



**NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS!**

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
2025 - 2026**

When service members know their children are thriving in school, they can stay mission-focused with greater confidence and peace of mind. Our team is standing in the gap between military families, schools, and communities—ensuring every student has the support they need to succeed. Here's to an amazing school year ahead!



**SLP**  
**Global Connect**

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

*School Liaison Program Managers Portfolio*

**PREK-12  
EDUCATION**

School Liaison Program Managers are the OPR for all PreK-12 engagements, challenges, concerns, education programming components

Public Schools on Military Installations

**PSMI**

Serve as the primary installation POC for all PSMI matters, including OLDCC PSMI processes, regulation compliance, efficient resource utilization and partnerships

Military and Family Life Counselors

**MFLC**

Serve as the POC for all community contact and coordination for the CYB-MFLC Program in Schools, ensuring a variety of logistical and communications activities are in place for MFLCs

**Advancing Readiness Through  
Educational Stability**

Access to quality education significantly influences mission effectiveness, recruitment efforts, operational readiness, retention, community resilience, and the future of our force. While school options for military dependents generally meet the needs of most families, challenges persist. These include the complexities of educational systems, varying state-specific requirements, the availability of quality schools within reasonable commuting distances, and the need for program support that is tailored to these evolving demands. Together, these factors create a complex landscape that requires continuous adaptation and focused initiatives.

School Liaisons, a true force multiplier for commanders, serve as critical connectors who turn challenges into actionable solutions. They support crisis action response protocols, guide efforts with PSMI, coordinate Support of Military Families (SoMF) engagements, and integrate CYB-MFLCs. By leveraging the SL, it can strengthen educational partnerships, driving positive, lasting change for military communities.



- Education Community Partnerships
- Local School and Homeschool Navigation
- Special Education Navigation
- Deployment Support
- College, Career & Military Readiness
- Grants & Scholarships
- Professional Development
- Transition Support
- Legislation & Policy
- Emergency Response and Preparedness
- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (MIC3)



Our team is currently implementing an organizational realignment in response to federal guidance. This adjustment positions us to operate more efficiently and strengthen our ability to serve our CORE FOUR stakeholders. The Division will transition to the following **four-region configuration**:

**Central and Western Region: LaurieAnn Goodier, [laurieann.goodier@us.af.mil](mailto:laurieann.goodier@us.af.mil)**

States Included: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OH, OR, SD, UT, WA, WI, WY

**Southern and Eastern Region: Lacey Allen, [lacey.allen.1@us.af.mil](mailto:lacey.allen.1@us.af.mil)**

States Included: AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MO, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT, WV

**Pacific Region: Lori Phipps**

Areas Covered: Japan and Korea

**Europe Region: Lori Phipps**

Areas Covered: Belgium, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey

For questions or concerns please contact: Chief, School Liaison Division: Lori Phipps, [lori.phipps@us.af.mil](mailto:lori.phipps@us.af.mil)



This reorganization is intended to streamline regional oversight, optimize resource allocation, and reflect geographic needs and program priorities. As the Division embarks on this new phase, we remain committed to strengthening installations and their communities through advancing PreK-12 education to bolster retention, readiness, recruiting and military communities.

## Impact in Action: Allied Partners

Partnerships between the DoD and our Allied Partners are essential to global security and operational readiness. They enable intelligence sharing, joint training, and interoperable forces, strengthening trust and multiplying combat power. These alliances ensure a unified, rapid response to crises and uphold collective defense commitments. Numerous installations actively contribute to these efforts.

The SLPM team supports allied partners training in the U.S. by helping their families navigate local education systems. SLPs coordinate transcript transfers, resolve placement & credit issues, advocate for special education and other services. By tackling these challenges and linking families to schools and resources, SLPMs keep allied families mission-ready.



**Maxwell SLPs Kathryn Ganster and Robert Richert** delivered a comprehensive briefing to 44 Air War College (AWC) students representing 44 nations, as well as 83 Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) students from 71 nations. The briefing covered program's support mechanisms, various school options, attendance protocols, enrollment procedures, and the process for end-of-year withdrawals.

### BEST PRACTICE Air Force Material Command International Partnership

**01 SLPM Quarterly Meetings with AFMC International Partner Mgr.**

**Goal:** Discuss support for AFMC International Partners and provide a forum for sharing information and promote collaboration

**02 International Partner Pre-Arrival Worksheet**

**Goal:** To optimize transition support and improve communication among installation personnel, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), and families.

**03 Data Analytics**

**Goal:** To collect, track trends, disseminate, and analyze education-related data to ensure fair access and support services.

### Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) | Sheppard AFB

A recent successful initiative at Sheppard AFB, home to the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) program—a multinational effort where U.S. and NATO partner nations train fighter pilots—addressed the unique educational needs of ENJJPT families by allowing their children to start school at the age recognized in their home countries. Driven locally by the **School Liaison, Ms. Susan Raymond and Mrs. Bri Shulman, a senior spouse**, this effort brought together Representative James B. Frank, Senator Hagenbuch, the Texas Education Agency, the Defense State Liaison Office, and school leadership to turn a former handshake agreement into law.

Due to varying kindergarten entry ages across European countries, the goal was to allow allied partners children to begin school at the age appropriate for their home country, facilitating a smoother transition when they return. The result eases school transitions for ENJJPT children, strengthens international partnerships, and directly supports Sheppard's mission—showcasing the critical impact of an engaged School Liaison and senior spouse advocacy on behalf of military families.

Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)



PSMIs are distinctive educational environments that, while publicly funded, are situated on or adjacent to federal properties managed by the Department of Defense. Although the majority of PSMIs cater to a significant population of military-connected students, they do not exclusively serve this demographic. These schools operate under the jurisdiction of state and local education authorities, benefiting from close collaboration with the military communities they serve. Central to these partnerships is the installation School Liaison, who plays a crucial role in providing oversight, coordination, and advocacy to ensure that the unique needs of military students are recognized and met.

SLPMs function as

- Advisor to Commander on challenges, issues and other circumstances that could negatively impact the mission
- Provide consultation and collaboration with installation functional experts for PSMI support
- Assist in Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Response
- Focal points for all inquiries, inspection visits, partnerships, volunteer opportunities and other special events



Altus AFB leadership, along with the School Liaison Program Manager, Altus Public Schools (APS) leadership and community stakeholders celebrated the future of APS with a groundbreaking ceremony for Rivers ES. The replacement of the current Rivers ES is made possible with a \$49.2M PSMI grant through the Office of Local Defense and Community Cooperation (OLDCC) and local education funding for a combined \$61.5M project.

Altus AFB | Gwen Brakebill, SLPM

Strengthening Student Support: Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)

School Liaisons offer oversight and guidance for Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) embedded within schools, ensuring that their services are effectively aligned with the needs of the school and the objectives of the Department of Defense (DoD).



Oversight and Coordination

- Conducting orientations
- Overseeing MFLC school placements and verifying alignment with student needs
- Ensuring MFLC services are integrated into daily school operations and activities
- Facilitating training and collaboration between MFLCs, educators, and command
- Monitoring trends, challenges, and outcomes related to military student well-being



Aligned for Impact

- Consistent messaging and support
- Integration of MFLCs into school schedules and student support teams
- Confidential communication pathways for families to access help
- Clear alignment with DoDEA, LEA, and installation goals
- Data-informed recommendations and feedback



Examples of Collaborative Services:

- MFLC presence during back-to-school events, testing weeks, and end-of-year transitions
- Monthly touchpoints between School Liaison and MFLCs to ensure service quality
- MFLC participation in deployment briefings or reintegration programming
- Joint support plans for students with frequent absences, behavioral concerns, or emotional strain

# Mission Focused & Purpose Driven

Where They Are...We Are



## McConnell Air Force Base | Greg Martin, SLPM

The 22d Air Refuel Wing at McConnell AFB partnered with area Air Force Recruiters to host the first Air Force Recruit Camp at McConnell AFB, training 63 Delayed Entry Program (DEP) recruits. The event included speeches from Command Chief Markisha Crawford, presentations by experienced military personnel, and insights from recent graduates. Recruits learned about mental health and financial management, engaged in Q&A sessions, and participated in a physical training session to prepare for upcoming challenges in their enlistment. This initiative is part of the McConnell AFB Outreach Council (Recruitment) and will be an annual event.



## Education Commission of the States



9 DAF SLPMs, 6 of which traveled from USAFE, attended the National Forum on Education Policy in Salt Lake City, UT. This annual, marquee event hosted by the Education Commission of the States (ECS), brings together Governors, State Legislative leads, policy advocates and leaders in education to collaborate on the most pressing issues affecting education policy and law.

The opportunity for expert-level training encompasses a range of cutting-edge discussions focused on critical aspects of PreK-12 education currently being developed and implemented at the state level. Topics include declining enrollment trends—analyzing their causes and potential solutions—cross-state analyses of special education, the development of durable skills, the high school experience and its future, trends and opportunities in school choice policy, as well as insights into early education, competency-based education, and work-based learning.

The SLPM team shared that they valued the intensive focus on current and coming State education policies. The culminating session of the ECS National Forum with Dr. Rebecca Winthrop of the Brookings Global Task Force was on “Educating Amid AI” addressing the risks, opportunities, and a pathway toward transformation that included strategic guidance on how to mitigate AI’s risk while harnessing its potential to transform education for the better.



## STRATEGIC CONNECTIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Operation KUDOs afforded 100 military-connected students a unique opportunity to gain insights into deployment at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The day featured a mission briefing delivered by Brigadier General Thompson, the NATO E-3A Component Commander, alongside interactive activities, including the collection of deployment essentials and tours of NATO AWACS aircraft and Forward Operating Bases. This event was made possible through essential partnerships with the SLPM, Beth Restor, various installation units such as the 470th Air Base Squadron and the 852nd Medical Squadron, as well as dedicated volunteers.

Geilenkirchen NATO AB | Beth Restor, SLPM



JBER, AK | Adele Daniels & Holly Warners, SLPMs

JBER School Liaison Program Managers, Adele Daniels and Holly Warners, in collaboration with the 673 ABW Public Affairs Office, gathered 3,500 new books to distribute within the local community. These books were donated to various initiatives, including the Bright Lights Book Project, which supports families in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, the “Read on The Fly” program at the Anchorage International Airport, and little free libraries across the Eagle River and JBER communities.

#askushow

#partnershipsdriveresults

#notwithoutus



# INSIDER SCOOP

## Know the Lingo! Key School Terms You Should Know

Understanding school jargon can make a big difference in how you support your student's education. Here are some common terms you'll hear in school communications –

### CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- **Core Subjects** - Main areas: English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies
- **Electives** - Optional classes like Art, Music, PE, Drama, or Coding
- **ELA (English Language Arts)** - Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills
- **STEM** - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- **STEAM** - STEM with the addition of the Arts
- **Common Core** - A set of academic standards adopted by many states
- **Standardized Tests** - State or national exams to measure achievement
- **Benchmark Tests** - Periodic tests to monitor progress



In military-connected schools, robust partnerships among commanders, educators, families, and communities are crucial for fostering student success. Establishing a shared understanding of educational terminology facilitates clear communication, aligns expectations, and ensures coordinated support.

### STUDENT SUPPORTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** - A legal document outlining support for students with disabilities
- **504 Plan** - A plan to provide accommodations for students with disabilities
- **Response to Intervention (RTI)** - A tiered approach to early identification and support for students
- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** - A broader framework combining academics, behavior, and emotional support
- **Gifted & Talented (GT / GATE)** - Programs for students with exceptional academic abilities
- **Special Education (SPED)** - Services for students with disabilities
- **English Language Learner / English as a Second Language (ELL / ESL)** - Support for students learning English
- **Inclusion** - Integrating students with special needs into general education classrooms
- **Accommodations** - Changes in how a student learns material
- **Modifications** - Changes in what a student is expected to learn

### HOME EDUCATION

Are you homeschooling, considering it, or supporting a home-educated student? A clear understanding of home education terms can empower families and strengthen partnerships.

Explore the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and their "Starting Strong" series available here:



### SCHOOL RHYTHMS & ROUTINES

- **Period** - A class block of time, typically in middle and high school
- **Block Scheduling** - Fewer, longer classes (e.g., 90 minutes every other day)
- **Semester / Trimester / Quarter** - Ways the school year is divided
- **Tardy** - Arriving late to class or school
- **Absence / Excused / Unexcused** - Not being present; rules vary by district
- **Truancy** - Chronic, unexcused absenteeism
- **Early Release / Late Start** - Adjusted school days for meetings or weather
- **Class Dojo / Remind / Seesaw / Google Classroom** - Digital platforms used for parent-teacher communication
- **Student Information System (SIS)** - Centralized digital platforms used by school districts to manage school and student data

### MIC3 IMPLEMENTATION FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

#### Ensuring Consistent, Equitable Support for Highly Mobile Students



As we welcome a new school year, it's critical for education stakeholders, military leaders, and support teams to reaffirm their commitment to the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). With high student mobility continuing across the force, consistent and equitable application of MIC3 remains essential to supporting academic continuity for military-connected students.

#### Oversight & Accountability: Everyone Has a Role

- School Liaisons play a pivotal role as essential connectors, proactively addressing Compact-related challenges and ensuring seamless communication between military families and local education authorities (LEAs)
- LEAs and school staff must be trained annually on Compact provisions and procedures
- Installation command teams, in collaboration with their School Liaison, should monitor MIC3 compliance trends and elevate any systemic barriers for resolution.
- State Councils and Compact Commissioners must maintain collaborative partnerships to address persistent issues and, when necessary, seek guidance and support from the national MIC3 governing body.

- **August 12** Installation Slide & Meeting Complete
- **August 19** Installation & State Slide Submission
- **September 9** CONUS Day 1 9-11:30 CST
  - Mid-Atlantic Region (DE, DC, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV)
  - Southeast Region (AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN)
  - South Central Region (AR, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX)
  - Pacific Southwest Region (AZ, CA, HI, NM, NV, UT)
- **September 10** CONUS Day 2 9-11:30 CST
  - New England Region (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)
  - Midwest Region (CO, IA, KS, ND, NE, SD)
  - Great Lakes Region (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
  - Northwest Region (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY)
- **October 16** OCONUS
  - Europe ID 0700-0900 CST
  - Pacific ID 1800-1930 CST
- **October 23-24** MIC3 ABM
- **October 22** MIC3 Joint Services Training
- **December 12** Report Analyzation to Core Stakeholders



### INSPECTION TRENDS



- **A.1.h.4** Evidence of a strategic communication plan was not available
- **A.5.b.2** SLs address MIC3 transition challenges through collaboration and coordination with families, LEA/SEA and other stakeholders.
- **A.5.b.3** SLs reports education challenges, trends, best practices and legislation/policy through collaboration and coordination with local and State education entities, and other installations in their state, to include DoDEA regions.
- **B.1.b.6** A DD Form 2981, "Basic Criminal History and Statement of Admission," is current for all CYP staff.

### RMS

### HOW

- Log into RMS
- Click "Reports" under the Application Menu on the left side of the page
- Select "Case Work Report" from the drop-down menu
- Select your installation

#### Creating Reports in RMS: Case Work

- Under "Create Choice," Select All
- Select date range of 9/01/2024 - present
- Select Excel as Document Type
- Create Report
- Use MS Excel functions to disaggregate data



### Connect With Us

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[@dafslp](https://www.facebook.com/dafslp)

[DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram](https://www.linkedin.com/company/DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram)

[@DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram](https://www.instagram.com/DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram)



**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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