



# 4-H Military Partnerships



2012 Annual Report

*“The digital photography class helped my youngest find a creative outlet that shows the world through his eyes with his pictures. My oldest is a shy kid when it comes to public speaking, but has overcome his shyness a great deal thru the 4-H programs (Big E and Public Speaking contest). He is more outgoing due to being exposed to different outlets.”—Military Mom*



## 4-H Military Partnerships

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, 4-H National Headquarters and the Department of Defense, U.S. Army Child, Youth and School Services, U.S. Air Force Child and Youth Programs, and U.S. Navy Child and Youth Programs have developed partnerships over the last 18 years that provide 4-H programs and opportunities for military-connected youth in local communities, and on installations in the U. S. and worldwide. 4-H Extension through their land grant mission of serving the citizens in their local communities reaches out to its military families to invite them to participate in all that 4-H has to offer. 4-H provides research-based information, professional development opportunities, and technical assistance for military staff on and off military installations. Programs for military-connected youth are provided through 4-H Clubs, special projects, after school clubs, camps, and other opportunities.

The 4-H Extension Military Partnerships rely on Land Grant University faculty to serve as Extension 4-H Military Liaisons who provide leadership within their states for military-connected youth programs and provide youth development research and expertise. Kansas State University is the Lead University that provides coordination for the 4-H Military Partnerships. This report is a summary of the 4-H Military Partnership programs with special emphasis on the accomplishments of Military 4-H Club programs.

*“Thanks to 4-H, it was so much easier for my daughter to move to a new county and new school this year. There were several kids at her new school that she knew through 4-H activities. And serving on the District Council and State 4-H Executive Board gave her opportunities to develop her leadership skills.”—Military Parent*



## 4-H Military Partnership Programs Meet the Needs of Military Families – Children and Youth

The United States military force includes over 2.2 million volunteer service members, over 40 percent of who are parents. As of 2011, nearly 2 million youth live in these military families: approximately 1.2 million children of active duty personnel and over 700,000 children of reserve component personnel (Department of Defense, 2012). Since 9/11, an estimated 2 million children have been separated from a parent due to military deployment (American Forces Press Service, 2012). The demands of extended conflict add to the challenges faced by military families. Research suggests that children of deployed parents experience more stress than their peers. While they are often described as a resilient group, the cumulative effects of multiple moves and significant parental absences can erode this resilience. By providing research-based programming and a safe, nurturing environment for military-connected youth, 4-H enhances resilience. 4-H supports development of resiliency skills in youth by nurturing them with the 4-H Essential Elements of belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Through 4-H, military-connected youth are able to experience a variety of programs focused on the development of life skills through experiential learning. Through 4-H projects, which center on the 4-H Mission Mandates of Science, Healthy Living, and Citizenship, military youth can explore, engage in learning, contribute to their communities, and develop healthy habits for the future.



4-H National Headquarters sponsored 4-H 101 Training in November 2012 for 57 military youth program and 4-H staff. Through experiential learning activities, participants gained knowledge and skills for establishing and maintaining 4-H Clubs on military installations and in communities.



U.S. Army Child, Youth  
& School Services

## 4-H/Army Youth Development Project

Army Child, Youth and School (CYS) Services and 4-H National Headquarters continue their 18 year partnership of the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project (AYDP). This partnership continues to bring 4-H Clubs, curriculum resources, staff development opportunities, and relevant programs to military youth and staff. Extension professionals are on assignment to the Project as Youth Development Specialists and Technology Specialists to provide technical assistance and support to the 4-H Army Partnership.

### 4-H Clubs

Army CYS Services provides 4-H Club opportunities for youth worldwide. Youth experience the four Essential Elements of 4-H—belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity, as they develop life skills exploring a variety of 4-H projects. 4-H is available wherever youth move—providing consistency and predictability in their lives. Maryland and Hawaii Extension staff members provide 4-H support to the Europe and Pacific areas enabling all youth to participate in county, state, and national 4-H events.

### Operation: Military Kids

Operation: Military Kids is the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. OMK's goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being. With many service members returning home from deployments, the focus is shifting to reintegration and building resiliency skills in military-connected youth. In 2012, military-connected youth participated in experiences conducted by State OMK Teams in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Community members representing over 43 national, state, and local organizations worked together utilizing core OMK program elements to help school-age children and youth through the deployment of a

loved one. Through OMK, military youth meet other youth who are also experiencing deployment; participate in a range of recreational, social, and educational programs; gain leadership, organizational, and technical skills by participating in the Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK) or Mobile Technology Lab (MTL) programs; receive assistance with school issues; and attend single day, weekend, or even longer residential camps.

### HIRED! Apprenticeship Program

The HIRED! Apprenticeship Program is a workforce-preparation and apprenticeship enterprise designed to meet the employment and career-exploration needs of Army teens 15-18 years of age. The goal of the HIRED! Apprenticeship Program is to help teens develop the necessary confidence and employer-valued abilities to succeed in today's competitive job market. HIRED! Apprenticeship Terms are 12-weeks long and purposely aligned with specific career paths designed to pave the way into higher education. Youth engaged in HIRED! Apprenticeship Positions gain valuable hands-on work experience and training, preparing youth intellectually, technically, culturally, ethically, and socially for the demands and opportunities of a highly competitive job market. Teens receive a stipend and certificate of completion from Kansas State University upon successful completion of a term.



## 4-H/Air Force Military Partnership Project

The 4-H Air Force Partnership provides exciting educational and social opportunities for military youth that introduce life skills, build confidence, encourage healthy choices, and develop positive citizens. Air Force Child and Youth Programs staff have access to 4-H resources, materials, and knowledge that assist them in their daily youth programming activities. The 4-H Air Force Partnership offers continuous support and services for military youth, staff, Airmen, and families throughout the world. Together 4-H and Air Force Child and Youth Programs are building tomorrow's leaders today, one youth at a time.

The 4-H Air Force Partnership provides a variety of opportunities for Air Force youth to gain valuable life skills, develop leadership abilities, and engage in meaningful contributions in their community as well as the military community. In 2012, Air Force youth were thoroughly engaged in 4-H initiatives: Ramstein's Extreme Science Team won the 4-H National Youth Science Day's Eco-Bot Challenge STEM Pathways Innovation Award; MacDill's 4-H Step Team performed at the NAE4-HA National Conference; and Air Force youth worldwide participated in 4-H Clubs, expanding their knowledge in science, citizenship, and healthy living options. Additionally, since 4-H is located in every county of the United States, the 4-H Military Club grants provided outreach services to Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve youth on installations and those in geographically dispersed families—a benefit for the Total Force. The partnership with Land Grant Universities in Alaska, Arizona, and Florida ensure that Air Force Youth Programs in the Pacific and Europe receive 4-H support and opportunities available to all members. Year after year, the 4-H Air Force Partnership proves to be dedicated to the support of military families by affording life impacting experiences and resources.

### National Youth Science Day

Thirty-six Air Force bases received 159 4-H National Youth Science Day (NYSD) Eco-Bot Challenge starter kits and over 50 Air Force Youth Programs staff members participated in the online web-based training. Staff estimated more than 1,450 children and youth were reached through the 4-H National Youth Science Day Experiment and generated excitement and interest that led to a variety of other science offerings and collaborations with base and community partners.

### USAF 4-H 101 Training

USAF HQ Air Mobility Command (AMC) recognized the value of the 4-H Air Force Partnership and hosted two 4-H 101 trainings for Youth Programs staff from each of the 10 AMC installations. With the assistance of Extension Professionals from the University of Florida and the University of Illinois, 50 Youth Programs staff participated in week-long 4-H 101 trainings at MacDill AFB, FL and Scott AFB, IL. The benefits of the 4-H Air Force Partnership extend to youth devel-

opment professionals as well. Individuals working in Air Force Youth Programs benefit from experienced 4-H Extension professionals who offer diverse training topics, numerous resources, and technical support through the Land Grant University System.

### USAF Youth Camping Program and AFRC Teen Leadership Summits

Air Force Youth Programs offer a variety of camping opportunities for military youth. Many Air Force bases partner with local 4-H Extension professionals to provide additional summer (and winter) fun camp opportunities. The Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard (AFR/ANG) Teen Leadership Summits introduced teen adventure challenges, leadership opportunities, and educational workshops for more than 400 military youth that attended the AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Camps, the Joint Reserve Component Teen Leadership Camp, and various AFRC Yellow Ribbon events. The 4-H Air Force Partnership continues to support Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and geographically dispersed families in the community.



## 4-H/Navy Youth Development Project

The U. S. Navy Child and Youth Programs partnered with 4-H National Headquarters in July 2007 creating the 4-H/Navy Youth Development Project. This partnership links resources of the Land Grant University Extension System in the development of a common mission of positive youth development experiences. To assist Child and Youth Program (CYP) staff in the development of these clubs worldwide, 4-H Program Staff support bases through on-site training, technical assistance, and local programming.

### National 4-H Youth Science Day

To support Navy youth in developing skills in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, Navy youth participated in the 5th National 4-H Youth Science Day. The Eco-Bot experience encouraged youth to think like a robotics engineer by assembling their own robot and identify the most effective ways to manage an environmental spill. Youth were encouraged to critically think of all the effects an environmental spill could have and how their own behaviors may currently be affecting the environment around them. Navy youth also participated in 4-H youth science curriculums such as aerospace, butterflies, AgriScience, gardening, geospatial, and water quality.

### Navy Youth Sports and Fitness Research Project

Currently 27% of young Americans are too overweight to join the military, with 15,000 young potential recruits each year failing their entrance physicals. Considering this and other health risks, the Navy partnered with Penn State University Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness to develop a new Navy Youth Sports and Fitness (YSF) Program. This project includes the development and implementation of the Navy Youth Sports and Fitness Operating Manual that will standardize the opportunities for youth participating in sports and fitness activities across CONUS and OCONUS Naval bases. These opportunities will include sports, fitness, health/nutrition, outdoor recreation, and motor skill development. A web-based Directory of Opportunities will support families by helping them identify sports and fitness opportunities in five to eight communities surrounding each installation.

### Navy Teen 4-H Adventure Camps

Navy Youth and/or Teen Centers from four bases participated in 4-H Adventure Camps. Goals of the camps included identifying ways to strengthen their Student to Student program along with the camping experience.

**2012 California Navy Tall Ship Sailing Camp**—Youth enjoyed an historic experience of a lifetime through exploring and discovering their physical (marine) environment as well as an opportunity for physical activity. The youth gained a sense of physical and emotional safety; built strong and supportive relationships with other youth and caring adults; and developed a greater understanding of their natural world. The trip provided confidence building experiences that supported each camper individually through the challenges of group living in tight quarters, teamwork created in a supportive environment, and a deeper understanding of their lifestyle. The lack of connectivity deepened the relationships and the creativity of entertainment.

**4-H Texas Outdoor Sports-Culinary-Fashion Design Camp**—Youth developed life skills through a variety of 4-H experiences. The camp engaged youth in skill building activities to take back to their Youth Center and the School Age Summer Camp as teen leaders. With the opportunity to visit a college campus, youth started discussing their future career goals with their parents. During the 4-H Food Challenge youth created a healthy food/snack using pre-determined ingredients. CYP staff observed the teens exploring new ideas, critically thinking, becoming task-oriented, and working as a team during this event. Through the week's activities, the youth developed the competence, confidence, and encouragement from fellow team members to zip-line through the Austin Hill Country.

## Support for Overseas Programs

Four State 4-H Programs are supporting military youth on overseas installations. These states provide technical assistance and training to overseas military youth program staff and charter clubs through their State 4-H Programs. These states provide regular conference calls and webinars to overseas military youth program staff engaging them in understanding the 4-H Essential Elements, experiential learning, life skills, and youth development principles. The recorded webinars are posted on the 4-H Military Partnership website under Professional Development. In 2012, overseas installations received technical assistance site visits from Florida, Maryland, and Arizona.

	Army	Navy	Air Force
Europe	Maryland	Maryland	Florida
Korea/Japan	Hawaii	Hawaii	Arizona
Kwajalein	Hawaii		
Cuba		Florida	

## Extension 4-H Military Liaisons

The Extension 4-H Military Liaison is an Extension professional, located in each state, D.C., and U. S. territory, who serves as a link between the state extension program, military service branches in their state, and with 4-H National Headquarters located within USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The focus of an Extension 4-H Military Liaison is to coordinate, network, and facilitate programs and resources working with a variety of partners at the university level, with military partners, and with partners across their states in support of military families, children, and youth programming. They are the official point of contact for all 4-H military-connected youth programs in their state. Land Grant University Extension faculty/staff support the 4-H Military Partnerships (FY2012) at the level of 33.88 FTE's funded through the Military 4-H Club Grant. In addition, 155.31 FTE's are funded through Extension resources in support of military families and youth. A list of current State 4-H Military Liaisons can be found at [www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnerships.org).

4-H National Headquarters sponsored the 2012 4-H Military Partnership Meeting, February 6-8, in Phoenix, AZ. Liaisons heard briefings from military partners and 4-H National Headquarters staff, attended workshops, and shared best practices. Participants gained a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, ways to improve programming for military-connected youth in their state, and strategies for meeting the needs of military-connected youth with reduced funding and resources. Twenty-one workshops were presented on topics ranging from research to programming for military-connected youth. Meetings with the Services provided an opportunity for updates on policies and programs as well as time for questions and answers.

*"4-H has lots of fun activities. The most important thing is it gives me a chance to forget about my worries."—DE military youth*

# NAE4-HA Awards

Two NAE4-HA Military Awards were presented at the NAE4-HA National Conference on October 25, 2012, in Orlando, FL. The 4-H/Army Youth Development Project Salute Award recipients are Harriett Edwards, Extension 4-H Military Liaison, and Scott Enroughty, Operation: Military Kids Project Director, from North Carolina. Harriett's conceptual leadership and grants management combined with Scott's innovative programming strategies ensures that military children, youth, and families are offered a full array of opportunities for participation and growth. Teamwork, creativity, and innovation describe this leadership team for North Carolina's 4-H Army Partnership and OMK Project. Together, their commitment to youth engagement through 4-H, and their dedication to supporting children in military families make them a great team.

The 4-H/Navy "Pledge" Award goes to the Virginia Military Youth Program Team consisting of the following individuals: Dr. Kathleen Jamison, Extension 4-H Military Liaison, Nancy Schaff, 4-H Military Youth Consultant, Louetta Jones, 4-H Military Club Program Manager, Chris Clark, MIDLANT CYP Regional Training & Curriculum Specialist, Marian Leverette, Mid-Atlantic Regional School Liaison Officer, Theresa Haskins, Installation Club Coordinator, and Megan Baker, Virginia OMK Program Director. Over the past year, the Virginia Military Youth Program has greatly expanded its depth and reach to provide supports for the state's nearly 150,000 military children and youth. Critical to the successful reorganization has been this team of dedicated professionals whose focus has been on the needs of the more than 66,000 Navy children and youth in Virginia. Under the leadership of Dr. Kathleen Jamison, this team has increased not only community awareness about the challenges of Navy youth within their communities, but also the number of Navy youth participating in 4-H Club opportunities.



From left: Lisa Lauxman, NIFA/USDA, Scott Enroughty, Harriett Edwards, Brian St. John, Army CYSS



From left: Lisa Lauxman, NIFA/USDA, Nancy Schaff, Louetta Jones, Brent Edwards, Navy CYP



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

The 4-H Military Partnerships website is the place to go for information about the 4-H and DoD, Army, Air Force, and Navy Military Partnership updates, annual reports, curriculum resources, professional opportunities, and links to other Military and Extension websites.



*"4-H has taught me a lot and helped me be who I am today."*  
—Air Force Teen



## Military 4-H Club Program

The Military 4-H Club Program is funded through the Army, Air Force, and Navy in partnership with 4-H National Headquarters/ NIFA/USDA. It is administered through Kansas State University working with Extension 4-H Military Liaisons and Land Grant University partners. 4-H Clubs allow youth on installations and in communities worldwide to participate in 4-H projects that include Citizenship, Healthy Living, and Science education and focus on leadership and community service activities in a safe and fun environment. As the youth transfer from state to state, they can easily make connections through local 4-H Club programs in their new communities or on installations. Forty-seven states and two territories received grants in 2012. Over 28,500 youth participated in 575 clubs on installations, and over 3,500 staff participated in 525 4-H trainings. Over 15,000 military-connected youth participated in 4-H opportunities in their local communities.

### 4-H members on and off installations in states with Military 4-H Club Grants (2012)

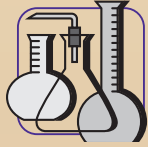
	On Installation World-wide	Off Installation	Total
Army	12,298	7,375	19,673
Air Force	11,445	2,239	13,684
Navy	5,041	1,180	6,221
National Guard		4,151	4,151
Reserve		2,500	2,500
Other		851	851
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,784</b>	<b>18,296</b>	<b>47,080</b>

## Welcome Home Gardens

Extension 4-H Military Liaisons in 26 states participated in the Welcome Home Garden Initiative in partnership with the Burpee Seed Company. Seed packets were given to military service members and veterans as “a small token of appreciation for the enormous sacrifices you have endured in the service of our country,” as stated by George Ball, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of W. Atlee Burpee & Co. Children and youth in military after-school programs also planted seeds in gardens to honor military service members. Liaisons worked with Veteran’s Homes to plant gardens so the produce could be harvested for use in their meals.



## 4-H Missions Mandates: Accomplishments in the States



### Science:

*At Ft. Riley, science is a big hit! Twenty-five SAS members learned about the differences between bugs and insects. They were shown various species via video and regular pictures as well. They took an insect quiz and made a caterpillar pal for themselves. They also saw for themselves a multitude of insects, both alive and mounted, and talked about them all and what they remember from their own experiences.—KS*

*Pax River Teen Council members have taken the initiative to do a teen video project for the Tech Club. They are conducting interviews, filming, and editing for both a Youth Sponsorship and a Teen Center Welcome video.—MD*

*Participants ages 9-15 learned about the aerospace industry, built airplanes and an 18” rocket that they designed before launching it at a local rocket launch. Several of these military youth displayed their rockets and competed at the rocket launch held at Montana Fair.—MT*

*“I took the National Science Day Eco-Bot to school and my science teacher let me demonstrate it for the class.”*

*—Youth at Pine Bluff Arsenal, AR*



### Healthy Living:

*BodyQuest (BQ) integrates healthy eating choices into an iPad app. Youth are encouraged by BodyQuest Warriors – anime characters – to eat smart and stay active. Because of the BQ program, youth agreed that they would be more likely to try fruits and vegetables than they otherwise would not have.—AL*

*JBER Two Rivers Youth Center – Chef Mates Cooking and Nutrition Club focused on international foods this year and cooked their way around the world using 4-H “Food, Culture and Reading” curriculum. Club members experienced foods that they may not normally eat and learned how to enjoy many new foods!—AK*

*Another aspect of healthy living emphasized was fitness. Youth at Whiteman Air Force Base connected Fit Factor with Move Across Missouri and also had running and fitness clubs to encourage youth to get out and exercise. 4-H members at Fort Leonard Wood used technology to compare the levels of fitness and to keep records of their progress. They also trained for the Volkslauf by improving their physical fitness through aerobics, Zumba classes, weight training, and conditioning.—MO*

*“My daughter’s dad has been deployed twice, and he’s leaving on another tour of duty soon. Through all of his comings and goings, having the consistency of 4-H has really been a stabilizing force in my daughter’s life.”*

*—Military Mom*



### Citizenship:

*The 84 members of the Summer Seals 4-H club program participated in Food, Culture and Reading, a fun mix of healthy living and citizenship. In addition to learning about other cultures, doing some cooking, and playing games, the 4-Hers especially liked the 4-H Olympics, when they made headband laurel wreaths and Olympic badges with duct tape.—CT*

*Teens on Kwajalein planted native plants for a neighbor island school and held a performing arts show for charity.—HI*

*Twenty-four youth crocheted 100 scarves for homeless people living in shelters. A variety of community service projects were implemented on each installation including community gardens, food drives for pantries, trash pick-up, race for the cure, and coat collections for children. Youth also contributed to the county fairs with their showcases, recycled scarecrows, and helped in the 4-H information booth.—NJ*

*Several of the older members helped regularly with the younger groups, and one student was selected as a teen counselor for the Regional 4-H Camp program in June. Leadership responsibilities were rotated amongst the membership to make sure that everyone had an opportunity to take on new responsibilities.—SD*



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