



SLO News

School Liaison Program – Extended Edition

May
2024



Saluting the Class of 2024

As graduation season approaches, let's celebrate our military-connected graduates' resilience, dedication, and accomplishments. It's also a time to prepare our students for what lies ahead by encouraging them to explore their passions, consider post-secondary options, and set realistic goals.

Pathways to Success

How School Liaisons Foster Post-Secondary Education Opportunities

As our students journey toward their futures, the role of the School Liaisons in supporting their post-secondary pathway serves as a vital bridge in connecting students to resources and opportunities. Whether it is navigating college entrance requirements, entering directly into the workforce or pursuing the choice to wear our Nation's cloth, School Liaisons are available to support. By fostering supportive partnerships and collective efforts, students are empowered through opportunities such as college readiness workshops, college fairs, campus visits, internship programs and other opportunities to explore and make informed decisions.

DID YOU
KNOW?

The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs

This database lists approximately 6,900 postsecondary educational institutions and programs accredited by an accrediting agency or state approval agency. Each is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a reliable authority as to the quality of postsecondary education.

<https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>

Marking Milestones

Creative Ways to Celebrate Class of 2024 Achievements

- **Military Commitment Signing Ceremony**
- **Certificates** - recognize graduates
- **School Event** - military-connected students recognition ceremony
- **Social Media** - dedicated posts
- **Senior Cords Ceremony**
- **Guest Speaker**
- **Command Team** - pre-graduation event
- **Events** - Reception, party, bonfire and more
- **Breakfast/Snacks** - rehearsal day
- **Homeschool** - recognition ceremony

"The fireworks begin today. Each diploma is a lighted match; each one of you is a fuse." – Ed Koch



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Department of the Air Force
School Liaison Program Division

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Leading the Way

Command Teams Impact PreK-12 Education in Their Communities

Command Teams increasingly recognize the importance of PreK-12 education as a direct link for military retention, readiness, recruitment, and resiliency. RAF Lakenheath's initiative is fostering constructive discussions about military-connected students. Community stakeholders meet monthly for valuable support during their DoDEA/Wing Leadership breakfast. Together, driving positive change through strong partnerships!

By investing in PreK-12 education, our Command Teams are:

- Building stronger communities
- Recognizing the importance of access to quality education
- Reducing barriers for military-connected students
- Maintaining a robust recruiting pipeline

AFI 34-144, 2.6.5. Requires the School Liaison to be engaged with local, state-level educators and other policymakers impacting quality school choice for military associated parents.



Impacting Legislation Dover AFB

DAFB leadership was asked to provide substantive or technical feedback to Delaware HB 354, prioritizing military students in the school choice policy. Laurie Sisk, SLPM, drafted input and served as one of the expert witnesses regarding the impact of HB 354 on military-connected students educational transitions.



Pictured is Laurie Sisk, Mr. Charles Arnold - DSLO, and Rep Chukwuocha after the bill was voted out of committee.



A JOURNEY WELL RETIRED

Karen Storc

Karen Storc is a Child & Youth Specialist assigned to HAF/AISOC. She has over 33 years of DAF experience and educational expertise. As Karen embarks on a new journey into retirement, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible leadership, dedication, and inspiration she has provided to so many. As she steps away from her official role, we know that her influence will continue to resonate within our team for years.



Thank you!



DAF School Liaison Program Welcomes

Headquarters Air Force (HAF) POC

Payal Mehta

Ms. Payal Mehta is a Child Development and Youth Specialist assigned to HAF/AISOC. She will begin assisting in the policy role with the School Liaison Program. Over the course of her 15 years of federal service, Ms. Mehta has held various Child and Youth Program (CYP) positions.



Forging Connections and Maximizing Potential

Collaborative Efforts of School Liaisons and Military Recruiters

In our efforts to strengthen partnerships with local education agencies, School Liaisons frequently collaborate with military recruiters across a spectrum of functions. Collaboration includes facilitating connections between recruiters and schools, furnishing recruiting statistics to district or state Departments of Education, contributing to initiatives that promote military readiness, and participating in the planning and execution of installation air shows.



FUTURE OF THE FORCE

SCHOOL LIAISONS SUPPORTING THE SEASON OF AIR SHOWS



JB CHARLESTON

Heroes of Flight STEM Day,
6K students, 52 schools and
9 districts



MAXWELL

Beyond the Horizon Air &
Space Show STEM Day, over
3K students and teachers



LUKE

STEM City, Luke Days 2024,
over 2.5K students



MACDILL

MacDill's AirFest: Inspiring
Generations & Fostering
Dreams, over 3K students

"One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination." – John C. Maxwell

Thunderbirds



While school liaisons may not always directly manage the day-to-day operations of all educational partnership programs, they are the installation OPR for education engagements between the installation command, schools, and the community.

By closely collaborating with alternate designated event POCs, they preserve relationships and facilitate essential coordination to ensure the success and continuity of all educational initiatives, extending beyond a single event.

The SL portfolio includes coordinating and sustaining partnership opportunities such as "Adopt-A-School," Career Day, job shadowing, Air Show engagements, and STEM days.



"Follow Through and meet them where they are"

General David W. Allvin, CSAF

Blue Angels

PREVENTING THE

Summer Slide

Summer slide refers to the learning loss that occurs when students are out of school during the summer break.

- 1 Encourage reading
- 2 Explore educational activities
- 3 Visit libraries and museums
- 4 Practice math skills
- 5 Stay curious



Supporting Families Through the Season of Opportunities of Continued Learning and Growth!



Summer Camp Opportunities

Click to explore available camps by date, activity, openings, and description

DoD STEM (Invention Connect)
Spots available beginning May 1

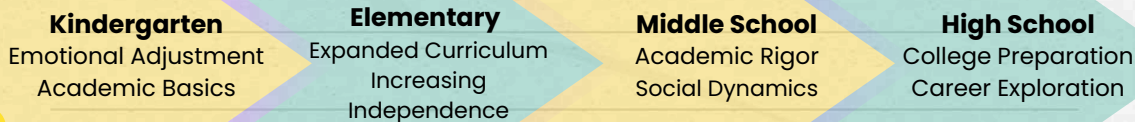
DAF Youth Summer Camps Residential and Installation-Hosted

Military Teen Adventure Camp

Defense Department Summer Camp Lineup



PreK-12 Transitions



DON'T FORGET!

Educational Record Copies During PCS

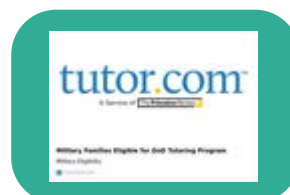
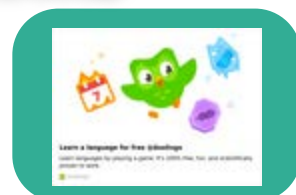
Transcripts, Immunization Records, Evaluations, Report Cards, Progress Reports, Behavior Plans, IEPs, 504s and Academic Artifacts

Educational Resources

Checklists

- ✓ **Commanders Immersion**
- ✓ **MIC3 Immersion**
- ✓ **MFLC Orientation**
- ✓ **PCSing w/ Mil-Connected Students Checklist**

Coming Soon!





OCONUS

PACAF 2024

School Liaison Professional Development



A Hui Huo

PACAF Training Laying the Foundation

The Department of Defense (DoD) mandates specific training for School Liaisons to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to effectively support command teams, military-connected families, and community stakeholders.

The PACAF Team had a week of specialized regional training focusing on:

- **Communication and Analysis for Senior Leadership**
- **Supporting Specialty Programs**
- **Crisis Action Planning and Response**
- **Total Force Footprints, Services and Support**
- **Transition Centers**
- **Navigating the SL Portfolio**

Supporting OCONUS Transitions Host Nation Schools

When military families are stationed overseas, many consider enrolling their students in local host-nation schools. These schools provide classrooms with a curriculum specific to the host nation and taught in the host nation's language.

- **Enrollment:** Students enrolled in a host-nation program are expected to comply with the laws and regulations of those schools. The schools operate their own decision-making outside of the U.S. military structure. The SLPM will advise families on what special considerations apply to their area.
- **Special Considerations:** The comparison equivalents based on grade/age requirements are essential to understand when considering enrollment in a host-nation school. Often, a SLPM can assist by presenting the special considerations for local school enrollment.

For example, many nations have different birthdate entry points, and a student may be assigned to a new grade level if they enter the host nation program. If a student does not already speak the local language, it is common to require several months in a language immersion program. Once the host nation feels the student understands the language well enough, the student will be placed in the classroom.

Many students of military families worldwide have successfully participated in host nation schools.

Global Home Education Exchange Conference

11 July 2024 – 13 July 2024

Manchester Central
Windmill St
Manchester, M2 3GX
United Kingdom



TURNING THE WORLD PURPLE

One Region at a Time



Team Colorado



Nellis AFB



Yokota AB

Saluting the Silent Heroes of Military Families

Landmarks, Interviews, Art Displays, Patches, Helicopter Landings and Community Support



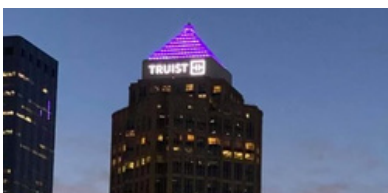
Luke AFB



JBAB



Offutt AFB



MacDill AFB



Maxwell AFB



NATO Joint Warfare Centre



Vance AFB



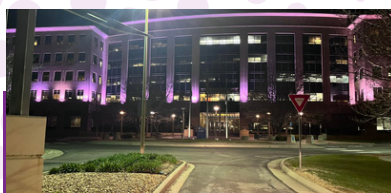
Edwards AFB



JBER



Kadena AB



Buckley SFB



Tinker AFB



Misawa AB




JB Langley-Eustis

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Proclamation Signings





Congressman Andy Kim

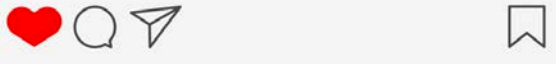
"Congressman Andy Kim



April is Month of the Military Child, an opportunity to show military families and kids our appreciation for their service and emphasize our commitment to have their backs.

This month's #ServiceSpotlights, Nikalea and Angelica do this work every day at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Bases across all military branches have school liaisons to make sure students get the education they would've had if not in a military background. A big part of their work is to see how JBMDL can support local schools and keep JBMDL in the know of what's going on at the schools."

To read full post visit JBMDL School Liaison FB page.






Thank you to all of our installation and community partners for recognizing and saluting our youngest heroes.


Where They Are...We Are

SPECIAL Education CONNECTION

Gifted Education



While federal law does not provide a specific definition of gifted students, it does recognize the importance of identifying and serving the unique educational needs of these students within the broader framework of educational equity and excellence. As a result, the criteria for identifying gifted students and the services provided to them vary across states and school districts. There are no federal protections for a gifted student as there is for a student with a disability. Thirty-two states have legislative mandates to identify gifted students, but only twelve states have Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Gifted Education Program (EP) mandates. Unfortunately for our highly mobile military students, only twelve states expressly permit recognizing in-state districts' identifications of gifted students, so getting comparable services at the gaining location may be difficult.



If 2E is suspected, it is optimal to find 2 Exceptionality neuropsychological evaluation. Most school gifted placement decisions use a Standard Score in IQ testing (e.g., 130 as the cutoff). However, true giftedness is not limited to intellectual potential, but instead can refer to extraordinary capabilities in creative thinking, specific academic areas, psychomotor functioning, or visual/performing arts.



The term “twice exceptional,” also referred to as “2E,” is used to describe a child who has an exceptional ability and disability as defined by federal or state eligibility criteria for an IEP or an EP. Be aware that children who are both gifted and challenged can be tough to understand and often overlooked. Gifted children can use their strengths to compensate for the special need or the special needs can mask the giftedness.



If a parent disagrees with the school's evaluation of IEP eligibility, they can ask for an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) from the school. The parent can also pay out-of-pocket for an IEE. Unfortunately, if an IEE is conducted, the school must consider the results of the eligibility determination or writing of an IEP, but it does not have to accept them.

Be familiar with your state's policy on gifted education or twice-exceptional education.

Research your state's Department of Education website on Gifted and Talented Education and Special Education.

Important Dates

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Region Central PLC | 9 SLP Unplugged  |
| 2 PACAF PLC | 10 Region East PLC |
| 7 USAFE ONLY GAWG | 21 CONUS Specific GAWG |
| 7 GAWG APRIL RERUN | 21 PACAF ONLY GAWG |
| 8 USAFE PLC | 30 Region West PLC |
- 



2024 Special Education Outreach Schedule

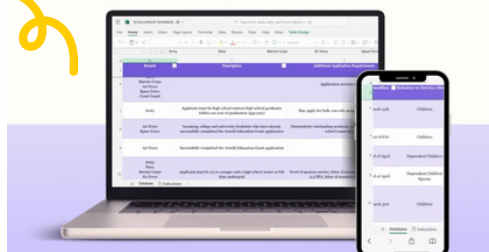
- 16 May – OCONUS PCS – Managing Expectations
- 11 Jul – Developmental Delay and Early Intervention
- 22 Aug – Joint Service Special Education Forum
- 24 Oct – Post- High School Transition Planning



AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, Emily Williams, and U.S. Navy School Liaison, Kristen Ferullo, have created a comprehensive, fully searchable Joint Services Scholarship Database that includes 428 scholarships. To view this database visit

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=78FBADA0C39648B6!112&authkey=IANpkBwWVJD81Rp0>

COMPREHENSIVE, SEARCHABLE JOINT SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS



Recommended Podcast for Leadership Development

Master of Change: How to Excel When Everything Is Changing



Dive into the transformative "4 Ps" approach—Pause, Process, Plan, Proceed—shaping a mindset of thoughtful response over impulsive reaction. Stulberg's insights will guide those seeking adaptability and well-being, from embracing uncertainty to fostering mental resilience.

Available at the CSAF Leadership Library
[Click here to listen now!](#)



What-A-Website!

fastweb!
A MONSTER COMPANY

Free platform that connects students to college and trade school scholarships, and financial aid tools.

Join Us Every Month For Our SLP Unplugged

Monthly opportunities to gain strategic, technical and tactical support

THIS MONTH



Records Management System (RMS)



School Liaison Program Managers

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 DoDEA Schools and Military & Family Life Counseling Program (School Embedded)

Additional Duties Based on Community

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

Connect With Us



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Can you find all 10 images of the "SLP Logo" this month?

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#askushow

#partnershipsdrieveresults

#notwithoutus