



**April 16, 2015**

"No man is so tall as when he stoops to help a child."

*Abraham Lincoln  
16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States  
(1809-1865)*

It's not too late to  
file your taxes.  
Military OneSource  
[Tax Services Page](#)  
is available until  
June 30, 2015

## April is the Month of the Military Child

Celebrating military children is like celebrating life itself – life on overdrive. Military children move more often, experience life without one or both parents for long periods of time, make friends more quickly, and learn that “good-bye” is never final until, of course, it is. A military child contributes a unique combination of courage and patriotism that is the essence of the military family. Over time, this amalgamation of courage and patriotism becomes second nature, almost genetic. It's a gift they give to the country every day, and this month we celebrate that gift in the hopes that it's a gift that gives back to them, too.

Nearly 30 years ago, then-Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child as a way of recognizing the two million-plus children who are part of families where one or both parents serve in the armed forces. The month is meant, first of all, to acknowledge the adjustments that each child is required to make. Secondly, it calls attention to the support systems in place for these “first responders of the heart.”

In the years since Secretary Weinberger's proclamation, DOD has developed a variety of programs and protocols to help military children overcome the downside of so many changes and challenges. These programs support the children and their parents.

- The Child Development Program provides daycare for infants through age 12.
- A variety of youth development programs offer older children recreational opportunities and programs that build character and social and emotional development.
- Even before the military child comes into this world, there is help and support. The New Parents Support Program helps parents during pregnancy and childbirth and through the child's first three years with support groups and home visits.
- [Military OneSource](#) is available 24/7, supporting parents as they learn more about parenting skills. It is also a link for parents in need of support for themselves. Telephonic, video, online, and face-to-face financial counseling and nonmedical advice are available.

Installations also have family support systems unique to the area and locality specifically developed to help the family become better engaged with the community. Outreach initiatives may include partnerships with the local 4-H Cubs, Boy and Girl Scouts or sports programs like Little League and American Youth Soccer. Community celebrations, parades, farmers markets and library activities help solidify the bond between family and community.

The life of the military child is unique. They travel. They move. They change schools so often there's a classic story about a two-child family where, because of a cross-country PCS, one child was taught long division twice and the other not at all. Military children serve just by being themselves. A month doesn't seem nearly long enough to honor them.

**TRENDING....** “You're going to go to great places in the future,” Defense Secretary Ash Carter said [during a visit to Yokota Air Base](#), Japan, in March, “and if that is some way that we pay you back for what you've given us ... I hope (your success) has something to do with the fact that you've been military kids.”

## ► 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](#)

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

[AF Reserve celebrates 67 years of service](#)

In a birthday message to the AF Reserve, [Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III](#) noted that from World War II to Operation Inherent Resolve, in wartime and peacetime, the Air Force Reserve has been an integral part of the Air Force's mission to fly, fight and win.

[Q&A with the CMSAF](#)

Morale, welfare, and the future of the Air Force were among the topics discussed with Airmen by [Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody](#) during a recent visit to Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

[Eligible Airmen may choose retirement plan at 14 ½-year mark](#)

An automatic notification process that sends a message to active-duty Air Force and headquarters Active Guard Reserve members when they reach 14 ½ years of active service has been developed so that eligible members will have ample time to make an educated decision.

[Total force SMSgt evaluation static closeout date to be July 31](#)

Establishment of a July 31 enlisted performance report static closeout date (SCOD) for regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve senior master sergeants is effective as of April 3.

## ► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

**April 16, 1969** -- The first Minuteman II operational test launch was unsuccessful.

**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. Although, the attack caused little damage, and the range of the mission caused the raiders to crash land in China, 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 Air Force Base, California, launched its last Titan II operational test vehicle.

**April 21, 1972** -- The F-111 Joint Test Force at Edwards AFB, California, flew an F-111A Aardvark 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.

“

The spectrum and the network are converging. That represents vulnerability and opportunity. How do we set ourselves up to take advantage of that opportunity while addressing that vulnerability?”

—Navy Adm. Michael S. Rogers,  
commander of the U.S. Cyber Command,  
speaking at the [Navy League's 50<sup>th</sup> Sea-Air-Space Exposition](#),  
[April 14.](#)

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

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