

4-H/ Army Youth Development Project

2006

Partners for Youth





4-H/Army Youth Development Project

Moving Rapidly Ahead

We are proud of the accomplishments of the 4-H Army Youth Development Project this year! Since 1995, this partnership between the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center (CFSC) and USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, & Extension Service (CSREES) links resources of the Land Grant University Extension system to Army youth programs around the world. Through the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project, Soldiers are better prepared to focus on the mission at hand, while being assured that their children and families are being supported at home. At the same time we are reaching out to a whole new audience of youth and parents who have not previously been involved in 4-H.

As Federal partners, Army and 4-H value this work and understand the mutual benefits to their programs and especially to the youth they serve. In October, 2005, Dr. Colien Hefferan, CSREES Administrator, presented certificates of appreciation to 54 CSREES, Army, and University staff “for partnering to provide high quality educational opportunities for Army youth and for integrating the programs into the ongoing work of both Army and 4-H around the world” through the 4-H Army Youth Development Project.

We continue to respond quickly in embracing the needs of Army children and youth as the Army continues a major transformation. From Garrison-based programs to community-based deployment and contingency services, the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project provides vital “ground support” to Army Child & Youth Services in accomplishing its mission for military families. As we continue to leverage our existing infrastructure with new operational efficiencies, the Project is more able than ever before to respond quickly and effectively with positive outcomes for military children and youth.

M.-A. Lucas

Director, Child and Youth Services
HQ Department of Army

Sharon K.B. Wright

National Program Leader,
National 4-H Headquarters
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Army 4-H Clubs

Army 4-H Clubs

As a result of the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project, over 400 4-H Clubs at Army Garrisons world-wide have become an important programming component for Army School-Age and Youth programs. These 4-H Clubs offer opportunities for Army youth to explore new interests and gain skills in leadership, decision-making, technology, science, math, the environment and community service. In addition to "learning by doing" in their own 4-H Clubs on-post, Army youth connect with other 4-H'ers beyond the installation gates as they participate in a variety of county, district, state and national 4-H programs.

During FY06:

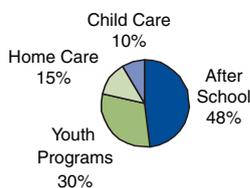
- Army 4-H'ers participated in a range of 4-H projects such as: technology, visual and performing arts, citizenship, leadership, photography, nutrition, gardening, woodworking, chick embryology and more!
- Youth at over 80 Army locations took part in 4-H Citizenship / Community Service projects ranging from painting logos on storm drains for protection of the environment to reading to children in the Child Development Centers to planting gardens for post beautification.
- 4-H'ers from across the Army showcased their talents at county & state 4-H events, participating with other 4-H'ers in 4-H Leadership and Technology conferences at the State and National levels.

4-H Program Highlights Include:

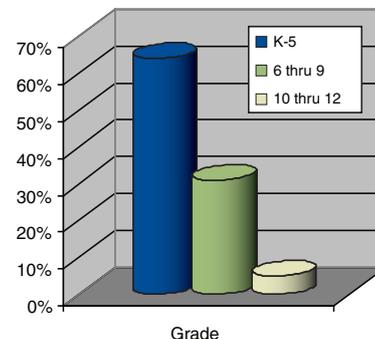
- 4-H'ers learned to build and program basic robots as part of 4-H Technology – robotics projects at Fort Richardson, AK, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, Fort Campbell, KY, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, KS.
- Teens at Camp Zama, Japan, discovered what it takes to be a DJ as part of their 4-H Entrepreneur project.
- Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 4-H'ers shared their performing arts, cultural, and photography projects with the rest of the state via a live video feed during the Missouri State Fair; Fort Leonard Wood's Garrison Commander served as emcee for the event!

The national 4-H / Army "Salute Award" was awarded to **Maureen Bergenfeld**, El Paso County, CO, 4-H in recognition of her work with the Army 4-H program at Fort Carson. In addition, **Amy Bates** from Dugway Proving Ground, UT and **Millie Justus** of Fort Leonard Wood, MO were also honored by their state 4-H programs for work with 4-H at their installations.

Army 4-H Settings



Army 4-H Enrollment



Educational Technology

A few examples of educational technology activities in FY06 include:

- **GPS/GIS:** Used GPS to: study the migration of military families (Fort Detrick), navigate to Family Child Care homes to learn about the Six Pillars of Character (Fort Gordon), map broken city sidewalks (Fort Knox), map accident locations and gender of victims of bicycle accidents (Fort Meade), navigate to each YLF activity (KORO Region), and geocache while picking up trash (Forts Leonard Wood, Leavenworth and Riley).
- **Photography and Videography:** held workshops on digital photography and video editing using mobile technology labs (Iowa 4-H Purple Camp), created an award winning youth dance club video (Fort Knox), and produced a video exemplifying each Pillar of Character (Fort Benning).

Army children and youth are learning about using technology both in and out of the Youth Technology Labs. In areas that include robotics and rocketry, global positioning systems (GPS), geographic information systems (GIS), photography, and videography, they are learning how to apply technology in everyday life. 4-H/AYDP Regional Technology Specialists continue to impact and assist installations in all aspects of technology. Support to Garrisons includes:

- **Child and Youth Management System (CYMS) software**—Provided guidance, technical support, and assistance with upgrades and training.
- **Security Surveillance Systems**— Provided technical assistance in operation, maintenance, and installation, as garrisons increase child care accountability and oversight.

- **Youth Technology Labs (YTL's)**— Fielded new equipment (hardware and software), supported YTL maintenance, and trained Functional Technology Specialists at each installation.



Army 4-H Facts

- 11,000+ Army CYS youth in 4-H
- 429 Army 4-H Clubs
- 874 adult Army 4-H Leaders
- 28,000+ 4-H Project Enrollments

Youth Leadership

Through the work of the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project, Army youth are receiving leadership training and applying the results in their on- and off-post communities. 4-H/AYDP Youth Development Specialists continue to impact and assist installations in all aspects of youth leadership. Specialists:

- Enhance afterschool programming, e.g., life skills, citizenship, leadership opportunities, sports, fitness and health options, arts, recreation, leisure options, academic support, mentoring and intervention services.
- Assisted Garrison staff and youth to host “mini” Youth Leadership Forums to develop youth leadership, life skills, character education, and identify youth issues and youth-generated solutions.
- Supported Installation Youth Councils, Region Teen Panels, and the Army Teen Panel.
- Facilitated linkages among local/state 4-H resources and Army youth of Active Duty, National Guard, Army Reserve and Accessions Command parents.

Character Counts!

For Army Children and Youth

Character education is taught in all Army Child and Youth programs. The Six Pillars of Character provide the framework for daily activities and relate directly to the Army Core Values, providing consistency for military parents.



- Over 70 Sports Directors have received official *Pursuing Victory with Honor* training provided by the Josephson Institute of Ethics.
- 85% of staff trained in CHARACTER COUNTS! in 2004 are still serving in Army programs.
- 100% of Army programs use CHARACTER COUNTS! resource materials for children and adults.

“... staff work as a team and they focus on the ethical outcome of an activity or program response.” - CYS staff member.

“Players care more about skills development, fun, and their opponents’ feelings than they do winning. Coaches help each other coach all players and not just the ones assigned to their team. Gamesmanship has decreased in our program.” - CYS Sports Director

From Learning to Action

Fort Leavenworth youth needed a cool place to hang out and be teens. Putting the training they received from Youth Leadership Forum and Region Teen Panel experiences into action, they assembled a plan for an ideal teen center. Using their new skills, they presented their idea to the command in a professional briefing and were surprised when the Garrison Command Sergeant Major offered the youth a facility, one that had previously been an enlisted club. The youth council developed a proposal and budget for renovations, necessary furnishings, and potential uses for the facility. They were granted authorization to proceed, and immediately set to work cleaning, painting, developing the philosophy & rules, creating a calendar of events for the new center and partnering with MWR Marketing to get the word out. Importantly, they also provided the command with regular updates, and in April 2006 Fort Leavenworth youth celebrated the opening of the “Underground Teen Lounge.”

School-Age Services Programs

Achievements in School-Age Services Programs

4-H/Army Youth Development Project played a major role in the Army's goal of 100% accreditation for its afterschool school age programs by the National Afterschool Association. This designation is reserved for the nation's finest afterschool programs and is recognized as the benchmark of excellence in the field. In FY06 4-H/AYDP Youth Development Specialists:

- Assisted Army Child & Youth Services in achieving 91% accreditation in afterschool children's programs.
- Provided on-site technical assistance to afterschool programs, observing programs, providing professional feedback, role modeling professional practices and mentoring staff on effective child development strategies.
- Trained Garrison staff in key programming areas such as human relationships, accountability, activities, safety, health, nutrition, indoor & outdoor environments, and administrative oversight in support of afterschool program accreditation.
- Served on Army School Age Services “Tiger Teams,” strengthening accreditation support resources and developing promotional materials.

Operation: Military Kids

Operation: Military Kids (OMK) teams in 34 states made significant positive impacts on the lives of military families in communities where they live. As a result of OMK initiatives, communities are increasing their capacity to support “suddenly military” youth who are facing a tumultuous time in their lives. Five hundred representatives of 4-H, Army, National Guard, Reserve, Boys & Girls Club, American Legion and schools were engaged on State OMK Teams in an array of programs supporting military youth. **Over 29,000 youth participated in OMK activities!**

- **2,273 citizens in 34 states received Ready, Set, Go! Training** which helps them understand: the military culture, community support services needed during the military deployment cycle, and resources to help military children and youth cope with the stress of absent parents who may be in harm's way.

FY06 highlights:

- Ohio OMK partnered with the Girl Scouts to create an OMK Girl Scout badge. Scouts earn a badge for participating in planning and implementing OMK activities.
- Iowa OMK has conducted training in pod casting and created pod casts of events such as the “Iowa State Fair,” using technology to give deployed soldiers a taste of home.
- National OMK published curriculum materials. Information about core program elements, state OMK summaries, current events and contact information are available on the OMK website (www.operationmilitarykids.org).

- **16,000 Hero Packs**, backpacks filled with items designed to help connect kids with their deployed parent, were distributed to kids nationwide. 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.
- **9,409 community members received Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK) presentations**, generating community awareness of issues in National Guard and Reserve families and fostering community activism in solving the problems they face.
- **Nineteen Mobile Technology Labs** helped children and youth connect with their deployed parents. Mobile Technology Labs consist of laptop computers, color printers, scanners, digital and video cameras and software.



State 4-H Military Liaisons

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. Throughout the year, 4-H Military Liaisons participate in a variety of programs and activities in support of military children across the US and overseas. During FY06, State 4-H Military Liaisons:

- Introduced 4-H to Army youth
- Managed 4-H grants serving military youth
- Integrated military youth into County, State and National 4-H programs
- Coordinated 4-H partnerships with the Army National Guard and Reserve
- Lead Operation: Military Kids state teams
- Trained Army staff in developing installation 4-H clubs

Highlights in FY06 include:

- Arizona 4-H Military Liaison Lisa Lauxman participated in a panel discussion on supporting military youth at First Lady Laura Bush's Helping America's Youth conference in Denver, Colorado.
- Utah 4-H Military Liaison Deb Jones and her 4-H and military partners presented a workshop at the CYFAR 2006 conference, "Strengthening Families Through 4-H Military Partnerships."

**We continue to embrace success
as we move rapidly ahead in this
4-H/Army partnership of strength!**



***Department of Defense
Certificate of Commendation***

The Department of Defense takes pleasure in commending

***The United States Department of Agriculture
National 4-H
Youth Development Program***

For services as set forth in the following citation:

The leadership and staff of the USDA National 4-H Youth Development Program have distinguished themselves by continuous exceptional service to the children, youth, and family members of our military men and women in uniform around the world. The 4-H youth development professionals have provided exceptional training and technical assistance in establishing clubs and other programs on military bases worldwide which ensure quality educational programs are available wherever families move. Since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, 4-H has expanded support to children of National Guard and Reserve Service members who are geographically dispersed. The Department of Defense takes pride in presenting this certificate of commendation to the Department of Agriculture, for the thousands of children and youth whose lives are touched by the extraordinary efforts of the 4-H youth programs and for the outstanding service to the Department of Defense.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald H. Rumsfeld".

Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

In March, 2006 a Department of Defense Certificate of Commendation signed by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld was presented to Dr. Cathann A. Kress, Director of Youth Development, National 4-H Headquarters, recognizing the contributions of 4-H youth development professionals for training, technical assistance, and support for establishing 4-H clubs on military bases worldwide.

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

