

Commander's Call Topics



April 17, 2014

“Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you.”

H. Jackson Browne, Jr.
American Author
(b. 1940)

An interactive map
[Operation: Military Kids](#)
illustrates military
child-specific programs
throughout the United States

Military Children Earn the Right for Special Recognition

When 18-year-old Gage Dabin stepped on the stage to represent the Air Force at the 6th annual Military Child of the Year gala, it didn't take long to realize he was far from being just your average teenager.

Son of Senior Master Sgt. Tobias and Jennifer Adams, stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, in Anchorage, Gage was one of those selected from each service to recognize the accomplishments of more than 2 million military children worldwide during April's Month of the Military Child.

Gage was recognized for his work in Anchorage on anti-bullying efforts in a city-wide campaign called “Random Texts of Kindness.” He also works at a local VA hospital, a homeless shelter and food bank.

“It seems like people want to write off young folks as not caring; clearly that is not the case here,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. “The volunteer hours, the attention they pay to each other, the way all of them take care of people and their families, it's just remarkable – makes you feel pretty good about the future.”

Often referred to as “military brats,” children of a parent or parents serving in the armed forces have unique experiences and challenges not normally found in a “civilian” world. In her book “Military Brats: Legacies of Childhood inside the Fortress,” Mary Edwards Wertsch identified common themes from interviewing more than 80 children in military families.

Wertsch said the “military brat” lifestyle meant one of moving to new states or countries along with their military parent, never really establishing a hometown. Military children are often thrust into foreign environments with new locales, a different language and oftentimes an immersion into a military culture.

She found that many military children were part of a culture of a constant loss of friendship ties, had a knack for making new friends, and developed a unique language tied to military jargon and culture.

But for the past 12 years, one of the most difficult aspects of being a military child has been the family stresses of seeing one or more parent deployed to combat zones, with not only the isolation, but also the fear of safety for their loved ones.

Gage's father, Tobias Adams, said his son is an example of many military children who are forced to become resilient by virtue of a parent's military service. “When he was really young I had to sit him down and say, ‘Dad is going to be gone a lot...you are the man of the house when I am not here,’ and he really took that to heart.”

Even more important, Gage said he also took to heart many of the values the military represents. “When I was a young man, my father looked at me and said, ‘Your yes is your yes and your no is your no...and you must always value integrity. Trust is the most important thing. I built upon that for my relationships and work for my community.’”



► TRENDING...

“Our core values of *Integrity*, *Service* and *Excellence* define the standard. It is simple...sexual assault is incompatible with our core values, our mission, and our heritage.” (From a letter to the Airmen of the United States Air Force, jointly signed by [Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee Jones](#), [Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mark A. Welsh III](#), and [Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody](#).)

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

April 17, 1989 - Lockheed delivered the 50th and last C-5B Galaxy transport to the Air Force.

April 18, 1942 - From the carrier USS Hornet, located 668 miles off Tokyo, Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle led 16 B-25s in the first raid on Japan. The range of the mission caused the raiders to crash land in China. The attack caused little damage; however, the mission raised U.S. morale and reversed a trend of Japanese victories. Doolittle later received the Medal of Honor for leading the mission.

April 19, 1919 - Leslie Leroy Irvin made the first successful parachute jump from an airplane.

April 20, 1966 - Vandenberg AFB launched its last Titan II operational test vehicle.

April 21, 1972 - The F-111 Joint Test Force at Edwards AFB flew an F-111A on its longest flight to date—5,400 nautical miles in 12 hours.

April 22, 1962 - Jacqueline Cochran claimed 49 world records for her 5,120-mile, three-stop flight in a Lockheed Jet-Star from New Orleans to Hanover, Germany, via Gander, Newfoundland and Shannon, Ireland.

April 23, 1956 - The Douglas C-133 Globemaster was flown for the first time.

► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF budget focuses on preserving capability, not aircraft](#)

Capabilities and missions, not aircraft, define the focus of the debate over force structure in the 2015 budget.

[AF receives top honors for Special Victims' Counsel Program](#)

The Air Force's first-of-its-kind service to victims of federal crimes received the Department of Justice's Federal Service Award.

► FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

[AF libraries to celebrate National Library Week](#)

"Lives Change @ Your Library" is the theme chosen by Air Force libraries to observe National Library Week, April 13-19. Base libraries will host a variety of local programs and contests to communicate the value of libraries.

► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[April 14—Pulse on AF force management](#)

In a continuing effort to bring Airmen the latest, most accurate information concerning force management programs, specifically surrounding issues of early retirement and voluntary separation outlined in this document, regular updates will be posted on [myPers](#).

[AF opens additional TERA, VSP windows](#)

Airmen unable to apply during the original application window that ended March 26th, have a second opportunity.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

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