talked about the advantages and disadvantages of being a military kid. They took the highlights and discussed how as Jr. Counselors they will be able help younger youth. It was an amazing experience for the State Youth Coordinators to see kids from across NY come together to talk and discuss different thoughts and experiences with the group.



Throughout the training the teens spent time participating in camp activities that were being offered for military youth. Activities included; the landing of a Black Hawk (and going inside), a Coast Guard boat, having MRE's for lunch, swimming, boating, low ropes challenge course, and nightly fires.

Many of the teens were excited about the new training and experiences they gained through the Jr. Counselor Training Program. They talked about being able to use these certifications in their communities, as babysitters and volunteers. They all were happy to be a part of the New York State Jr. Counselor Program, and to go to a Youth Programs Event to volunteer.



The New York Youth Program would like to thank Pioneer Camp for their hospitality of our kids and staff. A special thanks goes out to Reverend Alex Knowles, Leah Sallach, OMK and Red Cross for helping and supporting us through yet another successful training for our Jr. Counselors.

Written by: Keri O'Neil





# *National Youth Symposium Louisville, KY*



Jessica Turner

**Most Memorable Moment:** "I can remember it all from plane ride to plane ride. But the one thing I enjoyed the most, is the dance."

**Most Fun:** "The Pool Party!"

**Guest Speakers Taught Me:** "activities, good moral values, and techniques for success."

**Other State Delegates Taught Me:** "I learned what the national guard is like in other states/territories."

**Advice for Other Military Youth:** "Get out there. Stuff just won't come to you, you have to get up and go do it. Learn more."

## *Highlights from the Delegates:*



Hayley Strasburger

**Most Memorable Moment:** Receiving General McKinley's coin.

**Most Fun:** Military Ball/Dance

**Guest Speakers Taught Me:** "I learned so much from the speakers. Every single speaker inspired me to become more active in my community and help out others. From Craig Hillier, I learned how to learn from my mistakes and how to become a better friend and daughter."

**Other State Delegates Taught Me:** "I learned from them how alike all of us really are. We were all at the Symposium for the same reasons. I also learned from my fellow delegates that communication can solve almost any problem."

**Advice for Other Military Youth:** "go where you are needed." This phrase came up during one of the guest speaker sessions and it really hit home with many of the delegates. I would also like to tell Military Youth to always keep an open mind. There are so many opportunities for Military Youth if you just keep your mind and eyes open!"



USO Concert with Montgomery Gentry -  
SYC Colleen Casey, Delegate Jessica Turner, Family  
Programs Director Andrew DePalo & Delegate  
Hayley Strasburger



Region 2 Delegates at The  
Louisville Slugger Museum



Region 2 (New York, New Jersey, Puerto  
Rico & Virgin Islands) presenting



Farewell Military Ball  
Region 2 Delegates



# Bike Building Event

On August 22, 2011 USO/PricewaterhouseCoopers (New Jersey-location) Volunteers assemble 100 bicycles at the USO of Metropolitan New York City (Port Authority) for Military Families that reside in the Tri-State Region (Connecticut, New York & Northern New Jersey).

The hundred bicycles were donated to Service Members (deploying, deployed & previous deployed) of the New York National Guard & Active Duty Army (New Jersey/Ft Hamilton) from the USO of Metropolitan New York & PricewaterhouseCoopers Firm.



Brian Whiting, President and CEO of USO – Metropolitan New York, motivates PricewaterhouseCoopers volunteers before they build bikes for the children of military families.



Water House Coopers volunteers build bikes for the children of military families.





Staff Sgt. Hector Matos, military police officer with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Company watches his two daughters Ashley (left) and Nixmary (right) as they give their new bikes a test ride after the Build a Bike Event, held at the United Service Organization of Metropolitan New York, Aug 22.



Staff Sgt. Leroy Evangelista, automated logistic specialist with the 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, follows a PricewaterhouseCoopers' volunteer as he shows him how to properly put on his son's helmet after the Build a Bike Event, held at the United Service Organization of Metropolitan New York, Aug 22.

# Welcome Nancy Ness-Lewis



Youth Programs is excited to introduce our new Child and Youth Military Family Life Consultant Nancy Ness-Lewis. Nancy started with Family Programs in August and is excited to start on this new journey.

Nancy began working in the counseling field ten years ago where she has worked with a wide variety of families and children. She has worked as a traveling counselor going to 10 schools throughout Essex and Franklin Counties for three years. She spent three and a half years as a Foster Care Therapist, one year working with Catholic Charities, and then spent the last four and a half years working for Parson's Child and Family Center as a clinician in the Day Treatment Program.

Nancy is very upbeat and optimistic about everything in life and loves what she does. She says that she looks at every position as a challenge, finding ways to meet the unique needs of the children and families. "The joy of seeing it all come together and establishing the trust and bond with the children and families is why I love what I do," Nancy tells us.

Nancy also says that she always tries to find the positive even in the worst circumstances, "When bad things are happening, I just know that something good will come out of it eventually." Nancy's favorite quote is "Carpe Diem."



# November 9-10

## Albany, NY

### *Save the Date!*

#### **Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute**

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming professional development training!

The purpose of this course is to reach out in a support network to the children and families of the National Guard and Reserve. This training is open to guidance professionals, school administration and other caring adults interested in learning more about the military child.

#### **Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute**

*Date:* November 9-10, 2011

*Registration and Breakfast:* 8:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m.

*Institute Training:* 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

*Place:*

Hilton Garden Inn Albany/SUNY  
1389 Washington Ave  
Albany, NY 12206

95% attendance is required to receive  
institute credit and course materials

Funded by OSD/DA.  
No cost to participants.

For more information about this training or other professional development opportunities, please contact Jaime Cahn at 254-953-1923 or [Jaime.cahn@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Jaime.cahn@MilitaryChild.org). Please visit [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org), click the Upcoming Trainings tab to register.

**Log on to [MilitaryChild.org](http://MilitaryChild.org) to register!**

*Participants will have the opportunity to earn educational credits in the form  
1.2 CEU's for \$25.00 and/or 1 hour of graduate credit from Texas A&M— Central  
Texas for \$175.00, payable at the completion of the training.*

***Limited Seats Available! Register Early!***



# January 18-19, 2012

## West Seneca, NY

### *Save the Date!*

#### The Military Child Education Coalition's Professional Development Institutes coming soon to your area!

You are invited to the Living in the New Normal Institute: Helping Children Thrive Through Good and Challenging Times. The Military Child Education Coalition is a nonprofit organization addressing the educational needs of military-connected families. The LINN is a two-day institute outlining specific community resources, deployment information, and practical strategies for encouraging resilience in all children.

#### Living in the New Normal Institute: Helping Children Thrive in Good and Challenging Times

*Date:* January 18th and 19th, 2012

*Registration and Breakfast:* 8:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m.

*Institute Training:* 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

*Place:*

Erie 1 BOCES  
355 Harlem Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224

95% attendance is required to receive institute credit and course materials

No cost to participants. Funded by OSD/DA

For more information about this institute,  
please contact Jaime Cahn at 254-953-1923 or [Jaime.Cahn@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Jaime.Cahn@MilitaryChild.org).  
Please visit [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org) click the Upcoming Trainings to register.

## Log on to [MilitaryChild.org](http://MilitaryChild.org) to register!

*Participants will have the opportunity to earn educational credits in the form 1.2 CEU's for \$25.00 and/or 1 hour of graduate credit from Texas A&M—Central Texas for \$175.00, payable at the completion of the training.*  
*The Military Child Education Coalition is accredited through IACET and NBCC, along with many other state professional development agencies*







# **YOU SERVE OUR COUNTRY.**

## **LET BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS SERVE YOUR CHILDREN.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**MISSION  
YOUTH  
OUTREACH**



**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](http://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







**Suffolk County 4-H**  
and



**NYS Operation: Military Kids**  
would like to invite Military Youth in  
Suffolk County  
to join them in celebrating 75 years of  
4-H in Suffolk County

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**Saturday, November 5th**  
**1:00-4:00 pm**  
**@ the**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel in Holtsville**

**Refreshments & Games**

**There will be a special surprise for all**  
**Military Youth (age 4-18) that attend**

**RSVP is required!!**

**Please RSVP by October 15th**  
**to**  
**Barbara Kessler**  
**bdk49@cornell.edu**



# 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 and resiliency & most importantly:

**Have Fun With Other Military Children!**



Groups Meet Every Other Friday Evening  
New Session Beginning 16 September 2011  
(5 week sessions) ● 6:00pm - 7:30pm

We meet at the Mental Health Association  
999 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209

(Parking in rear of building,  
off West Utica Street;  
Enter through front door.)

**To Make a Referral to the Program or To  
Sign Up Pre-Registration Is REQUIRED:  
Please Call Mary at (716) 886.1242 x. 324 or  
Email: [mcparlane@eriemha.org](mailto:mcparlane@eriemha.org)**

Adrienne Talbert has honorably created this unique program. Coming from three generations of military service, Adrienne 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!



*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](http://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.

**Military OneSource is available 24/7. You name it. We can help.**

1-800-342-9647 Overseas: xx-800-3429-6477 (find access codes online) [www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com)



# The Kids Korner Waiting Room



Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

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**

# MWR and The Times Union Center Present:

## Disney ON ICE

PRODUCED BY FELD ENTERTAINMENT

**Saturday December 10**

(2 Showtimes available)

**11:00 am and 7:00 pm**

**Tickets are \$17.50**

*(11:00 show seating in row 106, 7:00 show seating in row 119)*

**Tickets to go on sale beginning Monday October 3**

**Contact the MWR at 518-885-5138**



Make imagination your destination! Join Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse on a journey into the magical worlds of Disney's The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Peter Pan and Lilo & Stitch. From Ariel's enchanting undersea kingdom to Never Land with Peter Pan and his sassy fairy friend Tinker Bell, you'll be captivated by the music, beauty and laughter in a journey so magical, you'll never want to go home!



# Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular



Featuring The Rockettes  
Saturday November 12  
Showtime 1:00  
Tickets \$78

Bus departs MWR in Ballston Spa  
at 0730 and departs NYC at 1800

Tickets go on sale for Active Duty Navy Monday October 3  
Open to all other Military Personnel Monday October 10  
Contact the MWR at (518-885-5138)

**\*\*Please be advised that these are Non-refundable tickets\*\***

# Guard En Notes



27<sup>th</sup> BCT Pre Deployment  
Yellow Ribbon Events  
Buffalo, Syracuse & Albany



# Guard En Notes

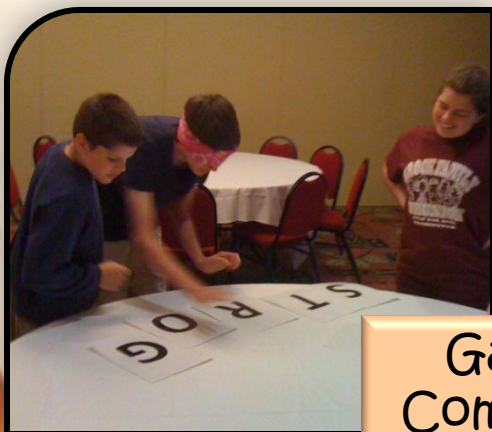


27<sup>th</sup> BCT  
Pre  
Deployment  
Yellow  
Ribbon  
Events  
Buffalo,  
Syracuse &  
Albany



Strong Bonds Family Event  
Great Escape Lodge  
Lake George  
8-10 July

"7 Habits to Highly Effective  
Military Families"  
There were 43 couples and 102  
children.



Game: Blind  
Communication



# Guard En Notes

## Volunteer & Military Child Of the Quarter

Priscilla Johnson is a extremely dedicated and valuable volunteer to the NYNG Youth Program. She will volunteer her time at any Yellow Ribbon event in her area, and currently has 30 volunteer hours since May 2011. She is always full of energy, is a great role model for the children, and is always the first volunteer to get the youth involved with the activities.

Priscilla also has volunteering experience as the FRG Lead Volunteer for the G Co 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion out of Jamaica, NY and the JROTC President of Parents' Association at Central High School in Tuscaloosa, AL .



She also volunteered her time with Corps of Cadets -NCOIC for 206<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets in Brooklyn, NY where she supervised two sergeants who assisted with the two platoons of 206<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets. She trained and educated the youth to live a drug-free life and become role models for future youth. Priscilla motivated the cadets with drill competitions, calling cadences, physical training, and peer interactions.

Priscilla spent over 14 years serving the Army National Guard in Mississippi and New York. And still stands behind her husband as he serves in the Army National Guard. Priscilla has two wonderful children Tierra (18) and Christopher (12).

Collin Lange is a dedicated youth volunteer and Jr. Counselor with the NYNG Youth Programs. He volunteers at any Yellow Ribbon Event that he is able to get to, and currently has 40 volunteer hours since May of 2011.

This summer Collin went through the Jr. Counselor training, at Pioneer Camp in Angola, NY, where he worked with his military youth peers in a leadership training course, and was certified in 4-H Babysitting, and Red Cross CPR and First Aid.



Outside of volunteering with the Youth Program Collin is very active in his high school sports teams. Collin is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and is a member on the baseball, track and cross country skiing teams. Collin also has a special ear for music especially when it comes to the piano, he is also is starting to play the guitar.

Collin always makes his school work and his family his number one priority. On top of his weekly chores, he is always helping out tremendously with his little brother, Lucas, 3 ½, and around the house. Collin also shows his wonderful character with his family members, as he often will help his aunt and uncle with his two younger cousins. He will also go over to his grandparents house a few times a week to help them with general up keep like, mowing the lawn, shoveling the driveways and any other work they might need done at the time.



# 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.