



JANUARY 2009



Program Coordinator

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shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

www.guardfamilyyouth.org

Call Toll Free:

1-877-715-7817

**Check us out on the
Web!!!**

[http://dmna.state.ny.us/family/
famredi.php](http://dmna.state.ny.us/family/famredi.php)



Guard En Of Youth

Wishing everyone a Grand and Glorious New Year!!!

BE PREPARED

In Every Situation

Every day, you make sure that you get your homework done, get to music or sports practice on time or plan where and when you'll meet up with friends...

But do you know how to plan and prepare for emergencies? For Example a Blizzard or a Power outage. Put your planning skills to good use and work with your parents or guardians so you can be ready for all types of emergencies!

Check out these kid-friendly preparedness web sites:

www.ready.gov/kids

This web site features age-appropriate, step by step instructions on what kids and their families can do to become better prepared for all kinds of emergencies.

www.fema.gov/kids

An online resource for kids that includes preparedness games, stories and safety information.

www.sparky.org/index.html

Learn about fire safety and prevention by helping solve Sparky the Fire Dog's secret code.

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/reachout/kidspage.shtml

Designed to help kids learn about Winter storms and other hazardous weather. Check out the category called "Other fun Stuff".

YMCA Memberships and Respite Care for Eligible Military Families

The Department of Defense has partnered with the Armed Services YMCA to fund memberships at participating YMCAs throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for the following groups:

- Families of joint deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel (Army/Navy/Air Force/Marine Corps)
- Active duty personnel and their families at independent duty stations

Active duty families assigned to newly established joint bases
Relocated spouse and family members of deployed active duty personnel

FITNESS FACILITY MEMBERSHIPS

The DoD will also buy down memberships at local fitness facilities (e.g. Gold's Gym/Bally's/24 Hour Fitness, etc) for single active duty personnel at independent duty stations.

RESPITE CHILD CARE

Deployed Guard and Reserve personnel and independent duty personnel with children up to age 12 of will be authorized free respite child care up to 32 hours per month, per child in YMCA facilities in states approved by DoD.

GET STARTED!

1. Complete the [YMCA/DoD Eligibility Form](#).
2. Visit www.YMCA.net to find a participating, local YMCA.
3. Take the eligibility form, a copy of your deployment orders, and your military ID card to your local YMCA.

NATIONAL GUARD CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Advocate *noun*
verb

a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea
push for something

Don't wait until child care costs and military commitment take a toll on your finances, or your spouse's career or education. We can help you determine which supplements are available to help you pay for child care.

Child care supplements have been available to Guard families through the Office of the Secretary of Defense since 2004, but only a small portion of eligible Guard families have received them. Through the National Guard Child Care Program, we are changing that.

Our advocates assist families of service members on orders — activated, deployed, Active Guard and Reserve, etc. to understand the available supplements, and to help them through the application process. We also keep National Guard leadership abreast of the needs that are not met by supplements.

WHO WE ARE

We are advocates who appreciate the sacrifices that a military family makes, and we recognize the impact the deployment cycle has on families. We are real people helping you to find the best child care solutions for your individual needs, and the available supplements to help you pay for it.

WHAT WE WILL DO FOR YOU

- ⇒ We will conduct a brief phone interview to determine your family's needs and eligibility. Ten minutes or less!
- ⇒ We will answer your questions and research your options.
- ⇒ We will help you locate eligible care.
- ⇒ We will fill in the applications for you.
- ⇒ We will work with your provider and explain the process so that you won't have to.
- ⇒ We will advocate for your family's unique situation when necessary.

This service is provided through a National Guard Bureau Family Program Division Contract. There is no charge for this service!

Supplement rates are based on several factors including child care costs and family income. All income levels may be eligible to receive a minimum of \$100 per child per month for full time child care while the spouse is working, going to school full time, or looking for work. Guardians may also apply.

2008 Examples

E4 with two children is receiving \$200 per month for toddler and school age care.
E4 with one child is receiving \$210 per month for full time infant care.
E7 with three children is receiving \$310 per month for full time day care.
O3 with two children is receiving \$100 while spouse attends school part time.

CALL TODAY

CPT R "You guys are awesome! I would never have been able to do this without you. Thanks so much."

Elisha B "It was easy! Didn't take much time at all. I'm really pleased with the program!"

Tom S "It is amazing to actually talk to someone right away and not a machine! The process is quick and the information needed is basic stuff with the military."



1 888 NGCCP 99

1 888 642 2799

NGCCP@GuardFamily.org



Do you have school-aged children who play sports?

Or do they take dance, music or arts classes?

Maybe they would they like to try something new... like Karate?

Could your child benefit from a tutor to stay at grade level?

If the answer is **YES** to any of these questions,
Our **Military Kids** grant program may be able to help.

Our **Military Kids** pays the fees for children of deployed Reserve and National Guard to participate in youth sports, fine arts, and tutor programs. This is a way of recognizing the sacrifices the entire family is making while the soldier is deployed overseas.

It is simple to apply to the program...

Just fill out the attached application. Send it in with a copy of the deployment orders and a flyer or other information that lists the activity and the fee for the activity. The child is limited to one grant for one activity. Grant will cover up to six months of instructions, lessons, tutoring with maximum award of \$500.00 per child.

If everything is in order and if funding is available, within two weeks a check will be sent to the organization and the child will be notified of the award.



6861 Elm Street, Suite 3F • McLean, VA 22101 • 703.734.6654 • www.ourmilitarykids.org

TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION PLEASE VISIT: www.ourmilitarykids.org

SHRINE CIRCUS

MARCH 19th thru MARCH 22nd

at

THE AGRI-CENTER ON THE
FAIRGROUNDS IN HAMBURG

5820 South Park Ave., Hamburg, NY



SHOW TIMES - FREE PARKING

Thursday, March 19th 10:30 am & 7:00 pm
Friday, March 20th 10:30 am, 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 21st 10:00 am, 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 22nd 1:30 pm & 5:30 pm

RESERVED SEATING

Adults
\$12.00

Senior Citizens
\$10.00

Children Under 10
\$8.00

GROUP RATES
AVAILABLE UPON
REQUEST

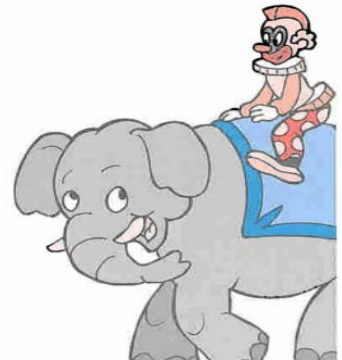
SPECIAL MILITARY RATE

* Immediate Family Members of "Deployed" Service Members receive FREE admission to Thursday 1900 and Friday 1530 Shows

* 50% OFF ticket prices for All Current Service Members and their Family Members to Thursday 1900 and Friday 1530 Shows

Contact: Mr. Peter Pile
Connecticut Street Armory
716-888-5797

Ms. Jeanne Goetze
Niagara Falls AFB
716-243-1234



Military Appreciation Night at the Houston Field House

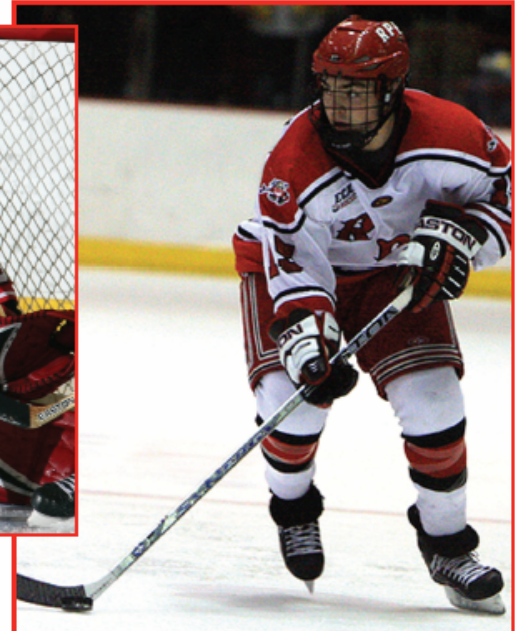
Come celebrate Military Appreciation Night at the Houston Field House as the Rensselaer men's hockey team battles Colgate University.

RPI

vs.



On-ice and Off-ice activities will be held throughout the game!



Friday, January 16th

Game time is set for 7pm • Doors open at 6pm

Show your Military ID at the Box Office for FREE admittance



Do you want to make a difference?

Do you have an opinion about how the
Military affects you and your Family?

**MAKE HISTORY AND REPRESENT
ARMY RESERVE TEENS WORLDWIDE!**

APPLY FOR THE ARMY RESERVE TEEN PANEL

Basic Qualifications

1. A Family member of U.S. Army Reserve Soldier or civilian employee
2. A member in good standing in the military or civilian community
3. Enrolled in the 9th - 11th grade for the 2008-2009 school term
4. Maintain a grade point average of "C" or better in school

Basic Responsibilities

1. Attend up to three meetings annually - all expenses paid!
2. At least eight hours/month with Military and/or community activities!
3. Work with fellow teens to develop innovative opportunities!
4. Inform Army Reserve Leadership about the needs of youth!

Visit www.arfp.org/cys or contact your
Child, Youth & School Services Regional Coordinator



HURRY!
DEADLINE IS
JANUARY 12TH



PROJECT PEN PAL

With Project Pen Pal you will meet other military children around the world. You can make friends, learn about their traditions, culture's, how they feel about their schools and their hobbies. In addition, Project Pen Pal encourages you to write about the challenges you face being a Military Youth, and share those feelings with children from different backgrounds who are dealing with similar issues like, military life, deployments and relocation, just to name a few.

ALL AGES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!!

We have Pen Pals from New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Illinois, New Jersey, Nevada, Vermont, California, Connecticut, Ohio , Wyoming, New Mexico and Washington State is now on board!!!

UNITY IS STRENGTH!!

To sign up please fill out permission slip at the end of this newsletter and fax or mail it to:

Shelly Aiken~NY National Guard Youth Program Coordinator

Camp Smith, Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

Fax: 914-788-7407

Sign up today, Pen pals are waiting :)

CALLING ALL YOUTH

Authors: Do you know funny jokes? Do you have a story you want others to know about? Write an article for us. Please share with us. Make this YOUR newsletter.

Artists: We need your help now. Send us your artwork to be published in YOUR newsletter.

Designers: Do you have a flair for design? Help build a website, suggestions for your Newsletter. **CREATE a LOGO** for the youth Program. Let us know!!

Recipes: Do you have any Yummy recipes you want to share? Send them to us.

Photographers: Photo of the Month, Photos of special events, share a smile

Poets: Do you have a poem about your parent being deployed? Do you have a poem about being a military kid? Any poetry that you would like share?

If you are between the ages of 1 and 18, email or fax your gifts to the Youth Program.

All submissions should be sent to:

Shelly Aiken

Camp Smith Bldg 501

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

Fax: 914-788-7407

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil



New York State now has a full-time Military OneSource Consultant, Alicia Russo. In addition to being a military spouse Alicia comes to this position with 15 years experience working in the social service sector with children and families. As the NYS Military OneSource Consultant, she is available to assist with issues pertaining to access of Military OneSource supports and resources, available for Military OneSource briefings (i.e. What's New? What's Available?), and referral information for other military and community programs and benefits.

Contact Alicia Russo at
Alicia.Russo@militaryonesource.com

or 518-265-2901.



Military OneSource is now offering Playaway books at no cost to service and family members. These books are the newest format of audio book, are approximately the size of a business card, and come loaded with a audio book, battery and ear buds. When you receive your Playaway, all you have to do is press "play" to start listening to your book. Its portability allows you to enjoy your favorite authors and titles on-the-go, whenever and wherever. Fiction and non-fiction titles are being continually added and updated-so check back often! To order your own Playaway click on the library tab on the Military OneSource main page.





Home Again: Veterans and Families Initiative

Jewish Board of Family
and Children's Services

Are you an OIF/OEF veteran?

Are you the loved one of a veteran?

Has homecoming been a little harder than you thought?

You are not alone, we can help.

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Individual and Family Counseling
- Referral Services
- Veteran and Family Support Groups
- Free, no insurance required
- Community Outreach and Education
- Bilingual services available

We provide emotional support and information to veterans and their families dealing with the stress of deployment and coming home.

For more information, call Home Again:
Veterans and Families Initiative (646) 957-0853

Home Again: Veterans and Families Initiative is funded by NYS Health Foundation.

The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services provides programs and services to promote well-being, resilience and self-sufficiency for individuals and families at every stage of life. We help New Yorkers of all ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds in neighborhoods throughout the city.



Jewish Board of
Family and Children's
Services
Federation
of New York

Super Saturday!

FREE childcare

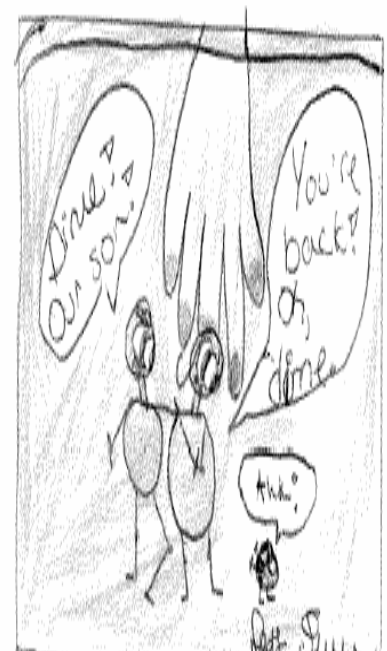
To support the many families affected by the stressors of deployment, Fort Hamilton Child & Youth Services extends an invitation for Military Families to join us for our very first Super Saturday childcare event February 9, 2008 from 0800-1800 hours. Childcare, for ages 0-10, is provided free of charge to families affected by deployment. All others may be provided space on a first come first served basis and will pay the current hourly care rates. Some restrictions apply.

All families must be registered with CYS to participate in this Super Saturday event.
Call to register today: 718-630-4805/4812



THE PENNIES

A Comic strip by Artist Jessica Turner!!!



'My Military Family'

Armed Services YMCA Art Contest 2009

Entry Form

Due to the fact that some entries may be used for display and publicity purposes, all information must be attributable to the artist, so this form must accompany all entries (attached/taped to the back of the original entry) and must be filled out completely (either typed or printed). Entries should be of the student's military family. Drawings should be in color, and the artwork should be 6 by 8 inches in size. Black and white drawings may be entered but are less likely to be selected as top winners. Oversized and three-dimensional entries will not be judged. Please do not identify family members on the drawing.

Contestant's name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone (must include area/country code): _____

Military parent's rank and name: _____

Other parent's name: _____

Parent's Work Phone: _____ Parent's Email: _____

Military branch (please circle):

Army

Navy

Marines

Air Force

Coast Guard

National
Guard/Reserves

The Armed Services YMCA will award six U.S. Savings bonds of \$500 for first-place entries, and \$100 bonds for second place. **Dependents of active duty military or retired from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or National Guard/Reserves, in kindergarten through sixth grade, are eligible to enter.** The top military entries will be used on the 2008 Military Family Month poster sponsored by GEICO Direct. Winners must have a Social Security number to be issued bonds.

For additional information, visit the Armed Services YMCA web site at www.asymca.org, or call 703-313-9600 ext.

10. Email questions may be sent to tharper@asymca.org.

Deadline for entering is Friday, February 20, 2009. All entries must be postmarked by this date.

Mail entries to:

Armed Services YMCA

Attn: Art Contest

6359 Walker Lane, Suite 200

Alexandria, VA 22310

ALL ARTWORK BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE ARMED SERVICES YMCA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

Camp Smith Training Site

Flag Etiquette Certification

BOY SCOUT TROOP 406

The Youth Program and MP SPC Kroll from Camp Smith assisted Boy Scout Troop 406 in learning how to raise and lower an American Flag, and learned some Flag Etiquette on December 6th 2008.



My Christmas gift

by: Megan Pierce

All the presents underneath the Christmas tree

None of them are for me

Who are they for you ask?

Gifts for unfortunate families

Still you ask why not one for me

Simply

My gift can't be wrapped, brought, or spent

It can't be broken worn or bent

My gift is strong

It last all year

I'll wait days even months before its here

My gift's the only one I need

Fragile age of thirteen

The Christmas wish I can call my own

My Christmas gift is my mom coming home

This is a soldier tribute to those who can't spend the holidays with their family.

This was made for my mother who is currently in Afghanistan and will be home in January.

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 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.

Child's Name _____ **Age/Grade** _____

Hobbies/Interests _____

What Language do you speak and 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

Project Pen Pal Code of Conduct

- No obscenities in written or electronic correspondence
- No illegal material mailed or emailed
- No attempt to harm others in correspondence (making threats, making fun of another person, bullying behaviors, etc.)