



MEDIA RELEASE

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MIC3 CELEBRATES APRIL AS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

LEXINGTON, Ky. - The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) will **"Purple Up! For Military Kids"** on April 22, 2020. According to the U.S. Department of Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Active Duty Family Report, as of September 2019 there are 568,349 school-age (5-18) military-connected children in the United States.

Established in 1986 by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, the designation of April as the Month of the Military Child acknowledges the significant role military-connected student play in our communities. In 2011, the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Military Youth and Family Program started the **"Purple Up! for Military Kids"** as a visible way to thank military youth for their strength and sacrifice. Because purple represents joint service operations and is a combination of Army green, Marine Corps red, and Coast Guard, Air Force, and Navy blue, it is the appropriate color for military children from all branches.

"In April, we Purple Up! and celebrate the Month of the Military Child. Most people are familiar with the sacrifices of our brave men and women in uniform, which we admire and respect," said Col. (Ret.) John I. "Don" Kaminar, MIC3 Chair and Arkansas Commissioner. "Military children sacrifice by enduring multiple moves and deployments," he added, "and often put on a 'brave face' through the hardships. For this we honor them."

Developed by the Council of State Governments' *National Center for Interstate Compacts*, U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, state departments of education, school administrators and military families, the MIC3 is a quasi-governmental entity operating under the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*. With 50-member states and the District of Columbia, the Compact ensures the uniform treatment of military-connected children transferring between states, and enrolled in public and U.S. Department of Defense schools.

For more information, visit www.mic3.net.

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