

New York



JULY 2008



Program Coordinator

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

Call Toll Free:

1-877-715-7817

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

<http://dmna.state.ny.us/family/famredi.php>

Guard En Of Youth

Liberty is the right to choose;

Freedom is the result of the right choice!!!

To celebrate the Fourth of July, do you think of fireworks, picnics, parades, a long weekend, or time to be with the family? Do you think of the flag, military music, the Boston Tea Party, Revolutionary War, World War I and II, Old Iron Sides, Korean War, Vietnam, Kosovo, 9-11-01, Iraq, or Afghanistan? Or perhaps you think of freedom, Democracy, Patriotism, hand over your heart, Unknown Soldier, First responders, or other things personal to you.

Our history, glorious and not so glorious, has produced the greatest Nation in the world. How lucky we are to live in the USA, where we do not have troubles that much of the world has to shoulder every day. We are truly blessed.

Many of our blessings come from the natural endowments of this land, but some are hard fought and have been won by the sacrifices made by many over the past centuries. Our service men and women and their families are still making those sacrifices today. The husbands, wives, children, parents, and other relatives and friends who support our troops also participate in upholding our values, freedoms, and liberty.

Remember them during your Fourth of July celebrations and do what you can to support them.

Tom Sims, Vice Chairman, Board of Governors NMFA

Skribblers



Volume 5, Spring 2008

Grandma All Alone

She looks like a grandma that's alone
All day long
With her apron and her glasses that go all
Around her

Neck.

I can't forget her slippers that go
Tip, tap, tip, tap as she walks alone...
Until we come

It's time for us to go
I hug her; she puts her face next to mine
and I

Say
Good bye Grandma
And
She's all alone.

Kyle Hillard, Age 9
Guilderland Elementary School, Guilderland



...rd the waves.
...d softly landing.
...iper in the wind.
...e a newborn's
...was shy to say

...demy.

Sailing across the sky
Landing in the water with a
gentle splash
Causing the water to form a

A faraway place that I'll call home
With dusty roads and meadow grass

Our Proud National Guard Youth KYLE HILLARD son of LTC KELLY HILLAND is now a published poet!! His poem was featured in Skribblers Magazine this spring!!! Way to GO!!

VETERANS FAMILY SUMMER FUN with Creative Alternatives

This summer Creative Alternatives of New York is teaming up with the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services to offer weekly drama groups to children of OIF/OEF veterans in the Bronx. Participating children will create and play together, exploring drama games, story and poetry writing and making art. In addition to being imaginative and fun, Creative Alternatives groups help to build social and communication skills and develop self-confidence and hope all through the creative and healing arts.

So come and join us this summer!

When?

Thursdays 3:00-4:30pm
July 10th – August 14th

Where?

JBFCS Clinic
55 Westchester Square
Bronx, NY 10461



If you would like to know more about the Veterans Family Summer Fun program, please contact **Alice Psirakis**, Director of Veterans & Families Initiative of JBFCS at (646) 957-0853 or **Lucy McLellan**, Program Director with Creative Alternatives at (212) 222-1969.

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 and Wyoming.

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

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

Sign up today, Pen pals are waiting :)

During the summer months, most parents want their school-age children to relax after the busy school year. But how can you make sure your child doesn't stop learning altogether during the summer? Pen Pals are a great way to keep your child learning thru the summer!!!

PLANT A YELLOW RIBBON

On Saturday June 28th, 2008 the Youth Program teamed up with Operation Military Kids, FAC Specialist Peter Pilc, the Corps of Cadets and Our Proud National Guard youth and planted flowers on the front lawn of the Connecticut Street Armory in the design of a Yellow Ribbon to show our on-going support for our Service member and families. Operation Military Kids (OMK) is part of 4H Extension Programs and all of the flowers used in the garden are donated by OMK through a grant they received. Everyone that participated was more than honored to be a part of this Armories great history!!!



For more information about Defiant Gardens please call: Shelly Aiken-NY NG Youth Program at 914-788-7405 or email at shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil



*The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation and
the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy
invite New York City veterans and their families
as our special, exclusive guests
for private front-row seats on the water's edge for the July 4 fireworks
from a new temporary park on Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park*



Beginning June 26, a portion of Pier 1, in the future Brooklyn Bridge Park, will be open to the public for the first time, offering magnificent views of New York Harbor and “The New York City Waterfalls” by Olafur Eliasson, a temporary public art work presented by the Public Art Fund in collaboration with the City of New York. *Summer '08 @ Pier 1* is sponsored by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation and the Conservancy as a new summer interim use.

Summer '08 @ Pier 1 is located on the East River just south of the Brooklyn Bridge at the base of Old Fulton Street and Furman Street and is accessible by subway via the A/C at High Street, the 2/3 at Clark Street, and the 4/5 at Borough Hall, with a free connecting shuttle bus service from the Borough Hall area.

Space is limited and private parking is available. Pier 1 will be open for your private fireworks viewing at 7:00 pm.

Please RSVP to Beth Newborn at 718 802-0603.

CHILD CARE NEWS

Child Care \$\$\$ Available

Active Duty National Guard serving under Title 10 or Title 32, United States Code (U.S.C.) military families are now eligible for Child Care subsidy benefits subject to eligibility requirements and availability of funds. Please visit the NACCRRA website, www.naccrra.org, for further information regarding this subject.

When you reach the site click on (Click here for Military Child Care) lower left hand corner, then click on Army, then Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood. Should you have any question please do not hesitate to call me.

National Guard TITLE 10 Activated military Spouse, If you are:

*Employed

*Seeking employment (for 60 days)

*Going to school

You qualify for \$100 per month per child for full time care
(Licensed Provider Required).

Call the National Guard Child Care Program today to apply!
1-888-NGCCP-99 (888-642-2799) or ngccp@guardfamily.org

Child Care for Families of Severely Injured Military Service Members

NACCCRA 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 in-patient 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:

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil

914-788-7405

Our Military Kids Announces Program Expansion

McLean, VA -- Our Military Kids, a program that provides grants to children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military, has expanded its program eligibility in two ways. The program which had been open to children in grades K – 12, will now be offered to 3- and 4-year-olds. Additionally, children may be eligible for a second grant award if their parent is deployed for 365 days or more.

Linda Davidson, Executive Director of Our Military Kids, stated “We are excited about being able to expand the program to preschoolers and to second grantees. We have had many requests from parents of preschoolers asking that we consider offering grants to this age group. We are pleased that funding from our very generous donors has allowed us to take this next step in the growth of the program.”

Our Military Kids grants cover six months of an activity to a maximum award of \$500.00. Children who have a parent deployed for 365 days or more will now be eligible for a second grant award provided the parent has 60 days remaining on the deployment orders and 6 months has elapsed since the first grant award.

Our Military Kids provides grants for sports, fine arts and tutoring so that children may start or continue participation in an activity while the parent is away or recovering from serious injury. To date, over 3000 children have received awards from Our Military Kids.

To find more information on the program or to download an application go to
www.ourmilitarykids.org

Yankees Squadron

The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a program for American youth ages 13-17, is proud to announce the formation of its newest unit, the “Yankees Squadron”. The Yankees Squadron is hosted by US Marine Corps Aviation Group (MAG-49) Detachment “B” at Stewart ANGB in Newburgh and is proudly sponsored by the
New York State Naval Militia.

The Yankees Squadron is positioned to serve the youth of Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess and Westchester counties and joins the Eastern New York region including the Mahan Division in Albany, the Mohawk Valley Battalion in Amsterdam, and 13 other Sea Cadet units throughout New York State.

For additional information on the program please visit the national website at:
<http://www.seacadets.org>

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

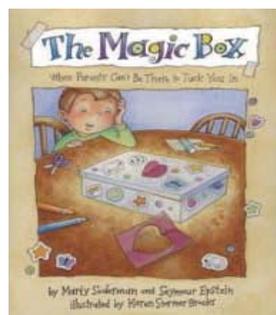
Fax: 914-788-7407

shelly.m.aiken@us.army.mil



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Casey's dad had to go away for a couple of days...AGAIN! Casey hates it when his father has to travel. But this time Dad leaves behind a special gift that will help Casey cope with the absence, and with future trips as well. This upbeat and charmingly illustrated book contains a wealth of tips for families in which a parent is often away from home. "A Note to Parents" by Ann Rasmussen, Psy.D., helps parents understand what their children are facing, reassures parents of the value of these separations, and suggests many practical techniques for helping the child before, during and after an absence.



Troops and 'New Avengers' Step Into Line of Fire in Free Comic Book

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and Marvel Comics are set to unveil the latest in a series of free military-only "New Avengers" comic books. The new comic, titled "Fireline," will be available next month and will include information about an AAFES sweepstakes. The sweepstakes will choose two Servicemembers to be photographed and professionally drawn into the next Marvel comic AAFES distributes. The winners will also receive an Iron Man videogame and Nintendo DS handheld game console. For more information about the comic or the sweepstakes, please visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

Nickelodeon Show Features Children Welcoming Parents Returning from War

Linda Ellerbee joins with Nick News to showcase military families and how they handle reintegration in the family. "Coming Home: When Parents Return from War" premieres on Nickelodeon July 6th at 9pm eastern standard time. The show will honor Servicemembers and highlight children who have bravely sacrificed during their parents' absence. For more information about the program, visit

<http://www.multichannel.com/article/CA6571172.html>

Summer Fun for Children With Special Needs

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities has published "Summer Camps 2008," a list of camp sites and other websites designed for special needs children. The publication can be viewed at <http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/genresc/camps.pdf>. For more information on finding programs for children with disabilities, please visit your local Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) office or go to Military One Source at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> and click on the "Special Needs" icon.

Happy Mail for Kids (Children ages 4 – 9 years)

Created by a military spouse living in Nova Scotia, Happy Mail for Kids offers a monthly parcel mailing to children. For a fee parents may sign their child up for 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, or 1 year or special mailings: the Happy Birthday Package, Deluxe Birthday Package For Girls, Crafty Girl, It's A Boy/Girl Thing Package etc. You can even arrange to have a letter from the deployed parent sent with the package(s)! Please check out the website for more information: www.happymailforkids.com

Fourth of July Events

For all Fourth of July activities in the area go to...

<http://www.saratoga.com/news/fireworks.cfm>

ALL-American BBQ & DESSERT FESTIVALS- JULY 5th

SARATOGA SPRINGS NY --

If you like the annual Chowderfest, then you are going to love Saratoga's All-American BBQ and Dessert Festivals! Taste the best BBQ and desserts from local restaurants at these competitions during [Saratoga's All-American Celebration](#) on Saturday, July 5, 2008.

109TH AIRLIFT WING GALAXY CAMP

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE SIGN UP TODAY!!!

For applications and questions please contact:

Joanna Yesse, Wing Family Program Coordinator 109th Airlift Wing

1 Air National Guard Road
Scotia, NY 12302

Office: (518)344-2357

DSN: 344-2357

24/7 Cell: (518)339-1437

Fax: (518)344-2695

Email:

joanna.yesse@nyscot.ang.af.mil

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE
ACS
Real-Life Solutions for Successful Army Living

Be Our Guest!

Concert & Fireworks

Saturday, July 5th (rain date July 6)

Concert starts at 8pm



Reserved seating exclusively for Families of deployed Soldiers at Trophy Point concert and fireworks!

Receive one coupon for hot dog and coke from the West Point Club concession for every Family member of a deployed Soldier?



For more info call Galatea Badger at 938-5654

FT.DRUM

7/8/08 2 – 4 pm

LeRay Heights Community Center Summer Activities

The Community Life Office is hosting a free Water Fun Party on July 8 at the LeRay Heights Community Center. All Military Families are invited and encouraged to come and join in on the fun. July 11 – Ice Cream Social 2 – 4 pm; July 15 – Pizza Party 2 – 4 pm; July 22 – Kite Building 2 – 4 pm

Cheryl Gravlee 772-5374

FREE SUMMER CAMP

CAMP TRANQUILLITY

“A Children’s Camp With a Heart”

Tranquillity Camp would like to offer **FREE** scholarships for the summer of 2008 to all Military children. Children must be in good health and between the ages of 8-15. Camp is 25 miles south of Albany. Transportation is provided from Queens, NY or parents can drive their children directly to camp.

The Camp Is situated on 1,000 rolling acres in Earlton, NY., just 20 miles south of Albany, NY. Each summer hundreds of children find friendship, fun and personal growth in our camp program, which gives them a healthy, happy and memorable summer experience. This is the third year Camp Tranquillity has given support to our National Guard youth!!! HOOOOAH!!!!!!!

A partial list of activities include:

Softball, swimming instruction, arts and crafts, football, nature hiking, Special events, gymnastics, Evening programs, and much more!!!

If you are interested in camping at Tranquillity Camp, parents can contact Richard S. Lerner directly.

Contact:

Richard S. Lerner

845-638-6351

Email: campty@msn.com

Don't Wait!! Sign up today!!!



Long Island Camps and Private Schools

Support our Troops

FREE SUMMER 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 CampDay
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

What Can

Your YMCA

**Do to Help Our Military Family Members?
Care.**

Be Aware.

Be Involved.

**Learn more about how extended deployments affect
military families. Visit:**

*www.asymca.org and/or www.ymca.net
for suggested program ideas and resources.*

YMCA

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.



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.)