

MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION™



ARMY · NAVY · MARINES · AIR FORCE · COAST GUARD

2006 PETE TAYLOR PARTNERSHIP OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



During his tenure as Chairman of the Military Child Education Coalition™, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Pete Taylor played a critical role in the establishment of partnerships between military installations and school districts serving military-connected children.

In 2004, in recognition of General Taylor's work and dedication to helping America's military children, the MCEC™ Board of Directors established the Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award. This annual award encourages and applauds the outstanding partnerships that exist between military installations and school districts and brings special recognition to those partnerships that demonstrate General Taylor's long-held belief that "goodness starts at the local level."

*We congratulate the 2006 winners of the  
Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award.*

## 2006 PARTNERSHIP OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

### **Fort Campbell**

**Fort Campbell Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS)**

**Christian County Public Schools of Kentucky**

**Todd County Schools of Kentucky**

**Clarksville/Montgomery County Schools of Tennessee**

**Stewart County Schools of Tennessee**

**Cheatham County Schools of Tennessee**

*“The Fort Campbell Area Child Education Coalition will work collaboratively with military families, civilian and military leaders, educators, and community members to establish support systems and develop processes that address transition and other educational issues related to the military child.”*

This was the strong mission statement adopted when officials from Fort Campbell and the several school districts that serve the military installation got together in 2003 to form an area coalition to support the needs of military children. The many initiatives adopted by this partnership bear out the dedication to fulfillment of the mission, but, just to make sure, the Local Action Plan is rated annually on a percentage-of-completion basis and is reviewed by the installation commander and the district superintendents. The plan also is updated on a regular basis to include additional requirements from the districts.

To ensure academic success in the transition process, the coalition has established three major programs: Special Education Information, Standardized Website Information and Out-Processing Procedures.

In the social and emotional needs category, the Fort Campbell coalition stresses the S2S along with their campus Ambassador Program, the Deployment Insertion, Briefings, Notifications, and Psychological Services.

Parental involvement includes the Volunteer Recognition Program, List of Volunteer Opportunities on Web sites and in handouts, and Mentorships. Other effective partnerships are Adopt A School, Modularity Briefings, Youth Sponsorship and the TCI program.

The Fort Campbell coalition has had outstanding success despite the fact that it serves not only the military installation but also DDESS schools and five different school districts, located in two different states.

*“One of the primary directives that the sub-committee agreed on at the beginning of the MCEC initiative was to work together, make changes in the communities for children, and be action-oriented. This was especially needed because of the Fort Campbell Mission and needed support of the 101st Airborne Division, which is on recurring hazardous duty deployment. The end result needed to be a usable and understandable plan that could be implemented to assist the military child and, subsequently, all children. This Action Plan has been done and more. It isn’t just the programs that have been instituted through the Action Plan, although they have been powerful; it is the collaboration of people working together which is our greatest achievement.”*

**Fort Sam Houston  
Fort Sam Houston Independent School District  
San Antonio, Texas**

Dr. Gail E. Siller, superintendent of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, wrote:

*“The collaboration between Fort Sam Houston and Fort Sam Houston Independent School District involves communication, commitment, and responsibility. This can be observed through military parent involvement, coordination between installation and district personnel, and enthusiastic medical, civilian, and military representation on district committees and groups, mentoring and pen pal programs, campus volunteers, and services provided to students.”*

Major General George Weightman, commander of Fort Sam Houston, wrote:

*“The comprehensive partnership that exists between FSH and FSHISD is exceptional, based on an understanding of the challenges and needs of military children and a commitment to provide what is best for them. Both entities work collaboratively to provide a school environment where highly mobile military children feel safe, successful, and accepted.”*

These comments are a summarized description of a military installation/school district partnership that has been flourishing in San Antonio since 1951, when the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District was established. The Sam Houston partnership has created and adopted innovative programs to successfully meet the goals set out in the Local Action Plan: To increase early school notification of planned moves, to develop options to preserve academic credits, to promote a positive environment that supports the healthy social and emotional development of all students, and to create planning and communication mechanisms between the installation and the school district.

*“My child has been well taken care of by the special education staff at FSHISD. They have addressed his social, physical, emotional, and psychological needs and have treated him with dignity and respect.”*

Parent of Special Needs Child

*“We have become a safety net for our students who have a family member deployed overseas. Our school, hand in hand with the post, works to become a safe haven for those students in difficult times.”*

Fort Sam Houston Assistant Elementary Principal

\* The Fort Sam Houston Partnership has been recognized for a second year, presenting new and enhanced initiatives since 2005.

## P OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

**Fort Bliss**  
**El Paso Independent School District**  
**El Paso, Texas**

*“As you may know, Soldiers will sacrifice many things as they serve our great nation. They willingly risk their safety and endure long periods away from their families. However, there is one thing that is ‘non-negotiable’ for our Soldiers - that is a quality education for their children. They expect and rightly deserve safe and successful schools.”*

This joint statement from Major General Robert P. Lennox, commander of the USA Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, and Dr. Lorenzo Garcia, superintendent of the El Paso Independent School District, shows the challenge presented to Fort Bliss and its major school district, El Paso Independent School District. And, they say, they are proud that Fort Bliss and EPISD are deeply committed to meeting those expectations.

Under their collaborative program, a Process Action Team has become the nucleus for change in support of transitioning families to Fort Bliss. Established in 2002, the action team is comprised of a cross section of military parents, command representatives and top school administrators. Because of the team’s efforts, school leaders have become increasingly aware of the unique needs of the mobile military student and have gained a greater understanding and appreciation of military life.

In addition to the extensive training provided for counselors and other educators, the team has created or adopted numerous programs: Partners in Education, Education Fair, Juvenile Diversion Board, Military Family Liaison Program, Honor Roll Recognition and a Future Growth initiative.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decisions will cause Fort Bliss to triple in size - expanding by 20,000 soldiers and 15,000 family members between now and 2011. Both MG Lennox and Dr. Garcia feel that the relation of the military installation and the school district has postured the El Paso area for success in meeting this challenge.

*“Fort Bliss and EPISD enjoy a long-standing and strong partnership. Our work together is focused on one goal: Continuous improvement of our educational system to ensure that we are producing well-educated and productive citizens - and that we meet our Soldiers’ ‘non-negotiable’ expectation of quality education for their children. It is the enormous talent, dedication, and efforts of members of both organizations that make the difference in the lives of not only the military child, but also every student of the El Paso Independent School District.”*

**Heidelberg School District  
Heidelberg Military Garrison  
Heidelberg, Germany**

*"I think it's a fantastic program. All involved deserve great thanks from this community for providing such a service that, if not continued, will certainly leave a great many students and parents in the dark about college preparation issues."*

That comment was praise for a unique program which is going strong with the Heidelberg School District and the Heidelberg Military Garrison in Germany. It was selected by a panel of judges to be recognized with a new award, Outstanding Community/School Project, under the Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award.

The program "The Real World... what are you doing?" recognizes that many military-connected students need help beyond their high school careers. It recognizes the low quality of most college scholarship applications was causing much concern and express the need for expanded research on the part of military-connected students and their parents.

Started as a pilot project in Heidelberg in 2002, The Real World's objective is to prepare students for transition from secondary school to post secondary education and life-long career endeavors. The program has been so successful, families have been traveling great distances to take advantage of its outstanding guest speakers and organizational workshops. Not only does the program have a vast pool of volunteers, it also draws on local military and civilian officials from various career disciplines, U.S. universities, and a variety of host nation business and trade institutions at its monthly workshops on the first Sunday of the month, October through May.

## OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

**52nd Fighter Wing Command  
Mission Support Group Command  
Bitburg High School  
Bitburg, Germany**

The Commanders' Honor Roll is an unprecedented academic program to recognize the scholastic achievements of students as well as the support provided by their parents and sponsors. It gives each and every student in Bitburg High School the opportunity to receive individual recognition for academic success. Because student achievement is a direct reflection of the foundation laid at home, as well as ongoing parental support and guidance, parents and/or guardians are recognized as well. Student and parents receive a Commander's Coin.

Although almost half of the Bitburg High student body was recognized for having a 3.0 grade point average, the Commanders' Honor Roll has taken this further by recognizing students who have maintained the highest GPA as well as those who have shown the most significant improvement between quarters. Since the program began, more than one-third of the student population has seen an increase in academic progress. The program has inspired students who have never known academic success to aspire to higher achievement.

*"It made me feel good that my high school recognized the importance of my efforts... (This) effort will encourage students to try harder, because it doesn't just recognize the students with the 'straight A's,' but those students who are striving for constant improvement."*

Jairus M. Elsbury, Student, Bitburg High School



## MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION™

108 East FM 2410, Suite D  
Harker Heights, Texas 76548

(254) 953-1923

(254) 953-1925 fax

**[www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org)**

An approved Combined Federal Campaign organization

*Reproduction of this booklet, in whole or in part,  
is authorized with appropriate acknowledgement of the source.*

© 2006 Military Child Education Coalition.