



NEWS RELEASE

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School Access Improves for Military Families in NM

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – A coalition of Air Force bases and state agencies were awarded for their efforts on July 19, 2021, to improve early school access for over 243,000 military-connected students and veterans in New Mexico.

The Military Child Education Coalition presented the Lt. Gen. (Ret) H.G. “Pete” Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award to a cohort of state-wide partners for creating an ideal relationship resulting in the passing of four New Mexico legislative bills aimed to ease the stress and frustrations of relocating military families.

Holloman AFB has been recognized with this award an unprecedented six times, each with a different set of community partners. “Access to quality education and sustainable partnerships are a top priority for Holloman AFB leadership and this award is a testament to the efforts of the state of NM and our Air Force School Liaisons,” said Col. Ryan Keeney, 49th Wing commander.

On April 6, 2021, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the Military Family Early School Enrollment bill into law which allows relocating military families to enroll school-age children into public or charter schools prior to their arrival in the state.

Lujan Grisham also signed the Purple Star Public School Program bill recognizing military-friendly schools that demonstrate a significant commitment to support students and families connected to our nation’s military. The Purple Star School Designation in New Mexico was first awarded to Holloman’s Elementary and Middle Schools, as well as Alamogordo High School on January 19, 2021.

49th Wing School Liaison LaurieAnn Goodier said, “School Liaison partnerships are key to enhancing the quality of life for our Airman, Guardians and their families. When those efforts extend beyond the base’s gates and affect military families across New Mexico, we witness the larger impact of collaboration. Our vision to deliver unparalleled educational advocacy, outreach and partnerships for military students around the globe is what drives the work we do on behalf of families.”

Participating organizations receiving the award included Holloman AFB, Cannon AFB, Kirtland AFB, the Public Education Department, the New Mexico Office of Military Base Planning and Support, the NM Commissioner for the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission and the NM Military Children’s Education Council.

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