



LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

April 2024
Volume FY24 Issue 7



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/>



IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

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LA National Guard Joint Operation
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GOHSEP 225-925-7500

American Red Cross
1-800-RED-CROSS

Federal Emergency Management
Agency 1-800-621-FEMA

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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Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

The entire month of April is designated as the [Month of the Military Child](#), but April 15th has a special place in that observance. April 15 brings a special dread for some because it is traditionally the day federal income tax filings are due at the IRS.

But there's a happier and more encouraging aspect to April 15th each year in the form of an observance among military families, military family support communities, and others worldwide in the form of Purple Up! For Military Kids Day.

Held on April 15th of each year, "Purple Up! For Military Kids" is a day for Department of Defense Education Activity communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

Purple Up! Day will be celebrated on Thursday, April 15, 2021.



How Purple Up! Day Began

There's an emphasis in United States military culture on "the total force", the "whole person concept" and similarly-themed philosophies that hold that troops, their families, and their extended families are more than the sum of their parts.

The notion of the "total force" should rightfully include families as they are the lifeline between military service (especially overseas) and the individual officers or enlisted members.

With that in mind, former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child as a Department of Defense-wide commemoration in 1986.

Why Purple?

There's a tradition in the military referring to the color purple; one use of the color involves the phrase "purple suit" which can refer to a military activity or organization that includes civilians and/or multiple branches of the military.

In the context of April 15th, this tradition continues. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported. All the service colors are represented including Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue; said to combine for the mutual benefit of all into the color purple.





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April is designated as 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.

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.”

The group offers year-round “Student 2 Student” programs (student-led initiatives) and a “Parent To Parent” version of the similar efforts. During the month of April, the coalition offers Month Of The Military Child downloadable toolkits and other resources.

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.





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. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported. Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all are thought to combine together as a single color, purple.

Many Exchanges will often celebrate Purple Up! Day by offering free treats to any child who wears purple to participating Exchange restaurants worldwide.

Monday April 15, 2024 is Purple Up! Day for HQ, Europe & Pacific and the Americas. Select military installations or communities may decide to designate different days throughout the month.

Where Can I Learn About Month of the Military Child Activities and Events?

Since many of the April events are sponsored by military communities, it’s best to start your search for events with the base Public Affairs office, Military Family Readiness Centers, Department of Defense Dependent School admin offices, and even on-base Child Development Centers (the military base equivalent of daycare).

You may also find activities listed at [Morale Welfare and Recreation \(MWR\) Centers](#) at military installations overseas and stateside. The official sites for all these organizations often post calendars of upcoming events and programs.

Evolution of the Month of the Military Child

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was responsible for establishing April as the Month Of The Military Child in 1986, and the Department of Defense has honored his initiative ever since. The month of April is an important one for children who have one or both parents serving in uniform; since 1986 there have been an increasing number of awareness campaigns aimed at recognizing the needs of military children in all areas from coping with the deployment of parents to war zones to education of military dependents at on-base Department of Defense Dependent School System (DoDDS) campuses around the globe.

Since the debut of the original Month of The Military Child, there are a growing number of activities both on military bases and in local military communities. The U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), which operates 166 schools for military children worldwide, instructs its school administrators 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” according to the DoDEA official site.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Gretchen M. Albrecht



Military Children by the Numbers

According to a report by the Department of Defense there are 700 military child development program facilities around the world, running approximately 155,000 child-care spaces, with another 3,000 Family Child Care homes.

Its estimated that military child development centers welcome around 200,000 children daily. There are 300 youth and teen centers worldwide serving more than 645,000 youth through a variety of Educational and recreational programs.

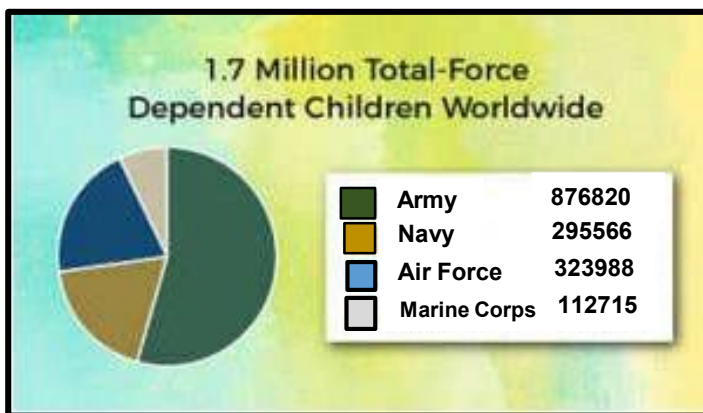
Approximately 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 9/11.

There are currently 1.2 million military children of active duty members worldwide.

Nearly 80% of military children attend public schools throughout the United States.

The average military family moves three times more often that their civilian counterpart.

There are nearly two million “total-force dependent children” including more than 900 thousand Army dependents 400,000 Air Force dependents, nearly 300,000 Nave and approximately 118,000 Marine dependents.



Who Are Military Dependent Children?



USAF photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie A. Hutto

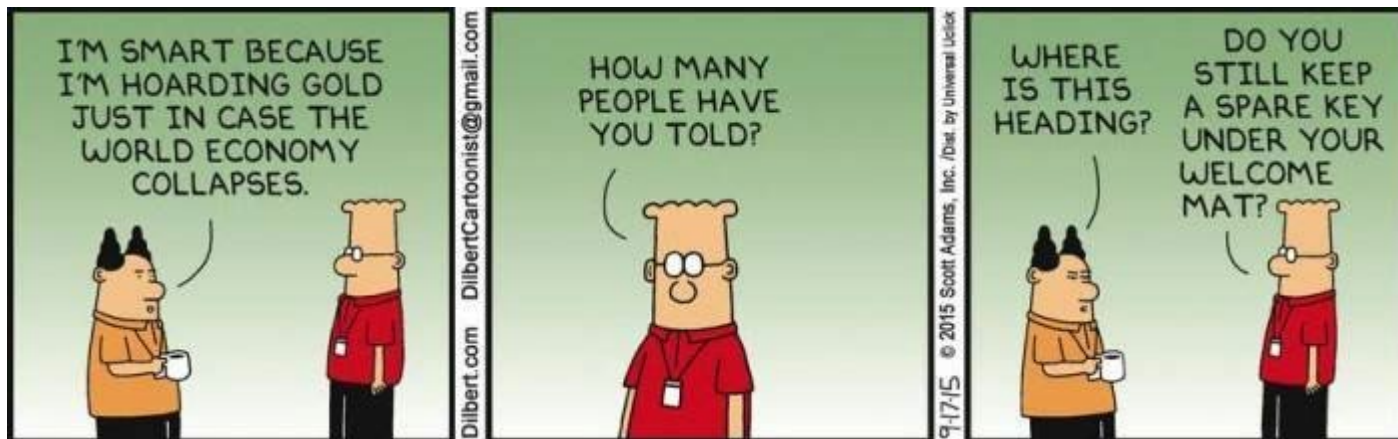
The familiar Hollywood trope of the “military brat” brings to the notion of military families who constantly move from base to base, overseas and stateside, experiencing a seemingly never-ending series of short-term homes, jobs, and schools.

That sometimes is the experience of military families, but the “hidden” side to military life includes assignments at bases in Japan, Germany, and elsewhere. Some military children never attend a stateside K-12 school; they grow up getting their education via DoDDS schools on the same military bases their parents live and work at.

The military child experience also includes situations where the family itself never leaves the United States, but the military parent(s) still serve overseas and at remote bases in Alaska, North Dakota, and Montana. Sometimes the entire family packs up and moves, other times the military member goes on [assignment or deployment](#) without the family.

There are many situations that fall somewhere between these two examples; the military child is expected to support the mission by understanding the needs of the parents to deploy, to relocate, and to put the family’s needs second to the call of duty.

Children bear a difficult burden as Department of Defense dependents; they don’t always fully understand what’s going on when the parents deploy or get re-assigned, but they are always part of the military’s attention when it comes to supporting these families at the same time as accomplishing the mission.



Do your kids know that, too?

PASSWORDS ARE LIKE TOOTHBRUSHES.

DON'T SHARE THEM
- even with friends.



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