

Free Program Helps Youths DEFY drugs

In a time when many of our military members are forward deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, young Navy / Marine Corps family members are feeling the stress of having one or both parents placing themselves in harm's way. That stress can be one contributing factor in a youth's decision to experiment with illegal drugs or alcohol.

The Navy's Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) works to reduce the negative impact of that stress. DEFY strengthens youth by providing them with the resistance and life skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and crime.

Anyone interested in initiating the DEFY program on their base should contact the program office at (202) 433-3113 to learn how to get started.

The yearlong program is free and includes a one-week summer leadership camp followed by a year of mentorship. Both phases combine education on health, physical fitness, citizenship and life skills.

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