



LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

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Purpose

The National Guard (NG) Emergency Management (EM) program is responsible for all activities and operations related to preparing for, mitigating the potential effect of, preventing, responding to, and recovering from all multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies on or impacting NG installations nationwide. The NG EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terroristic hazards.

Vision

To provide the NG EM services when and where they are needed with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the NG community and mission capabilities from all hazards.

Mission

To provide integrated and comprehensive NG EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost effective, implementable, and sustainable manner through resiliency.

LANG EM WEB PAGE:

<http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/>



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American Red Cross
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Federal Emergency Management
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National Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military Families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.

The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.

Please join me in celebrating Military Children this month.

Throughout the month, DoDEA will encourage schools to plan special events to honor military children and have administrators and principals incorporate the themes of this month into their everyday duties and responsibilities.

The best time to prepare is before the event happens. Always Remember, "Be Prepared".



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Month of the Military Child 2020

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child; a time to honor the sacrifices made by military Families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy and supported by many other organizations such as the DoDEA.

Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

“Purple Up! For Military Kids” is a day for DoDEA Communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Wearing purple is a visible way to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported; Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all thought to combine together as a single color, purple.

Way to Celebrate Purple Up! Day

- Wear Purple on Purple Up! Day
- Ask local, regional, state, and federal officials to wear purple on Purple Up! Day
- Suggest companies and businesses ask their employees to wear purple
- Ask schools, teachers to recognize Purple Up! Day
- Recognize military children
- Involve schools, sports teams, youth organizations, clubs, after school programs, fraternal organizations, social clubs, coworkers, members of your organizations
- Request local businesses, stores and restaurants post a Purple Up! Message
- Share your activities and photos.



Month of the Military Child Events

Like many similar military recognition efforts, the Month Of The Military Child is often celebrated “internally” with military communities and military association planning contests, parades, fairs, seminars, and special events centered around the message of the month. It is also celebrated “externally” by many communities, schools and organizations.

According to the Army official site, “military children will be able to tell their story on what it means to be a military child through drawings or words for a chance to win great prizes”.

For some military-related private organizations, April is a time to put special emphasis on the programs they administer year-round; The Military Child Education Coalition, one such group accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) has a stated goal of ensuring “inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, transition, deployments and Family separation”.

There are also the usual military base-level events, ceremonies, contests, and special nights through the month of April, urging military Families to get involved, be more vocal about their military lifestyle, and learn from the past experiences of other military Families.



Fact Sheet on the Military Child

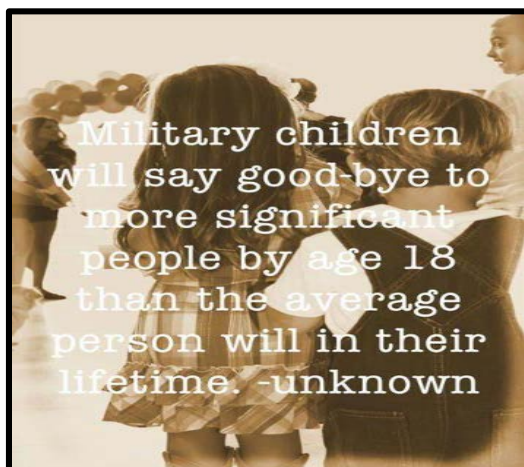
Did you know that:

- Approximately two million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 2001.
- There are currently 1.2 million military children of active duty members worldwide.
- Nearly 80 percent of military children attend public schools throughout the United States.
- The average military Family moves three times more often than their civilian counterpart.
- The repeated and extended separations and increased hazards of deployment compound stressors in military children's lives.
- One third of school-age military children show psychosocial behaviors such as being anxious, worrying often, crying more frequently.¹
- The U.S. military consists of approximately 1.4 million active duty service members and 810,000 National Guard and Selected Reserve. Active duty military Families live on or near military installations worldwide. National Guard and Reserve Families might never live near a military installation, and look within their community for educational services, friendship and support.
- A positive school environment, built upon caring relationships among all participants—students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents and community members—has been shown to impact not only academic performance but also positively influence emotions and behaviors of students.²
- Supporting the military child takes a school-wide effort, and professional development opportunities to inform school staff of the academic and social-emotional challenges military children face.



References

1. Flake, E.M.; Davis, B.E.; Johnson, P.L.; Middleton, L.S. (August 2009). "The Psychosocial Effects of Deployment on Military Children." *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*. 30, 4:271-278.
2. Blum, R. "Best Practices: Building Blocks for Enhancing School Environment." *Military Child Initiative*.





8 Benefits of Being a Military Child

Being a military child (or a “military brat”) comes with challenges, to be sure, but there are plenty of advantages as well. For example, many military kids are more mature than their counterparts. They also get to see the world and often have a heightened appreciation for diversity. Here are a few of the many benefits that come with being a military kid.

1. Language Proficiency

When a child lives in another country, he or she is likely to pick up the language spoken there. Many military kids grow up speaking two or even three languages, such as English, German, and Spanish. It is possible, though, that children will forget some of their language skills once they move out of the country where that language is spoken. Parents can help maintain these skills by making sure their children receive regular opportunities to converse in the language by calling friends in that country or attending events where that language is spoken. Additional [online language courses](#) can also be helpful.

2. Unparalleled Adventures

Imagine a child who is able to play at Stonehenge, in German castles, and in the British countryside. Imagine a child who is exposed to the cuisines of many countries before he or she reaches their teen years. Being a military child means exposure to cultures and places worldwide that most people never get to see and experience. This introduction to different cultures and people also gives military kids a heightened appreciation for diversity and promotes open-mindedness.

3. Flexibility

Military kids must be flexible in order to adapt to new places, [new schools](#), and new peers. This flexibility that starts early in their lives serves them well throughout their adult years. In fact, flexibility is one of the [most valuable assets](#) that employers look for in their employees.



8 Benefits of Being a Military Child Continued

4. Maturity and Resilience

Maturity is an asset that often comes hand in hand with flexibility. Military children cope with difficult situations—such as [separation](#) from parents and friends—early on in their lives, and these events enable them to pursue new experiences and develop skills they might not have otherwise.

5. Social Skills

Thanks to the frequent moves and exposure to diverse cultures, many military kids are adept socially. This serves them well at all stages in their lives and especially so when it comes to employment opportunities and [job](#) performance.

6. Unique Community

Military children have experiences, good and bad, that only other military children can understand and identify with such as eating MREs and wearing parents' camos. It makes for a quick and strong bond. In fact, the “military brat” subculture is a strong and distinctive one.

7. Inclination toward Service

Many military kids grow up with a strong sense of honor, duty, sacrifice, and love for country. They work in professions such as the military, law enforcement, and nursing that are service-oriented.

8. Educational Stability and Scholarships

While some military kids enroll in many schools throughout their childhoods, many others experience educational stability through [online learning programs](#) such as [k12.com](#). These types of alternative options mean that military parents don't have to worry about sacrificing the quality of their children's educations when they are moving to other locations. Students are able to enjoy a stable and consistent curriculum, and high schoolers can even take advanced placement classes and electives such as web design and anthropology. Scholarships are another advantage of being a military kid, as the branches of the military offer many scholarships. In fact, more than [\\$15 million](#) has been awarded in 16 years.

Challenges such as frequent moves are an inevitable part of being a military child. On the flip side, though, come adventures and a unique sense of identity. And, fortunately, with the advent of the Internet and online classes, education is one sacrifice military children do not need to make.





Lightning The Underrated Killer



Cows have a tendency to “pile up” against the fences during storms with many leaning against the wire. All these cows were killed by a single lightning strike.

Lightning Safety Rules – Outdoors

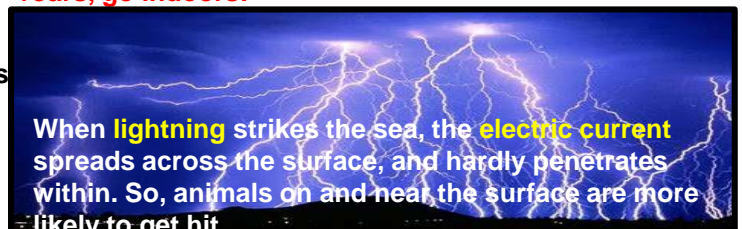
- Seek shelter inside a house, large building or an all metal vehicle with the windows rolled up (avoid convertibles or open top cars). It is the metal frame that protects from lightning, not the tires.
- If your hair stands on end and your skin tingles...lightning is about to strike. Take cover immediately?
- When boating, or in the water, head for shore and get into a shelter, or vehicle.

AVOID

- Large trees, hilltops and other high places. Don't be the tallest object! Never seek shelter under a tree.
- Chain link fences and any other metal fences like those around ball parks and play grounds.
- Sport dugouts and open park pavilions.
- Motorcycles, scooters, golf carts, small metal sheds, bicycles, tractors and farm equipment that does not have an enclosed metal cab.

Every Thunderstorm Contains Lightning

Lightning is an incredibly powerful electrical discharge, containing up to 100 million volts of electrical charge and capable of reaching 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Cloud to ground lightning is the result of incredible differences in electrical charge which forms within thunderstorms as well as between thunderstorms and the earth's surface. Recent science suggests that ice in thunderstorms is the key to creating the massive charge differences which lead to lightning. Thunderstorm updrafts and downdrafts work to smaller ice particles from larger hail stones within the storm. As this happens many of the ice pieces collide, resulting in a separation of electrical charge. The higher part of the storm contains primarily positively charged particles he ground. Eventually a brief electrical circuit is created as a negatively charged “step leader” descends from the storm toward the ground and connects to the positive charge on the ground. Eventually a brief electrical circuit is created as a negatively charged “step leader” descends from the storm toward the ground and connects to the positive charge on the ground. The extreme heating of the air from lightning causes a rapid expansion of the air around it, leading to thunder. The sound of thunder will travel away from lightning at a speed around one mile every five seconds. Being in the vicinity of lightning is obviously dangerous. However, if you can hear thunder in the distance but can't visually observe lightning, you are still in danger. Lightning can strike up to ten miles from a thunderstorm. **When thunder roars, go indoors!**



When lightning strikes the sea, the electric current spreads across the surface, and hardly penetrates within. So, animals on and near the surface are more likely to get hit.

Lightning Safety Rules - Indoors

- Stay away from windows.
- Avoid telephones and electrical appliances (wires connecting to these devices run outside of the home and act as lightning rods). Don't wash dishes or take a shower. The pipes will conduct electricity.
- Unplug computers and other sensitive electrical devices (time permitting) since surge suppressors may not protect these items if lightning hits close to the home.
- There is no truth to the old myth that “lightning never strikes the same place twice.”
- If a person is struck by lightning, there is no residual charge left in the body. The quick application of CPR may maintain vital body functions until medical help can be obtained.

WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!



Lightning Myths and Facts

Myth: If you're caught outside during a thunderstorm, you should crouch down to reduce your risk of being struck.

Fact: Crouching doesn't make you any safer outdoors. Run to a substantial building or hard topped vehicle. If you are too far to run to one of these options, you have no good alternative. You are NOT safe anywhere outdoors. See our [safety](#) page for tips that may slightly reduce your risk.

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact: Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit an average of 23 times a year

Myth: If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact: Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

Myth: A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

Fact: The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

Myth: If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

Fact: Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than fried!

Myth: If you are in a house, you are 100% safe from lightning.

Fact: A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

Myth: If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

Fact: Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or life-long injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

Myth: Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, Mp3 players, watches, etc.), attract lightning.

Fact: Height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes. Mountains are made of stone but get struck by lightning many times a year. When lightning threatens, take proper protective action immediately by seeking a safe shelter don't waste time removing metal. While metal does not attract lightning, it does conduct it so stay away from metal fences, railing, bleachers, etc.

Myth: If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

Fact: Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.



INTERESTING LIGHTNING FACTS

How Powerful is Lightning?



A typical lightning flash is 300 million volts and 30,000 Amps. In comparison, household current is about 120 volts and 15 Amps.

How Powerful is Lightning?



There is enough energy in a typical flash of lightning to light a 100-watt incandescent light bulb for about three months or the equivalent compact fluorescent bulb for about a year.

Lightning and Fish



Bodies of water are often struck by lightning. So why don't all the fish die? Before a lightning strike, there is a charge build up along the water's surface. When lightning strikes, most of the electrical discharge occurs near the water's surface. Most fish swim below the surface and are **unaffected**.

Lightning and Planes



Planes are frequently struck by lightning. On average, each commercial passenger plane is struck by lightning once or twice a year. Commercial planes are designed to withstand lightning strikes and to conduct the electrical currents safely around the shell of the plane.

How Do I Tell How Far Away The Lightning Is?

If you count the number of seconds between the flash of lightning and the sound of thunder, and then divide by 5, you'll get the distance in miles to the lightning.

30 seconds = 6 miles
15 seconds = 3 miles
5 seconds = 1 mile
0 seconds = very close

Be sure you are in a safe place while counting! If you can hear thunder, chances are that you're within striking distance of the storm.