



## Military Community and Family Policy Fact Sheet

### Family Readiness System

The Family Readiness System encompasses a variety of programs and initiatives that support military families and help military children and youth to remain healthy and resilient, such as:

- Affordable, quality child care
- DoD youth programs
- Summer camps
- Recreational sports

### Additional information

Check with your local installation child and youth programs for events honoring military children in April.

U.S. Department of Defense  
Education Activity  
<http://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/MilitaryChild/2015.cfm>

Joining Forces  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces>

## Month of the Military Child

### Background

April marks the national observance of the Month of the Military Child, during which the Department of Defense and communities across the country honor military children and youth. Children of service members display courage and resilience in the face of frequent moves and deployment, and the DoD is committed to supporting their health and well-being. The White House has also taken action to support the health and well-being of military children and youth through initiatives such as [Joining Forces](#), a comprehensive federal approach to supporting military families.

### Highlights

Throughout April, the Department of Defense and the services honor and recognize the contributions and sacrifices of military children:

- Military children and youth play an important role in the Department of Defense mission, and their service and sacrifice should be respected and appreciated.
- The Family Readiness System provides our military children with a strong network of support that promotes their health and well-being.
- Installations offer children and youth the benefits and support of Morale, Welfare and Recreation programming, quality child development programs, and child and youth behavioral military and family life counselors.
- Purple Up! for Military Kids was started by the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension Service in 2010 and has become a national effort to recognize military children and youth by wearing purple on April 15.

