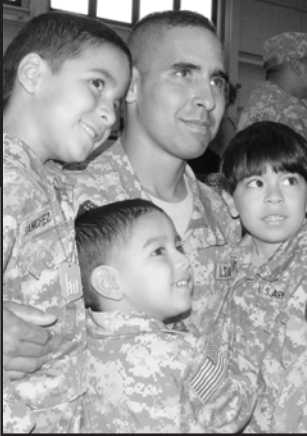


We Know...

Operation: Military Kids



– photo courtesy of Ft. Riley

Operation: Military Kids is a collaborative, community-based support system for children and teens of active duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve soldiers.

Why Operation: Military Kids?

Military families, who once typically lived on or near a military base, often are located in nonmilitary communities. A teacher, police officer, nurse, minister, or master electrician might be called to active service and deployed far from the

family. To help sustain families during separations, the U.S. Army supports *Operation: Military Kids*.

A soldier's absence changes family dynamics. Some of the little things that make a kid's day special – a chat with dad about school, helping mom in the yard, tossing a football around after supper, or parental guidance on a science fair project – are missing.

What does the program do?

The program supports military families with programs and events.

- “Hero Packs” are presented at camps or other gatherings to thank kids for their own courage and service.
- A “Speak Out for Military Kids” program includes training and a speaker's bureau so young volunteers can tell school groups or civic organizations what it's like to have a parent deployed.
- A mobile technology lab provides communications links and technical support to create electronic greeting cards or videos.
- Community training raises awareness and helps with volunteer support for youth activities.

Get involved

You are invited to get involved and lend support to military families in your community. For example:

- Volunteer to baby-sit for a parent who could benefit from a morning out.
- Help with household chores.
- Drop off a home-cooked meal.
- Provide transportation to practices and appointments.



The nationwide program is funded through a grant process. Faculty from Kansas State University's School of Family Studies and Human Services, along with K-State Research and Extension's 4-H Youth Development program, work together with other partners in the state to build community-based support for military families in Kansas.

Getting involved is up to you – and the time, money, or other resources you are able to contribute. Lending a hand to a military family is easy, often fun, and represents a way in which you can use your own time and talents to serve the country while benefiting the family. And, once you've become active, take it one step further by spreading the word: Inspire teachers, business owners, and other civic leaders to act.

For more information on *Operation: Military Kids*, contact your local K-State Research and Extension office or visit online at www.operationmilitarykids.org.



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