

CONTACT THE
FP STAFF:

- State Family Program
Director,
CPT Lindy I. White
405-228-5036
- 137 AW Family Program
Coordinator,
Jennifer Lain
405-686-5683
- 138 FW Family Program
Coordinator,
Connie Hurt
918-833-7732
- Family Assistance Centers,
OKC 405-228-5841
Tulsa 918-832-6536
Lawton, 580-595-4455
- FRG Assistance
Sonia Brumfield
405-228-5843
- Youth Programs
Jessica Hurt
918-832-6543
- Newsletter Editor
Jessica Hurt
918-832-6543

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Kids Kamp	1
Chaplain's Corner	2
FAC Information	2
Operation Purple	3
Military Appreciation	4
TurboTax	4



Family Program News

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2006 OKNG Youth Workshop Kids Kamp

The Oklahoma National Guard Youth Workshop a/k/a **Kids Kamp** is a weeklong event that supports families of the Oklahoma National Guard. Each summer it is held at Camp Gruber. This year Kids Kamp will be 25Jun—1Jul. It is run by volunteers, and guard members. Children from both the Army and Air National Guard are invited to attend.

The focus of the camp is to help the children gain appreciation and respect for what military life is like. While at camp, the children will participate in a variety of activities to include, fishing, fire safety, arts and craft, swimming, etc. STARBASE Oklahoma will be conducting activities this year that will range from Astronomy, Rocketry, Avionics and Robotics. The children will also participate in a compass course challenge, Night Vision activity, and they get to rappel.

While at Camp Gruber the children stay in barracks all week, eat in the mess hall, do physical training early each morning, and basically imitate a small portion of military life. The children learn pride, self-confidence and esprit de corp. At the end of camp parents can watch a marching competition and closing ceremonies where various awards are given to the children.

If you are interested in sending your children or if you would like to volunteer to help with Kid's Kamp, contact CPT White at 405-228-5036 e-mail: lindy.white@us.army.mil or Jessica Hurt at 918-832-6543 e-mail: jessica.hurt@us.army.mil.

With support of the Oklahoma National Guard members and their families we hope to make this year the best Kids Kamp ever!



Chaplain's Corner

Collision Course

There is a story that tells of a battleship that was on maneuvers when it ran into a spat of severe weather. One particularly stormy night the recently promoted captain remained on the bridge to watch for any problems. He was young and wanted to make sure his first duty assignment was successful. When the lookout reported that he saw a light straight ahead off the starboard bow the captain asked if it were steady or moving astern.

The lookout reported that it was steady which meant they were on a collision course. Immediately the Captain ordered the signalman to flash a message to the unidentified craft on his starboard side ordering the ship to alter their course 10 degrees to the south.

Within seconds the reply came

back, "Alter your course 10 degrees north." This angered the captain because the rules of ocean movement dictate that the smaller vessels should get out of the way of larger ones. There was a battleship, and no one was going to make them change course. The captain had the signalman send the following message, "I am a Captain. Change your course 10 degrees!" The response was quick in coming: "I am a Seaman 2nd Class. Alter your course 10 degrees!"

By this time the light was growing brighter and brighter and a collision was imminent unless someone yielded and changed course. The Captain's face turned red with anger and he grabbed the signal light to personally signal this message: "Alter course quickly! I am a battleship." Back came the message, "Change your course 10 degrees south. I am a

lighthouse."

How many times do we allow our pride to get in the way of good decision-making? Many of our arguments would be very short-lived if we spent more time listening instead of trying to drive our own agenda.

**"Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust in the LORD will be happy."
Proverbs 16:20**

Chaplain Hanna can be reached at the Oklahoma Military Department.

FT Support Chaplain
JFHQ-Oklahoma
405-228-5178
DSN 628-5178
Fax 405-606-7212



Family Assistance Centers:

Family Assistance Centers are here to support guard and family members. Guard and family members may call a Family Assistance Center employee at any time for information and to ask questions.

For families of guard members who are deployed or recently returned, your specific contact is as follows:



245 Aviation, HHC:
245 Aviation, E Company:
180th Ada & Durant
249 Aviation:
245 MI Company:
180th Shawnee
1345 Trans Co
Med Hold:
Other:
158 FA:
180th Durant
137th AW:
138th FW:

Billy Nichols: 918-832-6536
Billy Nichols: 918-832-6536
Billy Nichols: 918-832-6536
Peggy Campbell: 405-228-5387
Peggy Campbell: 405-228-5387
Peggy Campbell: 405-228-5387
JoAnne Evans: 405-228-5841
JoAnne Evans: 405-228-5841
JoAnne Evans: 405-228-5841
Gerda Weekley: 580-595-4455
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Jennifer Lain: 405-686-5683
Connie Hurt: 918-833-7732

Operation Purple

Free Camp for Kids with Deployed Parents

Operation Purple is the only summer camp program, free of charge to all participants, that focuses on helping kids deal with deployment-related stress through pure fun! It was created by the National Military Family Association (NMFA) to bring youth together from all service branches and components of the military, including the National Guard and Army Reserve. This year, camps will be held in 26 locations in 22 states—to include **Oklahoma!**

While having a great week at camp is important, Operation Purple wants to leave its children with a lasting gift of friendships and skills that will benefit them for years to come! The enrichment activities offered by Operation Purple are specifically designed to appeal to a wide range of learning methods—so all children can gain new skills. Through a combination of exciting arts-and-crafts style projects, drama, speakers, journaling and small-group sharing, campers learn new skills, create new memories, find answers to difficult questions and create lasting mementos of their time at camp. As an added benefit, children often open up while engaging in these activities, providing a prime opportunity for sharing, bonding, learning and growing.

With their military parents deployed overseas, campers have issues that other kids in typical summer camps don't need to deal with. Children of military parents are fighting their own battles at home against worry, fear, and change. Their military parents are missing graduations, sporting events, and other milestones in their young lives. Staff members at Operation Purple Camps are trained to help youth who worry that their deployed loved one may not return or will be a very different person when they get back. Learning coping skills, making new friends, and experiencing life lessons at an early age are what make Operation Purple so unique.

Registration ends May 15th.

For more information go to www.operationpurple.org, click on the State of Oklahoma icon. There you will find details to include dates, location, age requirements and activities to expect.

If you have questions, please contact Jessica Hurt at 918-832-6543 or e-mail jessica.hurt@us.army.mil



Military OneSource

May is National Military Appreciation Month!

National Military Appreciation

National Military Appreciation Month commemorates both the history and recognition of our armed services. This important month honors, remembers, recognizes and appreciates all military personnel; those men and women who have served throughout our history and all who now serve in uniform and their families as well as those Americans who have given their lives in defense of the freedom we all

enjoy today. National Military Appreciation Month recognizes those on active duty in all branches of service, Guard, Reserve, retirees, veterans, and all of their families. This encompasses well over 90 million Americans and more than 230 years of our nation's history. Please join us in paying tribute to the sacrifices by the nation's service members, veterans, their families, and those who have died in the

pursuit of freedom and peace.

As the month of May passes, please remember these special holidays:

Military Spouse Appreciation—May 12

Armed Forces Day—May 20

Memorial Day—May 29

Turbo Tax Update

As of 17 April, 2006, over 322,000 State and Federal tax returns were filed by Military OneSource users who accessed TurboTax at no-cost online. But the good news isn't over yet! Late filers can still access TurboTax to do their State and Federal returns at no-cost when they access the software via the Military OneSource website. This offer will continue for late filers until October.

Military OneSource website is as follows:

www.militaryonesource.com

Then you will need to do 1 of 2 things:

1. log in to the site using the ID and password you created, or

2. you will need to register where you will be given the opportunity to create an ID and password.



Military OneSource.

Serving American troops and families.

