Since many Reserve and National Guard families are 'undercover' in communities, it is difficult to reach families when a member/family is undergoing the deployment cycle. Resources that are readily available to active service personnel who live on or near a military base may be unknown to families in geographically dispersed areas. 4-H is recognized by the Department of Defense as the collaborator with the most experience and effective methods of reaching geographically dispersed families and youth.

This past summer, UCONN 4-H supported several Connecticut National Guard (CTNG) Youth Programs with STEM activities. In July we brought small robots called "Ozobots" to a summer youth program taking place at the National Guard facility in Windsor Locks, CT. Participating elementary and middle school-aged children learned how to code a path for the Ozobot to follow, as well as make moves like turning, spinning, and going backwards. Here you can see the path Szariah created for her Ozobot.

In August, UCONN 4-H supported another CTNG Youth Program at the National Guard Armory in South- ington, CT. This time we taught participants how to create a stop motion animation video using lots of fun props and software loaded onto our iPads. On the right you can see Brendan and Austin filming their awesome dinosaur movie.

Also in August, UCONN 4-H supported the annual CTNG Back to School Bash at the Hartford Armory with information about 4-H clubs throughout the state that military youth can join.