



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOLS

A Toolkit to Assist Schools During the Month of the Military Child

A collaboration between Joining Forces and the
Departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs

HONORING THOSE THAT SERVED AND CONNECTING WITH THEIR FAMILIES

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Toolkit for Schools is to raise awareness of military-connected students in the classroom. These activities are intended to promote awareness of the service and the many sacrifices military families have made, to build community with military-connected families in the local area and to be of service to this community, which has given so much to us and our nation.

With activities for elementary, middle and high school students, this toolkit will assist educators and school administrators as they form a greater understanding of the experience of military-connected children.

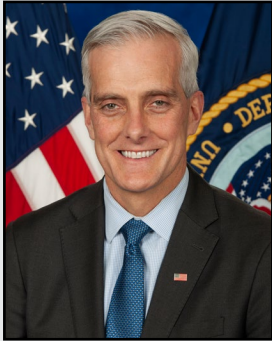


“Military-connected children deserve support, and that isn’t just the responsibility of our military. It takes all of us coming together to honor their commitment and ensure that they have what they need to thrive. I am grateful to the educators and administrators who work so hard every day to nurture the military-connected children found in every zip code across America.

I’ve been an educator for more than 30 years, and I’ve seen how difficult it can be to support my students if I don’t know what they are going through. That’s why I’ve worked through my Joining Forces initiative to collaborate with the Departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs to create this toolkit. Its aim is to help educators support the more than two million military-connected children in classrooms across the United States during the Month of the Military Child and throughout the year.

Giving military-connected kids what they need to thrive isn’t just a nice thing to do, it’s a national security imperative. Our country’s service members and their children deserve nothing less.”

- First Lady Jill Biden



“Veterans are the very best of America, and it’s our job to serve them as well as they have served our country. But it’s also important to remember that when Veterans served and sacrificed for our country, so did their families – especially their children. This toolkit will help you support those students, and all students, during Month of the Military Child. It outlines activities that will help you teach students about the significance of this important month, honor military and veteran families, and highlight the heroism of military-connected children.

We appreciate you – educators, school counselors, support staff, administrators – for not only imparting knowledge to our nation’s children, but for also looking out for their emotional health and well-being. Your work could not be more meaningful, and hopefully, this toolkit will help you do it. Thank you, for everything.”

– U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough



“This month and every month, I salute our military children. America’s military children serve every bit as much as their parents. From saying goodbye to a parent who’s deploying overseas, to frequently moving to new duty stations, to attending new schools and making new friends, we ask much of them. It is so important to give our military children and their families the support they need. To commemorate the Month of the Military Child, where we recognize and thank our military children for all they contribute, the Department of Defense is proud to have worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Education, and White House Joining Forces to create this educator’s toolkit for the teachers, counselors, and administrators who support, nurture, and educate our military children.

Today and every day, I thank all the children of our service members and veterans across the country and around the world.”

-- U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III



“Our nation’s veterans and military members are among our most important heroes. Their service, sacrifice, and selflessness are immeasurable, and they deserve our recognition and deepest thanks. In our nation’s classrooms, more than 2 million children have parents or relatives serving as active-duty military members, National Guard or reservists, or military veterans. I’m proud that in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Joining Forces, the Department of Education has created a Month of the Military Child toolkit for schools.

The toolkit includes impactful ideas for classroom activities to increase awareness about the experiences of military members, veterans, and military-connected children. I hope you will join me in thanking all military members, veterans, the fallen, and their families. Let’s raise awareness for this generation and future generations. Today, tomorrow, and throughout the year, let’s continue celebrating those who served.”

– U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona

CELEBRATING MILITARY AND VETERAN CHILDREN

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

In 1986, April was designated Month of the Military Child by Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger. Since that time, military communities around the world have recognized military children for their contributions and unique needs.

Our nation's service members do not serve alone. Alongside many of them are the 1,602,261 brave military children, youth and teens who make significant contributions for the country while dealing with uncertainty and concern for their parents. We pay tribute to these extraordinary children, youth and teens by designating the month of April to thank and support them — focusing on the unique and invaluable role they play — and ensuring that they have access to the support and resources they need.



MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT

For the purposes of this toolkit, we refer to a “military-connected student” as a student enrolled in preschool/pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 with a close family member (*for example: parent, step-parent, sibling, step-sibling, grandparent, legal guardian, foster-parent*) that currently serves or previously served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces (including active duty, National Guard, or reserve).

This includes a student of those who served and has since died, whose family is referred to by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs as a “survivor.”

In addition, a child may have an aunt, uncle, cousin, or other close family member, or even a close family friend whose service has impacted their entire family as well as the student. Military-connected students can be identified by asking students in the classroom if a member of their family is currently serving or has ever served in the military (Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, National Guard or Coast Guard).

MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS IN CAREGIVING HOUSEHOLDS

There are approximately 2.3 million children under age 18 who are living with a disabled Veteran in communities across the United States. These children in caregiving households may be providing care to a veteran in their home, including assisting with Activities of Daily Living or with needs related to invisible injuries, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. As a result of their caregiving responsibilities, these children may be more likely to experience isolation and have fewer opportunities for peer interaction. They may have a difficult time expressing emotion and learning in school and/or experience health problems such as stress, burnout, and fatigue. These military-connected students in caregiving households may need accommodations or additional support from their school community.

Source: Hidden Helpers at the Frontlines of Caregiving: Supporting the Healthy Development of Children from Military and Veteran Caregiving Homes (mathematica.org)



Resources for Military-Connected Students in Caregiving Households:

[Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#)

[Camp Corral](#)

[Our Military Kids](#)

[Sesame Street Resources for Military Families](#)

[YCARE: Youth Caregiving - Training, Skills & Support](#)



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TO HONOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

THERE ARE MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS, in addition to reserve and guard forces. Additionally, there are about 19 million veterans living in every state and territory and from every walk of life. Many of the students in your class may be the child or relative of a veteran or current service member. By engaging in discussion about these crucial members of our society, your students will be able to hear from and about those who have helped shape U.S. history.

The activities included in this section are intended to spread awareness about service members, Veterans, military life, military-connected children. With only around 7% of the current U.S. population having served in the military, it is important for communities, including schools, to learn why we celebrate the Month of the Military Child, with gratitude for the many ways in which children in military and veteran families have served our nation.

DAILY FACTS

Share the information included in the facts section at the end of this toolkit. These facts about service members, veterans, the military, military-connected children and families can be shared during the school's daily announcements or in the classroom during the Month of the Military Child.

HONOR WALL

Ask military-connected students and school staff to bring in photos of the service member or veteran in their lives. Place photos on a bulletin board, on classroom doors or in an auditorium. Photos can be displayed with the service member or Veteran name, branch of service, service era, and the name of the student or staff person who recognized them. The honor wall backdrop can include "Veteran Wall of Honor" or "Wall of Honor" or "We Salute You." An American flag can be displayed with the wall.

PURPLE UP

The color purple — known by the military community to symbolize all services united — is used during April to show support and thank military children, youth and teens for their strength and sacrifices. Many places around the country and world have adopted the practice of lighting up, decorating with, and wearing purple to bring community awareness and celebration of military-connected children. Select a day or week for your school to Purple Up. Encourage students and staff to wear purple, decorate the classroom or school, and/or light up the school in purple. Learn more at [50 ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child](#).



YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT MILITARY-CONNECTED CHILDREN BY TAKING [THIS SHORT 17-MINUTE COURSE](#) FROM PSYCH ARMOR





SHOW & TELL

Ask military-connected students and teachers to bring in photos of the service member or veteran they know and share a story about their time with them. Use prompts for students, such as: veteran's name, student's relationship with the veteran, branch of service (if known), and a short story about the veteran. Students who have experienced a loss may need additional support with the Show & Tell and following.

LESSON PLANS

Incorporate materials from VA's National Cemetery Association's [Veterans Legacy Program](#) in lesson planning during Month of the Military Child. Curricular materials include writing prompts, grade level resources, biography packets and a variety of lesson and unit plans.

WORLD MAP

Create a world map and pinpoint where military-connected students and staff have lived because of their military lifestyle. This is a fantastic way to connect military kids with their student peers. It's a total conversation starter when their peers or a school staff member says to them, "Wow! You lived in Japan?"

RESEARCH & PRESENT

Assign students a research project related to military life, a branch of service, conflicts or wars, and provide a brief presentation to the class. Students could be asked to select a photo from the Department of Defense's [photos page](#) and then research and present on their selected image of daily military life. If there are military-connected students in the classroom, they may be interested in presenting a specific aspect of military life or on their family member's branch of service.

SHARING STORIES

Share stories of service members, veterans and their families with students in the classroom, bringing a greater understanding about the many different types of experiences.



SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN. HERE ARE A FEW TO CONSIDER:

[Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors \(TAPS\) Is Here For You!](#)

[The Dougy Center for Grieving Children & Families](#)

MILITARY CHILD RESOURCES:

[Military OneSource](#)

[Celebrating Month of the Military Child](#)

[Month of the Military Child Toolkit](#)

[Military Child and Youth Programs](#)

[How School Liaisons Help Military Youth](#)

BRANCH OF SERVICE RESOURCES:

[Department of the Army](#)
[United States Marine Corps](#)
[Department of the Navy](#)
[Department of the Air Force](#)

[U.S. Space Force](#)
[U.S. Coast Guard](#)
[National Guard](#)



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TO HONOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

COMMUNITY IS VITAL FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED FAMILIES.

The activities in this section are intended to build community among military families and the larger community. Hearing the stories of military-connected families helps build connection and understanding of their experiences allowing the opportunity for students and staff to engage in a meaningful way. [15 Things Veterans Want You to Know](#) to best engage and interact with Veterans face-to-face.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

A school assembly is a great way to bring students and military-connected families together to celebrate Month of the Military Child. Students tend to better understand and absorb the significance of military service when they can attach a human face to it. Military-connected students, teachers, and staff can be encouraged to bring family members who are veterans or who currently serve in the U.S. Armed Forces to participate. Another option is to consider reaching out to a nearby installation. Invite service members in to talk about their jobs

BRING A SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN TO SCHOOL DAY

Inviting a service member, Veteran or military family to the classroom to speak is another engaging way to put a human face to the military experience for families. Military-connected students, teachers, and staff can be encouraged to bring family members who are veterans or who currently serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, to talk about their life in the military and what it means to them. This can also allow the students to ask questions of their special guest. The History Channel and Joining Forces teamed up to provide opportunities for schools to register for [Take a Veteran to School Day](#). Students may be surprised to have former generals and admirals, Medal of Honor recipients and other distinguished Veterans as guest speakers. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) offers a [guide](#) with helpful ideas and pointers for guest speakers.

MILITARY-CONNECTED FAMILIES FUN RUN/WALK

A school fun run or exercise activity day is a good way for students to honor veterans and their families. In 1986, military dependents would take part in the annual Junior Bloomsday (now known as the [America's Kids Run](#)) as part of Armed Forces Day. Runners ages 5 to 13 would run between half a mile to two miles, depending on their age. These fun runs are conducted on military installations worldwide as a way to build camaraderie and esprit de corps among the military community. Schools can set up a school run based on their school resources (e.g., track, gymnasium, etc.). A discussion of veterans, their families and their sacrifices can be discussed before or after the run.





MILITARY CONNECTED FAMILIES POSTER/ART PROJECT

Art is a great way to enrich the learning experience of students and to provide them the opportunity to show what they have learned in their own unique way. After learning about veterans and their families, ask students to create a poster reflecting and honoring the experience of military-connected children. The Department of Veterans Affairs has a great [gallery](#) with posters from every Veterans Day from 1978 to the present, which can provide students with ideas and inspiration. Once the posters are completed, you may consider asking students to mail their art to a military installation, a local veterans organization or a [State Veterans Home](#), [VA Medical Center](#) or [Community Living Centers \(VA Nursing Homes\)](#) to decorate their offices or rooms.

POETRY WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Poetry can be a powerful teaching tool. It not only helps students improve their literacy, speaking and listening skills, but also can help students connect to others and express themselves. A poem written by a military-connected child called "I Serve Too" can help students connect to the experience of being part of a military family. After reading the poem, ask students to write their own based on their experiences as a military-connected student or what they felt after reading the poem. Depending on how comfortable students feel about sharing their work, they may consider sending copies of their poems to a local veterans group such as [American Legion](#), [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) or to residents of a [State Veterans Home](#), [VA Medical Center](#) or [Community Living Centers \(VA Nursing Homes\)](#).

INCLUDE MILITARY FAMILIES IN OTHER ANNUAL EVENTS

If your school organizes an annual pancake breakfast, school picnic, multi-cultural event, or some other event with the entire community, consider inviting a local veterans group. At the event, encourage military-connected students to share stories stories about their military-connected family member.

"VISIT" A NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a [Veterans Legacy Program](#), which offers a wealth of historical resources, found within the VA's National Cemeteries and VA grant funded cemeteries, to engage students. Students can embark on a historical, virtual tour of a cemetery and learn more about the lives and stories of the service members and Veterans who have been laid to rest there.



I SERVE TOO

He puts on his flight suit,
he puts on his combat boots,
he puts on his dog tags,
he puts on his hat,
he packs his duffel bag and says goodbye.
I may not wear the uniform, but
I serve too.

He missed my music program,
he missed my birthday,
he missed Christmas,
he missed my soccer games and swim meets,
he missed our family vacation,
he missed my achievements,
he is gone when I need him most.
I may not wear the uniform, but
I serve too.

I let him go for your freedom of speech,
I let him go for your right to vote,
I let him go for your right to be free,
I let him go knowing he might not come home.
I may not wear the uniform, but
I serve too.

I see the flag and I feel reverence,
I hear the anthem and I try to be brave,
I hope for the day I can embrace my hero,
I may not wear the uniform, but
I serve too.

Maren Kalberer

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TO HONOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

A MEANINGFUL WAY TO RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICES AND TO THANK

those who have served is to volunteer and contribute to programs and initiatives that support and benefit and benefit military-connected families. The suggested activities below are not exhaustive and are just a sample of how students can plug into the impactful work being done at a national, regional, and local scale by government agencies and volunteers alike to support and empower military-connected families.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERANS PATIENTS PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the [National Salute to Veterans Patients Program](#), which aims to pay tribute and express appreciation to the over 9 million veterans who are cared for by the VA's medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes by increasing community awareness of the role of VA medical centers. During the National Salute, which takes place the week of February 14 every year, students can be encouraged to visit hospitalized veterans and volunteer to participate in activities like special ward visits, valentine distributions, special recreation activities, and Veteran recognition programs.

SIGN UP FOR THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OR STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hosts two programs for students designed to cultivate leadership skills and provide valuable experience and training that will benefit them in applying for college and jobs.

The [Student Leadership Council](#) is the VA's newest volunteer program and offers a curriculum centered on the principles of effective leadership that students can apply in designing and executing personal service projects focused on improving the lives of veterans and the veteran community. Some examples of students' service projects are developing seminars to offer suicide prevention training, planning events to honor the lives and service of Veterans, and recording Veteran's stories for the benefit of future generations.

Students who volunteer with the [Student Volunteer Program](#) are an important part of the VA's medical centers in that they serve as liaisons with their communities and provide a valuable element of caring for veterans. The Student Volunteer Program offers students opportunities to explore health care career options, gain experience in a health care environment, learn new skills while making new friends, and qualify to be nominated for multiple college scholarships.



WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ASK YOUR STUDENT WHAT THEY LEARNED AT SCHOOL THIS WEEK ABOUT MILITARY-CONNECTED FAMILIES.

Here are 5 ways to honor and say thank you to service members, veterans and their families:

- Send a care package to a military installation.
- Volunteer with an organization serving military-connected individuals.
- Write a letter of support to a military-connected family.
- Tell a Service member, Veteran AND their family: "Thank you for your service."
- Read personal accounts of Veterans through the Veterans History Project.





VOLUNTEER WITH VETERAN SERVING AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Every VA has a [Center for Development and Civic Engagement](#) that coordinates volunteers and donations. In honor of Month of the Military Child, schools may consider contacting VA or partnering with a veteran-serving nonprofit organization or Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to find out what volunteer opportunities are available for schools and students. Schools can reach out to learn more about the needs of the particular organization or the local VA that fits with the school and students' interests.

LETTER WRITING

One meaningful way to honor veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices is to write them a letter of gratitude and appreciation. You may ask students to write letters or create thank you cards for members of a local Veterans group such as the [American Legion](#), [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), or [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) or to residents of a [State Veterans Home](#), [VA Medical Center](#) or [Community Living Centers \(VA Nursing Homes\)](#) to be delivered during the Month of the Military Child. Students may also opt to leave their letters or cards at gravesites at a nearby [National Cemetery](#). Letter writing guidance can be found here: [A Million Thanks](#) or [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#).

MILITARY FAMILY CARE PACKAGES

Care packages may also be welcome surprises for veterans and their families in the community or in [State Veterans Home](#), [VA Medical Center](#), [Community Living Centers \(VA Nursing Homes\)](#). If assembling care packages, students should be encouraged to contact their local VA, veteran-serving nonprofit organization or Veterans Service Organization (VSO) prior to assembling care packages to ensure their contents meet the needs of the veterans or families they will be given to.

NON-PROFIT AGENCIES

- [Fisher House Foundation](#)
- [Homes For Our Troops](#)
- [Hope for the Warriors](#)
- [Operation Homefront](#)
- [Soldiers Angels](#)
- [The Mission Continues](#)

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (VSOs)

- [American Legion](#)
- [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#)
- [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#)
- [Vietnam Veterans of America](#)

DRAFT LETTER TO STUDENT FAMILIES

(please make applicable to students in your school or district)

Dear Family:

As our school district honors the Month of the Military Child this April, we want to take a moment to acknowledge those members of our school community who currently wear or wore the uniform in service to our country. We also want to acknowledge the family members of those service members and veterans, including those students who have connections to the military. Thank you for your service and for the sacrifices you make for all of us.

The Month of the Military Child was established to bring awareness to and recognize military children for their contributions and unique needs, ensuring they have access to the resources and support they need.

Our school honored military-connected students this year by: (list your classroom/school's specific activities here).

Thank you,
Sample School



FACTS ABOUT MILITARY-CONNECTED CHILDREN AND THE MILITARY

FACTS ABOUT MILITARY FAMILIES

There are **1.6 million military connected children**. Over **523,000** are school aged (6-18)

Over **2 million U.S. children** have a parent who served in Iraq or Afghanistan

The average military family **moves every 2-3 years**

Deployments typically last **one year**

Sometimes, **both military parents get deployed** at the same time

The average military child will **change schools 6-9 times**

Military children are **twice as likely** to join the military as civilian children

- www.SourceCare.com



TWENTY-NINE PRESIDENTS HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY:



The Commander in Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces is the President of the United States.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for the control of each branch of the military, except the U.S. Coast Guard, which is controlled by the Department of Homeland Security.

1. President George Washington
2. President James Madison
3. President James Monroe
4. President Andrew Jackson
5. President William Henry Harrison
6. President John Tyler
7. President James K. Polk
8. President Zachary Taylor
9. President Franklin Pierce
10. President James Buchanan
11. President Abraham Lincoln
12. President Andrew Johnson
13. President Ulysses S. Grant
14. President Rutherford B. Hayes
15. President James A. Garfield
16. President Chester A. Arthur
17. President Benjamin Harrison
18. President William McKinley
19. President Theodore Roosevelt
20. President Harry S. Truman
21. President Dwight D. Eisenhower
22. President John F. Kennedy
23. President Lyndon B. Johnson
24. President Richard M. Nixon
25. President Gerald R. Ford, Jr.
26. President Jimmy Carter
27. President Ronald Reagan
28. President George H. W. Bush
29. President George W. Bush

THERE ARE SIX BRANCHES OF THE U.S. MILITARY:

Each branch has its own active-duty and part-time components. Each branch varies in service commitment, location, and how its members contribute to the overall mission of protecting our country, though all components are on the same rank-based pay scale. The Army is the oldest branch of the military; the Space Force is the youngest.

The first women enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces around World War I.

THE MEDAL OF HONOR IS THE UNITED STATES HIGHEST AWARD FOR MILITARY VALOR IN ACTION.



"The youngest Medal of Honor recipient was awarded at 11 and was granted it at 13. Born in New York, 11-year-old Willie Johnston enlisted in the Union Army alongside his father, serving as a drummer boy with the 3rd Vermont Infantry during the Civil War. In June 1862, overpowered by Confederate forces, his unit retreated down the Virginia Peninsula under orders from General George McClellan. Along the way, the men discarded their equipment to hasten their pace. Young Willie, however, clung to his

drum throughout the march and was later asked to play for his entire division on July 4. When Abraham Lincoln heard about the drummer's bravery, he recommended him for the Medal of Honor, and Willie received the award in September 1863. In the 20th century, the youngest recipient was Jack Lucas, a marine who at just 17 shielded fellow squad members from grenades at Iwo Jima."

- [The Medal of Honor: 6 Surprising Facts - HISTORY](#)

MISSIONS:



The Army protects the security of the United States and its resources.



The Marine Corps is often first on the ground in combat situations.



The Navy delivers combat-ready Naval forces while maintaining security in the air and at sea.



The Air Force protects American interests at home and abroad with a focus on air power.



The Space Force defends U.S. interests on land, in the air, and from orbit with a range of advanced training and technology.



The Coast Guard is a maritime force offering military, law enforcement, humanitarian, regulatory and diplomatic capabilities.



FACTS ABOUT VETERANS AND THE ARMED FORCES

There are **19 million living Veterans** who served during at least one war (as of April 2021). Veterans represent about 7% of the U.S. population. - *Census.gov*

There are **1.3 million active-duty Service members** in the U.S. military. 49.9% are married and there are almost **600,000** active-duty spouses and approximately **964,000** active-duty children. - *2020 DoD Demographics Report*



FACTS ABOUT MILITARY WORKING DOGS

Military dogs retire from service as well. Some military dogs perform specialized duties, such as sniffing out explosives.

Congress passed a law in 2013 saying the military may bring back its working dogs to the U.S. to be reunited with their handlers with whom they worked overseas.

Many military “war dogs” are brought back to the U.S. when they retire; non-profit groups can help connect war dogs with their handlers once they arrive back.

Dogs have served with U.S. soldiers since the Revolutionary War.

Although dogs have served in every major American conflict, their service has only been officially recognized since World War II when Military Working Dogs (MWDs) first entered the service to serve in the Army’s K-9 Corps in 1942.

MWDs are trained in detection, tracking, and attacking the enemy.

» The dutiful dogs that stand side-by-side our military servicemen and servicewomen are more than just loyal companions. They work to protect us and serve in U.S. combat operations in the following ways:

- Weapons & narcotics detection
- Search & rescue
- Guard & sentry duty
- Scout & patrol

Dogs have earned their jump wings.

» To solve the problem of providing assistance to downed airmen in isolated locations, in WWII, the Army trained dogs to jump from planes to bring supplies and help soldiers get to safety.

No dogs left behind.

» Since Robby’s Law passed in 2000, all military dogs are eligible for adoption after their term of service. About 90% of MWDs are now adopted by their current or former handlers.

There is a U.S. War Dogs Memorial

- *(MWD) (NPR, 24 July 2014)*



RESOURCES FOR MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

By establishing statewide Purple Star Schools programs, states can encourage local education agencies to implement practices that assist military children with transitions/deployments and also recognize military service and civic responsibility. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

MILITARY ONESOURCE WEBSITE LINKS

[Celebrating Month of the Military Child](#)

[Month of the Military Child Toolkit](#)

[Child and Youth Provider Toolkit](#)

SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

The School Liaison Program offers an array of services and resources to support children, parents, installation leadership, schools and the surrounding community. School liaison support is available at no cost and open to all Defense Department identification card holders, educators who serve military students and community partners involved with pre-K-12 education.

LEARN MORE:

[How School Liaisons Help Military Youth](#)

[What is a School Liaison Anyway?](#)

[Fast Five: Help education understand the military life so they can better support your child.](#)

[Podcast: About the School Liaison Program](#)

[Worldwide School Liaison Listing](#)

EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

[Military Child Education Coalition | MCEC](#)

[Project Recover | Teaching Students Aboard USS Midway](#)

[Take a Veteran to School Day | HISTORY Channel](#)

[WWII Oral Histories](#)

Joining Forces is a White House initiative to support military and veteran, caregivers and survivors. Guided by the life experiences and the perspectives voiced during in-person and virtual listening sessions with military-connected families and stakeholders, the work and priorities of Joining Forces centers on the needs of this community in the areas of: Economic Opportunity; Military Child Education; and Health and Well-Being.

Joining Forces would like to acknowledge the Department of Defense, Department of Education, and the Department of Veterans Affairs for their contributions to this toolkit.