

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Lackland AFB Welcomes New School Liaison Officer

Military service brings many challenges, but none greater for families than providing a safe, quality education for their children. The Air Force is committed to helping parents and schools come together and create an environment that fosters each child's potential and inspires him or her to academic excellence. To further expand this educational support for our families, Airmen and Family Readiness (A&FR) School Liaison (SL) services focus on education through direct and proactive partnerships with

local schools, and tailored transition assistance to relocating families. The Lackland AFB Airman & Family Readiness Center welcomed School Liaison, Lori Phipps as the newest member of the A&FRC team March 1st. Mrs. Phipps, will help focus on education through direct and proactive partnerships with local schools, and help tailor transition assistance concerning education to relocating families. Her role is to promote this success by building relationships between the installation and the local schools and advocating

on behalf of military children. According to her, the biggest challenge she faces is establishing a presence in the 21 School Districts surrounding our communities, so military families can use her as an information resource. Fort Sam as well as Randolph AFB, also has SLs to assist with the military connection. This newsletter is the one of the first steps to heightening awareness and will keep military families and schools updated on the latest developments in local and national military child education.



Interstate Compact on Education Opportunities for Military Children

Excerpt from Interstate Compact on Education Opportunities for Military Children Resource Kit

The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will have six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. With more than half of all military personnel supporting families, the impacts of reassignment and long deployments are a key consideration when making long-term life choices. Schools are often unaware or unresponsive to the needs of military children. There

are limitations on credits that can be transferred from other states and districts. Military kids often have to retake courses, sit out athletic activities and in some cases, cannot graduate on time.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children addresses these issues as well as compact enforcement, administration, finances, communications, data sharing and training.

The development of interstate and intrastate solutions to these issues is

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WEB RESOURCES OF THE MONTH: DEPLOYMENT

Active duty parents can send special dogtags to their children.
<http://www.dogtagsforkids.com>

A website that allows the deployed parent to interact online with their child, especially for reading.
<http://www.deploymentkids.com>

"A child educated only at school is an uneducated child." - George Santayana

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Stress Free Summer Schedules

by onetoughjob.org

Rest, relax, and recharge

Whether your child is five or fifteen, he/she needs to keep busy during the summer months. While it sounds tempting to take a break from the busy school-year schedule, you don't want to find yourself with a bored child or one that sits in front of the television until school starts again. It is important that your child gets a chance to enjoy his time off from school, but he should also be kept occupied, stimulated, and is able to advantage of all that summer vacation has to offer.

Ways to keep your child

busy this summer:

Consider a camp. If you are a working parent who needs your child to be engaged in something all day every day, a camp is a great way to take a break from the traditional childcare you use during the school year. Many camps have full day programs, provide transportation, and offer care before and after. It is not true that the most expensive camp in the most exotic location is the best one. As long as your child is safe and has fun, any camp is a good one. Staff qualifications, safety and emergency procedures, behavior management strategies, and parent communication are some of the things to check out in a summer camp you are considering for your child.

See what your community has to offer. In addition to summer camps, your local community may offer a variety of activities for children, although these may require you to have a flexible schedule. For example, libraries have activities for toddlers through elementary aged children during the summer months. These can include story hours, summer reading programs, and group activities. Children's museums also often have special events and activities during the summer. In addition there are

sports camps, music camps, and other activities that your community might offer for children that have flexible schedules. For more information and dates/times, check your local paper or contact the recreation department in your city or town.

Keep teens on their toes. While your teen may no longer want to attend summer camp or participate in a structured activity, she still needs to keep busy. If she is old enough, she might be able to get a job. Some good jobs for teens include mowing lawns, babysitting, or pet sitting. However, be sure that your teen understands the responsibilities he/she is taking on and that he/she has some practice or training. There are training programs that teens can go through to become better prepared to babysit. Find out if your work or that of a friend or relative is looking for some summer help. Another good option is volunteering. Many hospitals or libraries have opportunities for teens. If all else fails, give your teen something constructive to do at home, like watching a younger sibling, painting, or cleaning out the garage or basement and having a yard sale. While your teen will want to have some down time to hang out with friends, make sure you know where she is and that she is safe.

Pencil in some family fun. Make sure that you take some time to enjoy each other's company without the pressures of the school year. Some ideas include taking a family vacation, to going to the beach or having a picnic in the park, to attending community events such as free concerts or fireworks.

Make time for rest and relaxation. Although you do want your child to be active and engaged during the summer, it is easy to over schedule. Whether you are working or not, you



need a break, too, from coordinating everyone's schedules and activities. Take the first and last week of summer off for both yourself and your child, and just relax, sleep in, and hang out at home.

Don't forget about school! Make sure you find out if your child's school expects or recommends any academic preparation for the upcoming school year. Even in elementary grades, many schools have reading lists of books that students can read over the summer, and you should encourage your child to do this. In older grades, your child might be required to do some schoolwork. Many teachers are in their classrooms at some point over the summer, and it might be a good idea to take your child to visit his new teacher and classroom. Also, try to find out ahead of time what books or supplies will be needed in the fall so you can get a head start on that back to school shopping!

Onetoughjob.org is a website presented by the Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund, providing parents with the expert information, tips and support they need and deserve to be the best parent they can be.

The Goody Bag - Resources You Can Use

DoDEA Launches New Web Site

DoDEA's Educational Partnership proudly presents "Students at the Center," an interactive educational resource for everyone involved in the education of the children of U.S. military service members. The resource is now available on the Web at <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter/>. This Web site outlines the important policies, procedures, and best practices that will enable military families, military leaders, and school leaders to provide military-connected children the best possible support for success. Printed guidebooks and a DVD will be available to all through Military OneSource by early May, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-342-9647 as well as online. The guide will serve as a resource to stakeholders on how, from each of their perspectives, they can advocate for military-connected students.

ED Web Site Has Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment

A resource to support military children can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/homefront/homefront.pdf>. The resource is the Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment, a booklet designed to meet the needs expressed by teachers and other school personnel for background information and intervention strategies to support the military child during mobilization and deployment. In addition, the booklet answers some questions related to transition, reunion and re-adjustment. Additional resources and deployment support services are available at each of the armed services Web sites (for those on active duty, and in the reserve and National Guard) and at any military base, or from your local community counseling services.

Tutor.com

The U.S. Department of Defense has launched a new service, Tutor.com, an unlimited service with private tutoring and Live Homework Help, for all active duty military service members, reservists, National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status, and DoD civilians in a deployed status. Military service members and their dependents around the world can work with a certified, professional tutor online 24/7 to get help with homework, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Students of any age, from kindergartners to high school seniors, as well as adult learners, may use the service to connect to an expert tutor for one-to-one help in math, science, social studies and English, as well as assistance

with resume writing and interview preparation. Online homework help and career assistance are available at all military installation libraries and from any computer with Internet access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting www.tutor.com/military. For more information about the Tutor.com service contact your installation library or e-mail militarysupport@tutor.com. Also check out the Web site at www.tutor.com/military.

Family Retreats for the Military

Retreats are available to service members and their families within 15 months of their return from deployment. Service members must have been home for at least three months prior to the beginning of the retreat. Service members from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, active duty and National Guard or Reserve members, as well as families of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are eligible to apply.

Operation Purple Family Retreats are free, four-day retreats created to help families reconnect after deployment. This unique experience is designed to bring families together for four days in a national park setting. With an emphasis on environmental education, military families will participate in fun, family-focused activities that will allow them to strengthen and renew relationships while exploring their natural surroundings.

Families OverComing Under Stress (FOCUS) is a resiliency-building program designed for military families and children facing the challenges of multiple deployments. A team from UCLA and Harvard Medical School provide structured activities that highlight areas of strength and resilience in the family and promote family growth. Families work together to strengthen their relationship through problem solving, goal setting, and communication activities.

For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/family-retreats/>.

