MINNESOTA OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS

Supporting Military Families in Minnesota

BECAUSE Minnesota kids have been affected by recent troop deployments in service to our country. Children’s lives are often turned upside down when military family members are mobilized for war or active training.

UNIVERSITY RESPONSE “Minnesota Operation: Military Kids” helps military youth discover positive ways to cope with their loved ones’ deployment, so they can feel connected, active and supported.

- Creating community support networks for military youth “in our own backyard” when service members are deployed
- Delivering recreational, social and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities
- Supporting military kids coping with the stress of knowing their deployed family member may be in harm’s way
- Collaborating with schools to ensure that staff are attuned to the unique needs of military students
- Educating the public on the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, families, kids and the community as a whole

RESULTS In 2009, over 3,000 military kids living in civilian Minnesota communities developed life skills through the more than 80 youth activities, including:

- Local Family Readiness Group meetings and events
- Family Preparation Academies (preparing for deployment)
- Reintegration events (preparing for reunion and reintegration)
- Day camps, picnics, and community celebrations.

“Minnesota Operation: Military Kids” programs are supported by military units, community leaders, support organizations such as American Legion, Boys & Girls Clubs, Minnesota Department of Education, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Air National Guard, Joint Family Support Assistance Program, and University of Minnesota Extension 4-H.

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