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MEDIA ADVISORY
July 9, 2007

**CHILDREN WITH PARENTS IN THE MILITARY ARE THE FOCUS OF
KANSAS CITY CONFERENCE**

*Top experts join more than 600 participants to discuss best practices for meeting the needs of
military-connected children worldwide*

WHO: The Military Child Education Coalition™ (MCEC™)

WHAT: On July 11-13, 2007, the MCEC™ will host its 9th Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO. The MCEC™ is an international non-profit organization dedicated to implementing projects and programs that can make the highly mobile life of the military-connected child an easier challenge to meet. Reflecting on its theme of “Touching the Hearts of Children,” the conference will focus on the powerful tools and successful programs being implemented by communities to meet both the educational and emotional needs of the more than two million military children around the world.

Bringing together business, education, military and psychology experts, the conference will showcase the ways in which the MCEC™, local communities and the entire nation are making a positive difference in the lives of military children during difficult times. Featured speakers include best-selling authors, top Department of Defense and military officials, and a national news correspondent.

WHEN: *Wednesday, July 11, 2007*

11:45 a.m. Mercedes Wild and Colonel (Ret.) Gail S. Halvorsen, USAF, the real-life characters of *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* will present the book, written by best seller Margot Theis Raven. *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* is the selected book of the MCEC™’s Tell Me A Story™ (TMAS™) initiative. Ms. Wild and Colonel Halvorsen, will be discussing their experiences during the Berlin Airlift as an example of how an act of generosity and kindness can affect a single life.

7:00 p.m. Lieutenant General Peter Chiarelli will join Martha Raddatz, *Chief White House Correspondent, ABC News*, to discuss the impact of war on soldiers and their families, as well as the influence of the media in times of war. Lieutenant Chiarelli led the 1st Cavalry Division soldiers caught in the March 2004 firefight in Sadr City, Iraq that is the focus of Ms. Raddatz’s book, *The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family*. This

session will mark the first occasion of Ms. Raddatz and Lieutenant Chiarelli together to discuss the fight, the book, and its impact.

Thursday, July 12, 2007

1:15 p.m. Dr. Martin Seligman, world-renowned psychology expert and currently Director of the University of Pennsylvania Positive Psychology Center, will join attendees in a live videoconference to discuss his groundbreaking research in the field of Positive Psychology. Dr. Seligman will explore how this new branch of psychology is being used to help military families deal with issues such as loss, deployment and post traumatic stress disorder.

Friday, July 13, 2007

8:00 a.m. Rear Admiral Leendert R. "Len" Hering, Sr., Commander of the Navy Region Southwest, will draw from his personal experience as a father of three sons to speak to the need of supporting military-connected children. Rear Admiral Hering will lead a discussion on the powerful results that occur when the military partners with government and private entities, how these partnerships can be forged and the clear benefits of easing the transitions of the military-connected child.

WHERE: The Westin Crown Center Hotel
One East Pershing Road
Kansas City, MO 64108
816.474.4400

About the MCEC™

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC™) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, world-wide organization identifies the challenges that face the highly mobile military-connected child, increases awareness of these challenges in military and educational communities, and initiates and implements programs to meet these challenges. Their focus is on all military-connected children, including Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserves. The MCEC™ seeks to include all military installations, their supporting schools, concerned organizations, and caring individuals. For more information, please visit www.militarychild.org.

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