

# 2015 VIRGINIA 4-H MILITARY PARTNERSHIP Annual Corporate Report



*Reaching Military Youth On Virginia  
Military Installations And In  
Communities Where They Live*



## Virginia Installations with 4-H Military Clubs Supported by 4-H Military Partnership Grant

Fort Belvoir

Fort Lee

Joint Base Langley—Eustis

Joint Base Myer - Henderson Hall

Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek—Fort Story

Naval Air Station Oceana, Midway Manor

Naval Station Norfolk

Naval Support Activity Northwest Annex

Naval Support Activity South Potomac—Dahlgren

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown

Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth

## Virginia 4-H Programs with an Off-Installation 4-H Military Club

Fairfax County

Prince George County

Spotsylvania County

## 4-H Military Partners



Military 4-H Partnerships are supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, 4-H Headquarters; U.S. Army Child, Youth and School Services; U.S. Air Force Child and Youth Programs; U.S. Navy Child and Youth Programs; and Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H Program (Virginia Tech and Virginia State University) through grant funding at Kansas State University.

**A Message From** – Michael Martin, 4-H Military Liaison & Louetta Jones, 4-H Military Club Program Director

Military children continue to face multiple stressors through parent deployments and other events. This increases the importance of military youth to develop life skills that help them to be more resilient and adaptive to change.

In Virginia, 4-H programs that build life skills are available on 11 installations totaling 14 sites along with accessibility to 4-H programs in all counties and most cities. Opportunities to participate in 4-H range from 4-H clubs to 4-H camps to school enrichment programs.

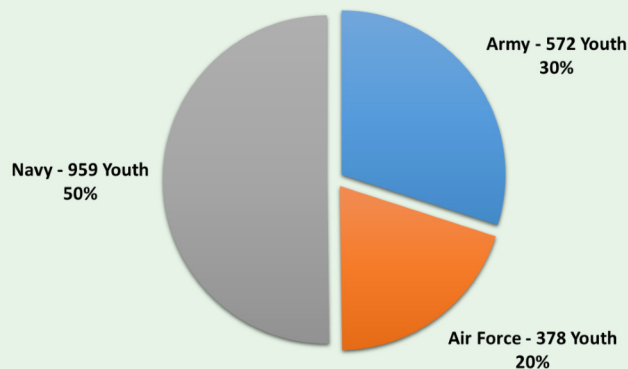
The 4-H Military Partnership Grant provides support to state and local 4-H Extension programs and professionals working with military staff (Army, Air Force, Navy, National Guard, and Reserve) to establish 4-H Clubs and provide 4-H opportunities on military installations, and to increase 4-H participation by National Guard and Reserve and other geographically dispersed military connected youth in communities where they live.

Thirty counties that are not located near a military installation reported enrollment of military youth in local 4-H clubs. However, it remains a challenge to capture the number of geographically dispersed military youth engaged in 4-H school enrichment programs, special interests groups, and camps.

Please continue to read the 2015 corporate report and learn about our many program accomplishments.



**Total 4-H Enrollment on Virginia Military Installations—1,909 Military Youth**



**2015 Goals**

- Improve collection of enrollment data so that it better reflects military youth involvement in 4-H programs on installations.
- Establish new 4-H chartered clubs on targeted military installations.
- Support 4-H clubs by providing professional development training and technical assistance to military youth staff and provide resources and connections to county/city, state, and national 4-H opportunities.
- Provide grant funding to support geographically dispersed military connected youth to participate in a Virginia 4-H event.

**Facts at a Glance**

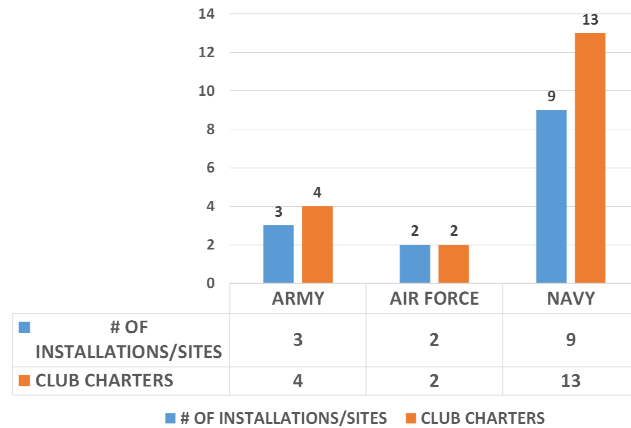
- 1,909 military youth are enrolled in 4-H installation military clubs. (An increase of 381% since 2011; an increase of 13.8% since 2014)
- 11 installations with 14 sites have 4-H Military Clubs.
- 19 installation clubs received new or renewed club charters. (An increase of 73% since 2011; an increase of 19% since 2014)
- 162 youth staff on military installations were trained. (Number of staff without duplication)
- 1 new off-installation chartered club was established and reaches geographically dispersed military youth.
- 28 geographically dispersed military connected youth each received a partial scholarship to participate in a 4-H event.

## Grant Intent

The intent of the grant is to have youth from military families officially enrolled in chartered 4-H Clubs, ensuring them access to all 4-H programs, activities, and opportunities at the county/city, state, and national levels.



## Number of Virginia Installations/Sites and Chartered 4-H Clubs



## Professional Development for Installation Center Staff

**On-site Training**

162 Staff

**Virtual Training**

43 Staff

**State or Regional Training**

21 Staff



*“The CHARACTER COUNTS! training simplified the definitions of character traits and gave you ways to make them easy for children/youth to understand.” - Center Staff*

## Youth Learning Opportunities Centered on Citizenship, Healthy Living and Science

### Citizenship:

- Programs and activities related to communications/expressive arts, leadership, community action and personal development were provided.
- Center staff reported 699 youth demonstrated improved skills gained through serving the community that will help them in the future.

Army—302 Youth      Air Force—124 Youth      Navy—273 Youth

### Healthy Living:

- Programs and activities related to personal development, nutrition (cooking & baking), food science, and health & fitness were provided.
- Center staff reported 502 youth demonstrated they learned how to make healthy food choices.

Army—149 Youth      Air Force—143 Youth      Navy—210 Youth

### Science:

- Programs and activities related to science, engineering, technology, and math to include National Youth Science Day Experiment, environment & outdoor science, and gardening.
- Center staff reported 353 youth demonstrated responsibility, critical thinking, and problem solving through informed decision-making.

Army—90 Youth      Air Force—160 Youth      Navy—103 Youth

## Installation 4-H Club Members Participate in State & National Events

- **4-H Day at the State Capitol—Richmond, VA**  
This event provided opportunities for 4-Hers to learn more about state government procedures, meet local legislators and encourage civic engagement.

Participants: Army—2, Air Force—19

Twenty-one Navy youth conducted research on the governor and the state capitol due to inclement weather and cancellation of their trip.

- **National Youth Science Day Experiment—Rockets to the Rescue:** This 4-H experiment challenged youth with one mission: design and build an aerodynamic food transportation device that could deliver a large load of nutritious food to disaster victims. Youth learned engineering concepts, developed math skills, learned about nutrition and helped solve a relevant global issue.

Participants: Army— 116, Air Force—147, Navy— 56

*“ To make it more workable with less staff, we held six separate sessions throughout the year with 12 youth in each. Youth learned to work together to develop a solution to the problem.” - Center Staff*

- **Virginia 4-H Youth Voices: Red Carpet Event—Richmond, VA:** Youth are given the opportunity to share their final digital media projects as part of a year-long 4-H youth digital media program, sponsored by Virginia 4-H and Adobe.

Participants: Army –16

The 16 Fort Lee youth created the video, “Different,” which assists youth in accepting differences in themselves and others. Youth



received a State 4-H Oscar for most inspirational film and best video of the year.

## Military Partnership Grant Supports Guard, Reserve, and Other Geographically Dispersed Military Youth

- One new Off-Installation 4-H Military Club was established in Spotsylvania County. The youth membership consisted of seven military connected youth. Three of these youth were members of geographically dispersed military families to include Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, and Navy Reserve.
- Twenty-eight geographically dispersed military connected youth were awarded event scholarships.
  - The youth who went to 4-H Congress won a blue ribbon in the 4-H Public Speaking contest. She was also interviewed and selected to represent Virginia during National 4-H Congress in Atlanta.
  - One youth attended 4-H Horse Camp.
  - Twenty-six youth participated in 4-H Jr Camp.



**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University  
[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

### Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Programs Providing Support to 4-H Military Clubs

Arlington, Chesapeake, Fairfax, Hampton, James City, King George, Norfolk/Portsmouth, Prince George, and Virginia Beach

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#### Website for Additional Virginia 4-H Military Club Stories:

[www.virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org](http://www.virginia4-hmilitaryclubs.org)

#### National Website to Learn about 4-H Military Partnerships:

[www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org)