

## Month of the Military Child Fact Sheet



# APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD.

**Military kids are amazing! Let's celebrate their strength, vibrancy, resiliency and special brand of service.**

### How Can You Help “Raise Resilience” for Military Children?

This special month is a great time to learn about the wealth of resources and support available to MilKids and their families. Through Military OneSource, you can connect with:

- Affordable, quality child care
- Department of Defense youth programs, summer teen and youth camps
- Relocation and deployment tools
- Confidential counseling
- Education benefits
- Plus, free parenting tools and assistance

### Purple Up! Day is Friday, April 21, 2017.

On Purple Up! day, communities across the country honor military children and youth. Wear purple to show your support for military youth — in schools, youth groups and the community — and to acknowledge their important contributions to the Armed Forces community. Why purple? It's the color that symbolizes all branches of the military.



Learn more about our network of family support at [MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://MilitaryOneSource.mil) or call 800-342-9647.

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## Facts About Our Youngest Heroes

The **average child** in a military family will move **6 to 9 TIMES** during a school career.

- There are more than 1 million military children across the Department of Defense.<sup>1</sup>
- More than 40 percent of active duty service members have children.<sup>2</sup>
- On average, children in military families move six to nine times during a school career. That's about three times more frequently than non-military families.<sup>3</sup>
- More than 2 million children have a mother or father who has served in Iraq or Afghanistan; many have served multiple times.<sup>4</sup>
- Military children are twice as likely as their civilian counterparts to join the military as adults.<sup>5</sup>



## Tap into the Family Readiness System

The Family Readiness System is a variety of programs and initiatives — all of which support military families, and help military children and youth to remain healthy, strong and resilient.

- 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.
- Find out more about the Family Readiness System and all the ways they can help at [MilitaryOneSource.mil](http://MilitaryOneSource.mil)

## More Suggestions for the Month of the Military Child

- Join Military OneSource in celebrating the Month of the Military Child. Military OneSource supports military kids and their parents by providing access to support, resources and connections to youth programs.
- Check with your local installation child and youth programs for events honoring military children in April.
- Visit the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity <http://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/MilitaryChild/2017.cfm>

1 2015 Demographics: Profile of the Military Community.

2 Ibid.

3 Department of Defense Education Activity, [https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0416\\_militarychild](https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0416_militarychild) (accessed January 31, 2017).

4 Military Child Education Coalition, <http://www.militarychild.org/student-identifier> (accessed January 1, 2017).

5 Ibid.



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