

Supporting the Communities

Who Serve Military Families



The professionals who serve military families can have a positive impact on the educational experience of military-connected children. Whether a transition specialist, superintendent, school counselor, or garrison commander, each person helps provide military-connected children with the tools and resources to face and surmount the unique challenges that they face during their educational careers.

The MCEC believes that an informed individual is a prepared individual, and it is therefore a critical part of its mission to help professionals recognize and address school transition concerns that impact mobile military children.

We do this through:

- **Transition Counselor Institutes™ (TCI™)**
 - ~ Phase I – Awareness, Processes, and Networks
 - ~ Phase II – Deeper Understanding: Social/Emotional Needs and Military Culture
 - ~ Phase III – Expert Partnerships with Installations
- **Special Education Leaders Institutes™ (SELI™)**
 - ~ Phase I – Awareness, Policy, and Application
 - ~ Phase II – Deeper Understanding: Social/Emotional Needs and Military Culture
- **Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserves Institute (GRI™)™**

“We’ve worked very, very hard with educators, and as a matter of fact, there is not an educator I’ve met in the last two years that I did not give a brochure to or invited to attend an event to learn more about the MCEC.”

- Rear Admiral Leendert “Len” R. Hering, Sr.
USN, 2007



We Support the Professional Communities Who Serve Military Families

Transition Counselor Institute (TCI):

This Professional Development Institute series prepares education professionals, installation and community leaders, transition specialists, and other concerned individuals to recognize and address the unique and sometimes challenging transitions of the military-connected child in pre-kindergarten through high school. Transition Counselor Institute consists of three phases of training. Each phase is an accredited, graduate-level, two-day, professional development institute that includes rich, practical resources.

“The information provided has given me insight into the life of a military child. As an elementary school counselor, I now understand the unique experience of the military children I work with.”

TCI attendee
November 2008

PHASE I (AWARENESS, PROCESSES, AND NETWORKS)

Phase I of the TCI initiative focuses on transitions. It covers transition perspectives, understanding how transitions are a part of the military lifestyle, understanding the local challenges in regard to transitions and the use of research such as the Secondary Education Transition Study (SETS) in meeting transition issues. TCI Phase I also covers military lifestyles and culture so that attendees have a thorough understanding of the military service with which they are associated. Those attending the course also are shown ways to share TCI's initiatives with their local school districts.

PHASE II (DEEPER UNDERSTANDING; SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS, AND MILITARY CULTURE)

Phase II focuses on the social/emotional challenges children face during transitions. Mobility - the past, present and future - is covered as it applies to the military-connected child. This phase also deals with the issues of deployment and separation, discusses school support systems, and goes

into the confidence and resiliency exhibited by military-connected children, breaking these down into the ages of the children and the stages of maturity which they have reached. Also explored are a deeper look into the military culture and a review of post-secondary issues and accommodations.

PHASE III (EXPERT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INSTALLATION)

The capstone of the series, Phase III of the TCI, focuses on advanced applications and covers development of resources and procedures, necessary requirement changes and “walk-arounds,” dialogue and discussion from the “experts,” and the handoff - the bridge that carries the student to enrollment at the next location with provision for support upon entry. This phase also stresses advanced networking opportunities, use of technology and the means to spread the word about transition issues.

TCI TRAINING EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN:

Alabama	Redstone Arsenal, Fort Rucker
Alaska	Fort Richardson, Fort Wainwright
Arizona	Fort Huachuca
California	La Hoya, San Diego, Silver Valley
Colorado	Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Fort Carson
Connecticut	Mystic
Florida	Patrick Air Force Base, Tampa
Georgia	Athens, Atlanta, Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield
Hawaii	Honolulu, Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base, Schofield Barracks
Illinois	Rock Island Arsenal, Scott Air Force Base
Kansas	Fort Riley
Kentucky	Fort Campbell, Fort Knox
Louisiana	Barksdale AFB, Fort Polk
Maryland	Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Meade
Mississippi	Columbus
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood, Kansas City, Warrensburg
New Mexico	Cannon Air Force Base, Holloman Air Force Base, White Sands Missile Range
New York	Fort Drum, U.S. Military Academy at West Point
North Carolina	Camp Lejeune, Fayetteville, Fort Bragg
Oklahoma	Fort Sill



Pennsylvania	Carlisle Barracks
South Carolina	Fort Jackson
Texas	Corpus Christi, El Paso, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, Grapevine, Houston, Killeen, Lackland AFB, San Antonio
Utah	Dugway Proving Ground
Virginia	Andrews Air Force Base, Naval Station Norfolk, Newport News
Washington	Bangor Naval Base, Fort Lewis, Naval Base Kitsap, Navy Northwest Region
Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base
Germany	Grafenwoehr, Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern, Stuttgart, Vilseck
Italy	Vicenza
Japan	DoDDS Pacific, Okinawa
Korea	Seoul
United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Lakenheath, Royal Air Force Mildenhall



Special Education Leaders Institutes (SELI):

This Professional Development Institute series promotes awareness and increases the availability of school and military professionals who understand the amplified challenges associated with transitioning military-connected students in special programs such as special education, §504, or gifted education. The MCEC offers two phases of SELI. Each phase is an accredited graduate-level, two-day, professional development institute that includes rich, practical resources.

“I found the SELI workshop fun and educational. It was a good experience to hear from others in the field and to be in someone else’s shoes!”

~ Attendee
SELI Phase I, 2007

PHASE I (AWARENESS, POLICY, AND APPLICATIONS)

- Challenges and school transition issues impacting mobile military students with special needs
- Amplified transition challenges of navigating the differences - requirements, program offerings, and Individual Educational Plan interpretations
- Responsibilities of sending and receiving schools



- Informing, involving, and supporting parents
- Improving communication systems
- Strategies, options, processes and MCEC tools that support transitioning military-connected children with special needs such as SchoolQuest, the Education Resource Center, and Ask Aunt Peggie, and connections with MCEC partners such as STOMP (Special Training of Military Parents) and EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program) for all uniformed services

PHASE II (DEEPER UNDERSTANDING: SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS, AND MILITARY CULTURE)

Phase II for SELI is designed to ensure that educators, social service providers, parents and caring leaders are fully aware that the challenges for students with special needs are greater than those for other students. The institute provides help in understanding the different state requirements for special programs, the offerings of these programs, and Individual Educational Plan interpretations. Responsibilities of sending and receiving schools are discussed, and the MCEC support tools are described. Methods for informing, involving and supporting parents of special needs children are presented.

SELI TRAINING EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN:

Colorado	Fort Carson
Connecticut	Mystic
Georgia	Atlanta, Hunter Army Airfield
Hawaii	Fort Shafter
Kentucky	Fort Knox
Louisiana	Fort Polk
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Riley, Kansas City
North Carolina	Fayetteville
South Carolina	Fort Jackson
Texas	Fort Bliss, Grapevine, Houston, Killeen, San Antonio
Virginia	Norfolk
Washington	Fort Lewis
Germany	Heidelberg

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3x:
Military Families move three times more frequently than their civilian counterparts.



Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserves Institute (GRI):

This institute provides professionals with the knowledge needed to raise community awareness about the issues faced by children of activated National Guard and Reserve forces. These children do not typically live near military installations nor do they know other military-connected children, and when a parent is activated, they are confronted with the challenges of separation and deployment without a standard military support network. Through a combination of direct instruction, group work and interactive activities, institute participants develop the strategies and framework of an action plan to support these children of the “suddenly military.” The institute is an accredited graduate-level, two-day, professional development institute that includes rich and practical resources.

“Thank you so very much for the recent two day workshop: Supporting Children of the National Guard. It was time well spent and provided a wealth of information. The activities kept us focused and the variety made the time fly by!”

*~ Attendee
GRI, New Hampshire*

GRI TRAINING EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN:

Alabama	Birmingham
Arizona	Tucson
California	Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego
Connecticut	Hartford
Georgia	Atlanta, Augusta
Florida	Jacksonville, Tampa
Idaho	Boise
Illinois	Springfield

Indiana	Indianapolis
Iowa	Des Moines
Kansas	Salina
Kentucky	Louisville
Maine	Augusta
Massachusetts	Westford
Michigan	Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Marquette, Livonia
Minnesota	Roseville, Little Falls
Missouri	Jefferson City, Osage Beach, Kansas City
North Dakota	Bismarck
Nevada	Carson City
New Hampshire	Concord
New York	Troy
North Carolina	Durham, Rocky Mount, High Point, Boone, Hickory, Greenville, Raleigh, Fayetteville, Monroe, Wake County, New Hanover County
Ohio	Columbus
Oregon	Wilsonville
Pennsylvania	Malvern, Latrobe
Rhode Island	Providence, Warwick
South Carolina	Spartanburg
Tennessee	Nashville
Texas	Austin, Edinburg, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Houston, Midland, South Padre Island
Vermont	Burlington
Virginia	Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Front Royal, Rustburg
Washington	Seattle
West Virginia	Charleston, Morgantown
Wyoming	Casper