

FORT LEE Army Community Service

Karen McComas - Director

Caring for Military Children

Soldier and Parent

When Specialist Jones returned home after 12 months in Iraq, a new set of children awaited her.

Her son, John, 9, who had moved in with his grandmother, switching towns and schools, was angry and depressed. His grades had plummeted and his weight had ballooned by 60 pounds. Her 4-year-old daughter, Donna, scarcely knew her. And in Specialist Jones's absence, new rules had taken hold - chocolate syrup on waffles, Mountain Dew with dinner. Any hint of a return to the old order met with tirades and tantrums.

Specialist Jones, a single mother, had changed profoundly, too. The violence of war had staked a claim on her patience, her tenderness and her resilience. She snapped at her children routinely, at times harshly.



Army Community Service - "Putting Soldiers and Families First!"



FORT LEE Army Community Service

Caring for Military Children

- Overview
- Military Parent – Meeting their child care needs
 - * Extended work schedules
 - * 24/7 Child care needs
 - * Flexibility for emergencies



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FORT LEE Army Community Service

Caring for Military Children

- Military Children's Needs
 - * Emotional
 - * Caregivers understanding the military environment



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FORT LEE Army Community Service

Karen J. McComas

Director,

Fort Lee Army Community Service (ACS)

- 24 years assisting Soldiers and their Families with ACS services and childcare
- Served in Europe and throughout the United States
- A retired military spouse



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