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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

To: Superintendents, Principals and School Counselors

From: Michael P. Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Date: November 28, 2006

Subject: Supporting the Children of Guard and Reserve Institute Training

The Michigan Department of Education is supporting Operation Military Kids Michigan. This is a collaborative effort among Michigan State University Extension's 4-H Program, the Michigan National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA and the American Legion **to help educators recognize and deal with issues and problems facing children of deployed servicemen and women.** The Military Child Education Coalition will conduct a two-day session at the Holiday Inn Livonia West, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia on March 8-9, 2007. The registration form is attached.

I encourage you to send a representative from the district school social worker, guidance or counseling staff as well as a school nurse to this unique training opportunity. The Department of the Army Community and Family Service Center funds the Institute. There is no cost to participants for training, but districts will be responsible for lodging and meals.

Brigadier General (Retired) Keith Martin, the project manager, said "Michigan Guard and Reserve servicemen and women are deployed in large numbers, serving alongside their Active Component comrades in the Global War on Terror and in disaster relief efforts here at home. These extended call-ups leave "suddenly military" children on the home front; often in communities and schools far from support networks of major military installations. Martin added, "We greatly appreciate the assistance of the Michigan Department of Education, National Guard and the entire Operation Military Kids team in making this training possible. The citizens of Michigan can be very proud of their leaders' commitment to doing everything possible to support the children of deployed servicemen and women."

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