



SLP Global Connect

Bridging the Gap Between Installations - Communities - Families
Dept. of the Air Force School Liaison Program

EDUCATE * CONNECT * ELEVATE

March 2026

Better Together:

Leveraging Community Partnerships That Deliver Results

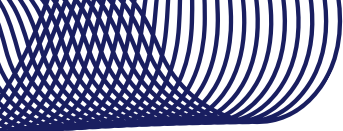
Military-connected students are a vital part of our installation community. Ensuring they have access to high-quality education, smooth transitions, and strong support networks that strengthens family resilience, enhances mission readiness, and improves retention. By cultivating strategic partnerships with schools and community stakeholders, we extend resources beyond the installation, expand opportunities for growth, and build the foundation our students need to thrive.

Robust community partnerships serve as a force multiplier, and strengthen the fabric of communities, while ensuring the next generation is equipped to excel, wherever they land. We recognize that the strength of our force is inseparable from the strength of our families. Investing in the educational success of our military-connected students is not a supporting effort, it is a strategic imperative. Our commitment must be deliberate, sustained, and visible. By forging strong partnerships, removing barriers, and advocating for every student, we prioritize people, empower families, and shape conditions where all can excel.

Strategic Priorities for the School Liaison Program

- **Ensure Access to Quality Education** – Support military-connected students with programs and resources that provide academic continuity, enrichment, and opportunities for achievement
- **Facilitate Smooth Transitions** – Strengthen systems and tools that reduce disruption during PCS moves, deployments, or school changes, keeping families and students resilient
- **Expand and Cultivate Strategic Partnerships** – Extend support beyond the installation and maximize resources
- **Sustain Force Readiness, Retention, Recruiting and Resilience** – Ensure that investments in military-connected education directly support operational readiness, family and community stability, long-term retention and recruiting
- **Invest in the communities we serve!**





COMMANDER'S CORNER

Command Team and Senior Spouses: Leading With Purpose

Education stability is a readiness factor. Leaders set the priority; the School Liaison delivers the expertise. Assignment decisions and focus on mission are influenced early in a move, often before a member reports for duty. School enrollment timelines, course placement, and special education continuity shape a family's confidence in the assignment and stability at the installation. The SLP is the installation's education subject matter authority.

The command team plays an important role in encouraging concerns to surface early and helping guide them to the appropriate channels before they escalate to the level of command intervention. The command spouse becomes a powerful connector between families and the SLP. Their influence is unique because they often hear concerns before they reach formal channels.

Building Stronger Communities Through Installation and School Partnerships

In partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education and the Sumter School District Executive Staff, the 20th Fighter Wing Spouses Roundtable successfully brought together base leadership and spouses to cultivate a clearer and more informed understanding of the Sumter School District. This initiative highlighted how South Carolina's School Report Cards operate and provided open access to valuable data directly from district leaders.

Partnerships of this nature enhance trust and foster a robust, collaborative relationship between military installations and the local school community, paving the way for a brighter collective future.



Shaw AFB
Deborah MacQueen, SLP

“

Taking care of our people and families directly impacts readiness and retention.”

— James C. McConville, General, U.S. Army, former Chief of Staff of the Army

Senior Spouses can enhance outcomes and strengthen education stability by:

- **Reinforcing the message** – Foster an environment where families feel comfortable voicing their concerns early
- **Building trust with families** – Reinforce that education concerns have installation-level support
- **Spotting emerging trends** – Share recurring themes with the command team and the SL
- **Modeling the right pathways** – Direct families to the SL during concerns or challenges

Results with Real Faces



*When I reached out to **Ms. Laurie Sisk, the Dover AFB SLP**, she responded with outstanding professionalism, skill, and efficiency. Because of Ms. Sisk's prompt identification of resources, my sons managed to maximize their VA benefits while still in high school, significantly improving their financial position when entering college.*

Having the support of Ms. Sisk transformed what could have been a daunting situation into an achievable goal. Her commitment is exemplary of the best that the military support system offers and deserving of official recognition.

—Proud Army veteran and devoted mom

Driving Sustainable Change in the Communities We Serve





2026 Month of the Military Child

-Stronger Together- The Power of Community

During Month of the Military Child (MOMC), we honor the resilience, adaptability, and leadership of military-connected youth. This celebration is more than recognition; it is a call to community. Educators, military leaders, families, and community partners come together to strengthen collaboration, expand support networks, and ensure every military-connected youth has the opportunity to thrive. By standing united, we amplify student success and showcase the extraordinary strength found in connection.

SLs are responsible for providing updates and facilitating interactions for local school MoMC events, community activities outside the gate, and your state's designated Purple Up! Day.

Coordinate with LEAs and community stakeholders, and amplify MoMC messaging throughout April. Utilize the following hashtags to amplify our efforts: **#MilKids #MOMC #PurpleUp #MilFam #PartnershipsDriveResults #WhereTheyAreWeAre**



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

Wright Patterson AFB | Andrea Edmonds and Shatila Smith, SLPs

Bringing together more than 50 counselors and key regional partners to strengthen counselor awareness of high-value career and education pathways, the Career Champions meeting delivered a strategic impact. Hosted by the WPAFB SLPs in partnership with the Montgomery County Educational Service Center, the event highlighted opportunities for all students, including those who are military-connected.

Participation from organizations such as MIC3 National Office, Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education, the Ohio DOE and Workforce, the 338th Recruiting Squadron, CYB-MFLCs, and STEM leadership underscored a unified commitment to preparing students for future workforce needs.



Geilenkirchen AB | Beth Restor, SLP

As part of the AFNORTH International School STEAM planning team, the SLP coordinated the deployment of more than \$1.5 million in equipment and organized volunteers from three installations to deliver hands-on STEAM based-learning. Students engaged with experts from EOD, Fuels, MFLC, Fire, JAG Corps, and Marine Engineering. The event brought together over 500 participants from 33 nations, strengthening international partnerships and highlighting the importance of STEAM education.



Offutt AFB | Tina Luderman and Jennifer Miller, SLPs

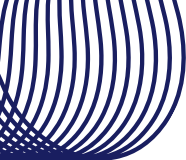
Offutt AFB SLP hosted a **Kindergarten Connection Fair** that brought together 50+ military families and 32 community partners, delivering direct access to school enrollment, and transition resources. Strong engagement and positive feedback from families and stakeholders highlight the value of coordinated, proactive support for our youngest military-connected students.



A New Opportunity Takes Flight: STARBASE Homeschool Week Edwards AFB | Rebecca Balkenbush, SLP

In response to the expressed need for enhanced access to STEM opportunities among homeschool families, a new initiative was launched to translate this need into actionable outcomes. In collaboration with STARBASE Edwards AFB and the SLP, the inaugural STARBASE Homeschool Week welcomed over 20 families for a week of STEM exploration, installation tours, and simulator flights in the F-22, F-35, and F-16 aircraft. The success of this event has established "STARBASE Homeschool Week" as an annual program, further expanding access to educational resources and strengthening community connections.





INSIDER SCOOP



Special Education



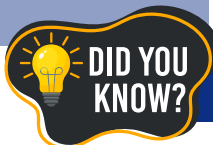
DirectSTEP® eCourses offer training on behavior management, Autism, IDEA eligibility, IEPs, and other essential education topics. Courses are available to parents, Military/DoD personnel, and K-12 educators serving military-connected students. **For details, contact your local DAF School Liaison or EFMP office.**

Home Education



College Board: College Planning for Homeschoolers

Homeschool students follow unique learning paths, but when it comes to preparing for college, they have access to the same opportunities, tools, and support as students in traditional schools. The College Board offers resources designed to help homeschoolers navigate testing, credit-earning opportunities, and the college application process with confidence. For more information, please explore the feature and FAQ on [College Planning for Homeschoolers](#).



Did you know there are more than 160 public schools located on U.S. military installations?

Although these schools are operated by local school districts, many face aging facilities, overcrowding, or outdated infrastructure. Through the PSMI Program, the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) provides funding to renovate, repair, or expand these schools ensuring

military-connected students learn in safe, modern, and high-quality environments aligned with local standards. For more information visit, <https://oldcc.gov/our-programs/public-schools-military-installations>.

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)



Only active-duty service members are eligible for MFLC services.

Myth. Active-duty service members, National Guard and reserve members (regardless of activation status), Coast Guard members when activated for the Navy, DOD expeditionary civilians (90 days prior to deployment through 180 days post-deployment) and their immediate family members are eligible for services, as well as foreign military members and their families (enrolled in DEERS) and nonremarried surviving spouses and children of active-duty, National Guard and reserve service members, regardless of activation status or cause of death of the service member. Veterans and their immediate families are eligible up to 180 days past separation from the military.



MYTHS VS FACTS

College, Career and Military Readiness



Air Force Academy Admissions Brief Nicole Painter, Vance AFB SLPM

SLPM facilitated a briefing on ROTC and Air Force Academy admissions for 20 high school students from four school districts at Enid High School. The session featured presentations from the ROTC Operations Officer of Detachment 675 at the University of Oklahoma and the Air Force Academy Admissions Advisor, who provided insights into the two pathways available for commissioning into the Air Force. The event aimed to equip, inspire and motivate students by providing them the necessary knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their future.

Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)

SLP Resources



National Military Family Association
Together We're Stronger®

OPERATION PURPLE CAMP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

NMFA is offering FREE weeklong summer camp experiences across the country. Exclusively for military-connected children.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



WHAT-A-WEBSITE

Are you interested in honoring high school seniors who intend to enlist in the military?



Our Community Salutes (OCS) is a national organization helping communities recognize, honor

and support high school seniors who plan to enlist in the U.S. Armed Services after graduation. To learn more visit <https://www.ourcommunitysalutes.org/>.



MIC3

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has made publications available.

These documents are a valuable resource for military families, educational professionals, and policymakers, providing essential information on the policies, services, and educational support systems designed to assist children of military families as they navigate transitions between different states.

Visit the MIC3 website to explore and download the full range of publications
<https://mic3.net/publications/>

AVAILABLE NOW

MIC3 MOMC Toolkit

<https://mic3.net/motmc/>

PURPLE STAR SPOTLIGHT

With 590 schools participating across the Commonwealth, the **Virginia Purple Star Designation Program** makes a significant statewide impact by ensuring that schools are equipped to meet the academic, social-emotional, and transitional needs of military-connected students. By enhancing transition systems, developing staff capabilities, and fostering a sense of belonging, VA Purple Star schools effectively reduce educational disruption while promoting stronger partnerships and improved alignment.

SLs work directly with schools to provide training and resources needed for the Purple Star application process, and also serve on the Military Student Support Process Action Team (MSSPAT), which reviews all applications. MSSPAT brings together education and military partners to improve transition practices, develop training for school personnel, and provide feedback on policy decisions affecting military-connected students. For further information, please visit the **Virginia Purple Star Designation Program for Schools**.



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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.

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