

DDSP Children Support Deployed Troops

Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA's (DDSP) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) has been conducting brief activity sessions with the children at the DDSP Child and Youth Development Services. The focus of these sessions is having loved ones in the military.

FAP Assistant Kathleen Rauhauser visited the older children at the Child Development Center and School Age Services in January. The children heard a story about two brothers who had to move in with their grandparents when their father was being deployed. The story discusses the boys' concerns and how they adjusted positively to the change. This was especially relevant to those children who have parents or family friends who have been deployed.



FAP Assistant Kathleen Rauhauser collected children's artwork such those displayed in the background and gave them to members of the 315th RGMT, 2nd BN (TS)(FA) who passed them on to deployed Pennsylvania Guardsmen. Left to right: SSG John F. Brunette, SGM Gordon P. Knize, Kathleen Rauhauser, and SFC William M. Bethea.

The topic was revisited in February, when the children were given an opportunity to color pictures, make drawings, and send their greetings to Pennsylvania National Guard troops currently serving in Iraq, giving the children an opportunity to express their feelings for the deployed troops.

Nine-year-old Chelsea wrote, "Please come back safely. We support you 100%."

Rauhauser collected the children's artwork and gave it to SGM Gordon Knize, USA, who will send it to deployed members of the 1/107th Field artillery of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. SGM Knize is with the Army's 2nd Battalion, Training Support, Field Artillery, 315th Regiment located on DDSP's New Cumberland installation. SGM Knize has been training Pennsylvania National Guard troops being sent to Iraq.

