NEW YORK STATE
OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS
MISSION:
New York State Operation: Military Kids builds partnerships to increase capacity for youth, families and communities to support youth of Military Families.

"I wish OMK were around when my kids were younger, it really would have helped.” Kathy, 4th grade teacher and mother of 3 military youth.

READY, SET, GO! (RSG!) Training

Ready, Set, Go! Training was designed to educate youth workers and increase community awareness of the unique issues facing military youth before, during, and after the deployment of a loved one.

This year, NYS Operation: Military Kids held 14 Ready, Set, Go! Trainings in NY and reached 433 community members.

HERO PACKS

Hero Packs are a hands-on way for non-military youth and community members to deliver a salute to Military Youth for their strength and sacrifice while a parent or loved one is deployed. Hero Packs serve as an expression of support for Military Families from their communities and OMK partners.

This year, NYS Operation: Military Kids assisted in distributing 1,218 Hero Packs to Military Youth across the state, exceeding our goal by over 700.
Military Youth-Focused Programs

NYS Operation: Military Kids had another fun filled, productive year supporting military youth-focused events. NYS OMK attended **59** events, serving **4,793** military children from our Active Duty Army, New York Army and Air National Guard, and Army, Air Force, and Navy Reserve Families.

The **Mobile Technology Lab (MTL)**, designed to keep children connected to their deployed loved one and support various youth-focused activities, was used at **22** events, serving **451** military youth, including use at a robotics camp near Albany. NYS OMK conducted youth-focused activities at multiple **Yellow Ribbon** Events statewide for NY National Guard, Army Reserve and Navy Reserve Units as well as **Army Strong Bonds** Events for the Army Reserve. Many of the activities for these events were put together using the **Yellow Ribbon Curriculum**. NYS OMK also provided activities at **Operation Purple Camps** and **Galaxy Camps** of the Air National Guard Wing Units in Scotia and West Hampton, NY.

NYS OMK was awarded a supplemental camp grant in FY10 and provided **2** weekend Family Camps, serving **96** military family members from across the state, and **2** Spies, Sleuths, and Superhero Camps held in Central, NY, serving **48** youth.

PUBLICITY

NY Operation: Military Kids once again manned a booth in the 4-H Youth Development Building at the Great New York State Fair and over **1,500** individuals visited the booth to ask questions and learn about what OMK does and who we serve.

In total this year OMK had **22** external publicity events and **10** internal to include newsletters, flyers, and media broadcasts.

The NYS OMK State Team held **31** informational briefings reaching **981** community members and professionals.
The map depicts the density of military youth by county throughout NYS. The darker the shading, the denser the population. We chose purple for our map because purple symbolizes “joint” in the military world, meaning “all services.” In the world of color, if you combine Army green, Coast Guard Blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue, you get purple.

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Data source: Defense Manpower Data Center, August 2010
The darker the shading, the denser the population.

IN 2011 NY OMK WILL:

- Hold 10 Ready, Set, Go! Trainings across NY State
- Have 4 active Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK) teams
- Continue to develop our State and Local Support Networks to better serve all of NY’s Military Kids
- Distribute 500 Hero Packs
- Hold Mobile Technology Lab events across the state
- Conduct 5 babysitting courses across the state
- Support Yellow Ribbon Events around the state
- Support military specialty camps, including Operation Purple and Galaxy Camps