Supporting Our Military Youth

Maria Grovner
GaDOE

Renee Daughtry
Robbins Air Force Base

Dr. Deborah Harnois
Muscogee County

Dr. Sarah Ruff
Cobb County

Military Youth

• 1.85 million children have one or both parents serving in the U.S. Military

• 1.2 million of these children have parents in active duty

• 660,000 children have parents in the reserves

• 1.2 million fall into the K-12 education range (6-18 years)

90% are in public schools
Challenges

- Multiple School Transitions
- Parental Deployment
- Lack of Community Support

Multiple School Transitions

- Relocation causing Tension at home
- Slow transfer of records
- Differences in school curriculum
- Adapting to new school environments
- Making friends
- Limited access to extra curricular activities
- Lack of understanding of military culture by school teachers and staff
Parental Deployment

- Extended war-time deployments
- Remaining parents inability to cope with deployment
- Role Strain
- Child relationship with the deployed parent
- The cycle of deployment
- Reintegration/Adjustment

Deployment

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEsZnw0xvcQ
Lack of Community Support

- Reservist families not connected to Military installations
- Most school faculty and staff cannot identify military students
- School faculty and staff do not have an understanding of military culture or how to help them
- One of the largest sub-culture in the US but also the least visible
- Disagreements between political parties
- Anti-war activist/war protestors

Implication for School Counselors

- Become Informed
- Advocacy (support and identify)
- Student to Student programs
- Counseling groups
- Connecting to resources
- Staff training
- Schoolwide recognition
Sources of Strengths

- Frequent Moves and Resilience
- Self-confidence and Cultural competence

Deployment and Resilience

- Competence and Character through adult roles
- Connection, Caring, Coping and Contribution, through shared experiences

How can you support military families at your school?
### Web Resources to Support Military Students with Transition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Web Address</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military One Source</td>
<td><a href="http://www.militaryonesource.mil">www.militaryonesource.mil</a></td>
<td>This site offers current information on military culture to community service providers including printable and orderable materials. A Link to “Youth on the Move,” is a website dedicated to helping military students with school transition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Defense Education Activity</td>
<td><a href="http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu">www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu</a></td>
<td>This site offers best practices for working with military students and quick reference guides about military culture and families. Militaryk12partners also describes several DOD initiatives to assist public schools that serve military children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Child Education Coalition</td>
<td><a href="http://www.militarychild.org">www.militarychild.org</a></td>
<td>This site offers resources for parents, students, and school staff to help military children with school transition. The coalition links schools with local military installations and military student transition consultants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mic3.net">www.mic3.net</a></td>
<td>This site provides information and documentation of the interstate compact designed to help ease school transition of military students between states.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutor.com</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tutor.com/military">www.tutor.com/military</a></td>
<td>Offers free tutoring for military students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Veterans Affairs Parenting for service members and veterans</td>
<td><a href="http://t2health.dcoe.mil/programs/militaryparenting">http://t2health.dcoe.mil/programs/militaryparenting</a></td>
<td>This resource addresses the unique challenges of parenting in military families through an online anonymous parenting course, interactive activities and stories of real military and veteran families that will provide valuable skills for the everyday challenges of raising military children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Robins AFB Deployment Support Groups**

RENEE D. DAUGHTRY
Robins AFB School Liaison Officer

*“The Installation of Excellence … The Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play”*
Deployment Support Groups (DSG)

- SLO & Family Readiness Conduct DSGs in 9 Schools
  - Over 800 students participated in DSGs in 2016 school year
- Work w/ School Counselors in highest military impacted schools to ID children w/ deployed parent & schedule DSGs
- Multiple Benefits of DSGs
  - Gives students chance to identify w/ other students & realize they are not alone in having deployed parent
  - Do age appropriate craft w/ focus on staying connected to deployed parent or preparing for reintegration
    - Examples: Decorating Memory Boxes, Countdown to Homecoming Candy Jars, making duct tape wallet w/ photo holder to put parent’s picture in and keep at all times
- Child & Youth MFLC attends w/ SLO; fosters environment to allow students to share feelings & helps teach coping skills for separation anxiety, depression, anger mgmt, etc

"The Installation of Excellence … The Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play"
COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Debbie Harnois
Junior Counselor &
Student 2 Student Advisor

Columbus High School

- Liberal Arts Magnet School
- Located in Columbus and adjacent to Ft. Benning.
- 1,284 Students in Grades 9-12
- 211 Students have active military parent(s).
What is S2S?

- Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)

- **Ambassador** assists new student with **Finding the Way** (around school & community), **Relationships** (peers, teachers & administrators) & **Academic** (Graduation requirements, AP Courses, Senior Projects, etc.)

- **Ambassadors and new students** attend S2S events, such as monthly meetings, participate in S2S activities, such as book drive, Wall of Heroes, etc.

- Transfer student first meet Ambassadors during orientation that is provided a couple of days before school starts. They are paired with a lunch buddy.

S2S Orientation for Transfer Students

**Student 2 Student Bingo**

Getting to know you activities, such as S2S Bingo, Speed Greet & Kahoot Jeopardy. [www.getahoot.com](http://www.getahoot.com)
Operation Gratitude

School-wide letter writing campaign to deployed soldiers. [www.operationgraditude.com](http://www.operationgraditude.com)

Wall of Heroes

Students submit photos of family members who served or have served in the military or reserves for Veterans’ Day. Faculty too.
S2S Book Drive
Wynnton Fine Arts Academy

S2S Annual Book Drive for Wynnton Fine Arts Academy
6,058 Books Donated over 7 years!

Columbus High School College Fair Sponsored by S2S

S2S Ambassadors assist with the college fair by providing refreshments to college reps. & managing the information table.

Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson representing Sweet Briar College
April is the Month of the Military Child. CHS students & faculty wear purple every Thursday in April to show our support for military families.
April is the Month of the Military Child

Cake Served to Students with Active and Retired Military Parents

We’re Proud of You!

April, 2017

Month of the Military Child

We Thank You for Your Service, too!

OUR MISSION
To ensure inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.

OUR VISION
To serve as a model of positive leadership and advocacy for ensuring inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children.

Artwork by Elizabeth | Grade 3 | Hoffman Elementary | San Antonio, Texas | U.S. Air Force

Military Child Education Coalition® (MCEC®), and associated programs, names, trademarks and design elements are owned and licensed by the Military Child Education Coalition. TM® 2017 Military Child Education Coalition. All Rights Reserved.
References


Additional Literature

- Counseling Children of Deployed Family Members
- When a Parent Gets Deployed: Helping Military Families Deal With Stress
- Helping Children Cope When a Loved One Is on Military Deployment
- Student-Identifier: Where are our military-connected kids attending school? And how are they doing? (Also current bill in 2017 Legislative Session)
- Opportunities for School Psychologists Working With Children of Military Families (Includes additional links within the article.)
- Building Better Schools for Troops’ Kids (Includes resources on book resources.)

March Webinars

* Taming the Social Media Monster • March 22, 2017, 1:00 PM
  Register

* College Advocates 2.0: The Program and the Improvements That Made a Good Program Better • March 29, 2017, 11:30 AM
  Register

* Increasing Diversity and Access in MOWR: Every Child Needs a Champion • March 29, 2017, 1:00 PM
  Register