



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

## **NEWS RELEASE**

April 6, 2006

Contact: Martha Deutscher

Voice: (703) 588-3265

Email: Martha.Deutscher@HQ.DODEA.edu

### **DoDEA Celebrates 'Month of the Military Child'**

ARLINGTON, - The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) joins the Department of Defense and the armed forces community in celebrating April as The Month of the Military Child.

The Department of Defense has long understood the value of caring for and celebrating children of servicemembers. April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. The Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and challenges they overcome.

DoDEA teachers and staff are uniquely positioned to appreciate the military child, as our mission is to provide exemplary educational programs, in military communities worldwide, that inspire and prepare all students for success in the global environment.

At DoDEA, we know that military children face many obstacles unique to their situation, such as having a parent deployed for extended periods of time and moving frequently. Deployments and family separations can be stressful times for children. DoD schools are part of the wide community support network available to families. Training is provided to our teaching staff on the various stages of deployment and the ways that children are affected. Teachers, counselors and psychologists guide honest and open discussions with students. Schools link deployed parents and students by email and other technologies. Our most important contribution is to remain focused on the educational mission and provide a stable environment for the children in our schools especially during these times of stress.

Throughout the month, DoDEA schools will plan special events to honor military children. These events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle.

"We celebrate the Month of the Military Child to stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in a global environment," Dr. Joe Tafoya, Director of DoDEA said. "Military children assume many special responsibilities that deserve our understanding and recognition."

### **About the Month of the Military Child**

The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who died March 28. He established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.

### **About The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)**

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is a civilian agency of the U.S. Department of Defense. The DoDEA Director oversees all agency functions from headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. DoDEA's schools are divided into three areas, each of which is managed by an area director. Within each of these three areas, schools are organized into districts headed by superintendents. In Europe and in the Pacific, school operations are managed by the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS). All schools within DoDEA are fully accredited by U.S. accreditation agencies.

###