Children of U.S. service members around the world will be honored throughout the month of April for their contributions to their families’ well-being and sacrifices on behalf of the nation.

The Redstone Arsenal, here in Huntsville, Alabama, has many programs in support of military children and their families. They, as well as Madison City Schools, will be providing activities throughout the month of April for our military connected children. The Redstone Arsenal will culminate this event with an annual parade on the last Saturday in April 2013, on the grounds of the military base.

Madison City Schools, as a partner with the Redstone Arsenal’s School Liaison Services, want to say to our students, “Your sacrifice is recognized and we want to commend you for all that you, and your family, do to help make this world a safer and better place to live.”
Homeland Security:

The term *homeland security* refers to the broad national effort by all levels of government to protect its territory from hazards, both internal and external, natural and man-made. (Wikipedia, 2008)

**Preparedness, Response & Recovery**

In the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or other large-scale emergency, the Department of Homeland Security will provide a coordinated, comprehensive federal response and mount a swift and effective recovery effort. (www.dhs.gov)

As parents and educators, we are on the battlefield daily to provide secure and nurturing environments for our children so that they may be successful at home, school, and in the community.

We seek assistance from all systems in society to protect our children from hazards/dangers, both internal and external, natural and man-made. Let us continue our battle to protect our children from things such as:

A) Violence  
B) Child abuse & neglect  
C) Internet predators  
D) Negative peer influences  
E) Academic underachievement  
F) Drug & alcohol abuse  
G) Bullying  
H) Feelings of inadequacy
Military Child

Bill of Rights

I am a military child. Like my mother, father, brothers, and sisters, I am proud to serve our country too. Since I am a military child, my service should be recognized. I will grow strong serving alongside my family as long as I have:

- A clean and safe place to live

Great schools that welcome me

- A safe and fun place to stay when my parents are sent away

Good doctors I can easily visit when I don’t feel well

- A community that supports me and lets me know I am valued

Courage and support to keep my family strong while we are at war

Leaders who will remember my family will still have needs when the war is over

- Adults who remind me I'm still a kid

Time with my mom or dad so it doesn’t feel like they are still away even when they are home.

Someone to talk with who understands me

Currently, there are more than 1.7 million military children under the age of 18. Remember: “Kids Serve Too!”

(National Military Family Association)
HOW TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN

Do your share to make your school, your community, and the world a better place.

Take responsibility for what goes on around you.

Participate in community service.

Help take care of the environment.

Be a good neighbor.

Treat other people with respect and dignity.

Follow the rules of your family, your school, and your society.

www.goodcharacter.com
MilitaryKidsConnect (MKC) is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr old) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return.

MKC offers informative activities, fun games, helpful videos, and interesting user surveys that can guide and reinforce understanding, resilience, and coping skills in military children and their peers.

Today’s military kids grow up in a world where they may experience multiple deployments of important family members. They need a unique set of skills to draw on in order to get through long and often difficult separations and situations. MKC helps children prepare for the challenges faced during these significant family transitions.

Through participation in MKC’s monitored online forums, children can share their own ideas, experiences, and suggestions with other military children, helping them to know they are not alone in dealing with the stresses of deployment. MKC’s focused parent and educator tracks provide information to help them understand what it takes to support military children in at-home and school settings.

Safety is the number one priority for MKC. To keep your child safe on MKC, we include a way for parents to control and monitor their child’s access and activity on the website. Parents can navigate the website in advance in order to understand the kinds of content their child(ren) will see and use. Every effort has been made to prevent undesirable persons from using MKC to interact with children.

Our Military Kids

Our Military Kids provides substantial support in the form of grants to the children of National Guard and Military Reserve personnel who are currently deployed overseas, as well as the children of Wounded Warriors in all branches. The grants from Our Military Kids pay for participation in sports, fine arts, camps, and tutoring programs that nurture and sustain children while a parent is away in service to our country or recovering from injury.

www.ourmilitarykids.com
“WE SERVE, TOO”

I serve, too. I’m a military child.
I stay strong when my dad goes away.
If there is a war and my dad is detached,
I will help him fight back.

With my braveness and courage I can stay strong,
My family’s support helps me carry on.

Whenever we move, I start all over again.
I have to go to a new school, and make new friends.

Even though people think I’m a military brat,
I just don’t quite see it like that.

My daddy helps defend our country,
so we can live in peace and harmony.

So all the military children help their mothers and fathers,
Because we serve, too. We’re their sons and daughters.

By Kiara, 6th Garde, Belle Chase Academy, Louisiana
The following list provides a sample – by no means a comprehensive list – of organizations working to support the military child.

**Department of Defense Education Activity**
DoDEA's schools serve the children of military service members and Department of Defense civilian employees throughout the world.

**Military Child Education Coalition**
A nonprofit organization focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition.

**Military Impacted School Association**
A national organization of school superintendents whose mission is to serve school districts with a high concentration of military children.

**Military OneSource**
A free support service provided by the Department of Defense offering assistance and resources to service members and their families on many different issues.

**National Military Family Association**
NMFA's mission it to fight for benefits and programs that strengthen and protect uniformed services families and reflect the nation’s respect for their service.

**Operation Military Kids**
Through a network of community partners, this collaborative effort of the U.S. Army provides program opportunities for youth and connects them to support resources where they live.

**Our Military Kids**
Provides tangible support to children of deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel as well as to children of severely injured service members through grants for enrichment activities and tutoring.

**SOFAR (Strategic Outreach to Families of All Reservists)**
A pro bono, mental health project that provides free psychological support, psychotherapy, psycho-education and prevention services to extended family of reserve and national guard deployed during the Global War on Terrorism.

The American Association of School Administrators
www.aasa.org.
Redstone Arsenal, AL.

Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS)

CYSS Services recognizes the stress that longer and multiple deployments puts on Army Families and that the support they need includes liaison with schools to ensure positive relationships with the schools attended by Army youth!

CYS also has a Special Needs Accommodation Process (SNAP) in place at each Garrison. If a student suffers, for example, from allergies or Attention Deficit Disorder, or has been diagnosed with a physical or psychological condition, this accommodation process brings together child care professionals, physicians and counselors to determine how CYS can best meet the needs of the child.

Building 1500 Weeden Mtn Rd (256) 876-3704

Ages 6-10 (1st thru 5th grades) include before and after school programs, summer care, and camps during school vacations. Through partnerships with groups such Army School Age Center as National 4-H, Character Counts and Boys & Girls Clubs of America, installations help children learn to work with their strengths, interests, and each other, to feel good about themselves, and to grow as individuals. Programs are offered in the core areas of leisure, recreation, and the arts; sport and fitness; life skills, citizenship and leadership; and mentoring and support services.

Building 3155 Youth Center Dr
(256) 876-6595

Outreach Services provides common support services for all Child and Youth Services programs, community and parent services, and care and supervision options.

Central Registration & Referral
(One stop registration office for all CYSS programs)

Babysitter Training and Referrals
Parent & Community Education Services
Special Needs Program
Special Needs Accommodation Process
KOS- Kids on Site child care

Building 1500 Weeden Mtn Rd (256) 313-3735

6th grade through 12th grade Army Middle School and Teen Programs are designed specifically for middle school youth and teens to ensure that the physical, cognitive, social and emotional needs of youth are addressed, and predictable services provided. YS (Youth Services) offers services in the following areas: sports, fitness & health options; life skills, citizenship & leadership opportunities; arts, recreation & leisure activities; academic support, mentoring, and intervention services.

Building 3148 Youth Center Rd
(256) 876-5437 or (256) 955-8401
The Edge Get the after-school EDGE!
Excel...Art EDGE!
Develop...Fit EDGE!
Grow...Life EDGE!
Experience...Adventure EDGE!

Cutting-edge art, fitness, life skill and adventure activities with MWR and CYS Services.

The EDGE! Program offers out-of-school opportunities for children and youth to experience, develop, grow and excel by participating in cutting-edge art, fitness, life skills and adventure activities, known as Art EDGE!, Fit EDGE!, Life EDGE!, and Adventure EDGE!

Art EDGE! promotes learning by doing and focuses on the development of lifetime skills through exposure to the arts. Art EDGE! activities increase creative development while building self-esteem.

Fit EDGE! educates and encourages children and youth to incorporate a healthier lifestyle through physical activity and nutritional awareness programs.

Life EDGE! imparts upon children and youth skills needed for life-long growth as well as the exploration of future career fields.

Adventure EDGE! encourages children and youth to embrace the outdoors and nature while being exposed to activities that stimulate relaxation.

Building 3466 Youth Center Rd
(256) 842-3202
CYSS Youth HIRED! Apprentice Program

Youth 15-18 years of age participate in a 12 week apprenticeship and gain experience and knowledge in the workforce! Various jobs include positions in sales, food service, recreation and more!

Have you ever wondered what the real world would be like? Now is your chance to experience what it’s like to be HIRED!

Throughout 12-weeks, youth ages 15 to 18 will engage in meaningful, professionally-managed, career-exploration opportunities in Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) operations. The apprenticeship will also offer exciting and interactive career and college prep workshops, as well as educational incentive awards made available for teens 17 to 18 years of age. The HIRED! Apprentice Program offers valuable paid work experience and training that will better equip each participant with the skills needed for a highly-competitive job market.

Building 3148 Youth Center Rd
(256) 876-2255

SKIES Unlimited

At our Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills, the possibilities are unlimited!

Through SKIES Unlimited, children and youth have equal access to opportunities that expand their knowledge, explore and acquire new skills. SKIES Unlimited includes programs for children and youth from 6-weeks-old through high school. SKIES classes are held at the Youth Services Campus on Youth Center Rd.

Instructional programs foster the development of critical life, leadership, and social skills. The latest educational research confirms that students’ involvement in after-school Instructional programs is beneficial on all levels. Instructional programs have been shown to promote the intellectual development of children and youth.

Building 3153 Youth Center Rd
(256) 876-6844

Youth & School Services (CYSS) Sports & Fitness Program offers various opportunities for children to participate in sports. The program provides support for children, ages 4-18 years to encourage healthy, life-long habits. Volunteer coaches are needed to help make our youth sports a success. All coaches are trained and certified by the National Alliance of Youth Sports (NAYS). Players must be registered with CYSS in order to enroll in a sport.

Seasonal team sports leagues are offered for children 5 - 18 years of age. Fees for team sports vary depending on sport and include uniform. Team sports are offered in partnership with the City of Huntsville Recreation Services. All team sports require a sports physical at time of registration.

Various individual sports are offered throughout the year. These may include baseball, soccer, basketball, flag football, bowling, tennis, racquetball and golf.

Building 3466 Youth Center Rd (256) 313-3699
Military Child Initiative

In support of the Military Child, school administrators, support staff, and teachers will have the opportunity to take advantage of a dynamic web course designed to help all students meet life’s challenges with resilience, focusing primarily on students from military families.

“Building Resilient Kids” Web Course
The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Johns Hopkins Center on School, Family and Community Partnerships,

Objectives of this Web Course

To increase your understanding of the…
• Military community, lifestyle and culture as the backdrop for your military students
• Social, emotional and educational needs and challenges of military students including issues of mobility and deployment
• Special challenges of youth during wartime including separation, reunion, death and disability, and programs to help students cope with these challenges
• Strategies used by school staff—administrators, support staff and teachers—to improve educational, behavioral and health outcomes for all students, enumerating those factors at the school, classroom and community levels
• Strategies to increase students’ school connectedness
• School wide and classroom strategies to build student resilience, particularly social, emotional and academic problem solving skills described at each developmental stage
• Best and promising practices which you can implement in your district, your school and your classroom to create a climate where students feel safe and supported to overcome their challenges
• Strategies to build school, parent and community partnerships

Get Free Continuing Education Credit from the Military Impacted Schools Association

www.jhsph.edu/mci/training_course/
I’ve come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my personal approach that creates the climate. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt, or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or de-humanized.
# SUCCESS CUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Community</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate productive after-school activities.</td>
<td>Stay connected with school personnel</td>
<td>Get involved with after-school community programs and projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicate regularly</td>
<td>Set goals that are age-appropriate</td>
<td>Utilize the library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manage time wisely</td>
<td>Hold your child &amp; school system accountable for the goals.</td>
<td>Use current information technologies for educational enhancement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set limits on media activities</td>
<td>Show an interest in your child’s school related activities and progress</td>
<td>Find a career role model/mentor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eat nutritious meals</td>
<td>Celebrate Milestones</td>
<td>Visit academic institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get enough sleep at night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Model discipline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide assistance with school work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be flexible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintain a warm supportive environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss the value of a good education and career options</td>
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Success Cues is a support tool for parents/students derived from presentation by:
Mr. Kenneth Anderson, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences (Calhoun Community College)
Several of the items/resources below are available by contacting the School Social Worker (below). Items can be re-ordered as they are depleted. More items are being ordered and resources updated regularly.

Flyers:
1. “What Can Military One Source Do For You?”
2. Deployment Resources for Children and Teens
3. “Talk, Listen, Connect”—Deployments, Homecomings, and Changes
4. Relocating? We Can Help! (MOS)
5. Military One Source Health Library
6. When Families Grieve (Sesame Street)
7. Wounded Warrior Resource Centers
8. “Coming Home”—Because Combat Changes Things
9. Helpful Products and Services for Military Families with Special Needs

Pocket Cards:
Military One Source Resources

Rack Cards:
1. Military One Source Services

Books:
“Coming Home”—What to expect, how to deal when you return from combat. (Adults)

“A Hero in my Pocket”—A keepsake book about grief and recovery for children affected by the loss (death) of a loved one who served in the military.

Miscellaneous:
Military One Source
1. Magnets
2. Lanyards
3. Blinking Buttons
4. Mouse Pads

To obtain any of the above items, please contact:

Brenda Vactor, LCSW
School Social Worker
blvactor@madisoncity.k12.al.us
(256) 348-5538

DVDs:
“Talk, Listen, Connect”—When Families Grieve (Sesame Street)
“Talk, Listen, Connect”—Deployments, Homecomings, Changes (Sesame Street)
Military One Source—”You Name It. We Can Help. 24/7”
Letters from Home—”A video tribute to our American service members and their families”

“Students at the Center”—an educational resource for Military Families, Military Leaders, School Leaders

Memory Box—
This Trevor Romain comfort kit for kids uses gentle humor, original music, and a compassionate storyline to pass along practical and helpful advice for kids. Despite the serious subject matter, kids of all ages are enlightened and encouraged as Trevor’s characters learn how to move towards grief instead of running away from it.

Coming Together Around Military Families—
A resource kit designed to meet the needs of military families with very young children.
Helpful Websites & Links

Air Force: www.afcrossroads.com (click on Teens & Youth, Deployment)
American Legion Need a Lift www.needalift.org
Army: www.goacs.org (click on Child & Youth Services)
Channing Bete: great resource for printed materials: www.channing-bete.com
www.teachersguides.com/ (for activities, information and links to other useful sites)
Department of Defense Education Activity: www.odedeodea.edu/home
Department of Defense Educational Opportunities:
www.militarystudent.dod.mil/
Educator’s Guide to the Military Child during Deployment:
www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c14555.htm (click on Educator’s Guide)
Educator’s for Social Responsibility Site: www.esrnational.org
National Guard Family Programs Site: www.guardfamily.org
National Guard Youth Site: www.guardfamilyyouth.org
National Military Families Association: www.nmfa.org
North Carolina National Guard Family Readiness Site:
www.nc.ngb.army.mil/ (click on Community Supporters & Family Readiness)
Marine Corps: www.usmc-mccs.org (click on Family Life)
Military Child Education Coalition: www.militarychild.org (click on Publications/Research)
Military One Source: www.militaryonesource.com
National Children, Youth and Families at Risk Initiative: www.cyfernet.org
National Child Traumatic Stress Network: www.NCTSN.org
Navy: www.nffsp.org (click on Just for Kids/Just for Teens)
Reserves: www.defenselink.mil/ra/ (click on Family Readiness)
Salute Our Services www.salutecourservices.org
Working with Military Children: A Primer for School Personnel:
www.nmfa.org (click on Education)
Zero to Three: www.zerotothree.org

(Information adopted from North Carolina: Supporting Military Children)