



FACT SHEET: Month of the Military Child – April 2009

Celebrating Our Everyday Heroes

April is the "Month of the Military Child." Since it began in 1986, the Department of Defense (DoD) has teamed with various partners to recognize the sacrifices and applaud the courage of military children. More than 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 have at least one parent serving in the military. It is estimated the U.S. Army has more than 900,000 military children with one or both parents having deployed multiple times.

During the month of April, we are asking leaders and parents to encourage military children with celebrations, speeches, posters, the media, through personal contact and let our military children know that because of their unique courage, contributions to the Army Family, and daily sacrifices, they are "Everyday Heroes" in the eyes of the Army and the nation.

Throughout April, U.S. Army installations world-wide will conduct a variety of fun and exciting events, during which senior leaders will visually and verbally recognize the sacrifices and challenges of military children.

Army Senior Commanders will forward invitations to Members of Congress, their spouses, and district office staff and ask them to take part in local Month of the Military Child events.

We will identify opportunities and coordinate with Sesame Street Outreach Services for support of Month of the Military Child observances through Muppet costumes and copies of the Sesame Street production of "The Deployment Kit."

We have developed a "Month of the Military Child" website which lists general information about the month, installation activities, and captures and displays personal stories from military children and their parents. Parents of military children are being encouraged to download, sign, and present their children with the "Everyday Hero" certificate to reinforce parental appreciation of their children's courage and sacrifice. The site is located at <http://www.armymomc.org>.

During these observances, garrison commanders will identify and promote installation and community programs and services available to assist military children, such as support groups, yellow ribbon rooms, and similar support activities. Additionally, the Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command will coordinate with various child support websites and encourage them to recognize military children, while providing geographically secluded military children with information on the programs and services available to them.

Because of their unique courage, contributions to the Army Family and daily sacrifices, military children are "Everyday Heroes" to the Army and the nation, as are the parents wearing the Army uniform.

We ask you to take part in this month long observance and support the military child.