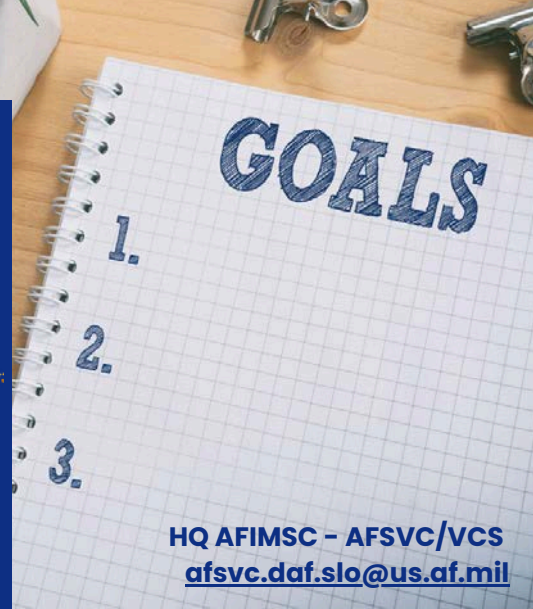




# SLP Global Connect

*Bridging the Gap Between Installations – Communities – Families*  
**Dept. of the Air Force School Liaison Program**  
EDUCATE \* CONNECT \* ELEVATE



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**DAF SLP 2025 Year of Impact**

## Future Ready

**Happy New Year!** As we begin 2026, We continue to prioritize educational stability as a readiness enabler. educational stability is a cornerstone of family readiness, retention decisions, and mission focus across the Department of the Air Force. When commanders, educators, families, and communities work together, we create environments where academic success and military preparedness reinforce one another, building resilient families and strengthening the force. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to supporting our military-connected students. Here's to a year of meaningful impact, innovative initiatives, and strengthened collaboration across the enterprise.

### Strong Families. Strong Schools. Strong Communities. Strong Missions.

Over the past year, the PreK–12 education landscape and the Department of the Air Force School Liaison Program experienced unprecedented complexity, including funding uncertainty, shifting state legislation, rapid mobility demands, and increased expectations for education data at every echelon. Yet, School Liaisons across the enterprise delivered measurable impact that strengthened readiness and reconnected our Core Four. Our newly released **2025 Year of Impact** captures these accomplishments, showcasing engagements, MIC3 and legislative wins, supporting over 770K+ students through educational challenges, and providing commanders with timely, decision-quality education guidance.



## LOOKING AHEAD: 2026-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2026–2029 DAF School Liaison Program Strategic Plan charts a path for the future, anchored in five strategic priorities:

- Enhance Partnerships to Design Community Solutions
- Strengthen Program Portfolio Awareness & Sustainability
- Create a Performance-Focused Culture through Intentional Training
- Optimize Digital Workspace Efficiency
- Deliver Integrated Joint Service Capabilities

Collectively, these priorities ensure that the program remains contemporary, resilient, and aligned with its mission and positioned to reduce education-related readiness risk. The 2026–2029 Strategic Plan formalizes education stability as an enterprise readiness consideration, enabling commanders to anticipate risk, align community partners, and sustain the future force.

At the heart of this plan is the acknowledgment of the vital role that cultivating and maintaining partnerships within the educational community plays. This entails consistent communication and effectively utilizing School Liaisons as key change agents. By continually advocating for educational initiatives, we bolster family readiness, support student stability, enhance partnerships, and directly impact retention and mission success.



Dept. of the Air Force School Liaison Program

### 2025 Status of Education

This report consolidates national educational challenges faced by military-connected students across the DAF School Liaison enterprise. These trends reflect systemic cases and inquiries impacting readiness, and educational continuity for military-connected communities.

#### Top Recurring Challenges (Percentage of Installations Reporting)



#### Insights

Special services, including special support, and transportation as the SAT and ACT, is limited. Increased out-of-pocket



If you would like a copy of the DAF SLP Strategic Plan, please contact HQ AFIMSC - AFSVC/VCS at [afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil](mailto:afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil)

## FY25 PSMI FACILITIES ASSESSMENT



In January 2026, ALPHA Facilities Solutions will begin an assessment of local education agency facilities that are located on military installations. DoDEA is assessing 100+ public schools operated on military installations to update their priority list of facility/capacity issues for Congressional funding consideration. The previous assessment (accomplished in 2018) resulted in \$1.861B of additional funding which went to 71 schools with highest need. The DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) has successfully managed a grant program using the prioritization of schools assessed with serious condition and capacity deficiencies.

The SLP is the primary installation POC for all PSMI matters, to include this required assessment, IAW the FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Title XXVIII, Subtitle E, Sec. 2878.

# Turning Stories into Insights

## Using Anecdotal Data to Drive Change

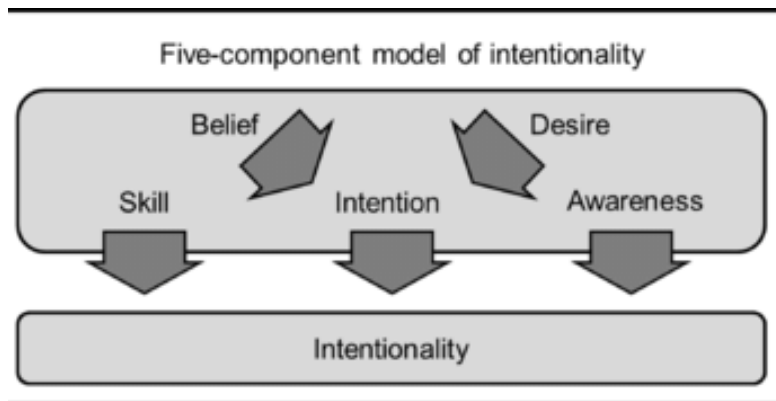


Military-connected communities encounter distinct challenges, and as School Liaisons, we are positioned at the forefront of navigating these experiences firsthand. Anecdotal evidence, informal case studies, inquiries, observations, and personal narratives serve as valuable tools in understanding and addressing these issues effectively.

### Data Tells – Stories Sell

While numerical data is invaluable, it cannot fully encapsulate the complexities of a military-connected student's journey. When these narratives are collected and analyzed comprehensively, they can inform targeted strategies, shape effective policies, and ultimately enhance educational outcomes.

- ✔ **Track total cases and inquiries:** Record the number of cases/inquiries handled over a specific time
- ✔ **Categorize by Type of Case/Inquiry:** Group cases by type (Example 50% of inquiries and cases were related to homeschool navigation)
- ✔ **Document Outcomes:** Record both resolved and unresolved cases, along with specific results achieved. For instance, 75% of cases resulted in a resolution within the local education agency
- ✔ **Measure Frequency:** Monitor recurring inquiries and cases to identify persistent needs or emerging trends



When used strategically, School Liaisons convert individual stories into trend data that informs command decisions, prioritizes resources, and reduces education-related readiness risk, keeping programs aligned to today's families and tomorrow's force.



# THE EMPOWERED SCHOOL LIAISON



## Schriever SFB | Abby Hahn, SLPM

## Peterson SFB | Jackie Wickham, SLPM

Schriever SFB and Peterson SFB SLPMs hosted an Educators STEM Professional Development Day focused on 3D printing. The training provided a comprehensive overview to 25 educators on 3D printer capabilities, including building, classroom integration, safety protocols and opportunities to further skill development through follow-up sessions. Through partnership with Challenger Learning Center, educators will have ongoing support as they utilize this resource in their teaching. At the conclusion of the event, each educator left with a fully operational 3D printer and both Schriever SFB and Peterson SFB SLPMs secured 3D printers for their lending libraries for educators and homeschool families, expanding access to innovative technology across their communities.



## Stavanger AB | Faith Madsen, SLPM

The International School of Stavanger recently hosted a parent event featuring Dr. Nadine Kolb from the Universitetet i Stavanger, who presented her research on supporting multilingual language development. Dr. Kolb emphasizes the critical role of parent involvement in successful language acquisition, highlighting developmental stages, strategies for navigating diverse language environments across home, school, and social settings and approaches for children with

learning differences. Her central message underscored that the introduction of additional languages is a gift and with engaged parents, children are positioned to thrive linguistically and academically.

## RAF Lakenheath |

## Susan Ratkovsky and Sean Lauwers, SLPMs

Capt. Victor Glover, a NASA astronaut assigned to pilot the Artemis II in 2023, visited RAF Lakenheath HS STEM and JROTC students. During his visit, he shared meaningful and inspirational conversations, leaving the students with three powerful takeaways: be resilient, be a lifelong learner, and be a great teammate.



FL School Liaisons were invited to participate in the Florida (FL) Purple Star Teacher Leadership Program. A four-part series sponsored by FL Dept of Education, the FL Purple Star Teacher Leadership Program is an initiative aimed at supporting military families and their children in transitioning to new schools. By participating in the program, the School Liaisons in attendance were able to provide valuable insight, make connections with teachers and administrators, as well as collaborate on ways to continue to support the program.

**Erin Pickard (Naval Station Panama City), Mallory Gross (Tyndall AFB), and Mackinley Cross (Hurlburt Field), Lisa Hill (MIC3 - FL Military Family Education Liaison)**

# INSIDER SCOOP



”  
“When we support a student, we strengthen a family. When we strengthen families, we strengthen communities.”  
— Unknown

## HOME EDUCATION

### RAF Alconbury Homeschool Curiosity Kits Kelly Love, SLPM

Each month, the SLPM communicates with homeschooling families via email to announce the availability of new kits. Remarkably, within just three months, the email list has expanded from 2 to 24 families, representing a staggering 1,100% increase. In collaboration with the Library, the homeschool program and its associated opportunities are continuing to grow. Below are several comments shared by participants:

“Thanks for the heads up! My children are loving the kits.”  
— Homeschool Parent

“Awesome! Thank you so much!! The kids are really excited.”  
— Homeschool Parent



## SPECIAL EDUCATION



Get to know your Parent Training and Information Centers near you! This can be a great resource for your families with special education needs. Take the first couple of steps by reviewing online content, introducing yourself to the staff, discussing trends and challenges, and suggest trainings.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/>



### Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)

The DOW's Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation has awarded **Grand Forks AFB Public School District No. 140** a \$55.2M grant to help fund construction for a new Nathan F. Twining Elementary and Middle School. Once completed, the new campus will serve 500 PreK–8<sup>th</sup> grade students, enhancing educational quality for military-connected students. The awarding of this grant supports military readiness, strengthens recruitment and retention and fosters resilience among the community.

### Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)

The top child and youth behavioral non-medical counseling issues identified for 2025 encompassed **social skills, emotional management, communication and transition issues**. By addressing these concerns, MFLCs aim to empower individuals with the tools and strategies necessary to enhance overall well-being and foster resilience. **To learn more about the MFLC program visit**  
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/mflc-locator/>



## Keep your finger on the pulse! Subscribe to the MIC3 "The Wire" Newsletter!

Each issue is packed with insights and updates that are crucial for educators, families, and policymakers involved with military-connected students. By subscribing, you'll gain access to expert commentary, success stories, and practical strategies for navigating the educational landscape. Stay informed and engaged as we work together to create a more consistent and supportive educational experience for military-connected students worldwide. <https://mic3.net/newsletter/>



## WHAT-A-WEBSITE

AASA fosters the development and support of school system leaders by facilitating a national exchange of ideas. The organization provides access to professional learning opportunities, publications, and resources, while also championing initiatives aimed at transforming the future of public education.

<https://www.aasa.org/resources/browse-by-topic>

## Empowering Success: Meet the Latest School Liaisons!

We are delighted to announce the latest cohort of School Liaisons who have successfully completed their School Liaison Orientation. This committed group of professionals have completed a rigorous training program aimed at equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to excel in their roles.

### Central and Western Region

Christian Mendoza (Travis)  
Jennifer Miller (Offutt)

### Eastern and Southern Region

Darryl Miller (Goodfellow)

### Europe Region

Sean Lauwers (Lakenheath)  
Danielle Cooper (Volkel)



## PURPLE STAR SPOTLIGHT

This month, we highlight the **Team Ohio Purple Star Program**, a grassroots initiative that improves educational pathways for military-connected students. Through partnerships with schools, districts, military installations, and community organizations, the team promotes awareness, smooth transitions, and family support, enhancing Ohio's educational landscape. With 700+ Purple Star schools across the state, Team Ohio ensures that every military-connected student receives the support and resources necessary to thrive academically and socially.



<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Schools/Purple-Star-Award>

## Connect With Us

[afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil](mailto:afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil)

[@dafslp](#)

[DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram](#)

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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 DoDEA Schools and CYB Military & Family Life Counseling Program.

**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.

The information in this newsletter is provided as a resource and does not constitute endorsement by the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense of the external website, the information, products, or services contained therein.