

Military Connected Families: Who Are They and How Can Your PTA Support Them?

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Objectives

- ▶ Learn who qualifies as a military connected student or family
- ▶ Gain knowledge about challenges military connected students/families face
- ▶ Review National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as they pertain to supporting and engaging military connected students/families
- ▶ Establish a military support position in your local unit
- ▶ Celebrate the military connected students/families in local units/schools
- ▶ Trainings and Resources for local units and for military connected students/families

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-h_TNcCQq_k&t=12s

Who are the military families?

- ▶ The 1% of American men and women that serve in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard & Marines, National and their families
- ▶ Statistics for active duty military service members and military connected families
- ▶ Veteran's and their families and how they fit into the equation





2019 DEMOGRAPHICS PROFILE

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS

More than 1,300,000 Active Duty members serve in the four military Service branches: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. These members are an important part of the military community.



1.3 Million Active Duty Members



82.4% Enlisted



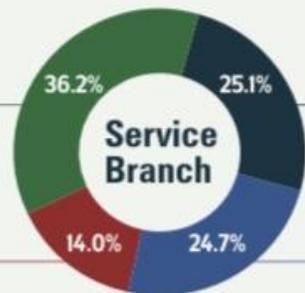
17.6% Officers

Army:
479,785 members

Navy:
332,528 members

Marine Corps:
186,009 members

Air Force:
327,878 members



Geographic Location

United States or U.S. Territories: **87.4%**

Western Hemisphere outside U.S.: **0.2%**

Other/Unknown/ Ships Afloat: **0.4%**



Europe: **5.0%**

East Asia: **6.5%**

North Africa: **0.6%**

Source: 2019 Demographics Profile of the Military Community (Department of Defense)
<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2019-demographics-report.pdf>

Gender



83.1%
MEN



16.9%
WOMEN

Race/Ethnicity

31.2% of Active Duty Force Racial Minority*

16.7% of Active Duty Force Hispanic or Latino

*Racial minority groups include American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Multi-racial, and Other/Unknown.

Marital Status

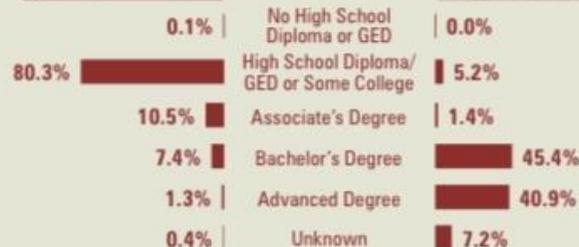


50.7% Married Active Duty members

Education

1,093,011 Enlisted

233,189 Officers



Age



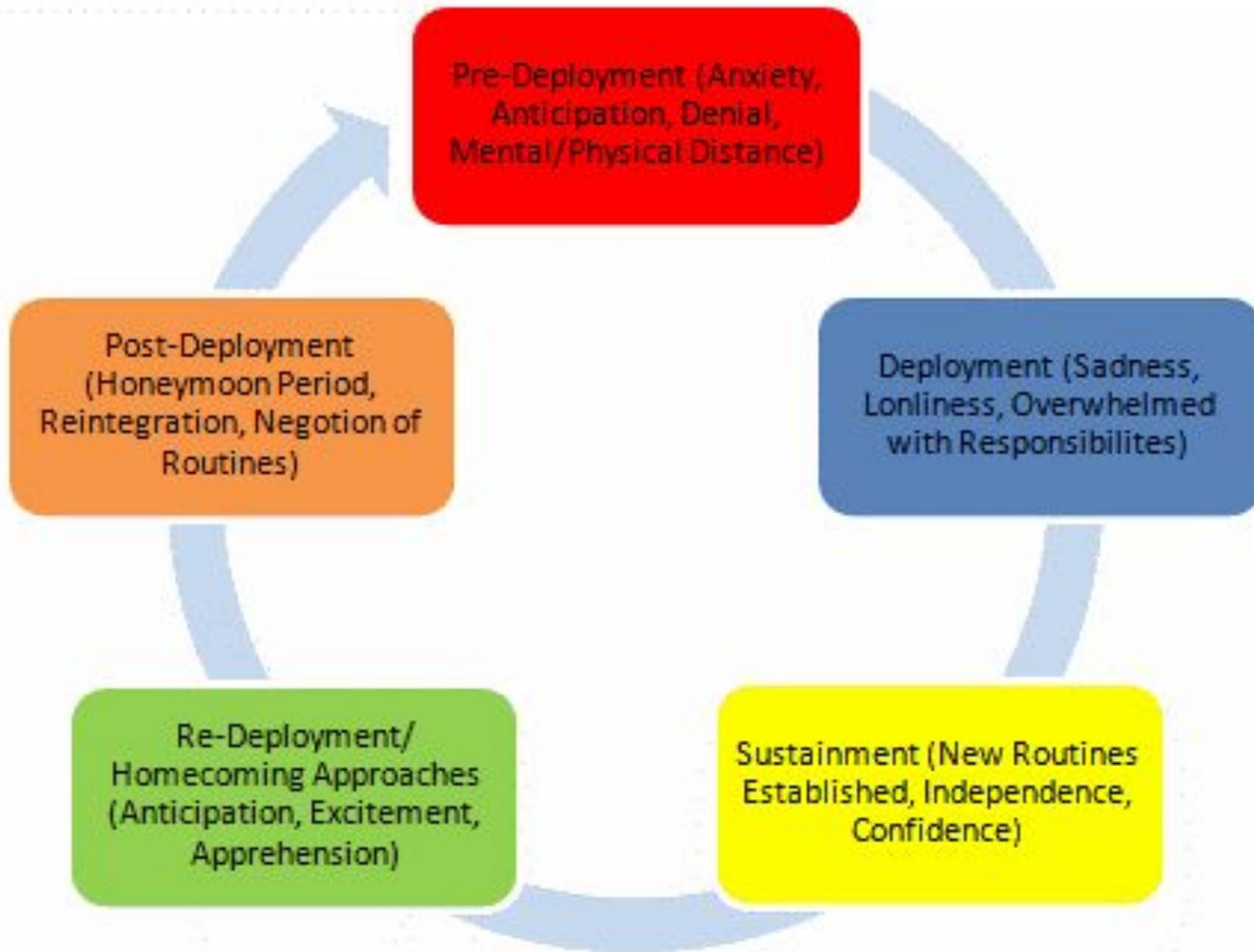
2019 Demographics Profile of the Military Community DoD.

Challenges Our Military Connected Students Face

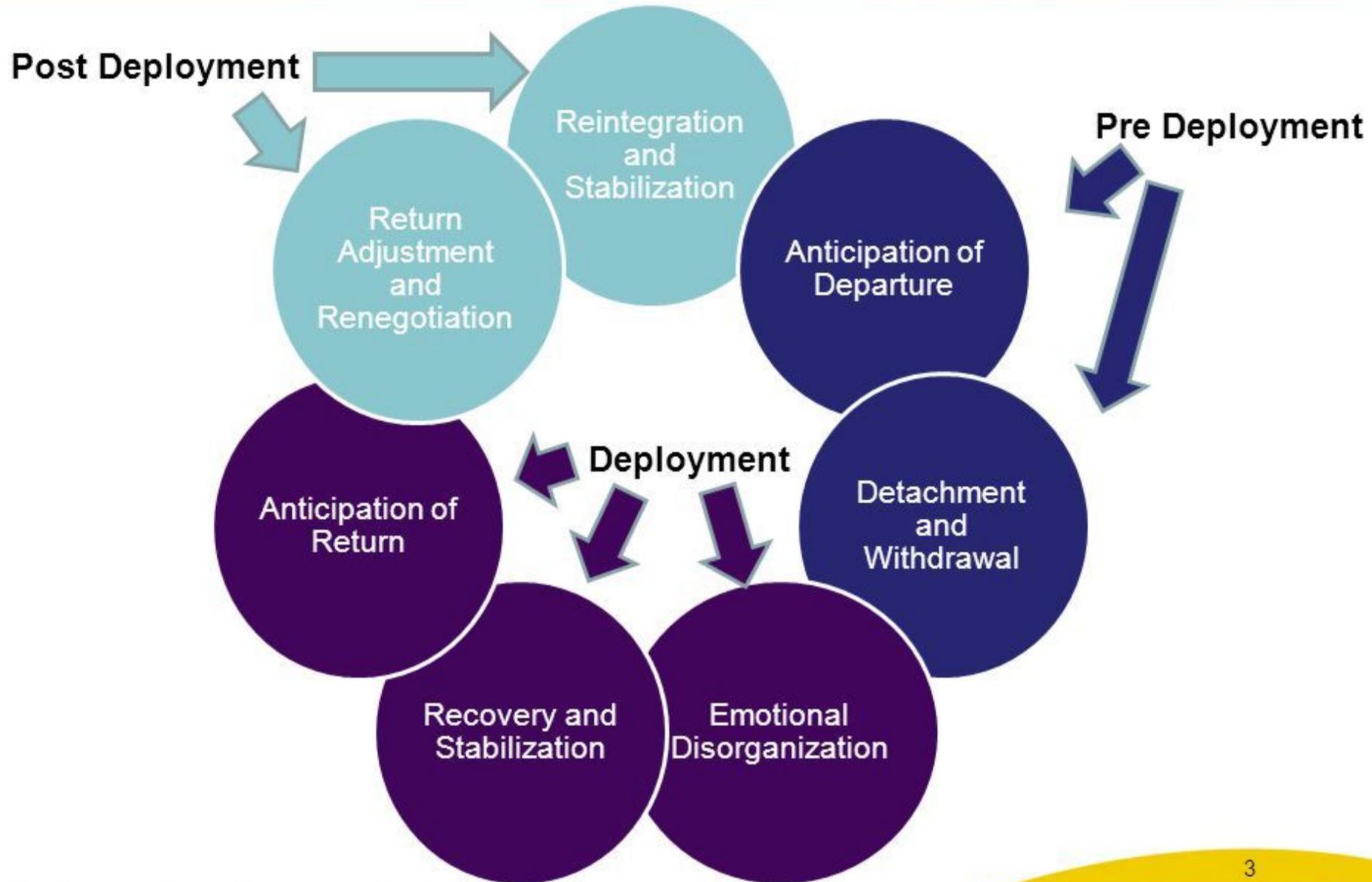
- ▶ Frequent relocations
- ▶ PCS or permanent changes of stations
- ▶ Educational inconsistencies
- ▶ Extracurricular activities disruption
- ▶ Transitions
- ▶ Fear of Loss or actual loss
- ▶ Deployment Cycle



5 Stages of the Deployment Cycle



The Emotional Cycle of Deployment

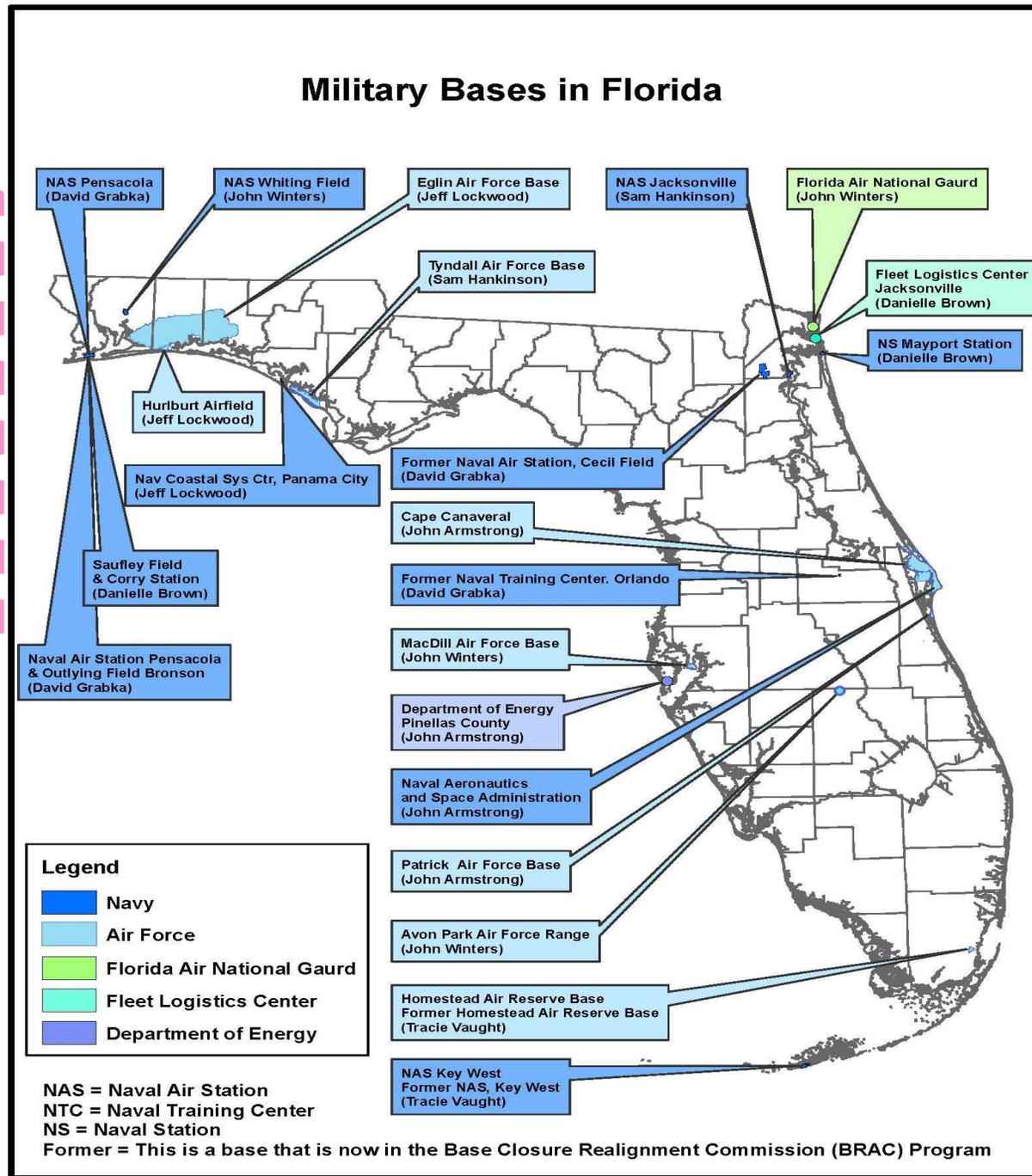


Military Connected Student/Family Tracking

- *School administrative staff keeps up to date data.
- *E.S.S.A.
- *Unique Military Identifier Number
- *PTA Registration Forms
- *Engage and include new military parents
- *Social Media use and military connected parents/students



Where are the military families Geographically?



Florida Military Bases. The state of Florida hosts 21 military bases, some from every branch of the United States Military. The Pensacola/Jacksonville area is home to most of the military bases in Florida, but they exist in other coastal areas as well such as the Greater Tampa Bay (Hillsborough/Pinellas Co. and Miami/Dade etc.)

What are the first steps to including Military Families?

Keep in mind the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- ▶ Standard 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community
- ▶ Standard 2: Communicating Effectively
- ▶ Standard 3: Supporting Student Success
- ▶ Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child
- ▶ Standard 5: Sharing Power
- ▶ Standard 6: Collaborating with Community

(<http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-pta/files/production/public/Advocacy/CCSSIToolkit/Common%20Core%20State%20Standards%20Resources/CCSS%20and%20the%20Military/Military%20Families%201-Page%205.pdf>)

Local Units Take Action

Point of Contact (POC). Create a POC on your board. Parent Military Liaison, PTA Military Inclusion, Military Engagement Chair, etc. Add to Standing Rules/by-laws. Assign VP

Meet Ups: Open House Orientation Tables, Social Media groups, lunch buddy program, sponsorship program and Counseling small groups “Patriot Groups”

Survey: Ask families what they need

Programs: Schedule program for board and extend to admin, educators, counselors

MIC3: Military Interstate Childrens Compact Commission

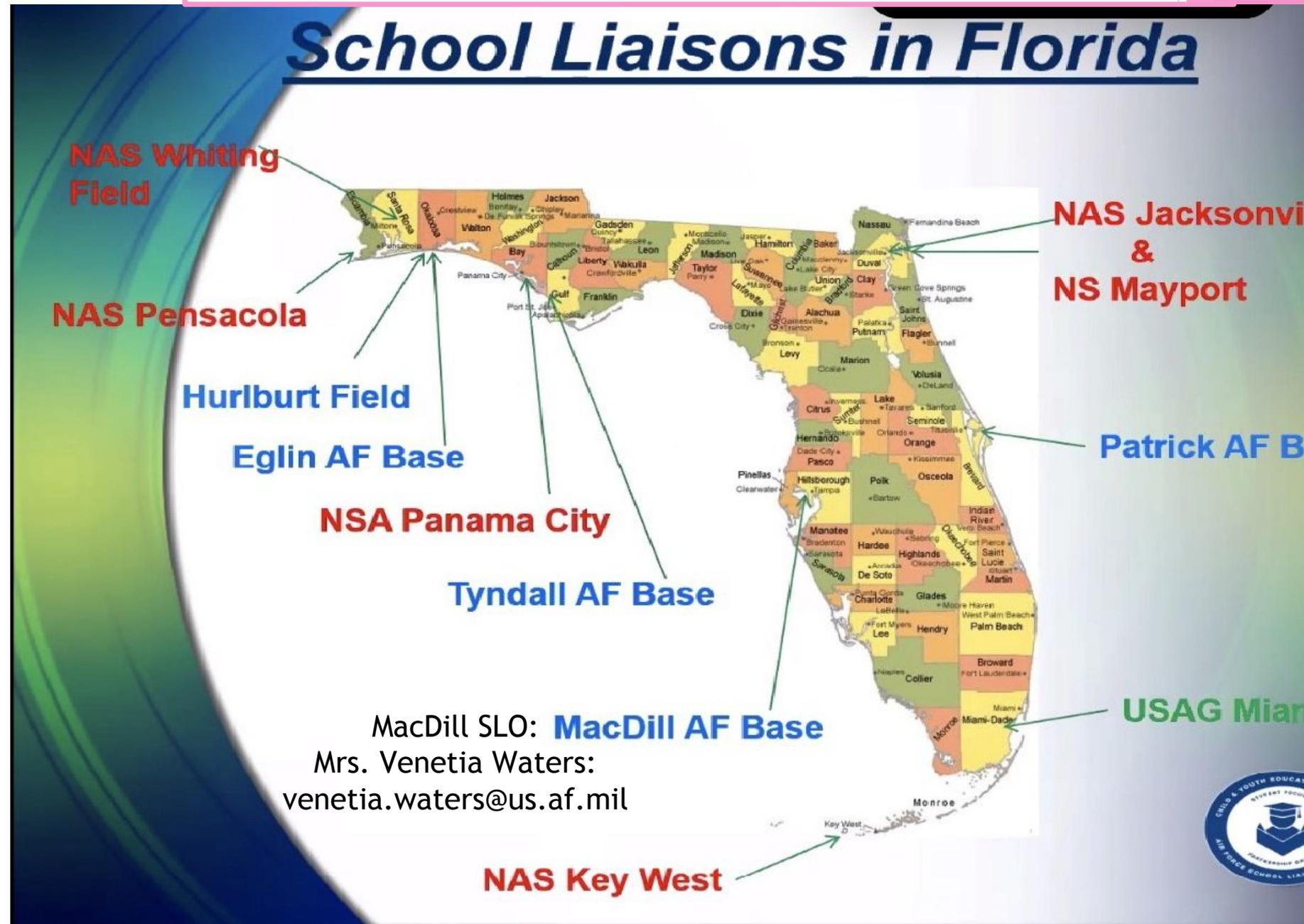
Federal Impact Aid Forms: Assist in campaign to collect

SLO's: School Liaison Officers: Collaborate/refer



School Liaison Officers on Installations Near You

School Liaisons in Florida



Celebrate Veterans Day

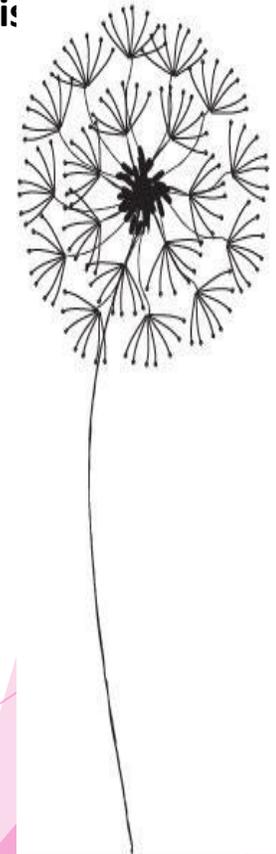


- ▶ Host a Veterans Day ceremony
- ▶ Build a Veteran's Wall
- ▶ Thank Veterans
- ▶ Invite a Veteran
- ▶ Invite a military kid
- ▶ Include non military connected students
- ▶ Classroom ideas
- ▶ Red poppy's
- ▶ Community partner with VA, American Legion, Amvets, etc

Florida Veterans information: (<https://www.floridavets.org/>).

Celebrate the Month of the Military Child (MOMC) in April

- ▶ **International Month of the Military Child.** Purple is the color for military children and the Dandelion is the official flower.
- ▶ **Toolkit:** www.militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit/ :
- ▶ **Purple Up Spirit Day In person or Virtual**
- ▶ **Spirit week.** Examples of virtual spirit week at: <https://www.hccptaptsa.org/military-resources>.
- ▶ **Newsletters**
- ▶ **Book Club:** Examples of titles at: <https://www.hccptaptsa.org/military-resources>
- ▶ **Essay activity/contest**
- ▶ **Art activity/contest**
- ▶ **Hold an assembly or host classroom Guest speakers**
- ▶ **Salute to Military Children at Sporting Events**
- ▶ **Purple Up photo booth/photo op set up in the multi-purpose room or at drop off/pick up**
- ▶ **Website Feature and good old fashioned Bulletin Boards in school**
- ▶ **Morning News show**



Going Above and Beyond

- ▶ PTA/School Book of the Month: “The Seasons of My Military Student”
<https://seasonsofmilitarystudent.com/>
- ▶ Join forums: the Seasons of My Military Student Facebook page for Teachers and Parents of kids K-12. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/325147257999017/>
- ▶ Enroll in Schoolquest. www.schoolquest.org. A digital portfolio site by MCEC that helps keep all important paperwork in one place
- ▶ Form a Military Kid’s Clubs:
http://seasonsofmilitarystudent.com/military-kids-club?fbclid=IwAR0RcF3GcX3ZQ1k08vFlm6M3HSOZ8Isu8cENRJKZ_D8kHwL_TeYzWpcdkKE
- ▶ S2S Programs: <https://www.militarychild.org/programs/student-2-student>
- ▶ Attain Purple Star Designated Schools Award:
<https://www.niche.com/blog/what-is-a-purple-star-school/> (HB 426 Rep Learned from D59 sponsored this bill)
- ▶ School of Excellence Award:

Programs for Families and Professional Development for Board Members

- ▶ **The Military Child Education Coalition**
- ▶ **Free Training and Professional Development Available 24/7**
- ▶ **Military Student Consultants (MSC's)**
- ▶ **Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC's)**
- ▶ **Military OneSource**

Resources

- ▶ National PTA Military Page: www.pta.org/run-your-pta-/Diversity-Equity-Inclusion/supporting-multicultural-membership-growth/Children-in-Military-Families.
- ▶ Florida PTA Military Page(more coming soon). www.floridapta.org
- ▶ HCC PTA/PTSA Military Resources, Links, Spirit Weeks, Book list, etc. www.hccptapta.org/military-resources
- ▶ Military Onesource: www.militaryonesource.com
- ▶ MCEC: Military Child Education Coalition: www.militarychild.org. Like them on Facebook. Professional Development programs available on the website on many topics applying to all families. Webinars, Workshops, Podcasts. There is now an **MCEC en Espanol** Facebook page.
- ▶ Month of the Military Child Toolkit: www.militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit/
- ▶ Military Interstate Compact or MIC3. www.mic3.net. See Florida's specific page.
- ▶ Military Kids Connect: <https://militarykidsconnect.health.mil/>
- ▶ Bloom for Teens: <https://www.bloommilitaryteens.org/>
- ▶ https://www.militaryonesource.mil/data-research-and-statistics/military-community-demographics/?utm_campaign=mos-eneews-jan2021&utm_content=html&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- ▶ Dod latest graphics for Families, Total Force and by Service at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/data-research-and-statistics/military-community-demographics/2019-demographics-profile/>

Resources

- ▶ Military Impacted Schools Association: www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org
- ▶ National Association for Federally Impacted Schools: www.nafisdc.org
- ▶ U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity: www.dodea.edu.org
- ▶ National American Legion: www.legion.org
- ▶ National American Legion Auxiliary: www.ALforVeterans.org
- ▶ Seasons of My Military Student: Book, FB page and blog. How teachers and parents can support the military connected student. www.seasonsofmymilitarystudent.com
- ▶ Sesame Street Support materials: www.sesamestreet.org. A unique military page.
- ▶ Tutor.com: Free tutoring help 24/7 in all subjects. www.tutor.com
- ▶ Kahn Academy. www.kahnacademy.org
- ▶ School Quest. www.Schoolquest.org

Veterans Specific Resources

- ▶ <https://www.operationwearehere.com/ArtTherapy.html>.
- ▶ <https://www.veteransflorida.org/>.
- ▶ <https://www.veteransflorida.org/veteran-resources/>.
- ▶ <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/florida-state-veterans-benefits.html>.
- ▶ <https://www.hiringourheroes.org/>
- ▶ <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/confidential-help/specialty-consultations/transitioning-veterans>
- ▶ <https://floridavets.org/>
- ▶ <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>
- ▶ <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
- ▶ <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-yourself/veterans/>
- ▶ www.legion.org
- ▶ www.amvets.org
- ▶ <https://www.moaa.org/>
- ▶ <https://floridavets.org/our-veterans/gold-star-families/>
- ▶ <https://www.floridatrend.com/article/23810/military-bases-in-florida>.

Military Reunions: <https://youtu.be/xsbZ4vFuL08>

THANK YOU

- ▶ Thank you FL PTA for allowing me to speak today.
- ▶ Please reach out to me if you need assistance getting started supporting military families and military connected children in your local unit
- ▶ Jennifer Southerland
- ▶ Email: military@hccptaptsa.org or Jennifer.southerland@militarychild.org
- ▶ Cell: 913-702-4121