

Celebrating Month of the Military Child



SLP
Global *Connect*

EDUCATE * CONNECT * ELEVATE



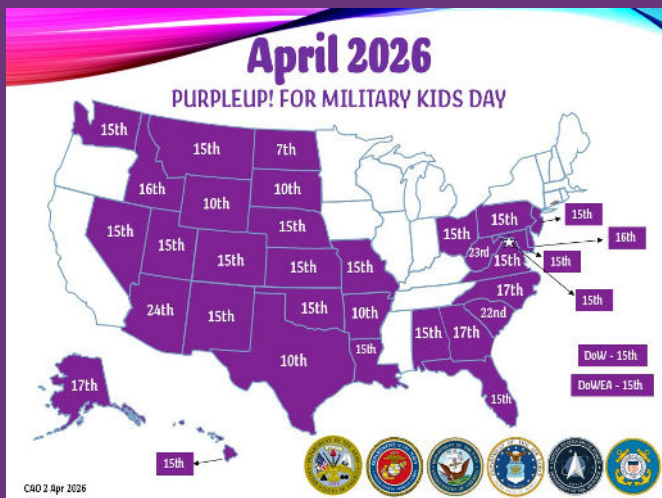
Every April, communities across the nation honor the resilience, adaptability, and strength of military-connected children and youth during Month of the Military Child. Military-connected students frequently navigate relocations, new schools, and time apart from loved ones while continuing their education wherever the mission takes their families. Military children and youth bring unique perspectives and strengths to every school community.

The DAF School Liaison Program serves as the installation's PreK–12 education subject matter expert, enabling commanders to reduce education-related disruptions that impact mission focus. Through robust partnerships among installations, schools, communities and families, we continue to educate, connect, and elevate opportunities for military-connected students everywhere.

This month and every month we celebrate the incredible contributions and resilience of military-connected students and the communities that support them. Consistent education environments reduce family stress and preserve focus on mission execution.

Purple Up!

Join us in recognizing military students by wearing purple and participating in community events throughout April.



Why Purple? Purple represents the combined colors of all military branches, symbolizing unity and support for military families.

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS & DOWEA



PREK-12 EDUCATION



**MILITARY & FAMILY LIFE
COUNSELING PROGRAM**



COMMANDER'S CORNER

SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH DEPLOYMENTS

Strengthening school, families, and community connections when it matters most

Education stability directly impacts mission readiness. School Liaisons (SLs) ensure continuity for military-connected students during operational demands preserving focus, reducing risk, and strengthening family resilience. Periods of increased operational tempo place immediate pressure on military families. SLs synchronize schools, families, and command teams resolving barriers, standardizing policy application, and providing commanders visibility into trends impacting force readiness.

Operational Value:

- Reduces readiness risks during high-tempo operations
- Maintains continuity for students across PCS and deployment cycles
- Strengthens trust in installation support systems
- Preserves Service Member focus on mission execution

SUPPORTING DEPLOYMENT

FAMILY READINESS = MISSION READINESS

YOUR SCHOOL LIAISON CAN SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT CYCLE THROUGH:

- PREK-12 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
- MILITARY AND FAMILY LIFE COUNSELORS
- DEPLOYMENT-RELATED EXCUSED ABSENCES (MIC3)
- ADVOCACY IN SCHOOLS
- RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES, STUDENTS, EDUCATORS
- DEPLOYMENT/TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT KITS
- EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- SUPPORT GROUPS/EVENTS

Connect Today!

✉ afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil

📘 DAF School Liaison Program

QR Code

Photos: Child with dog, Child with plane



Readiness Starts with a Plan

Mission Ready - Family Strong

Installation-Level Impact: How the School Liaison Program Delivers Stability for Military Families

At the installation level, this work translates into rapid coordination with school systems, targeted problem-solving with education partners, and direct support to families navigating complex academic and deployment-related challenges. These efforts ensure commanders have clear visibility into emerging trends while families experience predictable, reliable support.

Installation Execution:

- Rapid coordination with schools to ensure enrollment, placement, and continuity
- Direct engagement with state and local agencies to remove barriers
- Timely guidance to families during transitions and deployments
- Advocacy for consistent application of education laws and policies
- Feedback to Command Teams on trends impacting student stability and readiness

When education is stable, families are stable. When families are stable, the mission is stronger.

Education Stability = Readiness

Driving Sustainable Change in the Communities We Serve

Education outcomes for military-connected students improve when installations, schools, and communities operate in alignment. These partnerships reduce systemic barriers, improve transition timelines, and improve predictability for military families. During April, these collaborations highlight how shared commitment and coordinated action can create lasting impact. Our SL program works at the intersection of Education-Community partnerships. Together, these initiatives form a coordinated ecosystem of support. **These efforts often align across four key areas that drive education continuity, reduce systemic barriers, and strengthen readiness outcomes for military families:**

Policy & Governance:

- Command/Superintendent Roundtables
- Education Advisory Councils
- State/ Regional Military Education Working Groups
- Local and State Policy and Legislation

Workforce and Career Readiness:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- STEM/ STEAM
- Adopt a School, Internship and Mentorship Programs

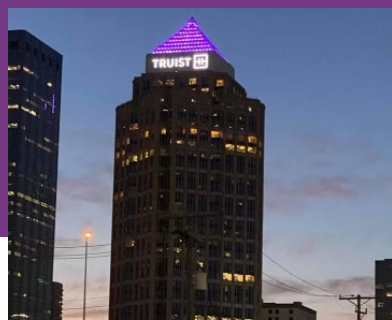
Student Support Systems:

- Parent Education and Resources
- Youth Sponsorship Programs
- MFLCs
- Special Education
- Grant Opportunities

Crisis and Contingency Support:

- Emergency and Contingency Operations
- Installation Resource Integration

HOW IS YOUR COMMUNITY CELEBRATING?



VIRTUAL SPIRIT DAYS

1 APR

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A MILITARY CHILD WHEN...
(Post a picture that represents your military family)

8 APR

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS...
(Post a picture of your child with their hero)

15 APR

FAVORITE DUTY STATION & WHY
(Share your child's favorite duty station)

22 APR

SOMEONE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN MY MILITARY CHILD'S LIFE IS...

29 APR

I WISH PEOPLE KNEW THAT BEING A MILITARY KID IS...
(WHAT IS ONE THING PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MILITARY KIDS?)

POST PICTURES & COMMENTS ON THE
DAF SCHOOL LIAISON DIVISION FACEBOOK PAGE

@DAFSLP

#MILKIDS #DAFMOMC #PURPLEUP #MILFAM

SLP Toolkit Available Now!

Our toolkit has everything you need to celebrate and share the story!

- 50 Ideas for Schools to Celebrate Military Children
- Virtual Backgrounds
- Social Media Cover Photos
- Signature Block
- 2026 MoMC Appreciation Certificate
- 2026 Virtual Spirit Days

THE EMPOWERED SCHOOL LIAISON



Mountain Home
Domineek Haag, SLPM

Students from the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) at Mountain Home HS visited Boise State University to create cards for service members stationed at Mountain Home AFB who are currently serving on a deployment.



Aviano
Joy-Nicole Smith, SLPM

The units and squadrons of the 31st Fighter Wing Installation engaged in the School Emergency Management Training (SEMT) and a tabletop exercise. This event fostered collaboration and integration with the Department of War Education Activity (DoWEA) HQ, the Europe South District, and the Aviano AB Schools. Additionally, these agencies conducted critical discussions focused on the safety and well-being of students and the broader Aviano AB community. Partnerships are critical during crisis response and emergency preparedness.



California
Joint Service SLs

SLs enabled coordinated MIC3 training across California, delivering Compact 101 and 201 sessions to 100 educators spanning 850 miles from San Diego to Beale AFB. This improved understanding and consistent application of interstate policies for military-connected students. This will impact enrollment time, accelerated resolution of transfer issues, and strengthened education continuity directly supporting family readiness and mission focus.



Patrick SFB | Susan Clark, SLPM

Space Launch Delta 45 and Brevard Public Schools have reaffirmed their commitment to military-connected students by renewing their Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement helps improve predictability for families during moves, streamlines enrollment processes, and enhances support systems for students in K-12th whose parents serve in the armed forces. Through this collaboration, both the installation and the school district are dedicated to fostering stable and supportive learning environments for these students.



Wright- Patterson AFB |
Andrea Edmonds and Shatila Smith, SLPMs

Leaders Cherise Imai and Anne O'Brien from NAFIS visited Ohio to engage with districts supporting Wright-Patterson AFB and observe Impact Aid benefits. Their visit included discussions on federal policies at Mad River Local Schools and a tour of Beverly Gardens Elementary, serving many military-connected students. The Anchored4Life team presented support strategies, while 4th graders shared personal stories and transition care packages. They also met Otto, the therapy dog, who enhances school culture and student well-being.



Terrilyn Williams,
JBLE SLPM

Results with Real Faces

I called the school liaison office to ask questions about my family's upcoming PCS to Langley AFB, and I connected with Ms. Williams. She is, by far, the BEST school liaison officer I've ever worked with and the best representative of all FSS programs and services I've ever met! She was so informative, shared all the information I needed, and was incredibly helpful and positive. I am now completing the ACC New Commander and Spouse Conference and Ms. Williams just briefed our spouse group. Again, she was wonderful ... provided us all with details and helpful advice, and connected us with important resources. Ms. Williams is a shining light and an incredible representative for Langley AFB! ~ Family member

INSIDER SCOOP



Special Education

For military-connected families, navigating special education during school moves can be complex, but strong partnerships between schools, installations, and community organizations help ensure continuity of support for students with IEPs or 504 Plans. During Autism Awareness Month, Autism Speaks offers helpful toolkits and transition resources for families navigating autism services and school advocacy.

<https://www.autismspeaks.org>

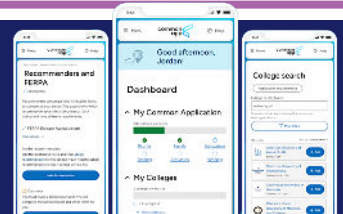
Home Education

DID YOU KNOW?

DoD MWR Libraries offers families free, 24/7 access to learning resources, including eBooks, research databases, tutoring support, and enrichment materials, available globally. It's an easy way to support learning, supplement curriculum, and keep students connected to high-quality educational content during transitions and beyond. Explore more at <https://www.dodmwrlibraries.org>.

College, Career and Military Readiness

CommonApp



Many military-connected students engage with the Common App during their college application journey. This widely utilized platform enables students to submit applications to numerous participating colleges through a single interface. Beyond the application itself, the platform offers tools that assist students in organizing application requirements, tracking deadlines, developing essays, and accessing guidance throughout the college planning process. Familiarity with centralized application systems like the Common App can empower military-connected students and their families to navigate postsecondary planning more effectively.

<https://www.commonapp.org>



MYTHS VS FACTS

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)



CYB-MFLCs are permitted to make contact with children whose parents are on deployment.

Myth. CYB-MFLCs may only see a child if a parent or legal guardian requests services and signs the Parent Acknowledgment Form through the MFLC Program. Deployment alone does not authorize contact.

Clear understanding of MFLC policy prevents misapplication and ensures appropriate support during deployment cycles.

Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)

Cherise Imai and the NAFIS team recently visited the Learn DC Public Charter School (PSMI) located on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB). The objective of this visit was to engage with the school principal, staff, and individuals responsible for overseeing Impact Aid. Additionally, the NAFIS team sought to gain a deeper understanding of the role of the School Liaison Program (SLP), the responsibilities associated with the installation, and the collaborative efforts of School Liaison Program Managers (SLPMs) worldwide in supporting families during transitions. During the visit, the SLPM provided a personal tour of the installation, allowing the team to observe the daily lives of military-connected families residing on JBAB and the resources available to them.

JBAB | Alonso Hay, SLPM



WHAT-A-WEBSITE



Thrive is a free, evidence-informed parenting program developed through a DoD partnership with Penn State. It offers online, age-specific resources for families with children from birth through age 18. The program emphasizes positive parenting, stress management, and healthy child development. Families and professionals can access various tools, modules, and materials at thrive.psu.edu.

Scholarship Opportunity

Anchored4Life "Chuck Clymer" Scholarships are awarded to Anchored4Life Team Leaders during their senior year of High School in honor of Chuck Clymer who is dedicated to supporting youth and families. Up to five (5) academic scholarships will be awarded at \$5,000.00 each.



PURPLE STAR SPOTLIGHT

The **Texas Purple Star Program** plays a vital role in enhancing the connection between military installations and local schools by recognizing districts that excel in supporting military-connected students. Through the review of Purple Star applications and collaboration with districts across Texas, the program has observed the positive impact of initiatives such as Anchored4Life and Student2Student, along with ongoing professional development, in creating inclusive and resilient school communities.



Districts like Burkburnett ISD stand out for their commitment, having earned national recognition for their Student2Student programs, ensuring that every new student feels welcomed from the very first day. Collectively, these initiatives not only facilitate smoother transitions for military families but also enhance the overall educational experience for all students, illustrating the profound impact of sustained partnerships and community support.



Burkburnett Middle School
MCEC Worldwide Middle School Team ★
of the Year

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School Liaison Program Managers are the primary OPR for all PreK-12 engagements, challenges, concerns, education programming components to include Special Education, state-level/host-nation representation, and education community partnerships; responsible for Public Schools on Military Installations coordination to include DoWEA Schools and CYB Military & Family Life Counseling Program.

Additional Duties Based on Community

MIC3 State Lead, DoD STARBAS POC, DAF STEM POC, School Based Transition Program Oversight, Non-DoD Schools and International AD Student Programs.

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Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3)

MIC3 facilitates support for military-connected students during their transitions in educational settings. Under this initiative, schools are permitted to grant excused absences for family time related to deployment. MIC3 also recognizes designated caregivers acting in loco parentis. This allows an eligible military child living temporarily with a non-custodial parent or caregiver in another jurisdiction to continue attending their school.

These provisions are designed to ensure that military-connected students experience continuity in their education and consistency in their school environment, even amid periods of change.

<https://mic3.net/deployment-resources/>

MIC3