



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE 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 24, 2019. According to the Defense Data Manpower Center (DMDC), there are 519,348 active duty military-connected students, aged 5-18, and 415,877 guard and reserve military-connected students.

Established in 1986 by Caspar Weinberger, former U.S. Secretary of Defense, the designation of April as the Month of the Military Child acknowledges the significant role military youth 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. Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Marine red, and Coast Guard, Air Force, and Navy blue.

"Our brave men and women in uniform receive the admiration and respect their courage and service so richly deserve, and it's important we remember sacrifices are also borne by family members at home," said John Kaminar, MIC3 Chair and Arkansas Commissioner. Kaminar added, "military-connected students in particular bear the hardships of military life, and it's entirely fitting we recognize April as Month of the Military Child in honor of our youngest heroes."

Developed by the Council of State Governments' *National Center for Interstate Compacts*, the U.S. Department of Defense, national associations, federal and state officials, state departments of education, school administrators and military families, the MIC3 is a 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 children transferring between states, public, and U.S. Department of Defense schools.

For more information, visit www.mic3.net.

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