



June 2024

# SLO News

Dept. of the Air Force School Liaison Program



## Meet Our Strategic Advisory Team and Mentors

### Legacy Advisors (LA)

### Innovation Team (IT)

**Legacy Advisors** serve as contributing members of the IT and mentors for newly hired SLs, providing tools, resources, and feedback to the new SLs. LAs are peer-nominated, installation leadership endorsed, AFSVC approved, and voluntarily serve in the LA leadership role. LAs are active listeners and respected experts in the SL world and exhibit enthusiasm, professionalism, and interpersonal insight. The SL **Innovation Team** (or "think tank") is a cross-functional peer and leadership-nominated group of school liaisons dedicated to assisting development of new products, services, programs, or processes—a volunteer-based working group on DAF SLP initiatives.



**Susan Clark**

East Region  
Patrick SFB



**Kristina Aubert**

Legacy Advisor  
West Region  
Nellis AFB



**Janette Gomez**

Central Region  
Laughlin AFB



**Robert Chance**

PACAF  
Kadena AB



**Renee Daughtry**

Legacy Advisor  
East Region  
Robins AFB



**Stacey Holland**

West Region  
Luke AFB



**Joy-Nicole Smith**

Legacy Advisor  
Central Region  
Minot AFB



**Adele Daniels**

Legacy Advisor  
PACAF  
JBER



**Jenn Ohmer**

Legacy Advisor  
East Region  
JB Charleston



**Lisa Sapp**

Legacy Advisor  
West Region  
Malmstrom AFB



**Terri Williams**

Legacy Advisor  
Central Region  
Little Rock AFB



**Judy Mott**

Legacy Advisor  
USAFE  
Spangdahelm AB



**Laurie Sisk**

Legacy Advisor  
East Region  
Dover AFB



- SLP Operation Guide
- Annual Training Plan
- Scholarship Listing
- EmpowerED
- SLPM Core Course



HQ AFIMSC - AFSVC/VCS  
[afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil](mailto:afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil)

Department of the Air Force  
School Liaison Program Division

# COMMANDERS CORNER

## A Unified Approach

### Commanders Essential Role in PreK-12 Education

In many of our military-impacted schools, mil-connected students make up less than 1% of the total student population. Despite this relatively small percentage, command teams must prioritize the development of robust and enduring educational partnerships. These partnerships serve as the foundation of the School Liaison program, facilitating collaboration between military installations and local education agencies. Recognizing the significance of educational partnerships as essential to mission success, Installation Command Teams must:

- Leverage their leadership, resources, and expertise to strengthen partnerships
- Continue to invest in initiatives that foster communication, support, and engagement between military communities and schools—investing back in the community
- Drive implementation and establish the focus of the school liaison program

**AFI 34-144, 2.16.4. SL serves as installation point of contact and subject matter expert for all local military child education matters.**

### Commander's Immersion

- Program Overview
- Footprint
- Community Partnerships
- Challenges and Trends
- Successes
- Communication
- Impact



### NEW Commander's Immersion Template coming soon!



**The WHAT? Mission**

- How does this connect to the mission? Readiness? Retention? Lethality?
- How does this connect to our purpose?
- What does the DoDI, AFI, or Operations Manual say regarding this topic?
- How does this connect into the Support of Military Families?
- How does this fit in the inspection process?

**SO WHAT? Advocacy, Communication, and Data Management**

- How does marketing affect this event or issue?
- Is this a systemic or local policy issue? What's next?
- How is this annotated in our Records Management System?
- Who needs to be notified? Command Team, Educators, Community Stakeholders, Families?
- What do partners need to know?

**The NOW WHAT? Impact**

- How does this impact the Command Team or Installation?
- How does this impact a military-connected student?
- How does this impact the community or stakeholders?
- How does this impact educators or local LEAs?
- How does this impact our budget?
- Will this impact community relationships?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

## Leading by Example – Hanscom AFB

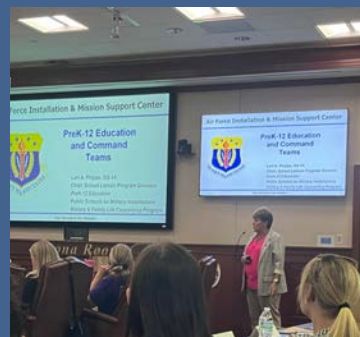
*Laurel, School Liaison and Team Hanscom Welcomes*

1. Admiral and Mrs. Grady, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and spouse, learning about STEM projects, serving as a judge to the 5th graders and touring their school
2. Mrs. Jennifer Saltzman, Spouse of USSF Chief of Space Ops, school visit and an opportunity to learn more about Hanscom AFB support mission

## Insights and Impact- 2024 Spring Phoenix Rally Air Mobility Command (AMC)

AMC Rally, recently held at MacDill, was crucial for engaging with over 330 AMC senior leaders. It offered a unique opportunity for direct dialogue with key decision-makers, fostering transparency and collaboration in regard to PreK-12 Education in their communities. Speaking with leadership at this event empowered us to voice our concerns, share innovative ideas, and allow them to gain insights into the strategic direction of our initiatives. Participation in these events is vital in shaping the future of our communities and ensuring that diverse perspectives are heard and valued.

**Be there to make a difference!**



# STAND OUT, STAND TALL

From Visibility to Value

A well-executed display table can contribute to a positive program, increased involvement and enhanced communication with stakeholders.

- **Information and Dissemination** - Strategic and targeted marketing
- **Recruitment and Retention** - Reinforcing commitment
- **Connecting** - Creating opportunities and building relationships



*Stacey Holland*

**Luke AFB School Liaison**, Stacey at **beconnected**, an organization that supports service members, veterans, & their families in Arizona. She was invited as a speaker to brief HB2246, Purple Star Schools, and communicate the plan for Arizona SLPs to provide training/consistency/support for schools in the state.



Use DAF SLP Strategic Marketing to enhance your tables!

## Unlocking Growth

Cross Marketing Your Program for Impactful Growth

### Establish Partnerships:

Leverage your existing customer base and resources to expand program and propose collaboration opportunities

### Network:

Participate in events, or networking gatherings where you can meet key stakeholders to strengthen opportunities

### Identify Value Added - Key Performance Indicators

Create strategic and impactful services to enhance opportunities such as workshops, professional development, programs, and partnerships that are mutually beneficial - Identify S.M.A.R.T goals to know you are meeting program desired outcomes



### PROGRAM STATS

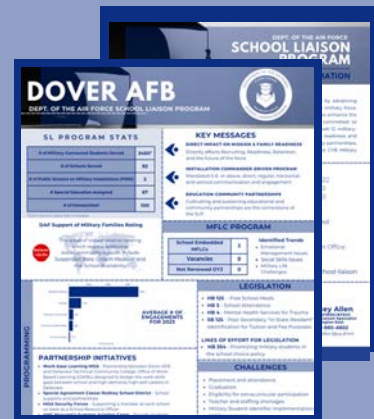
# of Military-Connected Students Served
# of Schools Served
# of Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)
# Special Education Assigned
# of Homeschool
# of International Students

## Knowing Your Footprint

Collecting demographic information about military-connected students at the installation is a critical component of the SL reporting requirements.

*HOT OFF THE PRESS!*

The SLP Division is working on newly released MAJCOM and Installation Infographics highlighting impact on PreK-12 education



## Malmstrom AFB

*Lisa Sapp*

Lisa Sapp, School Liaison, awarded the Purple Star Champion award by the Montana Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission!



## Maxwell AFB

*Robert Richert  
Katheryn Ganster*

Maxwell SLs were presented the Award for Civilian Achievement in support of the 2024 Beyond the Horizon Air and Space Show. The show was the first of its kind in Alabama River Region since 2017, attended by 4K local students and teachers.

# Connecting Communities

## School Liaison Spotlight



### Moody AFB

Darren Hill

**Strengthening Partnerships**, the Moody School Board Liaison Committee gaining insight into the mission and capabilities of Team Moody.



### Goodfellow AFB

Kristen Donaldson

**Force of the Future**, GFAFB hosted their 2nd annual Military Signing Day, designated to honor the students who are committing to serve our country.



### Little Rock AFB

Terri Williams and TSgt A. Williams

**State and Local Engagements**, LRAFB hosted the LEARNS ACT training in partnership with Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva, Education Freedom Account office, Dr. Darrell Smith, Seth Seaton and Dustin Wood, and Arkansas Council for Military Children Commissioner Don Kaminar.

### Collaborative Efforts, Stronger Communities

JB MDL School Liaisons

Angelica DeJesus

Nikalea Naida

The JB MDL School Liaison Program partnered with Adventure Crossing USA and Military Support Alliance of New Jersey to recognize 47 high school military-connected seniors.



### Edwards AFB

Rebecca Balkenbush

School Liaison Program Manager

In collaboration with the SLP, Edwards AFB Airman Leadership School has forged a partnership with a local AFJROTC Cadre. In addition to volunteer support, AFJROTC cadets recently attended an ALS Graduation, toured Wing Ops, and met with installation leadership.



### Cannon AFB

Sara Williams

School Liaison Program Manager

Cannon AFB partnered with 19 organizations to provide interactive STEM experiences for 300 local students, including homeschool families and AFJROTC students, in grades 1st through 11th as part of their 2024 "Family Day."



# CARE STARTS WITH *Self*

MAKE  
YOURSELF A  
PRIORITY



Remember to fill your own cup so you can continue to pour into others.



Balance and Breathe



Relax, Refill, Recharge



Just like you do on a plane, you need to put on your own oxygen mask first before trying to help others. –Dean Nancy Smyth



## SPECIAL *Education* CONNECTION

### EFMP & ME



EFMP & Me is a resource by Military OneSource that provides resources, trainings, checklists and referrals directly to families or to the installation support staff who are helping families. This is your 24/7 guide to EFMP. You can use this tool to navigate through a host of services and supports through DoD for families with special needs. Here is a list of information that might be useful for School Liaison Program Managers:

#### Checklist Topics for Education

- Organizing for Success
- Advocating on Behalf of Your Child
- Birth to Age 3
- How to Look for a Preschool
- Early Intervention Services
- Individualized Family Services Plan – IFSP
- Ages 3 through 21
- Transition Services
- Finding a School or Special Education Program
- Individualized Education Program – IEP
- Working With a School Liaison
- 504 Plans
- Adult and Continuing Education
- The Difference Between an Individualized Education Program and a 504 Plan
- Talking With Faculty and Counselors
- The Difference Between an Individualized Education Program and a 504 Plan
- Thrive: Exceptional Families. Embracing Differences. Flourishing Together.

You do need to sign up with your CAC to access the EFMP & Me website, but it will be worth it. Select “Service Provider” and get started. <https://efmpandme.militaryonesource.mil/>

Note: Families can sign up without email and password. You can sort resources “for me” or “for clients.”

## Home Education

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

### FREE WEBINAR FOR HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS AND YOUR FAMILIES

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2:30-3:30 P.M. ET**

Are you a home-schooled student-athlete dreaming of playing your sport at an NCAA university or college? Invest in your future and spend an hour understanding the initial-eligibility requirements and how to prepare for NCAA certification with specific focus on home-schooled student athletes.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER



Register for the webinar: [https://on.ncaa.com/Web\\_06182024](https://on.ncaa.com/Web_06182024)

# CONUS




## JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON

The AMC/ANG visit to Alaska for an Alaskan Native Tribal Engagement was held on 14-15 May 2024. While in the state to visit Kotzebue, Alaska, the "Go-Inspire" Team had a chance to connect with local school JROTC Programs. The visit to Anchorage's Bartlett High School Army JROTC Program was particularly positive for the local AF recruiting team. The connection was helpful to build relationships for local recruiters. The Army JROTC instructors welcomed the chance for their cadets to learn about all the opportunities the Air Force can offer. Students from two local high school AFJROTC programs also visited JBER for a static display.



## European Homeschool Conference

Through collaboration and resources the European Homeschool Conference builds a sense of community and belonging for our military-connected homeschool families. Representing the School Liaison Program were SLs from Spangdahlem (Judy), Aviano (Katarina) and Kleine Brogel (Nikki).



## LAKENHEATH/ MILDENHALL Susan Ratkovsky

School Liaison partnered with the Civilian Personnel Office for the **Summer Hire Program** at DODEA Lakenheath High School and DODEA Lakenheath Middle School, to date 32 individuals initiated onboarding process.

## Host Nation Exchange Program Judy Mott

4th grade students both from DoDEA's Spangdahlem Elementary School and St. Matthias Grundschule in Bitburg were paired to exchange letters and photos, and then spend a day in each other's schools. The visits were coordinated through the 52d Fighter Wing School Liaison Office, and the Rhineland Pfalz Host Nation Council.





## What-A-Website!

### Top 6 Trends

- Workforce development and career and technical education
- K-12 funding
- Teacher workforce
- Early care and education
- Academic achievement and literacy
- Physical and mental health



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



5 Region Central PLC

6 SLP Unplugged



11 CONUS GAWG

12 USAFE PLC

12 PACAF GAWG

13 USAFE GAWG

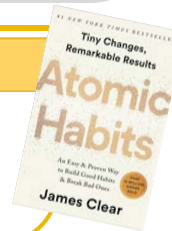
21 Region East PLC

27 Region West PLC

27 PACAF PLC

## LEADERSHIP BOOK RECOMMENDATION

James Clear, one of the world's leading experts on habit formation, reveals practical strategies that will teach you exactly how to form good habits, break bad ones, and master the tiny behaviors that lead to remarkable results.



Join Us Every Month For Our SLP  
**Unplugged**

Monthly opportunities to gain strategic, technical and tactical support



**Conducting Your Commander's Immersion**

**THIS MONTH**



“The two most important days in your life are the day you're born and the day you find out why.”  
—Mark Twain

## School Liaison Program Managers

School Liaison Program Managers are the primary OPR for all PreK-12 engagements, challenges, concerns, education programming components to include Special Education, state-level/host-nation representation, and education community partnerships; responsible for Public Schools on Military Installations coordination to include DoDEA Schools and Military & Family Life Counseling Program (School Embedded).

**Additional Duties Based on Community**

MIC3 State Lead, DoD STARBASE POC, DAF STEM POC, School Based Transition Program Oversight, Non-DoD Schools and International AD Student Programs.

## Connect With Us



[afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil](mailto:afsvc.daf.slo@us.af.mil)



[@DAFSLP](https://twitter.com/DAFSLP)



[@dafslp](https://www.facebook.com/dafslp)



[@DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram](https://www.instagram.com/DAFSchoolLiaisonProgram)



The information in this newsletter is provided as a resource and does not constitute endorsement by the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense of the external website, the information, products, or services contained therein.

#askushow

#partnershipsdrieveresults

#notwithoutus