

4-H MILITARY PARTNERSHIPS



18 USC 707



May 2007

4-H Military Partnerships

· NATIONAL 4-H ·
HEADQUARTERS



Under the leadership of Cathann Kress, Director of Youth Development and Sharon KB Wright, National Program Leader, National 4-H Headquarters at USDA has developed partnerships with Army and Air Force to support youth programs on installations around the world. These 4-H Military partnerships provide technical assistance and training for military staff and establish 4-H clubs for military youth ages 5-18 on installations.

4-H clubs in communities have also opened their doors to military youth living off post and to youth of National Guard and Reserve families. As military families move frequently, 4-H clubs provide predictability and stability and military parents are

ensured that their children are in safe and nurturing environments.

The 4-H Military Partnerships rely on Land Grant Universities – both university and county faculty serve as project directors, liaisons, and as specialists on assignments to Army or Air Force. Kansas State University provides coordination for all 4-H Military Partnerships under the direction of Marlene Glasscock.

This report is a summary of 4-H Military Partnership programs with special emphasis on accomplishments of Military 4-H Grant programs. Reports of the 4-H/Air Force Partnership, Operation: Military Kids, and the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project are available on the 4-H Military Partnerships website at <http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org>.

STATE 4-H MILITARY LIAISONS

When National 4-H Headquarters began the partnerships with Army and Air Force over 10 years ago, each State 4-H Leader was asked to identify a 4-H youth development professional to serve as liaison between Army and Air Force installations, National Guard and Reserve units, county 4-H staff, state Extension administration, and National 4-H Headquarters. These State 4-H Military Liaisons are the official point of contact for all 4-H military programs and issues in their state. All Military 4-H Grants and Operation: Military Kids Grants are awarded to the states as the result of the work of the State 4-H Military Liaison. These State 4-H Military Liaisons have worked diligently to coordinate statewide 4-H/Military efforts including establishing

partnerships with youth program staff in Army, Air Force, and other military branches in their states. They coordinate support to 4-H clubs on and off military bases and provide training to military staff and to their Extension colleagues in counties where military youth reside. Another important role of the State 4-H Military Liaisons is educating civilian citizens about military life and the unique needs of children and youth of military families. In some cases they have worked in partnership with military staff to intervene on behalf of youth who are facing multiple stresses because of deployment, absences, and reunions with their military parents.

Several State 4-H programs have taken additional responsibility for supporting military youth on overseas installations and bases. Arizona 4-H in collaboration with Luke AFB sponsors all Air Force 4-H clubs in Japan and Korea. Florida 4-H in collaboration with Patrick AFB, Hulbert Field, Elgin AFB, Tyndall AFB and McDill AFB sponsors all Air Force 4-H clubs in Europe. Maryland 4-H supports all Army 4-H clubs in Europe and Korea, and Hawaii 4-H sponsors all Army 4-H clubs in Japan and Kwajalein.

A list of current State 4-H Military Liaisons can be found at http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/comm/4h_military.htm.

“I would just like to say Thank You for such a wonderful week. My daughter had NEVER been away from us. This being her first away trip I was so worried for her (and me too), but she could not stop from talking the entire way home from Brownwood. She loved camp so much she wants to return next year. Her camp sponsor left such a wonderful impression on her and is such an asset to the program.”

—Operation Purple camper parent, Texas

THE 4-H/AIR FORCE PARTNERSHIP



Under the direction of Eliza Nesmith, Chief, Air Force Services Community Programs, Air Force Family Member Programs (FMP) collaborates with National 4-H Headquarters to expand opportunities for Air Force youth in the U.S. and overseas. State 4-H Military Liaisons coordinate work with Air Force bases and county 4-H staff to establish clubs on bases around the world.

Three 4-H youth development professionals are on assignment to AF: **Brandi Mullins, University of Georgia** provides support to AF Reserve families

and is assigned to Robins AFB. **Sandra Mason, University of Maryland**, supports Air National Guard and is assigned to Andrews AFB. **David Brittain, North Carolina State University**, works with active duty bases and coordinates the AF youth health and fitness initiative, FitFactor. All three provide Air Force with technical assistance for 4-H programming.

Mike Klumpp and Connie Phelps, University of Arkansas, provided AF youth opportunities to experience the Ultimate Outdoor and Fitness Adventure camp during the summer. **Marlene Glasscock, Kansas State University** is the University Project Director for the 4-H/Air Force Partnership.



What Military Youth Say about 4-H

I can help the world around me and my community.

I like to teach younger kids to be a leader.

Taylor, age 11

That I try hard, work hard and have a lot of fun trying.

Elica, age 8



AF/4-H Adventure Camp:

Campers test their cardboard boat

*ExCEL (Experience the Challenge
Experience the Leadership ropes course*

Caving at Blanchard Spring Caves

Watkins Receives 4-H/Air Force Aim High Award



Sheran Watkins, Eliza Nesmith

Sheran Watkins, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Harrison County, MS, received the second annual *4-H/Air Force Aim High Award* presented at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents conference in October 2006. Sheran was recognized for her outstanding effort and support of Air Force 4-H programs and her work with Keesler AFB and the surrounding community after Hurricane Katrina. Her close partnership with the staff at Keesler Air Force Base resulted in creative and exciting opportunities for military youth. A veteran of the military service, Watkins understands the stress and hardships that military families and youth experience and has planned 4-H programs accordingly.

THE 4-H/ARMY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



Under the direction of M.-A. Lucas, Director Child and Youth Services, Army collaborates with National 4-H Headquarters on the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project. The YDP brings university and county youth development and technology specialists to temporary assignments at Army Regional offices to provide technical assistance, program development, and training for Army staff and to establish 4-H clubs. The YDP has provided Operation: Military Kids grants totaling \$1.7 million to 34 states for support to youth of deployed soldiers. OMK programs reached over 29,000 youth.

In October 2006, the 4-H/Army YDP partnership received the most prestigious award presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture from **Secretary Michael Johanns**. The project was cited for “*collaboration of Federal agencies, using public resources wisely, and meeting critical challenges facing American children as their parents are deployed.*” Eighteen members of the 4-H/Army YDP Team were recognized:

ARMY:

BG John A. Macdonald, Deputy Commanding General, IMCOM
BG Belinda Pinckney, Commanding General, Family and MWR Command
M.-A. Lucas, Director, Army Child and Youth Services
Nancy Campbell, 4-H/Army Youth Development Project Coordinator

4-H HEADQUARTERS:

Cathann A. Kress, Director, Youth Development
Sharon KB Wright, National Program Leader
C. Eddy Mentzer, Program Specialist
Jim Kahler, Program Specialist
Janice Clark, Program Specialist

UNIVERSITIES:

Darrin Allen, Virginia Tech
Bradd Anderson, University of Missouri
Mark Otto, Auburn University
Deb Marple, Washington State University
Jay Mancini, Virginia Tech
Marlene Glasscock, Kansas State University
Sam Fowler, Auburn University
Debbie Bowman, University of Maryland
Kevin Wright, Washington State University



Secretary Johanns with Honor Award Recipients from the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project

University Project Directors for 4-H Army YDP

Marlene Glasscock, Kansas State University
Kendra Wells, University of Maryland
Jay Mancini, Virginia Tech
Stacey Bozeman and Sam Fowler, Auburn University
Kevin Wright, Washington State University

Lauxman Receives 4-H/Army Salute Award



*Sherri Wright, Cathann Kress, **Lisa Lauxman**, Nancy Campbell*

In recognition of outstanding effort and support of Military 4-H Programs, Lisa Lauxman, State 4-H Program Leader, University of Arizona, received the fifth annual *4-H/Army Youth Development Project Salute Award* at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents conference in October 2006. As the State 4-H Military Liaison, Lisa directs the AZ Military 4-H Grant and the AZ Operation: Military Kids initiative. She works with military and Extension staff to expand 4-H opportunities to military youth, provide training for military staff, build networks of support for military families, and support to 4-H clubs on AF bases in Korea and Japan.

MILITARY 4-H GRANTS

National 4-H Headquarters, U.S. Army Child and Youth Services and U.S. Air Force Family Member Programs continue their commitment to making 4-H Clubs available to military youth. Military 4-H Grants provide support to the 4-H staff responsible for getting the clubs chartered, the members enrolled, the volunteer club leaders trained, and integrating these clubs into the ongoing 4-H program in the county and state. 4-H Clubs supported by these grants are expected to also serve youth of National Guard and Reserve members.

Through these Military 4-H Grants, 4-H, Army and Air Force have collaboratively provided more than three million dollars over four years to support 4-H clubs in 33 states and U.S. Territories. Accomplishment reports show the unique strategies states have employed in using their resources for outreach to military youth. The funding is used for staff, enrollment materials, 4-H programs, 4-H media, newsletters, travel for state and county staff to installations, and training for military 4-H leaders.

2007 Military 4-H Grants

Alaska	Kansas	North Carolina
Arizona	Kentucky	North Dakota
California	Maryland	Ohio
Colorado	Massachusetts	Oklahoma
Delaware	Mississippi	Pennsylvania
Florida	Missouri	South Carolina
Georgia	Montana	Texas
Guam	Nebraska	Utah
Hawaii	Nevada	Washington
Idaho	New Jersey	
Illinois	New York	

A 4-H member received the General's Coin, an Army of Excellence award for going above and beyond: She is a sixth grader attending Middle School. She regularly attends the programs offered at the Youth Center and is an active member of the 4-H Photography, Cooking, and Junior Staff Clubs. She is always there to provide assistance to her peers and the staff at the center. She is a genuine, sincere, person, who is always respectful of others. With her politeness and friendliness, she is a unique and rare find.

—Fort Leonard Wood, MO

In these states, 16,222 military youth are learning new life skills and gaining self-confidence through their participation in 4-H clubs both on post and in communities.

4-H Club Members in States with Military 4-H Grants (2006)

	On Post	Off Post	Total
Army	9,185	360	9,545
Air Force	4,829	421	5,250
National Guard	48	763	811
Reserve	5	91	96
Other	202	318	520
Total	14,269	1,953	16,222

“She started out 4-H at School-Age Services in the Spanish Club . . . she learned the body parts in a different language and she was so self-confident and proud of herself. Now she knows English, German, and a little Spanish. She has since joined the Music Club and tried out different instruments, learned to play songs, and to stay in tune . . . She loves 4-H and can't wait until 4-H Club time. Being a part of 4-H is a great experience for her and builds her confidence and skills.”

—A Mother, Fort Huachuca, AZ

In addition to supporting over 16,000 4-H club members, these states provided 4-H training to a total of 3,392 Military staff in the past year. It is evident from the reports that the rewards reaped from this grant project far exceed the monetary resources provided to the state. What follows are selected narrative highlights from the accomplishment reports that show the impact these grants have had on military youth and the staff in Extension and in military youth service programs.

What Military Youth Say about 4-H

I learned being a 4-H member is important and lots of fun! Justen, age 7

Learning at what we want to do in life. Dakota, age 11

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE STATES

- ★ At Dugway Army installation in Utah, youth are offered after school clubs and special activities such as Jr. Master Gardening. Gardening was a major project this last year—with the planting of bulbs and planters in various locations on the installation. Youth at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida also have a garden—they are maintaining flowerbeds and bird feeders for their 4-H project.
- ★ In addition to providing curriculum to AF bases in Europe and enrolling members in the 4-H program, Florida 4-H supports theatre arts, citizenship, horticulture, and money management at Hulbert Field and Elgin AFB and cooking, aerospace and astronomy at Patrick AFB. Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan offers 4-H clubs including archery, rabbits, and cultural diversity through music and cooking. Children at Fort Knox, Kentucky learn about other cultures through foods in their Cooking Club.
- ★ In Pennsylvania, youth from both active military and Guard and Reserve families participate in 4-H Clubs on Tobyhanna Post using Tasty Tidbits and Six Easy Bites food and nutrition curriculum. Fort Hood 4-H youth used three sewing machines to make potholders for their kitchen safety project lesson. The program received the machines from a private donor who wanted to support Military 4-H clothing and textiles activities.
- ★ 4-H staff members are not only creative with resources but they have also been able to cooperatively use existing youth facilities. Fort Lewis in Washington uses their North Fort Youth Centre and Beachwood Care Center for 4-H clubs. Fort Lewis 4-H youth had four fairs after each of their sessions to show the families and 4-H staff and judges what the clubs have been doing during their club days. Quarterly mini-fairs have also been held at Fort Carson in Colorado with at least 50 members participating.
- ★ Ohio 4-H has enjoyed a four-year partnership with Wright-Patterson AFB, where 4-H is an on-going, integral part of the school age and youth center programs. 4-H has exposed youth to new learning and skill building opportunities through various projects including community service projects.
- ★ Alaska, with over 1500 military youth, has used summer camps to support all their youth. Activities and programs at these camps include: boating safety, water safety, group games and crafts, emergency preparation, drug awareness, and nutrition awareness. These camps create friendships that span miles, cultures and years.
- ★ Many military installations have introduced new 4-H curriculum. At Malmstrom AFB, Montana, new Cloverbud programs for younger 4-H youth focused on photography and gardening. Youth at McGuire AFB, New Jersey launched the 4-H Outdoor Adventures curriculum with hiking and fishing trips. At Fort Campbell in Kentucky, 4-H youth in grades 6-12 participated in a 6-week work force preparation program that taught them conflict resolution, interviewing, and many other work related skills.
- ★ During a Super Saturday event at the Marine Corp Air Station at Miramar, CA, 4-H members showcased projects in horticulture, cooking, pet care, and rocketry exposing Military youth to the various opportunities available through 4-H. The Georgia 4-H Ambassadors project, a youth-adult partnership, has seen a sudden increase in military youth membership. Similar efforts to spread knowledge about 4-H clubs in Guam resulted in increased military youth membership and 8 new clubs being chartered.
- ★ 4-H clubs for military youth are not always on installations. In New York, Fort Drum, West Point and Fort Hamilton report that in addition to 165 4-H club members on post, 34 Military youth participate in four off post 4-H clubs. Under the leadership of the National Guard Family Assistance Center Coordinator, a new 4-H club was established in Laurel, Mississippi.

“She has been in 4-H at School-Age Services for a little over a year and has developed crocheting skills from her Needlework and Craft Club. She is so proud of her accomplishments!”

—A Mother, Fort Huachuca, AZ

VALUE OF MILITARY 4-H GRANTS

Training

One of the great values of the Military 4-H grant has been the opportunity for training. Staff at Fort Huachuca, Arizona reported that training materials secured through this grant allowed them to train staff and enhance staff members' knowledge of 4-H curriculum and programs. CYS staff members from West Point, Fort Drum and Fort Hamilton in New York participated in: 4-H 101, Advanced Youth Development Basic Training and Hip Hop literacy.

Delaware Cooperative Extension supports staff at Dover AFB by providing curriculum and training for on-base 4-H activities and to mainstream youth into off-base county and state programs. In North Dakota, staff and adult volunteers from the Minot Air Force Base participated in Youth Protection and volunteer leadership training for new leaders.

Opening Communication and Building Understanding

The greatest challenge for Extension staff is to understand the mobility of military families and the military lifestyle. In Montana, like many other states, staff devoted to 4-H Military programming made a difference in accessibility and adaptability of programs for military families. This grant funding is critical to offering innovative, youth-oriented programs flexible enough for military youth who move frequently.

This grant opened channels of communication between 4-H Extension staff and military youth program staff and among 4-H'ers, military and non-military, on and off post. In North Dakota, 18 extension staff participated in a conference where they learned about providing support for military families. Military staff, military family members, and extension staff spoke about issues specific to military families and educational programming of most benefit to them.

Networking has been another valuable outcome of this grant. In Arizona networking has allowed for teleconferences with Army, Air Force and Marines creating a great connection and allowing each installation to learn about 4-H and about what other services are doing.

In Kansas, a Military staff videoconference expanded networking and communications. Youth service staff from Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth and McConnell Air Force Base, Extension agents, and the state 4-H Military Liaison participated in this opportunity for interaction and sharing. Each site showcased their 4-H program/activities, which caused them to reflect on their program growth. Military and Extension staff could self-evaluate, compare programs, and see that they were part of a larger effort.

"... the grant allows us to build in strategies to sustain 4-H youth programming into existing military youth programs."

Hawaii 4-H Military Liaison

Opportunities for Military Youth

The most valuable end results of these grants are direct opportunities extended to Military youth. A teen leader from Fort Detrick, Maryland served on the State 4-H Teen Council and developed a presentation for the 2006 State 4-H Teen Focus Conference. To encourage more youth participation in 4-H, two National Conference Delegates and one Kansas Youth Council member visited Fort Riley and shared their 4-H experiences.

4-H clubs instill a sense of belonging for the military youth as evidenced by their continued membership and their participation year round in various programs and activities. Nevada has successfully integrated 150 Army, 200 Air Force and 50 Guard and Reserve youth in ongoing 4-H clubs, camps and conference programs. Many youth from military families have been recognized in their counties and across Nevada for their 4-H achievements. On July 4th President Bush recognized a 4-H youth at Fort Bragg, in North Carolina, with the Presidential Community Service Award.

4-H youth from Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho gained a new sense of community that extended outside their base when they participated in the Elmore County Fair this past year.

4-H and Military: Working Together for Youth

Thanks to the work of 4-H Youth Development Specialists on Military assignments, University Project Directors, the State 4-H Military Liaisons, and our Army and Air Force partners, 4-H programs across the U.S. and overseas are welcoming military children and youth. Because of the 4-H Military partnerships, service members are better prepared to focus on the mission at hand, confident that their children and families are in safe and nurturing environments. 4-H is recognized as a quality youth development organization able to respond to needs of a wide variety of youth, to collaborate effectively with other organizations, and to catalyze action in communities to support children whose parents are serving the country. These partnerships model the best of the Land Grant mission—reaching out to meet needs of citizens wherever they are. They also exemplify effective partnerships where three Federal agencies integrate resources for the benefit of American children and youth.



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This material is based upon work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, under special project number 2003-41520-01701. Marlene K. Glasscock, serves as Project Director for all of the 4-H Military Partnership Projects at Kansas State University.