When National Guard, Reserve and other military personnel living in civilian communities are deployed, their children’s lives are suddenly different. Everything is turned upside down! They are now “military kids,” but they still look the same to teachers, friends and the rest of the community.

Tennessee is joining with a national movement called Operation: Military Kids (OMK). OMK is a partnership of Army, USDA and 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs, schools and other community organizations. The mission of OMK is to reach out to “suddenly military” families, especially children whose parents are deployed with the National Guard or Reserve.

We will kick off Tennessee’s OMK initiative at State 4-H Congress by collecting disposable cameras for military families.

When Soldiers are overseas for months or even years at a time, they miss many important events at home—birthdays, graduations, weddings, the baby’s first steps. Cameras will help military families capture those moments on film to share with their loved ones.

Turn in your collected cameras during Congress registration on Sunday, March 20. Watch for signs to direct you to the “service station.”

You will also have the opportunity at Congress to write letters to the families to encourage them and thank them for their sacrifices.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.