

4-H / Army Youth Development Project

2007

Partners for Youth





4-H/Army Youth Development Project

Expanding the Partnership

Our Federal partnership has been recognized repeatedly this past year as being a model for others. The 4-H/Army Youth Development Project (YDP) received the Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award in October 2006 *“for collaboration of Federal agencies, using public resources wisely and meeting critical challenges facing America’s children as their parents are deployed.”* We were invited to present the mutual benefits and accomplishments of the partnership at the American Bar Association’s National Youth at Risk Roundtable, at the Department of Justice Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and as part of a Rhodes Scholar Cross-National Research Project on Maximizing Collaborative Coherence.

The 4-H/Army YDP partnership expanded on several fronts this year. University faculty and Army staff collaborated in developing a broad array of new curriculum for use by both 4-H and Army. These curricula help address the growing issue of youth obesity, support Families in need of intermittent child care, provide a step-by-step guidance for service-learning projects, describe how to assemble *Hero Packs*, teach videography skills, and train youth speaker bureaus to raise community awareness about the challenges faced by military-connected youth. Military 4-H Grants benefited Army Garrisons in 21 states and Army National Guard and Army Reserve youth in an additional ten states.

Thirty-five states are now receiving Operation: Military Kids (OMK) grants. Six OMK states expanded their educational programs, trainings, youth and Family events, and citizen awareness sessions after the President’s 2007 Surge announcement extended their Soldiers’ tour of duty in Iraq.

As the effects of the Global War on Terrorism continue to dominate the work of the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project, we will continue to develop initiatives and ways of doing business to meet new missions and provide support to military children and youth.

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Army 4-H Clubs

Army 4-H Clubs

Through the 4-H and Army Child and Youth Services (CYS) partnership, **over 11,600 children and youth** on Army Garrisons world-wide have participated in 4-H Clubs through their School-Age and Youth Programs. They've learned to build and operate robots, planned and conducted community service projects, increased their awareness of healthy nutrition and fitness practices, gained communication and leadership skills, explored science and technology and connected with other 4-H'ers in neighboring communities by participating in county, district, state and national 4-H activities and programs.

Fairs and similar events showcased the work of Army 4-H'ers:

- Camp Zama, Japan, conducted a Garrison 4-H Fair – **37 youth participated and over 120 parents and spectators attended**
- Hawaii Garrison's 4-H Spring Fling – a day of workshops, demonstrations and contests - drew **over 300 participants**
- The Fort Drum SAS 4-H Club won "**Best of Show**" at the Jefferson County Fair (NY) for their "**Memory Banners**" in honor of the 10th Mountain Division fallen Soldiers
- **Over 2000 4-H'ers across the Army** participated in local and county fairs/exhibits, district and regional contests, State 4-H Conferences/Congresses, and National 4-H Conference

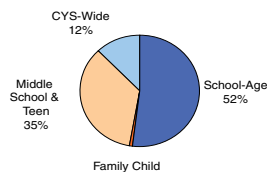
Army 4-H Clubs expanded experiences for youth to include:

- Youth from White Sands Missile Range, NM, Fort Sill, OK, Fort Bragg, NC, and Fort Stewart, GA **holding 4-H leadership roles** at county, district and state levels
- A Fort Bragg 4-H'er **winning District recognition** for 4-H project work and written records in Communication Arts and Consumer and Family Science
- Picatinny Arsenal using GIS software for GPS technology project opportunities
- Fort Huachuca staff serving on the **Arizona 4-H Health Rocks Leadership Team**
- The Redstone Arsenal 4-H Tech Club receiving a *Robotics, Rocketry and Conceptual Design (Design Solutions)* kit to expand their 4-H robotics and rocketry projects

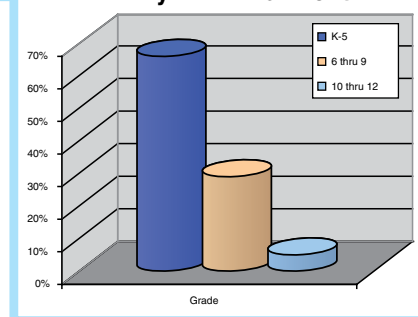


"Memory Banner"

Army 4-H Clubs



Army 4-H Enrollment



Educational Technology

CYS Technology Practicum

Technology Specialists created the **CYS Technology Practicum** covering additional staff responsibilities in Youth Technology Lab (YTL) facilitation and management and improving skills and knowledge in software selection, working with kids and computers and Internet safety. The Practicum provides a viable career path for staff wishing to stay in **CYS Programs** and helps to build predictable YTL Programs across the Army!

3-2-1...Action! Workshop

Teams of military and non-military youth and adults participating in the **3-2-1...Action! Workshop** developed marketable technology skills, gained leadership skills, experienced cutting edge technology and helped develop public service announcements about Army Youth Programs, 4-H and life as a Military kid.

4-H/Army Technology Specialists conducted **training for over 70 Garrison Functional Technology Specialists (FTS)** featuring experiential workshops on videography, rocketry, audio/podcasting, flash animation and communication with deployed parents, as well as in-depth, hands-on training in the Child & Youth Management System (CYMS). Practices implemented from the training included:

- Fort Sill, OK, youth **producing two commercials** for their Youth Center and a video of a Youth Program Lock-In.
- Fort Bliss, TX, technology staff **creating eight different camps** focusing on topics such as Flash Animation, Audio/Podcasting, Robotics and other sessions.
- Fort Irwin, CA, offering **four Rocketry Camps** where participants learned about Newton's Laws of Motion using paper rockets and play dough; middle school youth filmed rocket launches and created a slideshow with pictures and video.
- The USAG Hohenfels FTS used the "hands-on model of teaching" at training in Europe. **Four workshops on basic computer skills** were so successful, people were being turned away by the last session. She said, "*I wouldn't have thought of doing the hands-on type of presentation if I hadn't taken the FTS training in October and experienced first hand how useful that kind of training can be.*"

Character Counts!sm

The Six Pillars of Charactersm – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship - are incorporated into every CYS Program. Each day even the youngest CYS children learn how to apply the pillars to their lives and to make good decisions based upon these pillars.

- Character education was a part of all **Region Youth Leadership Forums**
- CHARACTER COUNTS!sm information was included in all newly developed CYS manuals/guides and the *Military Youth Staff Training Modules*
- **Fort Belvoir Youth** highlighted the Army CYS and CHARACTER COUNTS!sm Partnership at the Josephson Institute of Ethics Board of Directors meeting
- **80 Garrison CYS Programs** celebrated National CHARACTER COUNTS!sm Week with parades, family fun days, plays and other special events
- **40 Garrison Youth Sports Directors** received *Pursuing Victory with Honor* training provided by the Josephson Institute of Ethics. At the end of training, one Youth Sports Director commented, *"This training could change your life and attitude."*

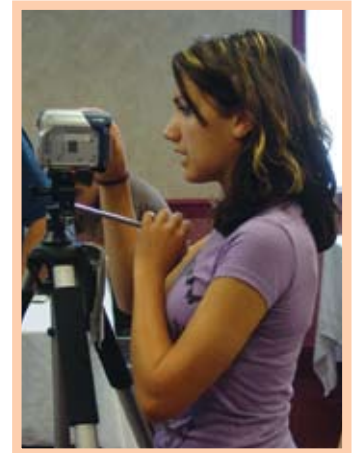
4-H/Army YDP at a Glance

- **11,600+** Army CYS youth in 4-H on post
- **326** Army 4-H Clubs
- **300+** Community 4-H Clubs serving Army youth
- **684** Adult Army 4-H Leaders
- **26,000+** 4-H Project Enrollments
- **53** State 4-H Military Liaisons link 4-H and local Army Programs
- **14** Land Grant Universities provided additional support to 4-H/Army YDP in 2007
- **26** Land Grant Universities have provided additional support to 4-H/Army YDP since 1995
- **Over 36,000** youth participated in OMK activities in 2007; **more than 60,000** since 2004
- **29** Mobile Technology Labs connect geographically dispersed youth with deployed parents
- **47,000** Hero Packs distributed since 2004

Youth Leadership

4-H/Army Youth Development Specialists continue to support Army teens in developing and applying leadership skills. They serve a crucial role in supporting the **Teen Chain of Communication** which includes **Garrison Youth Councils, Region Teen Panels** and the **Army Teen Panel**. Specialists also assisted Active and Reserve Component youth in connecting with local/state/national 4-H resources and programming opportunities. As a result of the Specialists' leadership for the 2007 Region Youth Leadership Forums, **186 teens and 81 Garrison staff:**

- Experienced new activities for **Youth Health, Fitness and Nutrition Programs**
- Participated in **Service-Learning projects** making Camo-coolers and pillow-grams to send to deployed Soldiers, sorting food for a Food Bank, developing materials to market Youth Programs, and creating online scrapbooks to stay connected to deployed parents
- **Explored "food in space"** by experimenting with ingredients for "space shakes" and learned about **biotechnology and genetics** during a day with Iowa 4-H at Iowa State University's Food & Nutrition program and Biotechnology Outreach Education Center
- Developed their **videography skills** to:
 - Interview Veterans for the Library of Congress Veteran's History Project, an oral/video history of Veterans and their experiences
 - Develop public service announcements for Army CYS Youth Programs; one production was featured on Armed Forces Network-Korea television



School-Age Services Programs

The 4-H/Army Youth Development Project again played a major role in the Army's goal of 100% accreditation for School-Age Programs. National accreditation status is an external benchmark, required by law, which ensures that Child and Youth Services Programs meet high standards of quality. In FY07, 4-H/Army Youth Development Specialists supported Army School-Age Programs by:

- Assisting **105 (98%) Army CYS School-Age Programs** in achieving and maintaining national accreditation, exceeding the Department of Defense (DoD) metric of 95%
- Providing **two workshops during the National AfterSchool Association (NAA) Conference** on accreditation preparation and effectively incorporating 4-H Curriculum into School-Age programming

4-H/Army Youth Development Specialists are trained by NAA as Accreditation Endorsers, the outside professionals who conduct official visits to school-age sites for program review and recommendation for accreditation. Specialists can serve as NAA Endorsers for civilian programs and any military program other than Army. This year, **two Specialists received commendation letters from NAA** highlighting their outstanding abilities and knowledge demonstrated during endorsement visits.

Operation: Military Kids

Operation: Military Kids (OMK) continued to create local support networks throughout **35 states**. In 2007, Army Child and Youth Services **Garrison Staff** were invited to join OMK State Teams which opened OMK activities to all children and youth impacted by deployment.

140 new OMK State Team members received national *Ready, Set, Go! Training*. These and other State Team members from the **35 OMK States** delivered training to **over 5000 citizens** to help them understand the military deployment cycle and actively engage in local support networks.

OMK Provides Surge Support:

Operation: Military Kids supported six states (MN, NE, IA, NJ, KS, KY) through an extension of the 1st Brigade 34th ID National Guard Unit from Minnesota. These OMK State Teams provided over **150 additional events** focused on supporting those children and Families affected by the Surge of this National Guard Unit. State Teams reached **4211 participants**.

The Minnesota OMK State Team developed **30 lesson plans** (i.e. leadership development, citizenship and preparing healthy meals) in 2 hour, 4 hour and full day formats to be used in day camp settings. These program plans will be shared across the OMK Initiative.



FY07 Highlights:

- Over **10,000 Hero Packs** were delivered to military children across the country. *Hero Packs* serve as a “Thank You” to military youth for their sacrifices and as an expression of support from their communities and OMK Partners. Since 2004, **over 47,000 Hero Packs** have been distributed.
- In 2007, **10 New Mobile Technology Labs** were fielded to help children and youth connect with their deployed parents, making a **total of 29 State Mobile Technology Labs** available to communities
- The **Iowa OMK State Team** partnered with ASPIRE therapeutic riding stables to provide horseback riding opportunities to Military Families
- **New Jersey Speak Out for Military Kids Team** developed a *Young Heroes DVD – Military Deployment Through the Eyes of Youth*, a training tool to teach community members about the Military Deployment Cycle

“Speak Out for Military Kids has taught me to be more responsible, in addition to helping me gain precious speaking skills that I can use throughout life. By making the choice to join Speak Out for Military Kids, I have changed the lives of many, and grown in numerous ways as my own individual person.”
Amanda, Iowa – Speak Out for Military Kids”

State 4-H Military Liaisons

53 State 4-H Military Liaisons serve as a link between the resources of the Land Grant University Extension System and Military Child and Youth programs worldwide. During FY07, State 4-H Military Liaisons:

- Coordinated support to **over 600 4-H Clubs reaching Army youth on and off military installations**
- Provided training to military staff and to their Extension colleagues in counties where military youth reside
- Integrated military youth into County, State and National 4-H programs
- Managed **31 Military 4-H Grants and 35 Operation: Military Kids Grants**
- Led **Operation: Military Kids State Teams**
- Supported 4-H Programs for military youth in Europe, Korea, Japan and Kwajalein (**Maryland and Hawaii**)
- Facilitated Military Partnership session at the annual CYFAR conference (**Arizona and Ohio**)

Lisa Lauxman, the 4-H Military Liaison in Arizona, received the 5th annual 4-H/Army Youth Development Project Salute Award for her work with the Army 4-H Clubs at Fort Huachuca and Yuma Proving Ground and the Arizona OMK Initiative.

The 4-H/Army Youth Development Project (YDP) received the Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award in October 2006

“For collaboration of Federal agencies, using public resources wisely and meeting critical challenges facing America’s children as their parents are deployed.”



Flanked by Secretary of Agriculture The Honorable Michael Johanns (far left) and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture The Honorable Chuck Connor (far right), Brig. Gen. John Macdonald, Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Installation Management Command; Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney (center), Commander of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command; and Sharon Wright of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, USDA, display the 2006 Secretary of Agriculture’s Honor Award.

Curriculum & Program Guides - New for FY07

Build a comprehensive year-round program of health, fitness and nutrition activities with **Up for the Challenge: Lifetime Fitness, Healthy Decisions**, an important addition to Army Child and Youth Services’ effort to combat the rise of childhood obesity. Children and youth will learn to monitor what they eat, stay active and make healthy choices.



Provide consistent and predictable babysitter training and services for both Army CY5 and 4-H Programs by using a new standard teen **Babysitting Course** curriculum. Materials include an Instructor Guide, Student Guide, Student Worksheets, CD-ROM and Info Card.

Follow the step-by-step guide, **Enhance Your Youth Program with Service-Learning**, to conduct year-round service-learning projects in 4-H and Army CY5 Programs. This guide can also be used to support requirements for youth volunteer work in schools and for Army CY5 *Promise Passport* volunteer hours.

Use the **Speak Out For Military Kids Manual** to teach military and non-military youth public speaking and multi-media presentation skills and how to generate community awareness for issues and concerns faced by military children and youth impacted by deployment.

Learn how to facilitate and plan for group assembly and distribution of *Hero Packs* by following the **Hero Pack Manual**.

Produce digital videos using the process outlined in the **3-2-1...Action! Videography Workshop Handbook** - communicating key messages, storyboarding, using digital video cameras, learning filming techniques and utilizing video editing software.

For more information about the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project, contact cys@fmwrc.army.mil

