



**FY19**



**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**



**CHILD &  
YOUTH  
SERVICES**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

*IT'S MORE THAN A PROGRAM,  
IT'S A PROMISE.*





## MISSION

The mission of Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard dependent children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs.

## GOALS

**Education:** Provide developmentally-appropriate life skills education to National Guard youth

**Access:** Provide information on access to Federal and State/Territory benefits that support National Guard children and Families, including: counseling, education, child care, and other resources needed to foster a healthy, stable and secure family environment

**Opportunity:** Create partnerships for opportunities to participate in programs, events, and activities geared toward the behavioral and physical health and welfare of children and youth that are available across the spectrum of Government, community, and private sector

**Communication:** Build a sense of belonging to the Army National Guard Community by creating secure opportunities to network with other youth, parents/legal guardians, and youth program coordinators in one's community, state/territory, and across the nation

**Resilience:** Infuse resiliency and leadership skills and techniques into all Army National Guard child and youth programming

**Outreach:** Build and sustain contact with parents/legal guardians, and children of the National Guard in order to create awareness of available support services and programs

*"THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF MILITARY CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS IS OBVIOUS TO ME AS I HAVE SEEN MY CHILDREN LEARN RESILIENCE SKILLS, LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES AND STEWARDSHIP VALUE. THEY ALSO GET TO SHARE FUN AND UNIQUE ADVENTURES WITH OTHER MILITARY YOUTH! MY CHILDREN ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THE MINNESOTA MILITARY TEEN PANEL AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY. THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I CONTINUE IN THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD!" - CW4 EMILY LARSON, MNARNG*



## THE POWER OF A PROGRAM



## BUILDING CONNECTION THROUGH COMMUNITY

Building community capacity through partnerships is key to the engagement of geographically-dispersed Soldiers and families. The efforts of the ARNG CYS program are multiplied through a network of committed organizations. The outcome of engaging local stakeholders is seen in increased opportunities for Soldiers and their families through combined efforts and coordination of events. Additionally, these opportunities allow inclusivity of other geographically-separated Service Members and their families, building support networks and connections among families and youth.



## PARTNERED EVENTS - 304 TRAININGS, PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

FY19 brought many opportunities to partner with our community contacts in the development and implementation of a variety of programs and activities to serve military families. Specifically, organizations such as 4-H Extension Services, Boys and Girls Clubs, Easter Seals, USO, YMCA, Red Cross, QDMA and MANY more helped coordinate camp programs, appreciation events, recreational activities and many other innovative programs in collaboration with Child and Youth Services.

## THE POWER OF A PROMISE

We will provide **POSITIVE** experiences that build **LEADERSHIP, CONFIDENCE, and TEAMWORK** skills in our military youth, while promoting a **SENSE OF BELONGING and CONNECTION.**



### RESIDENTIAL & DAY CAMPS - 325 PROGRAMS

Experiential education opportunities are offered in many of the state/territories. These programs are designed to build leadership, self-confidence, and teamwork skills in our military youth, while promoting camaraderie and connections with each other and caring adults. This is achieved through individual and collaborative practical application of information learned during these events.

### STATE OR TERRITORY YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS - 34 TRAININGS

These trainings promote leadership, resilience, and personal development. Events like this allow youth leaders to share experiences about coping with deployment issues, provide input on Child & Youth Services and develop actions plans to advocate for military youth across a variety of platforms.

### YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM - 361 BRIEFINGS & YOUTH TRAININGS

Child and Youth Coordinators work closely with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in each of their states or territories to ensure that Soldiers and their families are being provided strategies to remain resilient throughout a deployment. Each state or territory offers a variety of research and evidence-based curriculum during trainings and briefings to foster overall positive youth and family well-being.

### FAMILY DAYS & MILITARY APPRECIATION EVENTS – 239 PROGRAMS

Military Appreciation events span a variety of arenas and can include programs at: sporting events, zoos, state parks, children's museums, and many other local venues. Child & Youth Services are frequently requested to support annual Family Days programs with educational activities. All of the events allow for networking and connection with other military families.

### MOMC - 132 PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Month of the Military Child was created to honor the important role children play in the Military community. Coordinators plan numerous events, all to recognize ARNG children and youth for the daily sacrifices they make in supporting their Service Member.

### SURVIVOR SUPPORT & STRONG BONDS - 34 PROGRAMS

Support provided to other military programs by Child and Youth Coordinators serves to further strengthen the overall ARNG force. These collaborative efforts result in opportunities for families to engage with each other and develop greater awareness of resources and services available, all while being in a safe and supportive environment with other military families.

## TEEN PANEL

In FY19, more than 560 National Guard youth served on their State or Territory Teen Panel. Each state or territory maintains a program that meets on a monthly or quarterly basis. Throughout FY19 Teen Panels completed 333 trainings and meetings. Teen Panel priorities include: participation in Regional Symposiums, leading community service projects, advocating for military youth and families to state legislators, senior military officials and community partners, participating as camp counselors, completing the Teen Resilience training, volunteering at events and assisting in developing leadership programs for other military youth.

## GUARD TEEN PANEL (GTP)

The National Guard Teen Panel is a youth-directed and adult facilitated joint program representing the Army and Air National Guard. The GTP is composed of ten regional delegates that represent the NG youth in their respective regions and two members-at-large who liaison to the Army Teen Panel. The GTP aims to provide a voice for the National Guard youth across the 54 states and territories, as well as provide insight to National Guard leadership from the perspective of the youth. In FY19, the GTP liaisons presented issues relevant to geographically-separated National Guard youth at the Army Teen Panel meeting held in Boston, MA. Looking ahead to FY20, the GTP plans to meet twice in person and to facilitate the development of marketing materials, intended to increase local teen panel participation.

## REGIONAL YOUTH SYMPOSIUMS

Seven regions hosted symposiums, providing 155 teens 225 hours of life-skill training, and experiential education opportunities, leadership initiatives through service learning projects, while enhancing individual overall resiliency. The hosting state/territory's Coordinators facilitating many of the logistical plans for the event. The other participating states/territories send one Coordinator to assist in the supervision and training throughout the event. Regional Symposiums include initiatives to mitigate at-risk behaviors, and promote leadership, resiliency and personal development. Regional Symposiums have paved the way for regions to conduct SWOT analysis, develop action plans and increase the impact made by Child and Youth Services at local and national levels.

## TEEN RESILIENCE TRAINING

MRT-certified CYPCs use the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) Teen Resilience curriculum to teach resilience strengths and coping strategies to ARNG dependents. This strength-based curriculum is a translation of the resilience program taught to ARNG Soldiers and spouses, and supports a common language for ARNG Families to discuss resilience and performance at home. The MRT training prepares teens to deal with the challenges associated with Military life. ARNG CYS aims to strengthen Family resilience and ensure Soldier readiness. There are two versions of the Teen Curriculum; an introductory 2-hour workshop and a full curriculum, which mirrors the 14 skills delivered in the MRT-C to Soldiers and spouses and focuses on strength such as optimism, self-awareness, problem solving, self-regulation, character strengths, and healthy communication.



**41**  
**States & Territories**  
**Hosted an MRT**  
**Training**



**2,206**  
**Teens Trained**



**521%**  
**Increase in Teens**  
**Trained in Full**  
**Curriculum**

**\$3,894,757.00**  
**Value Added**

**153,156**  
**Hours of**  
**Service**

**8,962**  
**Volunteers**

## VOLUNTEERS

Army National Guard Child and Youth Services would not be possible without the tireless dedication of volunteers. Volunteers fill a variety of roles such as administrative support, social media and marketing and hands on support at youth events. **8,962 adults and teens volunteered for 2,304 different programs** to support military youth and families during FY19. Quantifying the unique contributions volunteers deliver to the program does not fully do them justice in demonstrating the full impact their dedication has for ARNG Soldiers and Families, however, we know this is an important illustration of the overall value to CYS. Independent Sector estimates the average value of a volunteer hour as \$25.43 per hour. **In FY19 volunteers provided 153,156 hours of service, totaling \$3,894,757.00 in value added.**

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Establishing a highly skilled and trained volunteer team is an essential part of a successful child and youth program. Child and Youth Coordinators devote a significant portion of their time to the recruitment and training of volunteers as a means of ensuring the overall safety and well-being of youth participating in various events and activities. **In FY19, CYS Coordinators provided 81 trainings to prepare volunteers** in areas of risk management, programming and effective behavior management. Additionally, volunteers receive training on identifying and reporting suspected abuse and neglect, and requirements for confidentiality.



*"THE WI NATIONAL GUARD CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM HAS ALLOWED ME TO VOLUNTEER WITH A FAMILIAR GROUP. AS THE SON OF A SAILOR, I CONNECT WITH THE KIDS AND VOLUNTEERS BETTER THAN I WOULD ANYWHERE ELSE, SO I AM ABLE TO BE MYSELF. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE EXPERIENCES I HAVE HAD WORKING WITH THE WI NATIONAL GUARD CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM." - GRANT LATHAM, UNM ROTC VOLUNTEER*

## CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A key component of a successful youth-service program resides in the on-going professional development of the staff working at all levels within the program. Throughout FY19, the Program Management Team worked diligently and collaboratively with NGB and national partner organizations to provide field personnel with a combination of **14 hours of monthly teleconference training**, and an additional **27.5 hours of training delivered in-person** during the 2019 Professional Development training. Combined, this equates to a **total of 41.5 hours of developed and delivered training** in FY19; all training designed to increase the Coordinators professional practice, while aligning Child and Youth Services with the latest trends and research in the areas of youth growth and development and program management.

## DEVELOPING NETWORKS OF SUPPORT

Research has proven a direct link between youth resilience and the importance of building and maintaining positive connections and networks for youth, especially military youth, in their local communities (military and civilian). Building upon this research, field personnel working within the program regularly provide Service Members and Military Families with briefings and information designed to highlight and connect them with relevant local and national resources and services. Further, field personnel actively work to train community members, educators and administrators so they are better prepared to provide support to military-connected youth both in and out of the classroom. These ‘networks of support’ act as force multipliers, better ensuring those connected to the military feel safe and supported at all times.



## EDUCATION OUTREACH

Army National Guard Child and Youth Coordinators support ARNG youth through a variety of channels. Coordinators provide outreach trainings, meetings and briefings for school administrators, educators and support staff, providing information and resources for supporting military families, whether their Soldier is deployed or working stateside with his or her unit. Many states or territories have partnered with local colleges and universities to offer college and career planning courses for teens and parents as well as ACT/SAT prep courses.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Child and Youth Services works with a variety of military and civilian organizations to maximize the impact of community resources on Military members and their Families. Building these networks of support is vital to ensure opportunities are created for military youth and education is provided to the community on challenges military families face, particularly, our geographically-separated children and youth.



## COMMANDER, UNIT, OR FRG BRIEFINGS

Coordinators are routinely requested to brief services provided, outreach efforts and outcomes of Child and Youth Services to Family Readiness Groups, Soldiers at the Unit level and Senior Military Personnel. These briefings better ensure all levels of Command, and associated support groups, are equipped with youth-related information as a means of supporting Soldier and Family military readiness and resilience.



**"I HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY BECAUSE OF THE TEEN COUNCIL. I ENLISTED INTO THE NATIONAL GUARD RECENTLY AND FEEL LIKE THE PROGRAM HAS HELPED DEVELOP THE LEADERSHIP SKILLS, DISCIPLINE AND RESPECT NEEDED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE MILITARY."  
KHALIL JACKSON, DCARNG**



**"YOUR PROGRAMS HAVE HELPED OUR GIRLS BE SUCCESSFUL AND HELPED IN COPING THROUGH OUR MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS. IT WAS A BLESSING FOR ME TO HAVE THESE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE WHILE I WAS KEEPING THINGS TOGETHER AT HOME. I CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THE PROGRAMS OUR GIRLS WERE INVOLVED IN HAS IMPACTED THEIR LIVES FOR THE BETTER AND I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE BEING A PART OF THIS MILITARY FAMILY."  
MRS. DAILEY, MIARNG SPOUSE**



**"THE CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM HAS CONNECTED OUR DAUGHTER TO OTHER MILITARY CHILDREN IN A FUN AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT. SHE KNOWS IN A TANGIBLE WAY THAT SHE IS NOT ALONE IN THIS ATYPICAL MILITARY LIFE. BECAUSE SHE IS THRIVING MY HUSBAND CAN FOCUS ON HIS MISSION."  
MRS. LEE, AZARNG SPOUSE**

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