



SLP Global Connect

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

EDUCATE * CONNECT * ELEVATE



Alaska SLPs, **Earnest Kincaide and Adele Daniels**, representing **Eielson AFB and JBER**, visited Juneau to support Coast Guard (CG) families. A notable highlight of the trip was their meeting with Juneau School District (JSD) Superintendent Hauser, during which they discussed strategies for enhancing support for military-connected families through specialized programs, resources, and partnership opportunities.

Superintendent Hauser joined the SLPs in a meeting with Rear Admiral Bob Little, Commander of the Arctic District, U.S. Coast Guard, and his staff. This discussion focused on fostering a robust relationship between the CG and the JSD. The SLPs also met with key staff member Ms. Tanya Preusser, Southeast Alaska Coast Guard Family Resource Specialist, who emphasized her role in supporting families with special needs. This conversation opened avenues for the Alaska SLPs to explore ongoing support and partnership initiatives.

Innovation at Work:

STRATEGIC SPOTLIGHT: SCHOOL LIAISONS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MILITARY-CONNECTED PREK-12 EDUCATION

In today's dynamic operational landscape, mission readiness encompasses more than just aircraft, weapons systems, and training exercises; it fundamentally begins at home. For many Airmen and Guardians, the academic success and well-being of their children are crucial elements contributing to family stability, retention, and overall force resilience. At the intersection of military service and PreK-12 education lies a vital asset: your **School Liaison Program**.

Operating across the globe, their mission is clear:

- Aligning military installations, families, local education agencies (LEAs), and community partners
- Promoting academic continuity and long-term student success
- Reinforcing key strategic goals — Readiness, Retention, and Recruitment



ASK A SCHOOL LIAISON

What moment reaffirmed your "why" as a School Liaison?

"Every time I see a student regain confidence, help a parent feel supported, or a teacher empowered to make a difference, it reaffirms my purpose. My mission is simple: helping military-connected kids thrive, not just survive."

My everyday WHY is dedicated to turning challenges into opportunities for connection, growth, and resilience. The Air Force may provide the platform, but the mission is the kids."

~ Jenn Ohmer, JB Charleston SLP



PIONEERING SOLUTIONS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

RAF Lakenheath/Mildenhall Leadership Breakfast Susan Ratkovsky and Sean Lauwers | SLPs

This Leadership Breakfast functions as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue and collaboration, aimed at enhancing partnerships and aligning efforts to foster community growth. Events like this offer a unique platform for building trust, exchanging ideas, and reinforcing our collective commitment to academic excellence and mission readiness.



From Intent to Impact

Inside a Successful School Liaison Program

Beyond compliance inspections, what truly defines success is the visible impact on families, schools, and mission readiness. A strong program demonstrates:

- **Trusted Partnerships:** Collaborations with schools, districts, and joint service teams that build credibility and influence at community and state levels.
- **Mission-Relevant Outcomes:** School-based programming, professional development for educators, and active roles in crisis action planning that directly support commanders and families.
- **Data-Driven Decisions:** Capturing trends, reporting education challenges, and linking results to readiness, retention, and recruiting.
- **Enterprise Alignment:** Partnering with the Defense State Liaison Office and sharing best practices that shape DoD and Air Force policy.

Bottom Line: A program that goes beyond compliance is one that is trusted, visible, and produces measurable results for families, schools, and commanders—while also shaping enterprise policy and sharing innovations across the joint force.



Ramstein AB DoDEA Day

Jessica Comfort and Lisa Hill | SLPs

94 educators from throughout the Kaiserslautern Military Community gathered at Ramstein AB for DoDEA Day. The event included opportunities to engage with leadership, tour aircraft, and gain insights into how the families of students contribute to the mission of the Global Gateway. This year, the 86th AW collaborated with the 406th AEW, 435th AGOW, and 521st AMOW, along with Army leadership, to ensure that educators gained a comprehensive understanding of the unique mission sets of service members, thereby enhancing their ability to support military-connected students.



Commander's Tips:

Driving a Successful School Liaison Program



- **Champion Partnerships:** Publicly support your School Liaison's engagement with schools, districts, and community leaders. Your presence reinforces credibility.
- **Ask for Data:** Request regular updates on education trends, MIC3 cases, and family feedback to inform your decisions.
- **Connect the Dots:** Tie education issues directly to readiness, retention, and recruiting in command messaging.
- **Empower the Role:** Ensure your SLP has a seat at the table—especially in crisis planning, councils, and working groups.
- **Share the Wins:** Highlight education successes in commander's calls and reports. Visibility shows families you care about their children's future.

Leader's Bottom Line: When commanders actively endorse and integrate the School Liaison Program, it transforms from a compliance requirement into a force multiplier for mission success.

EDUCATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

TURNING COLLABORATION INTO COMMUNITY IMPACT

Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce Education Issues Event

The Superintendent, accompanied by the executive staff, convened to discuss key district highlights and partnerships, notably the exceptional collaboration with Robins AFB. The event was attended by over 200 community leaders, elected officials, and 15 representatives from Team Robins. Their participation reflected a shared vision for empowering student achievement, cultivating enduring community partnerships, and reinforcing the strategic alignment between education and military readiness.

Pictured: Renea McFeeters SLP, Col Keith Quick, 78 MSG/CC, Dr. Richard Rogers, Houston County School District Superintendent, Renee Daughtry, SLP, and Dr. Chris Brown, Houston County School District Deputy Superintendent



Robert Richert, SLP, Maxwell AFB

MCEC Global Training Summit - Atlanta, GA & Austin, TX

Two regional events brought together military, educational, and community leaders to explore the influence of technology on the future of education for students connected to the military. Five DAF School Liaison Program Managers were in attendance to hear from senior leaders and other experts on trending topics impacting PreK-12 education. Maj. Gen. Larry Broadwell, 16th AF Deputy Commander, was the opening speaker regarding the digital landscape for military families.



**Robert Richert, SLP, Maxwell AFB
Chris Gerry, SLP, JB Charleston
Dr. Mackinley Cross, SLP, Hurlburt Field
Cristy Barnes-Williams, SLP, Seymour Johnson AFB**

Robert was invited to participate on the panel entitled **"A Community of Support: Harnessing Collective Wisdom and Tools for Military-Connected Students."** Drawing from his extensive experience bridging schools, military families, and communities, he provided invaluable perspectives on the unique challenges faced by military-connected students.

By advocating for enhanced communication, tailored programs, and a community-focused approach, SLs continue to be a vital force in ensuring military-connected students thrive despite the challenges of military life.



Leading from the Front

Investing in the Future: Command Engagement in Student Development

KADENA AB | ROBERT CHANCE, SLP

18 MSG/CD, Lt. Col. Chilson, in conjunction with KDAP and the 18th SFS School Resource Officers, inaugurated the school year at all secondary schools on Kadena AB. This purposeful visit established clear expectations for military dependents stationed in Okinawa, emphasizing the importance of serving as exemplary representatives of themselves, their community, the military, and the United States.



Student Focused...Partnership Driven





THE EMPOWERED SCHOOL LIAISON

Where They Are...We Are



The DoD STARBASE Program's goal is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of youth in STEM by exposing youth to the technological environment and positive role models found on military bases and installations.

Holloman AFB



Col Ethridge, 49th Wing Commander, and his spouse, Tricia, along with Command Chief Ford and the leadership teams from MSG and FSS, visited STARBASE Holloman. They joined **Raquel Labadie, SLPM and STARBASE Holloman Federal Program Manager**, and the STARBASE staff for an in-depth tour of the facility, which included an overview of the curriculum and engaging hands-on activities.

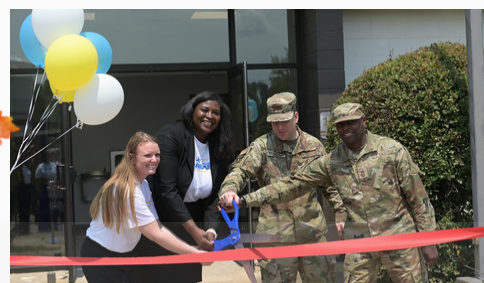
In anticipation of welcoming students, the STARBASE staff organized a Teacher Orientation Day specifically for all 5th grade teachers from participating schools.



Columbus AFB

Leadership from Columbus AFB, along with **SLPM Amber Meiborg** and the STARBASE staff, celebrated the inauguration of a new initiative with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This innovative program features a series of flight simulators that were previously utilized for training elite pilots but are now repurposed to educate 5th grade students.

"STARBASE Columbus will give students an opportunity to learn through a hands-on STEM based curriculum," stated Amber Meiborg, SLPM and Federal Program Manager of STARBASE Columbus. "They are able to develop critical thinking skills, while engaging in interactive lessons through teamwork."



OSAN AB APRIL KERSEY, SLPM



In collaboration with Team Osan, SLPM April Kersey, facilitated the "Ready Mustang Families: K.U.D.O.S (Kids Understanding Deployment Operations)" event, where the SLPM engaged with students and families on essential skills for building grit. This initiative aimed to equip families for mission readiness by providing students with hands-on experiences to gather essential tools for their resiliency toolbox.



AVIANO AB | JOY-NICOLE SMITH, SLPM

In collaboration with Aviano Elementary and Aviano Middle Schools, the spouses of 31 FW Leadership, along with the SL hosted Mrs. Moga, the spouse of the 3rd Air Force Commander. The event focused on the SLP, fostering engagement with students and exploring various programs and initiatives, as well as their impact on the school community. Such visits underscore DAF commitment to quality education and its dedication to investing in the communities that support us.

Stavanger AB

Stavanger, Norway **SLPM Faith Madsen** briefed US Service Members and families during the All Call Briefing, which was hosted by the Senior National Representative for the United States and opened by Brigadier General Adams of the U.S. Marines. In her address to senior leadership, including officers and enlisted personnel from the five service branches stationed in Stavanger, she provided updates on program developments and highlighted the essential role of the SL.



#askushow

#partnershipsdrivesresults

#notwithoutus



INSIDER SCOOP

WPAFB Special Needs Parent Support Group



Register Here!



Hosted by the Exceptional Family Members Program & the School Liaison Office

In-Person Meetings	Virtual Meetings
Pratt's Chapel Community Center 6:15-7:15 p.m.	6:15-7:15 p.m. Link sent after registration
9 Sept 2025 12 Nov 2025 13 Jan 2026 10 March 2026 12 May 2026	14 Oct 2025 9 Dec 2025 10 Feb 2026 14 Apr 2026

Highlights:

- Guest Speakers
- Discussion
- Networking
- Resource Sharing
- Best Practices
- Collaboration

Contact BBSA.spe@us.af.mil or BBSA.WPAFB@AFMFPfamily.support@us.af.mil with any questions

Highlighting Best Practices: Wright Patterson AFB Special Needs Parent Support Group

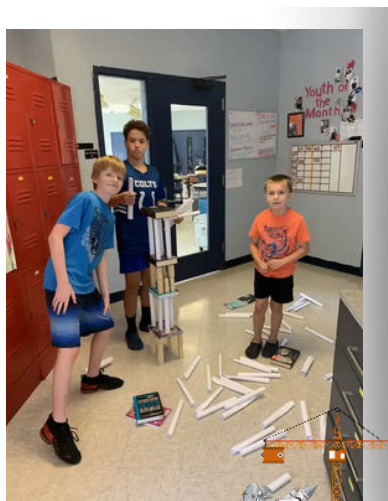
Military families with children in special education often face increased challenges during school transitions, particularly during permanent change of station (PCS) moves. This initiative serves as an example of how School Liaisons can effectively bridge the gap for military families. It highlights the significance of collaboration, demonstrating that when School Liaisons, installation partners, community stakeholders, and local schools work together they can cultivate a more seamless and supportive academic experience.

Andrea Edmonds and Shatila Smith, SLPMs

HOME EDUCATION

Shaw AFB | Deborah MacQueen, SLPM

A successful community-building initiative was launched by the SL and a Homeschool Parent to address the isolation and lack of support experienced by homeschooling families. What began as one family's struggle to connect has evolved into a thriving support network. The initiative demonstrates how targeted community outreach can effectively address underserved population needs while building valuable partnerships.



Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)



Laughlin AFB | Janette Gomez, SLPM

Roberto 'Bobby' Barrera (RBB) Elementary STEM Magnet School was honored as a 2025 Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School in August 2025. This distinction marks it as the first school in the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District and the sole recipient of this accolade in Texas for the year. Col Ellison, Commander, 47 FTW, and CMSgt Garza, Command Chief, 47 FTW, presented commander proclamations to Aurora Guerra, principal of RBB, and Janette Gomez, Laughlin School Liaison Program Manager. The leadership of Team XL convened to celebrate RBB Elementary School's achievement in becoming a 2025 Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School.



CYB Military Family Life Counselors

JBSA | Andrea Black and Sherrie Walker, SLPMs

JBSA School Liaison team successfully conducted their annual MFLC orientation, a vital element in enhancing the support framework for military-connected students and their families. The session was strategically designed to equip school-embedded MFLCs with a comprehensive understanding of their roles, key points of contact, and the extensive support resources available to families. The training underscored the importance of robust partnerships in fostering a resilient support network.



Fostering Partnerships and Connecting Communities

SLP Resources



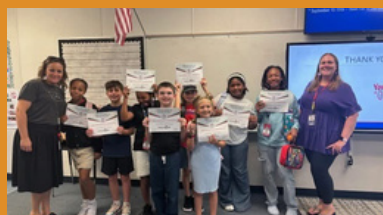
Bounce Back Better: Inside School-Based Programming

Anchored4Life (A4L) is a comprehensive resilience and leadership development program designed to support students through life's transitions. Centered on peer-to-peer connection, the program fosters a culture of encouragement, positive reinforcement, and the cultivation of essential life skills. Operating within schools, A4L equips both student leaders and adult advisors with training and ongoing support to promote collaboration and personal growth.

The program is specifically tailored to address the unique challenges encountered by mobile and military-connected students, offering critical assistance during deployments and other transitions. Ultimately, A4L aims to enhance academic performance while facilitating healthy social and emotional adjustments within the school community.



Anchored4Life in Action
Mallory Gross | Tyndall AFB SLPM



Schools Highlighted:

- Bay Haven Charter Academy K-5
- Tyndall Academy Elementary School
- Tyndall Academy Middle School



Inspection Trends



A.1.h.4 | SLP has a strategic communication plan to ensure stakeholders (commanders, families, schools and community) are aware of programs and services.



A.5.b.2 | SLs address MIC3 transition challenges through collaboration and coordination with families, LEA/SEA and other stakeholders.



B.1.b.6 | A DD Form 2981, "Basic Criminal History and Statement of Admission," is current for all CYP staff.



A.5.a.1 | SL has regular and direct communication with the military commander. Written communication protocols allow the SL direct, timely access to work with installation leadership.

Records Management System (RMS)

The Installation Details pane contains required fields that must be completed



Installation Commander Name

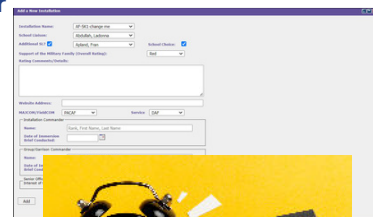
- Date of Immersion Brief

Group/Garrison Commander Name

- Date of Immersion Brief

FSS Commander Name

- Date of Immersion Brief



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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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