

“In Their Own Words” ISFAC Military Child Publication Project Description and Essay Submission Form

Publication Purpose:

- To raise awareness of the impact that deployment of family members (parent, grandparent, older sibling, etc.), particularly those stationed overseas, has on children in Ohio families.



Essay Purpose

- To collect around 100 essays written by children of deployed military family members and incorporate these into a publication.

Essay Guidelines

- **ELIGIBILITY** – Applicants can be any child, preschool through grade 12, who lives in Ohio (current or past) and who has experienced a family member’s deployment (current, past, or anticipated). Open to all branches of the service, reserves or active duty: Ohio National Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U. S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marines, or U.S. Navy. A parent/guardian signature is required if under 18.
- **LENGTH** – Up to 500 words. There is no limit on the number of essays that can be submitted by each applicant.
- **IDENTIFICATION** – Permission to use first name (no last names will be used), age, branch of military, and city/town of residence.
- **DEADLINE** – Essays will be submitted from **April 15, 2007, through August 31, 2007**.
- **FORMAT** – We prefer essays that are typed or word processed, but handwritten will be accepted. The form (see reverse side) or a copy/replica of the form should be attached to each essay.

Essay Process

- **SUBMISSION** – Please submit essays via e-mail or regular mail to one of the following:
 - Theresa Ferrari, Operation: Military Kids Project Director, Ohio State University Extension, Room 25 Ag Admin Building, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43210 ferrari.8@osu.edu
 - Debbie Wayt, 4530 Dirham Lane, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 djwayt@yahoo.com.
- **REVIEW/SELECTION** – Essays will be selected with consideration of diversity of content, gender, age, geographical location, and representation of military branch.
- **NOTIFICATION** – We plan to notify authors of accepted essays by late autumn of 2007.
- We are still working on other details related to this publication project.

This project is coordinated through the Ohio Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) by Pat Huston, Theresa Ferrari, and Debbie Wayt.

"In Their Own Words"

ISFAC Military Child Publication Project

Essay Submission Form

We want to hear your story, in your own words. Your words can educate others about what it's like to have a family member in the military. The following statements are several "prompts" to help you create your essay. You can use them or create your own.

- *When my mom/dad/brother/sister was deployed, I felt . . .*
- *One difference while you were deployed was . . .*
- *While you were deployed, I thought about . . .*
- *When you came back, I felt. . .*
- *The person who helped me the most while you were deployed was (name/relationship) because . . .*
- *If I could tell others how I felt while you were deployed, here's some of what I would say . . .*
- *I kept my spirits up while you were deployed by . . .*
- *I missed you the most while you were overseas when . . .*



1. **Write an essay of up to 500 words.** Word-processed essays are preferred, but handwritten is acceptable.
2. **Send your essay** by e-mail or postal mail **no later than August 31, 2007**, to one of the following:
 - Theresa Ferrari, Operation: Military Kids Project Director, Ohio State University Extension, Room 25 Ag Admin Building, 2120 Fyffe Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43210 ferrari.8@osu.edu
 - Debbie Wayt, 4530 Dirham Lane, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 djwayt@yahoo.com

3. Make sure you include the following information:

Name _____
 (full name, please, but only first names will be used with published essays)

Street Address _____

City/Town _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail address _____

Phone (____) _____

Age _____

4. Relationship of family member who is deployed (Please circle all that apply.)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Mother | Father | Brother | Sister |
| Grandparent | Aunt | Uncle | Step-Parent |
| Other (please indicate) _____ | | | |



5. Parent signature (if entrant is under age 18)
