



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 21, 2021. According to the U.S. Department of Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Active Duty Family Report, as of July 2020 there are 1,001,559 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.

"We must remember that military families, especially kids, serve too," said Col. (Ret.) John I. "Don" Kaminar, MIC3 Chairman and Arkansas Compact Commissioner. "They often put on a 'brave face' through the hardships and multiple moves. 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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