

FEATURE

Celebrating the military child

April is the Month of the Military Child and the base kicks off the observance with a festival of activities

Stories and photos by Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith
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The sun came out Saturday, and so did more than 900 children and parents, to take part in the Month of the Military Child Festival.

The event, which was planned by the Family Members Support Flight and took place on the soccer field behind the base youth center kicks off a monthly celebration which places emphasis on the military child.

"We believe this was the biggest fair to date, which is great," said Denise John, Youth Activities Coordinator. "This event brings children and their families together for a fun-filled day of activities."

The free festival featured a variety of events for children of all ages. There were pony rides, a miniature carousel and potato sack races. Children were also given the opportunity to show their creativity at the paint and craft tables.

"I thought it was great because there were so many things for children of all ages to do," said Tamara Moody, who attended with her son, Matthew. "This is the first year I've been to the festival and I intend to come back next year."

Volunteers from throughout the base community pitched in to paint faces and hand out information. Prizes were provided by the Army Air Force Exchange Service.

"A lot of hard work went into the event," said Kristina Rose, CDC point of contact for the event. "There were 20 volunteers who spent many hours setting up and preparing for the festival. All of it paid off though because the event was a huge success."

For new military members and their families, the festival had a positive effect and gave them a good idea about what the military will do for them.

"It was a nice event," said Cerrita Anderson, who brought her 4-year-old daughter, Jasmine. "My family is new to military life and to me this says that they take good care of families."



Marcus Dugger, 4, takes his turn on the pony ride at the Month of the Military Child Festival Saturday. Marcus is the son of Senior Airman Yon Dugger, Det. 3, Headquarters Air Force Security Forces, and his wife, Jennifer.



Jasmine Anderson, 4, sits still long enough to have a rainbow painted on her face. She's the daughter of Airman 1st Class Travis Anderson, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and his wife, Cerrita.



Matthew Moody, 18 months, plays in the bubbles during Saturday's festival. He's the son of Senior Master Sgt. James Moody, 437th Operations Group, and his wife, Tamara.



Maddie Spencer, 6, daughter of Staff Sgt. Heather Spencer, 1st Combat Camera Squadron, hops her way to the finish line during a potato sack race.

