

# SCHOOL LIAISON LINK

Grand Forks AFB School Liaison Newsletter



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School Liaison Officer: Kelly Painter • Phone: 701-747-4484 • Email: [kelly.painter@us.af.mil](mailto:kelly.painter@us.af.mil)

**"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."**

Everyone Matters

## North Dakota Joins the Military

### Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

With the signing of House Bill 1248 by Governor Jack Dalrymple, North Dakota joins the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission in the adoption of Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunities for Military Children.

North Dakota becomes the 38th state to enact the Compact since 2008. The Compact was signed into law on May 17, 2011. The Compact provides for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states. It was developed by The Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts, the Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, the Department of Education of each state, school administrators and military families. Military families move between postings on a regular basis, and while reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they can be difficult for the children of military families. The average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten to 12th grade. The Compact therefore seeks to make transition easier for the children of military families so that they are afforded the same opportunities for educational success as other children and are not penalized or delayed in achieving their educational goals.

For more information on the Interstate Compact or the Commission, please visit the MIC3 website at [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net).

Education Fair! Coming in August 2011.... An event for all ages! Look for more details in future issues.

## First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden are Working Together to Support Military Families

The "Joining Forces" movement is a comprehensive national initiative to mobilize all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned. This movement:

- Brings attention to the unique needs and strength of America's military families.
- Inspires, educates, and sparks action from all sectors of our society – citizens, communities, businesses, non-profits, faith based institutions, philanthropic organizations, and government - to ensure veterans and military families have the opportunities, resources, and support they have earned.
- Showcases the skills, experience, and dedication of America's veterans and military spouses to strengthen our nation's communities.
- Creates greater connections between the American public and the military.

For more information and the complete article go to [www.joiningforces.gov](http://www.joiningforces.gov). To review Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden's 2011 tour schedule go to [www.uso.org/sesame-2011-tour-schedule](http://www.uso.org/sesame-2011-tour-schedule)



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## EFMP NEWS!

### Checklist for Military Families Enrolled in EFMP Experiencing a Move!

Step 1: Ensure your family is enrolled in EFMP – you will be connected to relocation assistance and housing information for your next base

Step 2: Check out [www.MilitaryInstallations.dod.mil](http://www.MilitaryInstallations.dod.mil) - This is a DoD official website that your family will be able to access base and state information for the area you are moving to.

Step 3: Go to Military Homefront to check out “Plan My Move!” – In this site, you can customize a personal calendar for your moving needs! It provides you with resources and checklists of documents, travel plans and itineraries that your family can benefit from.

Step 4: Families Helping Families – the Air Force has set up a “discussion board” area on Facebook. Families can now talk to other families who have moved and share their stories. You can also leave helpful tips for families.

Additional Resources available to your family:

School needs: [DoD Education Activity \(DODEA\) Special Education Medical, Benefits and Entitlements, & Special Education Services](#) needs: [DoD Special Needs Parent Toolkit](#)

Children with special health care needs: Military Homefront’s Special Needs Section includes, [Special Care Organizational Record \(SCOR\)](#)/There is also a SCOR for adult member who have a special need.

Emotional Needs: [Military OneSource](#) provides families with 60-minute consultations up to 12 times a year with a Special Needs Specialty Consultant.



## Judge Advocate General (JAG) Office joins into Partnership with EFMP!

Over 17,000 Air Force families have at least one Exceptional Family Member Program member, and many of those are children. EFMP families often face unique financial, medical, and legal issues, especially during deployments or when moving from one state to another.

Air Force attorneys provide legal assistance on a variety of personal civil legal matters, including advice to EFMP families on legal issues related to deployment, advance estate planning, and educational legal issues such as guardianships and the alternatives to guardianships, providing special powers of attorney related to educational representation of children with a disability, providing information on the need for and use of supplemental needs trusts, basic information on tax consequences of supplemental needs trusts, information and advice on legal issues and rights to educational services described in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as well as any applicable state law concepts.

If you have legal questions regarding the EFMP or educational rights and opportunities for special needs children, please call the 319 ABW Legal Office at 747-3606 to schedule an appointment.

### New! EFMP Resource Quick Guide for Families

List of base helping agencies and contacts that are available to provide service to any family with dependents enrolled in EFMP. Get connected here at Grand Forks AFB. Resource guides available at the Airman and Family Readiness Center (Relocation Section) or call the School Liaison.

*Websites to check out*

[www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

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## School Board Openings!

The Grand Forks Air Force Base is looking for committed men and women who would like to help take care of our on base schools. Two school board positions are currently available. To be eligible to apply, you need to reside on base, be of legal voting age, and be a U.S. citizen. Applications will be taken until 6 July 2011. You can access applications from Eielson Elementary or Twining Elementary/Middle School, the School Liaison office, or at [www.grandforks.af.mil](http://www.grandforks.af.mil) (School Liaison section). This is a great opportunity for you to work with a team approach and get involved with the schools. Please consider applying for these school board positions and make a difference in the life of a child!

### SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT: BECOME A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER!

What do GFAFB school board members do?

- Take an oath to serve students of Grand Forks AFB schools
- Act as advocates for public education
- Study school-board related issues and regulations
- Discuss issues at public school board meetings
- Vote on issues affecting schools and students on GFAFB
- Support decisions of the school board majority
- Promote public education in the local community

Other considerations:

- Membership on the Grand Forks school board is an important public service role within the base community.
- The GFAFB school board consists of five members. The basic term of service is for 3 years.
- Grand Forks AFB school board meetings are held monthly. GFAFB school board members also attend Grand Forks city school board meetings on a rotating basis.
- School boards act only as a whole and only during public meetings. Individual school board members have no greater authority than any other citizen of the district.
- Newly elected school board members are required by law to attend an in-service workshop conducted by the North Dakota School Boards' Association (NDSBA) within one year of election. All school board members are encouraged to attend the state school board conference held annually. Board members may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred while engaging in school board business.
- School board functions include planning, policy making, acting in disciplinary matters, and evaluating the superintendent and business manager.
- School boards deal with issues such as negotiations with teachers regarding salaries, issues involving discharge or suspension of teachers, approving bids for construction projects, and monitoring education spending and budgeting.

## North Dakota Center for Distance Education!

The North Dakota Center for Distance Education (ND CDE) is an accredited, non-profit distance education high school. ND Center for Distance Education offers accredited online classes that are available to students in grades 6-12. The CDE will work with school districts to provide online high school classes, online middle school classes and advanced placement distance learning opportunities for students. For more information go to: <https://www.ndcde.org/Home.aspx>



## Operation Military Kids (OMK)

### Summer Camp Schedule

#### BRAVO Day Camps:

- \* Roosevelt Park, Minot, July 12
- \* Turtle River State Park, Arvilla, July 14
- \* Bagg Bonanza Farm, Mooreton, July 19
- \* Fort Lincoln State Park, Mandan, July 21
- \* Elmwood Park, West Fargo, July 26
- \* Prairie Outpost Park, Dickinson, July 29

The BRAVO day camps will be hosted by the local county Extension office and led by state OMK Camp Team staff. The registration fee is \$10.  
[http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/prgrams\\_events/omk/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/prgrams_events/omk/)

### Five-day Resident Camps:

Held at the Western 4-H Camp near Washburn. The camp dates are:

- \* June 5-9, Outdoor Adventures for Military-connected Youth – It will offer a traditional camp experience for youth 8 to 14 years old with sessions that focus on the life events youth face as a military family member.
  - \* June 26-29, Military Youth Camp for youth 8 to 11 years old
  - \* July 10-14, Military Youth Camp for youth 12 to 14 years old

All of the camps will use activities from the OMK resources to build communication and coping skills, and the ability to deal with stress. The registration fee is \$75.