

FIVE & THRIVE

SPOUSE SITREP VOL. 3 DEC 2021



CHILDCARE

Expanded Childcare Program (ECC)

The Department of the Air Force Family Child Care (DAF FCC), Expanded Child Care (ECC) Program assists families in obtaining high-quality childcare from certified providers at or near the installation. Childcare is available for children ages two weeks to 12 years. ECC is available at all DAF led Active-Duty locations with an active FCC Program or at other non-DAF led installations/locations where approved providers are available. Use of ECC is permitted once all paperwork is completed and approved. Parents using ECC are expected to arrange their work schedules to have ample time to be with their children. Care is dependent on the availability of funding and providers.

<https://www.dafchildandyouth.com/expanded-child-care>

Pilot Program

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) Child and Youth Programs (CYP) is piloting a program that allows military families to consider off base childcare that uses state quality-rated programs when military families are unable to secure enough nationally accredited care. DAF CYP is piloting this initiative in Virginia, Maryland, and Nevada. In FY22, this pilot program will be expanded to Florida, Washington State, and California.

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

10 Great Resources for Military Spouse Jobs

Check out 10 resources for military spouse jobs at: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-relationships/spouse/spouse-education-and-employment/10-great-resources-for-military-spouse-jobs/>

New Military Spouse Employment Partnerships (MSEP) Employers

The Department of Defense inducted 45 new companies and organizations into the Military Spouse Employment Partnership. Learn about these new partners and their commitment to recruit, hire, promote, and retain military spouses. https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/article/military-spouse-employment-partnership-employers?utm_campaign=mos-enews-nov2021&utm_content=html&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

HEALTHCARE

TRICARE Open Season is the annual period when you can enroll in or change your health care coverage for the next year. In 2021, TRICARE Open Season begins Nov. 8 and ends Dec. 13. Any enrollment changes you make will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. Open season applies to anyone enrolled in or eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select. Visit <https://tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/OpenSeason> for more information.

If you're eligible to participate in TRICARE Open Season, you have three options:

Stay in your plan. If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health plan, you do not have to re-enroll. You'll continue in your current health plan through 2022 or as long as you are eligible.

Enroll in a plan. If you are eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can enroll in a plan now.

Change plans. If you're already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.

EDUCATION

School Liaison Program MilLife Guide

The Military One Source App now contains a MilLife Guide for the School Liaison Program. It allows families, leadership and community stakeholders to connect fast to support and answers. With 24/7 access to powerful tools and help in your hands, anytime, anywhere. Provides a quick read on PreK-12 Education support along with articles, benefits, tools and connecting with a local PreK-12 education specialist. See link for more information on the Military OneSource App: <https://www.militaryone-source.mil/confidential-help/interactive-tools-services/my-military-onesource-app/>

DoDEA FY21 Grant Awardees

DoDEA received 75 quality and innovative proposals from school districts across the Nation for the FY 21 Military-Connected Local Educational Agencies for Academic and Support Program (MCASP). Thirty-two grants totaling \$46.9M were awarded to military-connected public-school districts. Sixteen school districts affecting DAF-connected students were awarded \$22M to support STEM, Health, World Language and Technical/Career Programs. DAF Installations supported by schools receiving the grants were Offutt, Scott, Eglin, Hurlburt Field, Peterson, Schriever, USAFA, Buckley, Grand Forks, Whiteman, Beale, and Sheppard. Contact Ms. Lori Phipps at 210-774-8673 or your installation School Liaison Program Manager by scanning the QR Code for additional information.

EFMP Special Education Specialist

The Exceptional Family Member Program continues expanding its team of resources at the EFMP Central Cell and now includes a special education specialist as part of continuing efforts to support families. Marcine Woodley recently joined the EFMP Central Cell as a special education specialist. In this role, Woodley will assist families navigating the education system. For more information on this new position, please see article here: https://www.afpc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2831666/efmp-adds-special-education-specialist-to-central-cell/fbclid/IwAR3lwuekQYz3CFn9IBDLQ20r_6svwok-TH0icuAWCLGEaqK395xa51c8T16w/

Power of Partnership in Education

Check out this article that illustrates how we are stronger together, working with our local community partners to make education better for not just our military community but also the civilian community. Consider ways to create these same types of partnerships when trying to tackle Five&Thrive initiatives, as all of these are tied to both family and mission readiness. <https://www.holloman.af.mil/News/Display/Article/2835740/power-of-partnerships-holloman-goodfellow-schools-see-results-set-standard/fbclid/IwAR2jipNjTAGnO9tyw4XxwU8jbArMUv6J3LoAcaLo7KAvWrhjajarXQOP50/>

HOUSING

Moving Benefits

Although May through September is considered prime PCS season, there are military families that PCS during the winter months. Here is a breakdown of your PCS benefits: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/moving-housing/moving/moving-benefits/>

Note: As a reminder, Airmen and Guardians can currently qualify for discounted lodging rates if having difficulty securing housing after PCS to CONUS locations. The discounted rates only apply to on-base lodging for members who have reached the end of the 10-day TLE authorization, and in areas where 60 days TLE have not been approved. This authorization expires 31 Jan 22 and applies to areas experiencing limited availability of rental properties and significant increases in rental costs where Airmen/Guardians are delayed with securing housing. The AFSVC/CC will determine locations eligible for this lodging rate discount. For more information, reach out to your local housing office to see if your location is eligible to the lodging rate discount. The eligible list, current as of 1 December, includes:

Arnold AFB, Tennessee	Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota	Lackland AFB, Texas	Peterson SFB, Colorado
Beale AFB, California	Fairchild AFB, Washington	Luke AFB, Arizona	Randolph AFB, Texas
Buckley SFB, Colorado	Goodfellow AFB, Texas	MacDill AFB, Florida	Shaw AFB, South Carolina
Dover AFB, Delaware	Hill AFB, Utah	Maxwell, Alabama	Sheppard AFB, Texas
Eielson AFB, Alaska	Hurlburt Field, Florida	McConnell AFB, Kansas	Travis AFB, California
Edwards AFB, California	Keesler AFB, Mississippi	Mountain Home AFB, Idaho	USAF A, Colorado
Eglin AFB, Florida	Kirtland AFB, New Mexico	Nellis AFB, Nevada	

DAF Military Housing

Did you know there is a hotline you can call to report a military housing issue that is not being resolved at the local level? Here is a toll free hotline to contact the AF housing section and AFCEC will investigate the issue: 800-482-6431. The Tenant Bill of Rights ensures access to unit maintenance history, and establishes a process to withhold rent payment while in formal dispute resolution. If the 18 tenant rights process is not working at the local level, there is a process to help you address the issues. See article for further information: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2684039/air-force-makes-more-rights-available-for-housing-tenants/>

SPOUSE STORIES

Together We are Stronger

Heba Abdelaal, Air Force Spouse

This video (<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/819086/oar-oaw-documentary>) beautifully highlights the mission critical work on the front lines of Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW). Most of my volunteer time was spent at the Nightingale Theater which, after outgrowing three previous locations, became the primary donation intake site for OAR/OAW. Day in and day out, you'd see the same volunteers come in to help sort donations sometimes for 10, 12 and 14 hours a day – the more items we were able to sort through, the more that could be distributed to evacuees.

Behind the scenes, military spouses and community volunteers also gave in equally meaningful ways. There were the groups who voluntarily made homemade meals and cookies to feed those volunteering and working 12-hour and overnight shifts on base (thank you!), teachers who helped bridge language barriers through games and music, the group of spouses who started a bottle sanitation initiative, the families who picked up and returned donated items that needed to be washed, and several individuals across Europe that volunteered their skills sewing over 20,000 headscarves and modest dress items required for prayer in the Muslim faith.

To all the military spouses and volunteers who kept showing up on the front lines and behind the scenes – thank you. Thank you for giving of yourselves for those in greater need. Your selfless acts of service make me proud to be a military spouse.