



Ready Families... Anytime, Anywhere

# BUCKEYE FAMILIES

## October 2007

**Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bramlish, State Family Program Director**

*1LT Katie Enochs, Assistant State Family Program Director*

*Major Anthony Lam, State Youth Program Officer*

*Larry Hale, Contracted FAC Coordinator*

*Diane Whatmough, Family Readiness Assistant 866-278-5756*

*Jennifer L. Moore, Editor, [jennifer.l.moore2@us.army.mil](mailto:jennifer.l.moore2@us.army.mil)*

*2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235*

*800-589-9914, or email [robert.bramlish@oh.ngb.army.mil](mailto:robert.bramlish@oh.ngb.army.mil)*

**Educate, Communicate and Market Family Readiness**

### Contracted Family Assistance Centers

Gary Reed – Columbus*	800-589-9914
Michelle Gire – Columbus	800-589-9914
Cyndi Caron – Bowling Green	866-278-5755
Brian Via – Cincinnati (New FAC)	866-278-5757
Jennifer Moore – Portsmouth/Chillicothe	866-270-8283
Joyce Stingel – Akron/Canton	866-278-5756
Jerry Wiggins – Kettering	866-278-5759

### After Hour or Emergency Contacts:

Diana Whatmough	330-523-0055
1Lt Katie Enochs	614-302-8228

### Contracted State Youth Coordinator

Sue Ann Carroll	877-460-2177
-----------------	--------------

### Air Wing Program Coordinators

Carolyn Ebert – Rickenbacker*	614-492-4417
Jane Esprit – Springfield*	937-525-2583
Faline Rowland – Mansfield*	419-520-6600
Judy York – Toledo*	419-868-4550

### Key Support Volunteers

Tina Lee – Treasurer*	614-878-2634
-----------------------	--------------

#### Army

Angie Dyer – Columbus*	614-332-3620
Bonnie Swaney – Cincinnati*	937-436-3505
Lorie Venable – Kettering	937-878-9890
Michelle Buck – Toledo*	419-265-4663
Lillian Collins – Portsmouth/Chillicothe*	740-707-6743

### Air GSU (Geographically Separated Units)

Amy Hernandez – Blue Ash*	513-936-2949
Sara Wilson – Zanesville*	740-345-4959

### Transition Assistance Advisor

Terry Dean	614-336-7349
------------	--------------

\* Denotes: – Joint Family Council Member

**If you would like to contribute to the Buckeye Family Newsletter about what's happening in your unit, please forward your submission to the editor. The next edition is scheduled for January 2008.**



- ✓ **Wild lights at the Columbus Zoo December 16<sup>th</sup> (1,400 attended last year)**
- ✓ **ML, Commanders and FRG Leader Teams - Mark your Calendars for the 2008 Annual Family Readiness Conference, 4-6 April 2008, in Columbus.**
- ✓ **Annual Reports and Volunteer Award Nominations due 1 February (reports are based on annual training year of Oct. 1, 2006 to Sept. 30, 2007).**
- ✓ **Regional Foundation Course (RFC) Letter Of Instruction was published on 29 September**
- ✓ **Please see our new regional map along with your FAC and Regional Volunteer info on our website @ [www.ong.ohio.gov/family](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/family)**

*From the*

**State Family Program Director**  
**Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Robert Bramlish**

I would like to use my block of space this quarter to speak to two different subjects, our recent Family Mobilization Briefs (FMB) for the 37th IBCT and those on the home front taking care of themselves.

First, we instituted a new FMB program over the past few months to take better care of our Soldiers and Families. We have streamlined the information packet that attendees received, producing a tool that will be one source of information during an entire deployment. Briefings are more concise and focus on the subject matter as related to a deployment. The Chaplain Corp added a new program that helps Soldiers, spouses,

parents etc. open up dialog concerning the many changes all family members go through during a deployment. Finally, we are making a FMB DVD with all the actual briefings for Soldiers and Families who might not have been able to make the actual brief.

Family Programs along with our Operation: Military Kids and 4 H partners built a new youth deployment "camp" for dependant children ages 6-17 that runs parallel with the adult FMB discussed above. The theme of this day long event is "connecting kids, team building and resilience." Most of the events focus on fun activities, creating, building and teamwork. About one hour of the program focuses on kids sharing their thoughts and questions about the upcoming deployment. For example, our younger children start with inflating a beach ball type globe. Once they tired of tossing them around the room, they use permanent markers to identify where they live on the globe, followed by where Kuwait and Iraq is located. They guess how long it takes to fly to this part of the world and then discuss ways to keep in contact with their deploying parent.

To execute this new program for the 13 FMB conducted for the 37th IBCT throughout the state, it required all our paid staff, Joint Family Readiness Council, and over 100 volunteers. I cannot speak enough on how successful our Ohio Family team progressed from identifying a need for change, imagining a new program (especially the youth camp), creating, staffing, rehearsing and then performing. All this was accomplished in about four months. Our volunteers and staff are simply amazing. If you are interested in joining our Youth Deployment Camp Team in the future, please contact Sue Ann Carroll.

Secondly, during one evening in between weekend briefs I had the pleasure of spending time with about 20 staff and volunteers during dinner. As I sat by a new friend, Philipa, she spoke of family time, taking walks with her spouse and relationships with her children. It was a great talk and stuck with me the next day as I was heading home from our last brief of the weekend. Arriving home I announced that the family was loading up in the Jeep and going to the local park to walk and play. The kids helped me prepare the snack bags (hey could have been stranded without pop tarts and juice in the wilds) and we were off in 20 minutes flat.

We hiked, laughed and played for about 30 minutes when we came to a construction site, a small bridge was being built. Like a magnet, it drew us around the caution signs (my 6 year old, Reagan, and I discussed this for a few minutes as she thought we would get in trouble) and to the bridge site. We looked around and talked about what was going on at the site when some movement caught my eye. 40 feet away three deer had walked up to the site. The lead deer stared at us, then bent down to pull a leaf and nibble. The other deer followed suite. At

first, we were all quiet and watched with amazement as the deer came even closer! Jake, my 3 year old could not resist talking us through the event with a play by play... "look at the deer eating." The deer ignored us and did not retreat. Next they went to the stream and began drinking, maybe 25 feet away. All three tried and failed to jump the creek and made great splashes. But still they did not take off. We followed them across the stream and they stayed about 30 feet in front of us. After about 7 to 8 min the deer slowly retreated into the woods. I asked Reagan to guess how many times I had been that close to deer in the wild... she threw out 15 or 16 times. "No sweet pea, this is the first time I have ever been this close to deer and been able to watch and enjoy them."

Thanks Philipa, we all need reminders and motivation once in awhile to "seize the day!" I remember this line from some Robin Williams movie I believe, nonetheless, it was a kind newcomer to our family program reminding me of my priorities. My point is how easy it is to let yourself become engrossed in a worthy cause and lose balance. So all of you out there, take note and take action... go find your special moment.

Finally, at our offices in Columbus, we are looking for some volunteers who might come in 2 to 3 times per week on a regular basis. We could use help with all our mailings and projects... so if you know someone out there who smiles, please have them contact me.

LTC Robert Bramlish

### **Coming Soon – Changes to the One Call Now Phone Message System**

The One Call Now system is an automated phone tree used for making calls to every family in your soldier's unit with the ease of one simple phone call. The system is evolving with the needs of our FRG's so look for some exciting updates coming soon! If you have questions or concerns about the One Call Now automated phone system, please call your Family Assistance Coordinator. If unavailable, feel free to call Jennifer Moore at 1-866-270-8283 for assistance.



Ohio is very excited to tell you about Connect and Join. Our own 37<sup>th</sup> IBCT is the first National Guard unit to test this new pilot program. This pilot will benefit our service members by offering a no charge subscription for 12 months for any Guard or Reservist who is deployed/deploying. We are encouraging our families to "Stay Connected" and this is a great way to do it. Visit [www.connectandjoin.com](http://www.connectandjoin.com)

One of our favorite features of this site is the on line calendar that you build as you go...lets say little Sally has a soccer game on Wednesday, you can put that on the calendar which is viewable by your service member who is deployed overseas...this will serve two purposes, it will remind them of the game so they can ask little Sally how it went or it can be a place to create a journal entry to include the score and that little Sally kicked the winning goal! ☺ It can be later used to create a scrapbook page as well! The possibilities are exciting! The bottom line is this is FREE as a pilot program for the 37<sup>th</sup> IBCT and it could be a Fun and interactive way for you to create lasting memories of your loved ones deployment. Contact your local FAC for this free number. We will keep all of you informed on the progress of this new test program.

**Interested? Questions? Call 1-888-729-9828 or email [INFO@CONNECTANDJOIN.COM](mailto:INFO@CONNECTANDJOIN.COM)**

### **Ohio Charities of the VFW sponsor's \$21,000 for Operation Pillowcase**

Operation Pillowcase, initiated by the 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing supports both Army and Air National Guard by providing free pillowcases and buttons with soldier photos on them. Recently this group supported the deploying soldiers and families of the 37<sup>th</sup> IBCT by attending all of 13 mobilization briefs conducted from August 25<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup> all over the State. Funding for this awesome project was made possible by Ohio Charities of the VFW sponser of \$21,000!

### **Region 5 FAC moves to Bowling Green**

Region 5 Family Assistance Coordinator, Cyndi Caron who as been serving you at the Walbridge Armory since October 2004 has moved to a new location. Cyndi's office has relocated to Bowling Green. Please make a note of her new address:

1241 West Newton Road  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
1-866-278-5755  
Fax # 614-336-6829

### **2007 Operation: Military Kids Camp Creates Connections Among Military Youth**

Writer: Theresa M. Ferrari  
(614) 247-8164  
[ferrari.8@osu.edu](mailto:ferrari.8@osu.edu)

Kelleys Island, OH – The 2007 Operation: Military Kids Camp was a success! The camp, now in its third year, keeps getting bigger and better. With 50 percent of the campers returning from previous years, the cabins at

Kelleys Island 4-H camp were bursting with 147 campers, their 32 camp counselors, and 17 adult staff members. The camp is designed specifically to reach out to those youth who have a family member deployed in military service. According to Dr. Theresa Ferrari, 4-H Youth Development Specialist and Project Director for Operation Military Kids, nearly all of the campers had a parent in some phase of the deployment cycle – 28% currently deployed, 20% about to deploy, and 40% returned from service. “Fortunately, we were able to accommodate all of the campers who wanted to attend,” Ferrari said.

Campers enjoyed typical camp activities such as canoeing, crafts, and campfires. Swimming in Lake Erie is also a favorite pastime. “Building connections among youth who share a similar situation is important,” said Ferrari. “That’s why we’re glad to know that ‘seeing people from last year’ and ‘meeting new friends’ are what many campers say is the best thing about attending camp.” New this year was the involvement of the U.S. Coast Guard, including a search and rescue demonstration and rides around the lake in small, swift patrol boats. “It was awesome!” campers said. In keeping with the theme of *Operation Island Adventure*, a luau at the beach on the final night of camp was another highlight.

OMK Camp rated high with parents as well. According to a mother of two campers, “Wonderful is not a big enough word to describe their enjoyment.” She continued, “This was their second year attending. Last year their father was activated and away for nearly seven months...your camp was the sole highlight of his absence....Last year I gave you a timid, shy boy, and you gave me back a happy and contented child.”

A special guest was Brigadier General Matthew Kambic, Assistant Adjutant General, Army, Ohio National Guard, who arrived in a Blackhawk helicopter that landed on the camp field. Campers were able to tour the helicopter before General Kambic headed back to Columbus. A number of adults on the camp staff were affiliated with the Ohio National Guard and others had military connections. “We couldn’t ask for a better partner than the Ohio National Guard. We’re all in it for the kids,” said Ferrari. Guard soldiers provided instruction in flag ceremonies and compass and land navigation, and the older campers had the opportunity to use night vision goggles. An all-camp activity was a session of physical training activities similar to what military service members experience – sit ups, push ups, and a run (or walk) around the field.

Critical to the success of camp are the counselors. OMK camp counselors were recruited from around the state from the ranks of experienced 4-H camp counselors, Collegiate 4-H members, and 4-H alumni. As noted by a parent, “The young adults that you placed in charge of

the cabins were also amazing. Their service to our children is immeasurable.” This year three former campers served as camp counselors. “They’ve had the experience of having a parent being away from home, and they understand what campers are facing,” said Sue Ann Carroll, State Youth Coordinator for the Ohio National Guard. “We really hope to grow this aspect of the program even more next year.”

In addition to the Ohio 4-H Foundation, major sponsors for this year’s camp include AT&T Pioneers Ohio Life Member Council, USO of Central Ohio, various American Legion and VFW Posts. Other donations come from community organizations, private individuals, and businesses, including the Leland Foundation, Marine Corps Family Support Community, Military Officer’s Club of Central Ohio, and OSU ROTC Alumni. Additional support is provided by through an Operation: Military Kids grant.

Finally, parents expressed a heart-felt thanks to all involved. “I truly believe your camp has lessened the burden tremendously. Please express my gratitude and appreciation to all those that support this project.”

Operation: Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child and Youth Services, USDA National 4-H Headquarters, and Ohio State University 4-H Youth Development. Operation: Military Kids— Ohio is funded by the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project # 2003-48558-01723.



Nine-year-olds Matt Carroll, Chillicothe, and Bryce Johnson, Pickerington, were first-time campers at this year’s Operation: Military Kids Camp at Kelleys Island. Making new friends is what campers say they like best about attending this camp designed for youth whose parents are deployed in military service.

## **1 Day Regional Youth Camps**

Beginning in March 2008 the first of 6 regional youth camps will be scheduled. These one Day youth camps focus on leadership, character, critical thinking, and fun with the specific theme of being part of a military family. Look for dates and registration information to follow.

## **PREP – Marriage Enrichment**

We are currently scheduling PREP weekends for February through June, 2008. Stay tuned for more information!