















www.Hood.ArmyMWR.com

Fort Hood Chief of Child and Youth Services



Welcome to the Winter/Spring edition of the CYS Sensations!

Have you heard the news? CYS has moved! We are so excited about our new location at Bldg. 36000 Darnall Loop (the old hospital) and hope you will come check it out. In addition to the CYS administrative offices, Parent Central Services, SKIESUnlimited, Family Child Care, Kids on Site, the CYS School Liaison Office and the CYS Food Program

have also moved to Bldg. 36000. This new consolidated location will allow us to better serve you, our valued patrons, and offer you the convenience of many services under one roof.

As Army Families, we are accustomed to moves and the exciting opportunities a new environment can offer. We spent much time planning for your needs as we coordinated this effort. We wanted to bring you a welcoming space that would allow you convenient access to many of the services and programs available to children and youth through CYS. We know you lead very busy lives, as military Families, and we value your time and patronage. We are excited that all of these services will now be in one spot for you. Need to complete annual registration? Have questions about your child's education? Interested in becoming a Family Child Care Provider? Want to enroll your child in SKIES instructional programming? Have questions about your infant's nutrition and feeding plan? Need to schedule Kids on Site child care for your next unit function? Need assistance with accommodations for your child while in care? Interested in becoming a SKIES instructor? All of these CYS services are available to at Bldg. 36000, and many more!

So what can you expect when you visit us at our new location? We are conveniently located in Bldg. 360000 inside the main entrance on the first floor, first door on the left, just past the new coffee bar. A new numbering system allows you to pull a number and have a seat... no lines! Our friendly Parent Central Services staff are ready and eager to assist you will all of your CYS registration and enrollment needs. You will also find a large and easy to read map to assist you in locating the other CYS services, such as the CYS School Liaison Officers or the CYS Nurse. In and out processing has never been easier, with a designated clerk just for you. You will also find the SKIES team just off the waiting area of Parent Central Services, ready to help you find some amazing classes for your child.

We are so honored to serve your Family and we treasure your children and youth. Come see us soon!

Sincerely, Sheila R. Curtis Chief, Child & Youth Services (CYS)



CYS SENSATIONS MAGAZINE VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 1 • 2019

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Do you have questions about how inclement weather may affect Child & Youth Services openings? Due to the unpredictable nature of Texas weather, we encourage you to become familiar with the CYS inclement weather plan and how it might affect you and child care arrangements.

Like us on Facebook for the most up to date information on CYS programs, locations and hours. https://www.facebook.com/HoodCys

Download the CYS Inclement Weather Grid for all scenarios affecting CYS program closures based on inclement weather. http://www.hoodmwr.com/cyss/Inclement%20weather%20 grid%2020121108.pdf

Please remember to check the sites regularly for any updates.

Fort Hood Child and Youth Services



The Child & Youth Services (CYS) School Liaison Officer (SLO) works to assist and connect commanders, educators and parents with area educational needs and information. The CYS SLO, as the subject matter expert and conduit between the school community and the installation, informs Garrison leadership on matters relating to schools, youth education, school support services and school board attendance. They inform school administration and staff about Garrison support programs, partners in education opportunities, military lifestyle, Army policies, military structure, resources, and the impact of deployment and relocation on students. The CYS SLOs communicate information so that parents are aware of new programs and initiatives at the schools. They encourage parents to be involved and engaged in their student's education. The CYS SLOs collaborate with nine area Independent School Districts (ISD) to build positive relationships and address issues that impact Army students. These districts include: Belton, Copperas Cove, Florence, Gatesville, Jarrell, Killeen, Lampasas, Salado, and Temple ISDs. They also facilitate training for parents, schools, and Garrisons, fostering reciprocal transition practices among school districts. This increases school transition predictability for Army Families and allows for more stability.

Spring Break is quickly approaching and testing season is also coming. There are several websites that students can use to practice academic skills so they are ready when the State of Texas Assessment for Academic Readiness (STAAR) is given. The Texas Education Agency has a link to connect students to test information and practice test sites: https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar. This page includes links to assessments for reading and mathematics, grades 3-8; writing grades 4 and 7; science grades 5 and 8; social studies grade 8; and end-of-course (EOC) assessments for English I, English II, algebra I, biology and U.S. history. This gives students and parents the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the test format and sample questions. There is a tab for Released Tests to allow students to practice taking the test and the answers are supplied to check on skill level.

Tutor.com is a very helpful website that can assist students with support in several academic areas as well as taking practice tests over the ACT or SAT. Tutor.com is a resource that has given support to military connected students for many years. The tutors assist grade levels kindergarten through college with any subject area twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. The program can also review a course paper to help with corrections and will allow the user to scan in homework. Parents can also check in to look over any communications between the tutor and their student to ensure security. Sign up for FREE! Academic Tutoring at www.tutor.com/military

Spring is also the time for ACT and SAT testing to take place. Registration for these tests is ongoing during the year. The next registration deadline for SAT is 08 Feb 2019 for the 09 March 2019 test. The next ACT registration deadline is 04 January 2019 for the 09 February 2019 test administration. If you want more information regarding the dates, please call the CYS SLO office (254) 288-7946 or email the address at the end of this information.

We are here to assist with transition needs, but more importantly, to assist with your military student's academic success. Enjoy the Spring Break and go back to school with more knowledge and a lower level of test anxiety.

For more information please call or visit you CYS SLOs!
Bldg 36000, Darnall Loop, Room 151, 153 or 160, Fort Hood, TX.
Phone: 254-288-7946 / usarmy.hood.imcom-fmwrc.list.cyss-slo@mail.mil
Office hours are Monday thru Friday 0730-1630 to include training holidays – closed on Federal holidays.

JAN-APR 2019

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The information in this issue, is current at time of publication. Activities and events are subject to change. For confirmation, please call the activity.

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Child and Youth Services Sensations is the unofficial seasonal magazine of Child and Youth Services activities for Fort Hood. Contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Fort Hood Command. All programs and activities listed in this magazine shall be made available for use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical/mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the user or patron.

Winter/Spring 2019 • Child & Youth Services



Child & Youth Services



TOTAL ARMY STRONG

The strength of the Nation is built on the readiness and resilience of every member of the premier all-volunteer Total Army - every Soldier, civilian and Family member.

We will uphold the Army's responsibility

to provide benefits and high-quality services that are components of a professional force dedicated to the Army for the long term.









The Army remains steadfast in its commitment to:

- Maintain the trust between Leaders and their Soldiers, Families and civilians
- Foster an environment that promotes adaptability and self reliance
- Promote physical, emotional, social, Family and spiritual strengths
- ★ Honor the service and sacrifices of those who serve our Nation



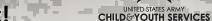
General, United States Army Chief of Staff







CYS Deployment Benefits



Don't miss out. Check it out!

In order to be eligible for CYS Deployment Support Services, one of the below eligibility criteria must be indicated in either official orders or a letter from the Commander. TDY, TCS and PCS statuses must align with one of the five (5) eligibility criteria. Length of deployment must also be indicated on orders or Commander letter, if applicable.

CRITERIA 1: DEPLOYED CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

* 180 days or longer:

- Mandatory Deployment Briefing Hourly Care Free Hourly Care or Kids On Site (KOS) Care during mandatory deployment briefings
- Respite Hourly Care #1 16 hours of Free Hourly Respite Child Care (per child per month), (starting 30 days before deployment and ending 90 days after return from deployment)
- Fee Reduction 20% reduction to fees for regularly scheduled Full-Day or Part Day Care, (starting 30 days prior to deployment and ending 90 days after return from deployment)

* 90 - 179 days:

- Mandatory Deployment Briefing Hourly Care Free Hourly Care or Kids On Site (KOS) Care during mandatory deployment briefings
- Respite Hourly Care #2 16 hours of Free Hourly Respite Child Care (per child per month), — (starting 30 days before deployment and ending 30 days after return from deployment)
- Fee Reduction 20% reduction to fees for regularly scheduled Full-Day or Part Day Care, (starting 30 days prior to deployment and ending 90 days after return from deployment)

* 89 days or less:

- Mandatory Deployment Briefing Hourly Care Free Hourly Care or Kids On Site (KOS) Care during mandatory deployment briefings
- Respite Hourly Care #3 16 hours of Free Hourly Respite Child Care (per child per month), (valid during the time of deployment only)
 - This level of support is also provided to Soldiers while assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit.
- Fee Reduction 20% reduction to fees for regularly scheduled Full-Day or Part Day Care, (starting 30 days prior to deployment and ending 90 days after return from deployment)

CRITERIA 2: ASSIGNED TO A WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT (WTU)

- Respite Hourly Care #3 16 hours of Free Hourly Respite Child Care (per child per month), (valid during the time of assignment only)
- Support Group Hourly Care Free Hourly Care while assigned to a WTU
- Medical Appointment Hourly Care Free Hourly Care for medical appointments while assigned to a WTU
- Fee Reduction 20% reduction to fees for regularly scheduled Full-Day or Part Day Care, (valid during the time of assignment only)

CRITERIA 3: DEPLOYED ROTATIONAL FORCES

- Mandatory Deployment Briefing Hourly Care Free Hourly Care or Kids On Site (KOS) Care during mandatory deployment briefings
- Respite Hourly Care #2 16 hours of Free Hourly Respite Child Care (per child per month)
 (starting 30 days before deployment and ending 30 days after return from deployment)

CRITERIA 4: DEPLOYED NON-CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

* 180 days or longer:

- Mandatory Deployment Briefing Hourly Care Free Hourly Care or Kids On Site (KOS) care during mandatory deployment briefings
- Respite Hourly Care #2 16 hours of Free Hourly Respite Child Care (per child per month), (starting 30 days before deployment and ending 30 days after return from deployment)

* 90 - 179 days:

- Mandatory Deployment Briefing Hourly Care Free Hourly Care or Kids On Site (KOS) Care during mandatory deployment briefings
- Respite Hourly Care #3 16 hours of Free Hourly Respite Child Care (per child per month), (valid during the time of deployment only)

CRITERIA 5: SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS)

- * See SOS Representative for details
- Memorial Hourly Care Free on-post hourly care for all attendees of a memorial service for a Fallen Soldier
- Bereavement Hourly Care 40 free child care hours per child for immediate family of deceased (valid from notification until 4 weeks after burial)
- * For further details, please contact Parent Central Services at 254-287-8029.

Child and Youth Services (CYS) exists to serve Families. To access CYS, Families must first register with CYS.

REGISTRATION

Parent Central Services

Bldg 36000 Darnall Loop. 254-287-8029

Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am-3:30 pm, with appointments only on Fridays. For your added convenience, Parent Central Services is also open Wednesdays until 5:30 pm (year round) and one Saturday in August from 9 am - 12 pm for registration appointments, payments, enrollments, assistance requesting child care and updating waitlist information through MilitaryChildCare.com and other registration/enrollment related services.

Eligibility

Patrons eligible for CYS include Active Duty Military, DoD Civilians paid from both appropriated funds (APF) and non-appropriated funds (NAF), Reservists on Active Duty or during inactive duty personnel training, active duty combat-related wounded warriors, surviving spouses of military members who died from a combat-related incident, those acting in loco parentis for the dependent child of an otherwise eligible patron, eligible employees of DoD contractors, and others on a space-available basis. In the case of unmarried, legally separated parents with joint custody, children are eligible for child care only when they reside with the military service member or eligible civilian sponsor at least 25 percent of the time in a month that a child receives child care through an Army program.

Note: In an in loco parentis relationship, a person takes on the role of a lawful parent by assuming the obligations and discharging the duties of a parent without formally becoming an adoptive parent or legal guardian. The child(ren) must reside with and be supported by the person. A special power of attorney to act in loco parentis is required to be on file.

Requirements for Registration

Children In Grade 5 And Younger:

- 1. Military/Civilian ID Card
- Current shot record (must be up-to-date at the time of registration; not required for children in School Age Care if enrolled in a public school)
- Health assessment (30 day grace period is given to those registering with Fort Hood CYS for the first time; a sports physical is required for all children prior to participating in Youth Sports & Fitness activities)
- Two local emergency release designees

Complete the following forms:

- 1. DD Form 2652 Application for DoD Child Care Fees (current household income verification will be required in order to determine the Fee Category for full time care, part time care, before/after school care, and camps.)
- 2. Health Screening Tool
- Medical Action Plans and/or Special Diet Statement, if applicable

Youth 6th grade and older:

- 1. Military/Civilian ID Card
- 2. Teen Registration Packet

Special Needs Accommodation Process (SNAP) / Multidisciplinary Inclusion Action Team (MIAT):

Children/youth that require an accommodation while in care may require a SNAP/MIAT review; All Medical Action Plan forms and Special Diet Statements must be completed by a health care provider and are available for download at hood.armymwr.com. The SNAP/MIAT process requires approximately 14 business days for processing. Patrons seeking to complete an annual registration renewal are urged to turn in the required medical forms at least three weeks in advance to Parent Central Services.

CYS Online

https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/hoodcyms.html
Make payments for full day/part-day care
Enroll in and pay for SKIES*Unlimited*, and Youth Sports
Make reservations for hourly care

View and print childcare statements, receipts, and tax statements

View and print documents required for SKIES*Unlimited* and Youth Sports

Update Household Information

Upload the following documents:

- Respiratory, Allergy, Seizure, and Diabetes Medical Action Plans (MAPs) Special Diet Statement
 - Health Assessment/Sports Physical /Sports Physical
 - · Shot Record
- Doctors note (Immunizations and Health Assessment/ Sports Physical s only)



SLS

CYS School Liaison Services

Child & Youth Services School Liaison Officers (SLOs) work with, and help support, nine surrounding school districts in the Fort Hood area. These include Belton, Copperas Cove, Florence, Gatesville, Jarrell, Killeen, Lampasas, Salado, and Temple. The CYS SLO office is located in Bldg. 36000 and is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-4:30 pm. Call 254-288-7946 to speak with a CYS School Liaison Officer. Study resources are available for children of active-duty Soldiers at no cost to the Family. For tutoring please visit www.tutor.com/military.

Are you concerned about your child's education and ensuring a smooth transition for each PCS? Then Go to the SLOs!

Your Fort Hood CYS SLOs are where you go for school transition and education support assistance. The CYS SLOs are the Army's designated "point person," responsible for serving as the liaison between Families, local school districts and various other community partners in education to promote quality education and academic support for military children and youth. They provide information on the educational process and assist parents in maneuvering through the school system. While CYS SLOs are not advocates, they are here to inform and link military Families to the individual, group, or other resource that can hopefully address and resolve the issue. They also provide necessary tools to empower parents to be advocates for their children's education.



Please call your CYS SLOs at 254-288-7946, or email at

usarmy.hood.imcom-fmwrc.list.cyss-slo@mail.mil or you may Go to the SLOs in person at

Bldg. 36000 Darnall Loop





SKIES *Unlimited*

The School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills. SKIES *Unlimited* is the framework for the Army's Child & Youth Services (CYS) instructional programming. It consists of classes designed to complement & support the experiences children & youth have in Army CYS and in schools. Instructional programs teach children discipline, problem solving, decision making, conflict resolution, game rules and social etiquette as well as subject matter content. Students will increase their Knowledge, be Inspired, Explore new activities and acquire new Skills. For more information please call 254-287-4592.

SKIES *Unlimited*

- Teaching Excellence!





Child Development SERVICES (CDS)

Child Development Centers (CDC)

Offer full-day, part-time before/after care for children enrolled in pre-kindergarten in on-post elementary schools, and hourly care programs for children 6 weeks – pre-kindergarten age. A developmentally appropriate curriculum for young children is planned by the teaching staff with attention to the different needs, interests, and developmental levels of each child.

Hourly Care Services are available at Meadows and Montague Child Development Centers. Hourly care is short-term child care, no more than 20 hours per week, for children whose parents have a medical/dental appointment, volunteer commitment, or just need some respite time. Reservations may be made up to 30 days in advance.

The **Part-Time Preschool** program normally follows the Killeen Independent School District school year calendar.

All CDCs offer trained teaching staff, balanced meals, age-appropriate developmental activities and all eligible CDCs are nationally accredited.

- Clear Creek Child Development Center
 Before/After for pre-kindergarten children
 attending Clarke, Clear Creek and Oveta Culp
 Hobby Elementary, full-day care
 Bldg 41015, Clear Creek Road
 254-553-9443
- Comanche Child Development Center
 Before/After for pre-kindergarten children, fullday care
 Bldg 52024, Tank Destroyer Boulevard
 254-287-4848
 Tentative re-opening scheduled for Spring 2019
- Fort Hood Child Development Center
 Before/After for pre-kindergarten children,
 attending Venable Village Elementary, full-day care
 Bldg 113, TJ Mills Boulevard
 254-287-8771

- Fort Hood Child Development Center Annex
 Hourly care for Soldier and Family Assistance
 Center patrons and full-day care
 Bldg 36084, Darnall Loop
 254-553-9556
- Meadows Child Development Center
 Before/After for pre-kindergarten children
 attending Meadows Elementary, full-day care,
 hourly care
 Bldg 333, Tank Destroyer Boulevard
 254-553-8353
- Montague Child Development Center Before/After for pre-kindergarten children attending Montague Village Elementary, full-day care and hourly care Bldg 70004, Clement Drive 254-287-8835



Family Child Care (FCC)

The Family Child Care program is a professionally managed network of adult individuals certified to provide child care in on-post government quarters for children 4 weeks to 12 years of age and provide programs such as extended hours [for parents who must go on temporary duty (TDY) or field assignments] or special needs care. FCC homes may also offer hourly care services, part-day care, or before and after school care. FCC providers are certified after meeting basic regulatory requirements and their homes are regularly monitored by FCC staff and inspected for fire, health and safety compliance. In addition, FCC providers work to obtain National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation using the same level of standards as CDCs and are encouraged to participate in special activities. Contact the Family Child Care Administrative Office in Bldg 36000, Darnall Loop 254-553-4620.

Kids On-Site (KOS)

Provides on-site child care for children 6 weeks to 12 years in approved on post facilities. Call us to make arrangements for your next Family Readiness Group meeting, social event, retreat or other gathering: 254-287-7273.

YOUTH & SCHOOL AGE CARE

School Age Care (SAC)

The SAC program offers before and/or after school care for youths in grades K-5 that attend school on Fort Hood. Full day programs are offered during school-out days, but all sites are closed on Federal Holidays. Hourly care is also offered for grades K-5. Students are afforded the opportunity to engage in many activities and programs like 4-H, student elections, and more. Programs offer opportunities for children to engage in technology, arts & crafts, digital arts festivals, building blocks, robotics, field trips, and more! All activities and events are age-appropriate.

Youth Centers

The youth centers are open to all Middle and High School teens. Services are available at Bronco Youth Center, High Chaparral Youth Center, Montague Youth Center, and Comanche Youth Center. Youth Centers are open Monday-Friday after school to 8 pm, 12-8pm when school is out and Saturday 12-8 pm but all sites are closed on Federal Holidays. Teen programs include activities, events, and projects that are age appropriate. Each center offers a computer lab, leadership opportunities, special interests clubs, Teen Sponsorship, Educational Assistance, fitness/workout areas and many fun trips youth are eligible to sign-up for. Need a ride to the youth center? Look no further. Students enrolled in Killeen ISD or Copperas Cove ISD have the advantage of riding the CYS "TEEN TAXI" which is an afterschool pick-up service that will transport youth to designated Fort Hood Youth Centers.

Youth Sports and Fitness

Bring out the athlete in you with Youth Sport and Fitness! Team and individual sports programs, along with special camps and clinics, are offered year round for youth ages 3-18 years. All Sports programs are recreational based, focusing on teaching youth the fundamentals of various sports in a fun environment! All activities and events are open to the beginner athletes as well as the most seasoned player so there is something for everyone. Come out and be part of a great team with Youth Sports and Fitness!



U.S. ARMY WY

(All area code 254)

3d ACR Museum

Army Substance Abuse Program	Blag	<u>wap</u>	<u>Pnone</u>
ASAP Control Office	36045	33	287-2892
Employee Assistant Program	36045	33	287-6702
Sexual Assault Prevention & Response	2242	34	288-4931
Travel / Museums			
Leisure Travel Services	136	43	287-7310
1st Cav Museum	2218	47	287-3626

419 64

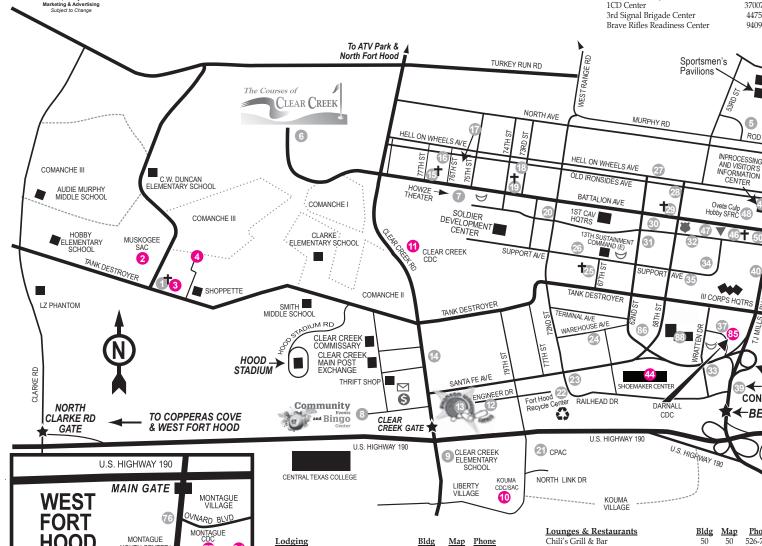
288-3590

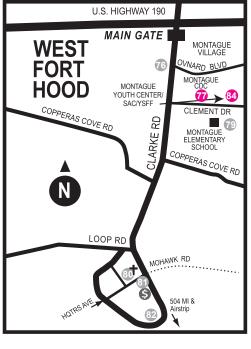
Chapels	Bldg	Map	Phone
Comanche Chapel	52024	1	288-6556
Iron Horse Chapel	37012	15	288-7607
1 Cav Memorial Chapel	31001	19	287-0469
OIF Chapel	24008	29	287-4034
Spiritual Fitness Center	12013	56	553-1195
19 Street Chapel	9406	70	288-7494
13th SC(E) Chapel	39010	25	287-1391
Historical Old Post Chapel	53	46	288-6545
West Fort Hood Chapel	91074	80	288-9442
Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel	320	83	288-6545

Child Development Centers 36000 41013 Child Development Services, Admin Clear Creek CDC Comanche CDC 5202 Fort Hood CDC Annex 3606 Fort Hood CDC 113 Meadows CDC 333 Montague CDC Kouma CDC/SAC 70004 4830 Family Readiness Centers 1800

Oveta Culp Hobby SFRC
Soldier & Family Assistance Center
1CD Center
3rd Signal Brigade Center

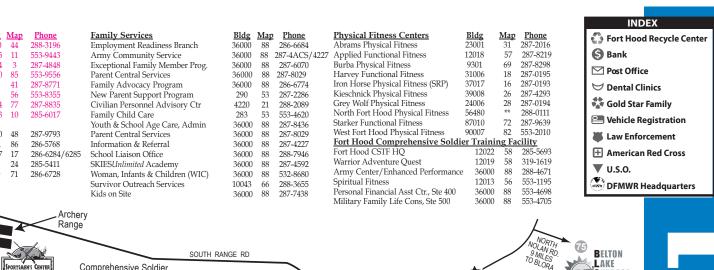
3605





Lodging	Bldg	Map	Phone
Holiday Inn IHG Army Express			· <u></u>
Keith Ware Hall Reservations Desk	36006	37	532-8233
Poxon Guest House	111	40	532-8233
Candlewood Suites Fort Hood	144	45	532-8233
Information / Assistance Programs			
Relocation Assistance Program	36000	88	287-4471
Volunteer Services	16005	52	287-8657
Abuse Hotline	36000	88	287-2273
Army Community Service	36000	88	287-4227
Army Emergency Relief	36000	88	288-6330
Army Family Team Building (AFTB)	16005	52	286-6600
Consumer Affairs	36000	88	287-2489
Financial Readiness Program	36000	88	288-2862
Food Program	36000	88	288-6868
Loan Closet	36000	88	287-4471
Mobilization & Deployment	16005	52	288-2794
Visitor's Control Center	69012	39	287-9909
Inprocessing	18010	49	287-3832
Client Services (Legal Assistance)	4617	23	287-7901/3199
Library Services			
Casey Memorial Library Circulation Desk	3202	20	287-4921
Library Overdue Section	3202	20	287-4878
Library Reference Section	3202	20	287-5202

Lounges & Restaurants	Bldg	Map	Ph
Chili's Grill & Bar	50	50	526
Java Café	123	38	553
Legends Pub	5782	63	532
Club Hood	5764	63	287
Phantom Warrior Center	194	54	287
Backbone NCO Lounge	194	54	532
Courses of Clear Creek Snack Bar	52381	6	287
Sportsmen's Center	1937	5	532
Strike Zone/Phantom Warrior Lanes	49010	13	287
Outdoor Recreation			
Belton Lake Outdoor Rec Area (BLORA)	NAF 126	75	287
BLORA Boat Dock	2120	75	287
BLORA Reservation Office	NAF 126	75	287
BLORA Sierra Beach	20140	75	287
Courses of Clear Creek	52381	6	287
Recreation Equipment Checkout	4930	14	287
Hunt & Saddle Club	1937	5	532
Hunt Control Office	1937	5	287
Sportsmen's Center	1937	5	532
Skeet Range	1937	5	532
West Fort Hood Travel Camp	70013	76	288
Bronco Youth Skate Park	6602	60	288
Comamche Youth Skate Park	52019	4	287
ATV Park	Area 111		532







Child & Youth _







Fort Hood Celebrates

MONTH OF THE MINISTER CHIEF CH

Military Kids are awesome! That's why military installations around the world will hold special events and festivals to honor and celebrate the strength of our military children this April. In 1986 Casper Weinberger, then Defense Secretary, declared April the Month of the Military Child to recognize the sacrifices our military children make on a daily basis in support of their Soldiers. Military children accompany their parents on many of their duty assignments to unique and exciting places. They may go to faraway lands like Japan or Germany, to warm tropical beaches in Hawaii, or to experience the majestic beauty of the Alaskan frontier. Wherever their new adventure takes them, they will also experience starting a new school, making new friends, and learning new cultures. The opportunity to experience these wonderful adventures also comes with many challenges. Children of Soldiers grow up in a world where separation from a parent may be their norm, yet they show remarkable resiliency in the face of such difficulties. They learn independence and responsibility and draw strength from siblings and friends. As they learn to reach out to others in the military community, they become unique individuals with a wealth of experiences and knowledge that comes from this Army strong foundation.

These Children support their Soldiers and

cheer them on, standing behind them as they defend our nation. The Month of the Military Child shines the spotlight on these brave sons and daughters of our nation's heroes.

In addition to honoring or military children, April is also Child Abuse Prevention Month, which raises awareness of the importance of recognizing and reporting child abuse, and Earth Day, which raises awareness of environmental issues. In honor of each of these April events, Child & Youth Services (CYS) will be partnering with Fort Hood Family Housing, Department of Public Works (DPW) Environmental, Army Community Service (ACS) and the United Service Organizations (USO) to provide an amazing festival to Fort Hood Families again this year!

Fort Hood will host the annual Month of the Military Child/Earth Fest at Bronco Youth Center on April 5th from 5:00-8:00 pm. The festival will have bounce houses, face painting, arts & crafts, environmental presentations, live entertainment, a Teen Zone and much more!

Throughout the month of April, CYS and ACS programs will be hosting a number of fun activities and events to let military children know how much they are appreciated! Visit any CYS facility for details or visit our website at http://www.hoodmwr.com. For more information, please call Child & Youth Services at 254-287-4592.