



Airman & Family Readiness Center

Military Child Education

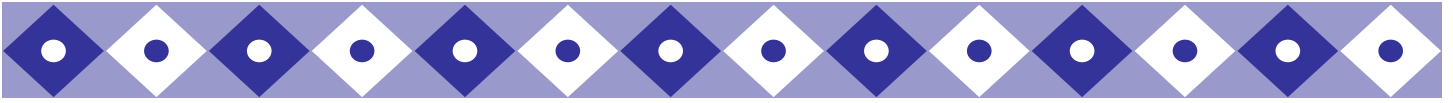
A Guide for Parents and Students

**Airman & Family
Readiness Center**

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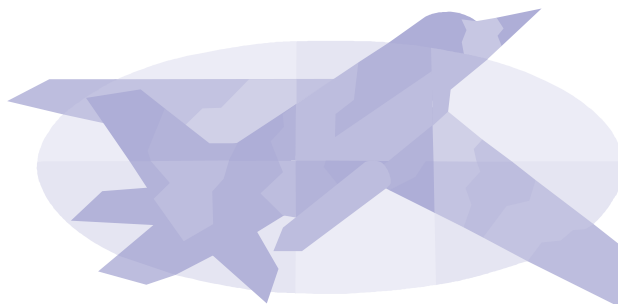
Greetings!

I would like to introduce myself as the Mountain Home AFB School Liaison representative. My main focus is to inform and connect military families and Mountain Home AFB leadership with schools in Mountain Home and surrounding Treasure Valley communities. Additionally, my office will serve as an installation point of contact for school-related matters

Approximately 1.5 million children and youth attending U.S. Public schools have a parent serving in the military. The mobile lifestyle of a military family creates tough challenges for children who may attend as many as 13 schools in 12 years. This, added to the anxiety of parental separation during deployments creates the challenge of easing transitions for our children and youth.

I am available as a resource for military families, installation leadership, and school district staff and faculty. If you have questions or would like help accessing information, please contact me at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Thank you.

Allen Niksich
School Liaison



There's more to Idaho than "Famous Potatoes"

Many people don't know much about Idaho except "famous potatoes." Since you live here now, you would probably like to know more. Adjacent to Washington and Oregon in the Pacific North-west, Idaho is a big state. It's been said if you flatten all the mountains in Idaho, the state would be the size of Texas. Idaho covers two time zones, runs from



View of Boise, Idaho, looking north from the historic train depot



IDAHO TRIVIA: Shoshone Falls, The Niagara of the West, spills over a 212-ft drop near Twin Falls.

Canada to Nevada, and encompasses the western side of the continental divide of the Rocky Mountains. Rivers, mountains and farmland dominate the state's landscape. The panhandle has emerald green hillsides, timbered mountains and pristine lakes. Central Idaho is covered with jagged peaks. The Snake River Plain, (where Mountain Home AFB is located) with its wide open vistas, irrigated farm

lands and vibrant cities forms the character of Southern Idaho. Idaho's history lies with its native tribes, the Lewis and Clark Expedition and determined pioneers on the Oregon Trail. Today's Idaho is both cosmopolitan and small-town friendly. Boise, the capital and largest city, is approximately 45 miles from the base. It is located along



IDAHO TRIVIA: Ski at Sun Valley, where the world's first chairlift was installed.

the Oregon Trail has grown to a population of 190,000. Agriculture, manufacturing and tourism are Idaho's major industries. Abundant outdoor recreation opportunities and scenic vistas around every turn attract millions of tourists annually. Whichever part of this magnificent state you choose to discover, you'll find spectacular scenery, fun things to do and friendly, helpful people. You'll also find a place that's unhurried, unspoiled and unassuming. (www.visitidaho.org)



IDAHO TRIVIA: Rigby, ID inventor Philo T. Farnsworth's home town is known as the birthplace of television.



SCHOOL LIAISON DUTIES

INFORM ~ CONNECT ~ ASSIST

Based in the Airman & Family Readiness Center, the School Liaison (SLO) is available to act as a liaison for parents and students with the goal of helping schools and government agencies share best practices and policies.

Inform

The School Liaison can assist families learn with collecting accurate information about school districts, sports/academic organizations, post-secondary education options as well as help to resolve problem situations like where to register their child if they are living in temporary housing and provide accurate referrals so they can settle in to their new home and school in Mountain Home or Treasure Valley communities.

Connect

The School Liaison is also available to connect parents and students to the other resources, such as home school associations, virtual education options, and private schools. When families are “PCS’ing” the SLO can provide information about their gaining base so parents and students are prepared in advance to ease their transition.

Assist

The School Liaison is available to respond and assist with a wide range of issues concerning schools and the education of military children and youth. The SLO also attends monthly school board meetings to gather information and to identify and provide input on issues of concern to military families. This can be of great help to parents who may be making decisions without the support of a deployed spouse.



INBOUND STUDENTS

Tips for transitioning to a new school:

Mountain Home School District offers a comprehensive course of study for students in grades K - 12

- When registering a kindergarten or 1st grade student for school, please have your child's birth certificate and immunization records. State law requires that a child must be five years old to attend kindergarten or six years old to attend first grade on or before September 1 of the current school year.
- Please inform the school if your child was placed in any special program or if any special needs were identified at his/her previous school and provide records indicating this.
- Immunization records and birth certificate along with any school records are needed when registering a student in grades 2-12.
- Contact the housing office to determine the waiting period for on-base quarters. This may determine what school your child will attend. If you are in temporary housing, contact the School Liaison for assistance.
- If you have a child of high school age, gather information on Idaho's high school graduation requirements. The School Liaison can provide this information.
- Visit the web page for Mountain Home School District for current registration information, elementary enrollment zones, and school policies: www.mtnhomesd.org

Receiving School Checklist

Attendance & Tardy Records	Alternative School Records
Report Card & Current Schedule	Activities Record (such as co/extracurricular)
Withdrawal Grades	IEP/504/Gifted Records/JROTC Records
Transcript/Course History (with grading system, and Class Rank)	Letters of Recommendation (especially for Senior students)
Testing Information– Standardized Test Scores, end of Course Test Scores, Competency Test Scores	Writing Samples (if available)
Health Records (including Shot Records & Birth Certificate)	At-Risk or Action Plans for class-room modifications (if available)
Proof of Residency/Military Orders/Social Security number	Accelerated Reader Points (if available)
Service Learning Hours (if available)	Guardianship/custody Papers (if applicable)



INBOUND STUDENTS

militarykidsblog.com is a place for military kids young and old to discuss their experiences

No matter how many times a military family moves it's never easy. Here are several ideas below about how to make the best of being the new kid in school: (courtesy of Military Youth on the Move)

Do your research. Learn as much as you can about your new community before you get there. The more you know before you head to school for the first time, the better you'll feel.

Visit your school. As soon as you can, go see your new school. Even if it's summer vacation, go check out the building and get the basics down. If it isn't possible to visit your school before you go, try to get on the school's website and learn as much as you can that way.

Explore the area. Once you're all moved in, walk or drive around. Check out the local hang out spots, and introduce yourself to some other teens. Having even just one new friend can make that first day of school a lot easier.

Smile. Did you know that when you smile you have a better chance of making friends? This simple action can make you more approachable to the other kids.

Start fresh. Think of this move as a good thing. You get a chance to start again and forget anything you weren't proud of in your past. If you got labeled as someone who couldn't keep a secret or if you made some enemies along your way, now's your chance to change all that!

If you would like to request a “Youth” Sponsor, please contact the “Kids in Touch with Kids Program”

Youth Programs 650 Phantom Avenue Mountain Home, AFB Idaho 83648 Phone: 208-828-2501 Email: YouthSponsorProgram@mountainhome.af.mil



OUTBOUND STUDENTS



Visit Military Youth on the Move online for tips and information for youth related military life:
<http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/myom>

Saying Goodbye to Friends

Saying goodbye to friends is one of the hardest things about moving. There's never an easy way to tell them that you're leaving, but making your goodbyes special will make it easier to remember them when you're settled into your new home.

Make a list of all the people you want to say goodbye to. Think about school friends, neighbors, or other people you feel close to. Decide how you want to say goodbye to each of them. A phone call? A gift? A letter? A visit?

Plan something special. Do you want to ask your parents to have a goodbye party at your house? Do you want to plan a special outing with your friends? Do you want to meet everyone at your favorite spot? No matter what you decide, plan something special, so you can all get together, take pictures, and share more laughs.

Visit your favorite places. You and your friends probably have a favorite hangout spot, maybe a movie theater, a park, or someone's house. Try to visit these places together one last time. Take some pictures so you'll never forget them.

Make a scrapbook together. Have some close friends over and ask them to bring photos and



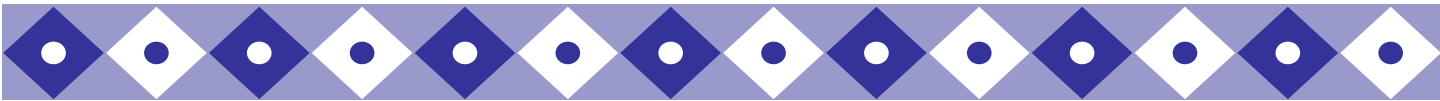
When house hunting, don't forget to check on school enrollment zones. Check with the local school district or your School Liaison Officer for details

other small things that remind them of your special friendship. Then get crafty! Have each of your friends make a "memory page" for your book, or just create each page together.

Get your friends involved. Get your friends to give you advice on your new room: How should you decorate it? Ask them to help you get organized before you pack:

What should you keep or give away? Ask them for advice on making new friends: What do they love about you?

- Course Description Book
- School Profile
- Attendance & Tardy Records
- Report Card & Current Schedule
- Withdrawal Grades
- Transcript/Course History (with grading system, and Class Rank)
- Cumulative Folder
- Testing Information– Standardized Test Scores, end of course , Competency Test Scores
- Health Records (including Shot Records & Birth Certificate)
- Proof of Residency/Military
- Orders



SPECIAL NEEDS INBOUND STUDENTS

Special Needs Identification and Assignment Coordination: SNIAC

Special Needs Identification and Assignment Coordination is the process that documents and evaluates the medical and educational needs of family members in order to advise families and AF Personnel on the appropriateness of family member travel.

In the Air Force, all families with a special needs family member must participate in the SNIAC review process before any government-funded Permanent Change of Station (PCS) travel is authorized. This applies to relocations within the continental U.S. (CONUS) or outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS).

Special Needs Coordinator (SNC's) are located at the SNIAC office in the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF). SNC's work with the EFMP-FS and the Assignments branch at AFPC to coordinate medical, education, community support, housing and personnel services to families with special needs.

EFMP-Family Support– FS (EFMP-FS)

At the Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC), a Community Readiness Consultant is available to ensure that each family receives comprehensive coordinated EFMP-FS through the military and/or civilian community. The CRC can discuss the needs of the EFM and recommend appropriate local, state and national resources related to relocation, support groups, community enhancement programs and respite care, military child education and recreation.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

- Enrollment is Mandatory for all active duty service members that have family members diagnosed with a physical, intellectual, or emotional condition
- By combining the efforts of the personnel and medical staff, as well as the education system, the EFMP helps ensure continuity in care and education for family members as they move from one duty station to the next

If you would like to request a “Youth” Sponsor, please contact the “Kids in Touch with Kids Program”

Youth Programs 650 Phantom Avenue Mountain Home, AFB Idaho 83648 Phone: 208-828-2501 Email: YouthSponsorProgram@mountainhome.af.mil



SPECIAL NEEDS OUTBOUND STUDENTS

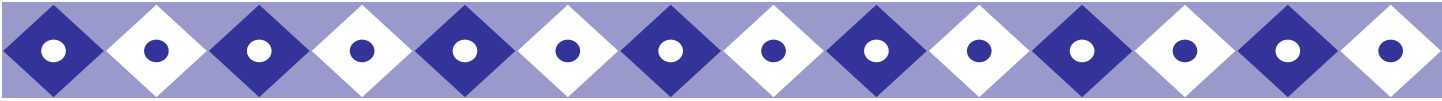
Transitioning a Special Needs Student Checklist

Moving is a part of every military members career. For all families there is an enormous amount of work involved with the transition, but for families with a special needs child, there are even more things to consider, remember and arrange. Being informed about where you are going and who is there to help is key.

Planning ahead, starting the process before you start the journey and asking the right questions can create a smoother transition and enable the process to move along more quickly once you arrive at your new home. The School Liaison is here to assist you with this process whether you are new to the base, or preparing to leave for another duty station. (stompproject.org)

Before you leave:

- **Appropriate assignment?** Be sure the duty station you have been assigned is equipped to deal with your child's special needs. Do your own checking to see what is and isn't available there.
- **Contact the Receiving School Liaison:** Let them know you will be arriving and what your needs may be. The School Liaison may be able to provide you with some contacts and information to help you in your transition.
- **Laws and Regulations:** Are the schools run by local schools districts or DODEA? Find out and start learning about the laws and regulations that apply at your new location, before you leave.
- **Contacts:** Collect all numbers you will need on arrival at your new duty station. Unfortunately, you have to be present at the new location in order to apply for many things. The School Liaison can assist you with collecting this information. You should have the following information ready to start calling and visiting on arrival:
 - **Local SSI/Medicaid office:** Eligibility varies from state to state, it does not carry over from state to state. You must reapply in your new state.
 - **Local Dept of Developmental Disabilities/Dept of Mental Health office:** States have different things to offer, so it may be worth looking into.
 - **Local School Districts**
 - **Local Support Groups:** Contacting these groups can provide a great deal of information. Speaking with parents about local schools/housing/doctors is ultimately the best resource available to you.



Online Resources

Relocation

Military Youth on the move: <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil>
Military Home front: www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil
Military OneSource: www.militaryonesource.com
Idaho Living: www.accessidaho.org
City of Mountain Home: www.mountain-home.us

Military Life

Military Kids Blog: www.militarykidsblog.com
Families United Mission: www.familiesunitedmission.com
Air Force Crossroads: www.afcrossroads.com
Military OneSource: www.militaryonesource.com

Special Needs Resources

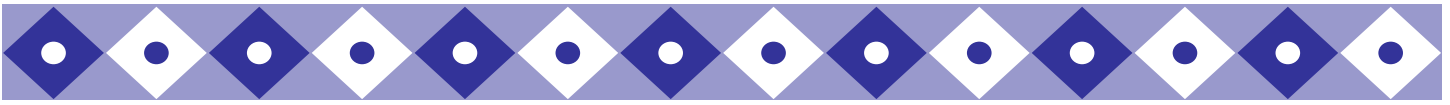
STOMP: www.stompproject.org
Idaho Parents Unlimited www.ipulidaho.org
TriCare Echo Program:
www.tricare.mil/tricaresmartfiles/Prod_294/ECHO_Br_Lo_Res.pdf

Idaho State and Local Education

Idaho State Department of Education: www.sde.idaho.gov
Mountain Home School District #193: www.mtnhomesd.org
Idaho Coalition of Home Educators: <http://www.iche-idaho.org/>
Private Schools in Mountain Home:
www.idaho.privateschoolsreport.com
Idaho Virtual Academy: <http://www.k12.com/idva/>

Military Child Education

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC): www.militarychild.org
National Military Family Association (NMFA): www.militaryfamily.org
Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA):
www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org
Student Online Achievement Resources (SOAR):
www.soarathome.org



Phone Numbers

Military Life

Airman & Family Readiness Center

- ◆ Personal & Worklife Consultant: 208-828-2458

Military Family Life Consultants

- ◆ Adult MFLC: 208-598-5974
- ◆ Child & Youth MFLC: 208-608-4971

Family Advocacy: 208-828-7520

Mental Health: 208-828-7580

Relocation

Airman & Family Readiness Center: 208-828-2458

- ◆ Relocation Program
- ◆ School Liaison
- ◆ Information & Referral

Air Force Lodging: 208-828-5200

Housing: 208-828-2780

Local Education

- ◆ Mountain Home School District #193: 208-587-2580
 - ◆ Mountain Home AFB Primary School : (K-4) 208-832-4651
 - ◆ East Elementary School (K-4) : 208-587-2575
 - ◆ North Elementary School (K-4) : 208-587-2585
 - ◆ West Elementary School (K-4): 208-587-2595
 - ◆ Hacker Middle School (5-6): 208-587-2500
 - ◆ Mountain Home Junior High: 208-587-2590
 - ◆ Mountain Home High School: 208-587-2570
 - ◆ Richard McKenna Charter High School: 208-580-2449
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Special Needs Resources

- ◆ Special Needs Identification & Assignments Coordinator: 208-828-7477
- ◆ EFMP-Family Support- FS: 208-828-2458