



SLP Global Connect

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

EDUCATE * CONNECT * ELEVATE

May 2026



Congratulations Class of 2026

To our graduating seniors: your resilience, adaptability, and determination reflect the very best of our military community. You've navigated moves, new schools, and unique challenges and still achieved this milestone with strength and pride. Your installation community celebrates you, stands behind you, and cannot wait to see where your next chapter leads.

Class of 2026 - The future is yours!

Sheppard AFB

Susan Raymond, SLPM



The SAFB inaugural **Military-Connected Senior Recognition Ceremony** highlights the impact of SLs engagement in strengthening support for military-connected students at key transition points. This visibility reinforces belonging, strengthens connection to community, and supports resilience during a critical milestone.

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Graduation, Enlistment, and Readiness: The School Liaison (SL) Connection

Across our installations, SLs continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening the educational journey of military-connected students, from their first day in a new school to the moment they cross the graduation stage. Their work is a quiet force multiplier, ensuring students have every opportunity to thrive academically, socially, and beyond high school. SLs collaborate daily with families, schools, community stakeholders and command teams to remove barriers that can disrupt academic progress.

SLs play a behind-the-scenes but essential role in ensuring military-connected seniors are celebrated, supported, and set up for success as they transition into adulthood.

Their support often includes:

- Coordinating participation in graduation ceremonies
- Ensuring recognition of military-connected students
- Helping schools understand PCS-related credit transfers so seniors stay on track
- Advocating for students who may need additional assistance to complete graduation requirements
- Supporting "Military Signing Day" recognition events
- Coordinating with recruiters to ensure students and families understand timelines and requirements
- Senior Transition and Post-Secondary Support



By ensuring military-connected students experience stability, continuity, and strong support through graduation and post-secondary transitions, SLs reduce stress on families, strengthen community resilience, and help service members stay focused on the mission.

Their ability to bridge communities, schools, families, and command teams ensures that every senior, whether college-bound, career-ready, or entering military service has a clear, supported path forward. This investment directly reinforces force readiness today and builds the foundation for the next generation of leaders who will carry our mission into the future.



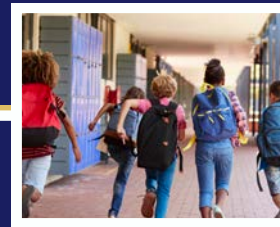
Data Readiness: Strengthening Decisions at Every Level

SLs deliver decision-quality data that enables commanders to see, understand, and act on the education conditions impacting mission readiness. Through disciplined tracking of engagements, inquiries, and cases, SLs provide a real-time picture of how effectively school systems are supporting military-connected students, then translating that data into operationally relevant insights.



At the installation level, this may include measurable indicators such as enrollment data, PreK-12 funding, graduation pathway risks, and access to critical services like special education. This localized data is strengthened by state-level education insights, providing commanders with a broader context. Metrics such as graduation rates, assessment outcomes, and access to advanced coursework including AP, dual enrollment, and Career Technical Education help determine the overall quality and capacity of surrounding school systems. Through Status of Education (SOE) reporting, these data points are elevated to identify trends across installations, regions, and services. The operational impact is direct. Data-driven visibility enables commanders to engage school systems with precision, advocate effectively for military students, and address emerging issues before they escalate. Education stability is not incidental, it is measurable, actionable, and essential to sustaining family confidence, supporting retention, and maintaining mission focus.

The Pulse of Our Schools: Tracking Key Data



The following examples reflect the types of education data SLs may provide to commanders; however, availability varies by state and local education systems. When accessible, this data enables SLs to elevate student-level issues.

LOCAL DATA:

- Special education timelines and service availability
- Policy execution (consistent application of Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3) protections)
- Trend data (repeat issues, high-impact districts, volume over time)
- School environment, safety and resources
- Educator recruitment and retention

STATE DATA:

- Graduation rates and academic performance indicators
- Policy environment: open enrollment, Purple Star, advance enrollment
- Implementation of MIC3
- PreK availability and early education access
- Military Student Identifier (MSI) disaggregated data (where available)

ENTERPRISE & NATIONAL DATA:

- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) trends
- Graduation rate comparisons (state and national benchmarks)
- Impact Aid metrics
- Nationally recognized achievement scores (SAT, ACT, AP)
- Defense State Liaison Office state policy priorities

Education stability is not a quality-of-life issue; it is a readiness requirement.

Championing Military-Connected Students Through Strategic Partnerships

Senator Eric Buckson acknowledged **Dover AFB SLPM Laurie Sisk** on the Senate floor for her efforts in organizing and preparing for the MOMC event and her dedication to the state of Delaware (DE). She effectively coordinated initiatives among Mr. Stephen Simmons, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Military Community and Family Policy (DASD), the state senator's office, DE, Department of Education, the Defense State Liaison Office, the DE National Guard, and local families. This collaborative approach reflects a unified commitment to supporting military-connected students.

Serving as central coordination for the Governor's proclamation signing and Purple Star School banner presentations, the SLPM ensured seamless collaboration across agencies and communities. This collective effort not only highlighted DE's dedication to educational excellence for military students but also reinforced the vital role of community engagement and inter-agency cooperation in recognizing and supporting military families at both the federal, state, and local levels.



Mr. Stephen Simmons, (DASD(MC&FP)) in the DE Governor's Office emphasizing the impact of military-connected and the state initiatives that support them



Results with Real Faces Nicole Painter, Vance AFB SLPM

I wanted to say thank you for last night and your assistance with the Purple Star Certification. In my opinion, the relationship with VAFB and our school district has never been better, your support is a large part of that. Thank you for your constant support. Much appreciated. ~ Superintendent

Educator Engagement That Elevates Military Student Success

Supporting military-connected students requires strong, intentional partnerships between installations, state and local education agencies. SLs play a pivotal role in building these relationships, ensuring that schools have the information, access, and support needed to understand the unique experiences of military families. **Key SL functions include:**

- **Strengthen** educator partnerships through consistent communication
- **Facilitate** on-base learning by coordinating school visits and career exploration
- **Support** student transitions to reduce academic and social disruption
- **Advise** educators on the impacts of military life on students
- **Collaborate** with state and local agencies on policies and programs that improve continuity
- **Promote** awareness of protections such as MIC3
- **Address** systemic barriers by identifying trends and developing solutions with schools and command teams
- **Provide** training and professional development
- **Enhance** community engagement through events, recognition, and partnerships



Maxwell AFB Kathryn Ganster, SLPM

Local schools are regularly welcomed onto the installation for immersive, curriculum-enhancing tours that highlight a wide range of DAF missions. Students at the local high school recently had the opportunity to visit the Fire Department, Honor Guard, Security Forces, the Air Traffic Control Tower, and the 908th Flying Training Wing, where they learn about the MH-139 helicopter mission. These tours strengthen community partnerships, support career exploration, and provide students with a deeper understanding of the diverse roles that contribute to the Air Force mission.

JB Charleston

Chris Gerry and Jenn Ohmer, SLPs

At the Lowcountry Leadership Summit, the SLP provided a focused briefing to local educational partners, strengthening collaboration between the installation and surrounding schools.



The session outlined key resources that support military-connected students, along with an overview of the deployment cycle to help educators better understand potential academic and social-emotional impacts. The briefing reinforced the SLPs role in equipping schools to create inclusive, supportive environments where military-connected students can successfully transition and thrive.

F.E. Warren AFB

Mary Jacobsen, SLP

F.E. Warren AFB recently hosted Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, along with leaders from Laramie County School District #1, for a comprehensive tour of the facility. The visit included a mission briefing, a tour of the U-01 missile trainer, an exploration of the base museum, complemented by a driving history tour. Participants received a MIC3 briefing, gained insights into the needs of military-connected students and discussed effective strategies for supporting military families.



Wright Patterson AFB

Andrea Edmonds and Shatila Smith, SLPs

The SLP strengthened support by hosting an Anchored4Life (A4L) Student Leader Networking Event at the WPAFB Chapel Community Center. Student leaders from Beverly Gardens and Fairbrook Elementary collaborated on ways to welcome new students and enhance their A4L programs. The event highlighted the SL role in connecting schools and community partners to build welcoming, resilient learning environments.



JB Andrews

Matrice Brooks, SLP

More than 200 students participated in the 8th Annual Aerospace Summit, hosted by the JBA 316th Wing. Through a strategic partnership with JBA STEAM, the SLP, and Patriot Technology, Inc., the event delivered a hands-on STEM experience designed to inspire the next generation of aerospace talent. This collaboration broadened awareness of aerospace career pathways, strengthened community partnerships, and reinforced the Wing's commitment to developing the next generation of innovators.



Luke AFB

Stacey Holland, SLP

The SLP served as a crucial point of contact for promoting Luke Days 2026 to local education agencies (LEAs) within the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. More than 60 school districts were invited, resulting in the attendance of 2,700 students on Student Field Trip Day. These students represented over 20 districts and more than 100 schools. Additionally, thousands of children participated in STEM City. Notably, a significant number of homeschool students contributed to this participation, with over 500 in attendance.



RAF Lakenheath

Sean Lauwers and Susan Ratkovsky, SLPs

The SLP recently demonstrated its ability to rapidly mobilize community support for Lakenheath High School in identifying Spanish-speaking volunteer Airmen. Resulting in more than 50 Spanish-speaking volunteers stepping forward. This effort highlights the SLPs critical role as a connector between schools and the military community. By leveraging installation networks and fostering strong relationships, the program ensured that students received meaningful language-learning support while strengthening school-installation partnerships.

INSIDER SCOOP







Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)

 **In the event of a crisis or emergency, is your installation prepared?**

PSMIs follow district safety protocols, but also must comply with installation access control.

Consider:

-  School bus access to installation during elevated FPCON
-  Procedures if school buses cannot leave the installation
-  Primary emergency response for PSMIs inside the gate
-  Notification to the PSMI during SIP or lockdowns

Is your installation's Integrated Defense Plan comprehensive? Does the School Liaison have a role?

Is the School Liaison on the Crisis Action Team and fully integrated into emergency processes?

MYTHS VS FACTS

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLCs)



The MFLC services are intended to augment, not replace, other DOW support services/programs or staff available for eligible participants.

FACT. MFLC services are designed to enhance and complement existing DoW and school support programs. They are not intended to replace established resources, personnel, or clinical services available to eligible participants.

Find MFLC support near you using the MFLC Locator: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/mflc-locator/>

Home Education

Spangdahlem AB
Judy Mott, SLPM

The 726 AMS demonstrated the impact of deliberate engagement with

military-connected homeschool families during Month of the Military Child. Hosting a large group for an immersive experience including facility tours, mission exposure, and interaction with a C-17 Globemaster III. Such engagements foster a meaningful connection to the operational environment.



Special Education

Vance AFB
Nicole Painter, SLPM

Sustained partnership with Enid Public Schools highlights the strategic value of SLPM engagement in

addressing complex education needs for military-connected students. This targeted collaboration with district leadership enabled delivery of a focused **parent workshop** on navigating IEPs and 504 plans, key areas that often present challenges during transitions.

These efforts build family awareness, improve access to specialized support services, and reduce barriers to educational continuity.



College, Career and Military Readiness



CareerOneStop, a resource provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, is designed for individuals aged 16 to 24 as they explore career options, develop skills, and transition into the workforce.

Tailored to meet the needs of young adults, this platform offers a range of free, comprehensive tools that empower users to navigate their educational and training pathways, as well as employment opportunities, with confidence.

Explore free career, training, and job search tools at <https://www.careeronestop.org/>

Student Focused... Partnership Driven



STRONGER TOGETHER

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Celebrating the Month of the Military Child: A Tribute to Partnership, Collaboration, and Community Strength

Throughout April, mission partners, schools, community stakeholders, and volunteers came together with a shared commitment to honor the resilience of our military children.

Joint events, Purple Up! activities, and coordinated outreach efforts showcased the strength of our partnerships and reinforced the support network surrounding our families. Our commitment to military children does not end with April. The relationships strengthened this month will continue to guide our work and ensure our families feel valued year-round.

Mountain Home AFB | Domineek Haag, SLPM



Mountain Home AFB and Gowen Field collaborated to offer a unique opportunity for military students to visit the Idaho State Capitol for the official proclamation signing in honor of the Month of the Military Child. Lt. Governor Bedke welcomed students, families, and community leaders, recognized and celebrated the strength, resilience, and sacrifices of our military-connected youth, who stand alongside their families every day.

Ramstein AB

Jessica Comfort, SLPM



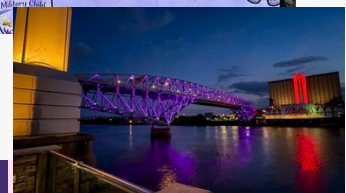
In recognition of MoMC, Commander, 86th Airlift Wing authorized the MoMC morale patch to be worn throughout the entire month of April. After reviewing more than 350 outstanding submissions, the 86th MSG Leadership selected a winning morale patch designed by a talented 3rd-grade student from Ramstein Intermediate School.

The overwhelming participation and enthusiasm underscored the meaningful impact of honoring military-connected youth and highlighted the vital role SLs play in connecting educators, families, and the broader military community.

Barksdale AFB

Lucia Kramer and Jacqueline Robertson, SLPMs

SLPMs partnered with the Bossier Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce to recognize MoMC and honor more than 3,600 military-connected students across Northwest Louisiana. This coordinated effort led to a joint proclamation signed by the mayors and the Texas Street Bridge illuminated purple in tribute. These actions reflect the strength of joint partnerships in supporting military families.



Where They Are...We Are



Schriever SFB

SLPM Abby Hahn

spearheaded the Month of the Military Child STEM Carnival at Schriever SFB. This successful event brought together community agencies and volunteers, facilitated by invaluable partnerships. Families were afforded the opportunity to engage in a day of hands-on



exploration, commemorating the contributions of our youngest heroes.



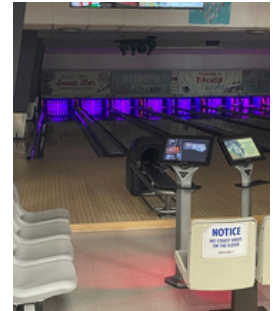
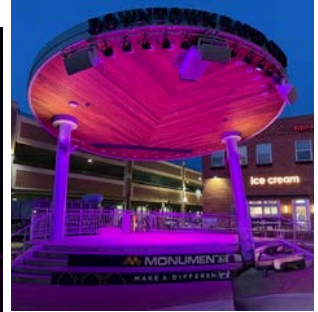
Sheppard AFB

In collaboration with **SLPM Susan Raymond**, the Hamilton Building, often regarded as the city's crown jewel, was illuminated in purple.



Ellsworth AFB

Community partners worked together to illuminate Rapid City in purple as a visible show of support for military-connected youth. Notable displays included the Brontosaurus at Dinosaur Park, Downtown Rapid City bandshell and lighting installations along Main Street, which was lit purple through a joint initiative involving the Installation Command Team, City Mayors, **SLPM JoAnne Mulholland**, South Dakota Army National Guard, and Child and Youth Programs. This effort created a cohesive citywide



Offutt AFB

Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen issued the Month of the Military Child proclamation alongside Offutt AFB military leadership, SLPs **Tina Luderman and Jenni Miller** and superintendents from Bellevue Public Schools and Papillion La Vista Community Schools. Major General Craig Strong honored a local military family, presenting children with certificates recognizing their resilience and the sacrifices made by military-connected youth across the state.



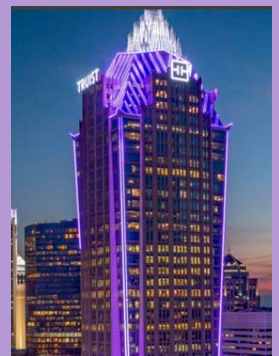
NATO AB Geilenkirchen

80 students, 2nd – 5th at DoWEA AFNORTH US Elementary School recently had the opportunity to learn about all things law, courtesy of **SLPM Beth Restor** and a partnership with the AF Legal Office on NATO AB Geilenkirchen. Students played defendants, witnesses, lawyers and jury during a mock trial of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" before delivering a verdict of "guilty" or not guilty."



MacDill AFB

Truist Bank Building, 525ft skyscraper in Tampa, FL turns purple





CHAPTER 400 Graduation



Military moves should not hinder a student's journey toward graduation. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3) facilitates collaboration among states to ensure that military-connected students remain on course in their education.

Key MIC3 Provisions

- **Waiver Requirements:** Receiving LEAs shall waive comparable completed coursework or provide an alternative means for timely completion.
- **Exit Exams:** States shall accept sending-state exit exams, national norm-referenced tests, or approved alternative assessments.
- **Senior-Year Transfers:** LEAs shall coordinate issuance of a sending-state diploma when a transferring senior cannot meet receiving-state requirements.

SLP Resources



PURPLE STAR SPOTLIGHT

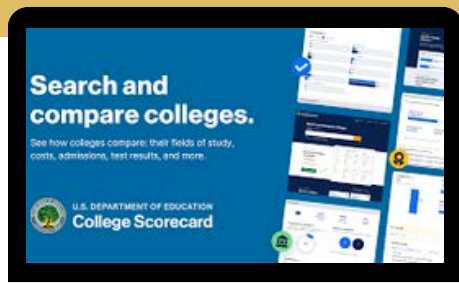
The **South Carolina (SC) Purple Star Program** transforms how South Carolina schools serve military-connected families. By establishing designated points of contact and implementing proactive outreach strategies, the program enhances communication, facilitates smoother school transitions, and nurtures stable, inclusive environments. As a result, there has been a measurable increase in family engagement, student stability, and community partnerships. To learn more, please visit the **SC Purple Star Program** website.

WHAT-A-WEBSITE

College Scorecard, created by the U.S. Department of Education, helps students compare colleges across the country using facts that matter: graduation rates, average costs, financial aid, popular majors, and typical earnings after graduation



Visit College Scorecard:
<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>



Inspection Trends



A.1h.4 Evidence of a written strategic communication plan was not available



A.1.h.5 Evidence was not available that the School Liaison was utilizing the SLPM Records Management System monthly



A.5.b.3 Documentation was not available the school liaison provided installation commander, LEAs and MIC3 Commissioners with results of Status of Education review

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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 DoWEA 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.

The information in this newsletter is provided as a resource and does not constitute endorsement by the United States Air Force, or the Department of War of the external website, the information, products, or services contained therein.