

February 2026



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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Sustaining Lethality Through Educational Stability

High-quality PreK-12 education is the foundation of stability for military-connected families, and that stability is directly tied to a ready, resilient force. By strengthening academic pathways, advocating for consistent educational experiences, and addressing systemic challenges, the School Liaison Program (SLP) directly reinforces force readiness. Through strategic partnerships, data-informed advocacy, and proactive problem-solving, School Liaisons (SLs) enhance retention, support community resilience, and safeguard the conditions that keep the force lethal, agile, and mission ready. These efforts solidify the program's role as a cornerstone of the home front, enabling Airmen, Guardians, and their families to stay focused on their critical missions.

CSAF & CMSAF Visits Ramstein AB Investing in the Homefront

A visit from the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) and the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF), along with their spouses, presented a strategic opportunity to highlight the SLP's enterprise-level influence on force readiness, family resilience, and the long-term stability of the military community. This engagement emphasized the SLP not merely as a support function, but as a critical enabler of readiness, demonstrating how educational continuity and family stability directly impact mission execution. Through this interaction, the School Liaison Program Manager (SLPM) was able to:

- Demonstrate strategic value of PreK-12 education
- Showcase family resilience through powerful, personal stories
- Identify key challenges impacting military-connected students
- Provide recommendations that strengthen policy, partnerships, and innovative programs



Jessica Comfort,
Ramstein AB SLPM,
DV Project Officer & Briefer

"Our Air Force is strong because of the Airmen who serve and the families who support them."
(Gen. Wilsbach, CSAF 24) By supporting families, enhancing the educational environment, and championing long-term solutions, the SLP strengthens *"the bedrock of our success"*.



COMMANDER'S CORNER

From Mandates to Momentum

FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

The FY26 National Defense Authorization Act reinforces a simple truth: education stability is a readiness issue long before it becomes a risk issue. New provisions affecting PreK-12 partnerships, transition support, school access, and military-connected student protections provide commanders with clearer tools to safeguard the well-being of families, which serve as critical operational anchors.

FY26 NDAA elevates these expectations. The legislation increases coordination requirements with school districts, strengthens data responsibilities, expands oversight in areas such as Impact Aid and JROTC reporting, and enhances support for transitions and deployment-related needs. These are not administrative details, they are operational conditions that directly influence mission focus, retention, and family readiness.

HHQ Unannounced Inspection

As we enter Inspection Year 2026, it is important to remember that a compliance inspection serves a specific purpose: to verify that required processes, documentation, and advisory responsibilities are being executed to standard. Compliance reflects the integrity of our systems, it does not serve as a holistic rating of program quality, innovation, or mission impact. A program may be high-performing and still receive findings; likewise, a compliant program may still have opportunities to grow. The inspection tells us if we are meeting mandated expectations that protect families and commanders alike.

This distinction matters. Our expectation is that every process can be defended with evidence and clearly tied to mission priorities, beyond compliance to operational relevance. Inspectors will assess whether installations can demonstrate sustained, repeatable processes, not temporary fixes or individual efforts. This year, the inspection will examine whether the systems behind our School Liaison Programs operate with the rigor expected of a mission-critical enterprise.

FY26 NDAA sets the mandate. Inspection Year 2026 provides the verification. Commanders provide the momentum. Together, we ensure that families remain steady, readiness remains strong, and our force remains lethal, resilient, and future-ready.

Command Team's leadership is decisive. Here are a few tips to support your SLPM:



- Integrate your SLPM early into decisions impacting basing, education access, and community partnerships
- Reinforce disciplined documentation, inspectors will look for proof that processes are repeatable, evidence-backed, and aligned to your priorities as the installation commander and NDAA requirements
- Promote continuous learning, encourage SLPMs to stay current on NDAA implications and apply updates proactively, not reactively
- Model the understanding that education stability is an operational requirement that supports readiness across the force

SCHOOL LIAISON MARKETING AS A STRATEGIC CAPABILITY

Aligning messaging to leadership priorities



To maximize impact, strategic marketing isn't just a tool, it's a capability that strengthens outreach, builds trust, and drives engagement. When SLs embrace marketing as a strategic capability, they shift from reactive communication to proactive engagement.

This approach guarantees that stakeholders receive timely, accurate information and strengthens the overall mission of supporting military-connected students. By fostering strong partnerships with educational and community stakeholders, SLs can create a network of support that anticipates and addresses the unique challenges faced by military families. Through targeted campaigns and personalized communication strategies, they can highlight success stories, like the one highlighted below, demonstrating the tangible impact of SLPM advocacy efforts. These narratives serve to validate students' experiences while also inspiring continued collaboration and innovation in educational support. By positioning as both advocates and communicators, SLs ensure that military-connected students receive the recognition and resources they deserve, paving the way for their academic success and personal growth.



What are the key components of the SLP Strategic Communication Plan for 2026? How does the SLP SWOT analysis from 2025, in conjunction with installation priorities, address the needs of the community?



Results with Real Faces

A military-connected 11th-grade student encountered a challenge concerning a transcript for an AP College Board-approved course that was not included in the state course code directory. Initially, the school district was unable to designate the course as AP, which jeopardized the accuracy of the student's GPA and potentially undervalued her academic achievements.

Through dedicated advocacy and collaboration with the School Liaison, the State Department of Education, and the local school district, we are pleased to announce that the course has been successfully reclassified as AP. This adjustment has resulted in a 0.03 increase in GPA, ensuring that the student's record now accurately reflects her accomplishments.

** These anecdotes are derived from real-life experiences; names have been omitted to ensure privacy is maintained.*





THE EMPOWERED SCHOOL LIAISON

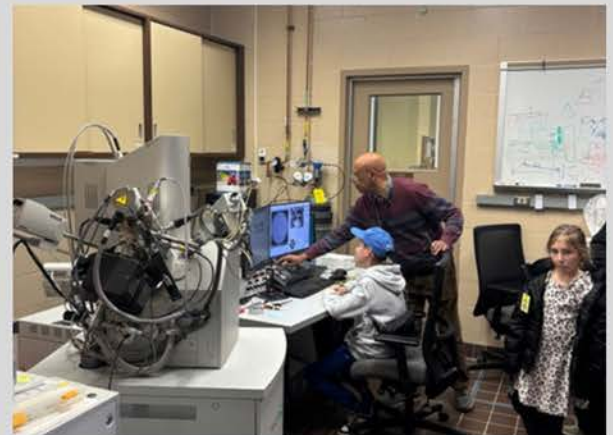
"When students are given real access to STEM, they don't just learn about the future — they start building it."



Homeschool Students Explore the Micro-World at Wright-Patterson

Andrea Edmonds, SLPM
Shatila Smith, SLPM

The SLPMs at WPAFB partnered with AFRL/RQWC, part of the AFRL Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, and opened AFRL's doors to military-connected homeschool families for a hands-on STEM experience centered around the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEMEDS). Twenty-one middle and high school students spent the day exploring the microscopic world, guided by AFRL scientists who demonstrated how the Air Force uses SEM technology in research, analysis, and real-world applications.



Homeschoolers Go Orbital with STEM2Space at JB Charleston

Chris Gerry, SLPM
Jenn Ohmer, SLPM



In collaboration with the JB Charleston SLPMs and the M&FRC, a STEM2Space event proved to be a resounding success for military homeschoolers of the Lowcountry. The event featured guest speaker Maj Goropse, who is currently stationed at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Twenty-six students gained valuable insights into the mission of the U.S. Space Force, learning how the branch collaborates with organizations such as NASA and introduced participants to academic programs that can lead to future careers in space operations.

Deployment Training Deepens Partnerships Across RAF Communities

RAF Croughton
Yana Minarov, SLPM

The SLPM at RAF Croughton delivered a Cycle of Deployment webinar to educators from local Host Nation Schools. Ten teachers participated, gaining a deeper understanding of the unique challenges faced by military-connected children and the resources available to support them.

Participants expressed strong interest in strengthening partnerships and expanding support for families stationed at RAF Croughton, RAF Fairford, and RAF Welford, reinforcing a shared commitment to student well-being across the community.



INSIDER SCOOP



Public Schools on Military Installations

A vibrant celebration marked the opening of the new Sandia Base Elementary on **Kirtland AFB**, bringing together base leadership, including Col Justin Secrest, 377 ABW/CC, Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) officials, state representatives, and community members to recognize the collaboration that made the successful completion of this project possible. Supported by a \$42.9M PSMI grant through the OLDCC PSMI grant program and an additional \$10.6 million in state funding, the project underscores the strong partnership between the DoW and APS in expanding access to safe, modern, high-quality learning environments. The new campus replaces a 75-year-old structure and creates capacity for 575 students—significantly increasing capacity for Kirtland families and strengthening the surrounding community. “A strong school makes for a strong community, and a strong community is absolutely vital to supporting our Airmen, Guardians, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, civilians and their families here at Kirtland,” Secrest said.



MYTHS VS FACTS

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)

Myth vs. Fact: CYB-MFLC Parental Consent

Parents must provide written consent for their child under 18 to receive CYB-MFLC support. This includes acknowledging both their approval of the program and whether their child may participate



FACT. Written parental consent on DD Form 3209 is required to comply with legal and program standards for services to minors, ensuring parents are informed and authorize their child's participation in CYB-MFLC support.



Home Education

Reach out to your installation School Liaison for local homeschool engagement opportunities.



Special Education

What is Child Find?

Child Find is a federal mandate under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requiring public agencies to actively locate, identify, and evaluate children from birth through age 21 who have disabilities or suspected disabilities, ensuring they get free, appropriate special education or early intervention services. All children, including those in non-traditional education models are eligible for evaluation.

For more information, reach out to your local education agency.

Did you know?



College, Career and Military Readiness

What is the FAFSA?



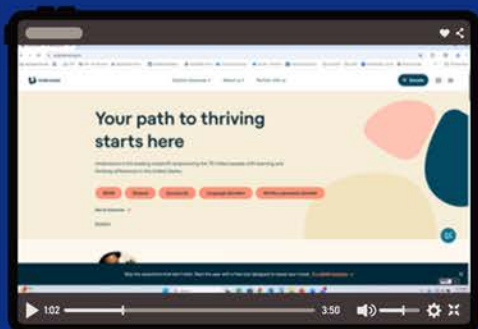
Colleges and career schools utilize the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to assess a student's eligibility for financial aid, which may encompass grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities, and loans. Students are required to submit this application annually; however, with the appropriate information readily available, the process can be straightforward.



Check your state's application deadline

WHAT-A-WEBSITE

Education, mental health, medicine, activism, and public policy focused, expert-designed resources, available for free and easy to access.



[Understood.org](https://www.understood.org)

Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month

February marks Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month, a nationwide effort to raise awareness and promote healthy, respectful relationships among teens. Military-connected youth often navigate unique stressors, frequent moves, long separations, and shifting peer networks which makes strong relationship skills even more essential. One valuable resource is Bloom, a program from the National Military Family Association created by and for military teens. Bloom offers peer-driven articles, support, and community spaces that help teens feel seen, connected, and empowered.

<https://www.bloommilitaryteens.org/>

BLOOM

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR TRAINING?

MIC3 Compact 101 Training

MIC3 provides free, self-paced training on the Interstate Compact for military-connected students. The Compact 101 course consists of ten short modules on its history and legal requirements for public and DoDEA schools, allowing participants to start and stop at their convenience with automatic progress saving.

[MIC3Training.net](https://mic3training.net)



PURPLE STAR SPOTLIGHT



As of 2025, fourteen schools in Houston County, in partnership with Robins Air Force Base, have earned the **Georgia Military Flagship School** designation. This award, which builds on the Purple Star School criteria, includes proactive measures such as excused absences for deployment, online registration for overseas families, buddy systems, military family events, dedicated resources on school websites, and social media support for military families. The award aims to provide tailored support for military families. In its first year (2018), only six of over 70 applicants received the award, while in 2021, just seven were recognized. However, last year saw an increase, with 25 schools honored. To learn more visit [GA Military School Flagship](#)

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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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