



# Military Impacted Schools Association

... supporting the educational needs of military families

(800) 291-MISA • [www.MilitaryImpactedSchoolsAssociation.org](http://www.MilitaryImpactedSchoolsAssociation.org)

December 2008

## Check out MISA's new website [www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org](http://www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org)

MISA launched a new, interactive, website. The site includes stories about how school districts are working with military families, free programs that are available for students and schools, etc. If you have stories, photos to submit, please send to [cbellevue@aol.com](mailto:cbellevue@aol.com).

**Please make sure MISA is linked on your website.**

In addition to finding the most up-to-date information on funding and legislation, viewers will be able to find information and download materials under the following categories:

- |   |                         |                                   |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b><u>MISA</u></b>                              | <b><u>RESOURCES</u></b> | <b><u>PARTNERS/WEBSITES</u></b>   |
| members (links to your school district website) | SOAR                    | DoD (all branches of the service) |
| newsletter                                      | Military Online Course  | DoDEA                             |
| position paper                                  | Military One Source     | Department of Education           |
| First Count information                         | Toolkits                | Associations                      |

- Impact Aid booklets
- Impact Aid powerpoint presentation
- Meetings and workshops - information and registration
- Graduation ceremonies - how to provide live on the web
- Best practices

### **CONGRESS**

- Coalition members
- current funding/goals (Impact Aid, DoD)
- legislation
- construction
- BRAC

### **FAMILIES**

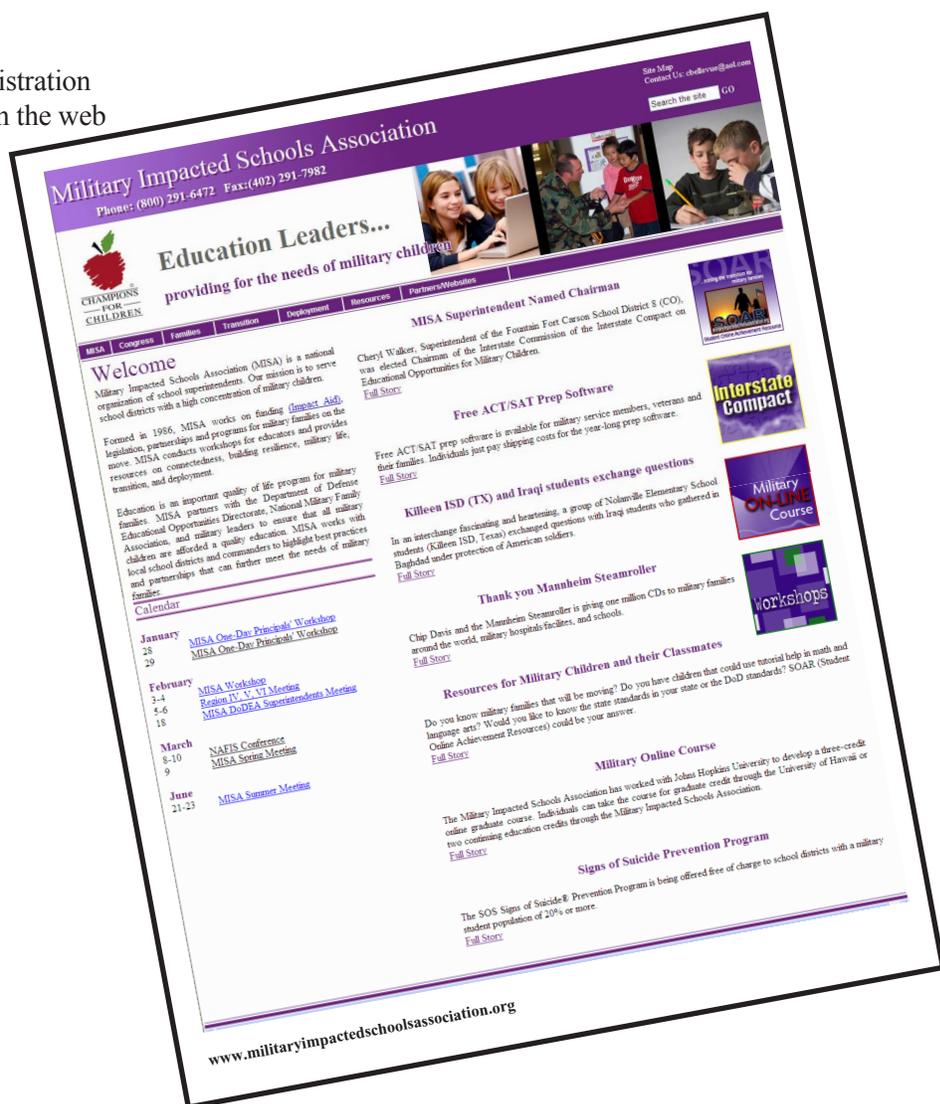
- Resources for families
- Tips for parents on Connectedness
- Student checklist
- Toolkit for parents

### **TRANSITION**

- Interstate Compact
- Template for websites
- Best practices

### **DEPLOYMENT**

- Educator's Guide During Deployment
- Resources
- Explaining War
- Resilience in Time of War
- Tragedy Assistant Program
- Caring for Kids After Trauma & Death
- Best Practices



## Senator McHugh New Ranking Member House Armed Services Committee



Congressman John McHugh (NY) was chosen as the ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee beginning in January. Congressman Duncan Hunter (CA), the current ranking member, will retire in January.

Congressman McHugh said, “As Ranking Member, I will fight to ensure that our service personnel

have the best possible training, the most modern equipment and weapons systems, and the necessary resources to carry out their missions.”

## DoDEA Grant for Enhancing Student Achievement

DoDEA announced that a \$30 million grant is expected to be awarded, depending on the availability of funding. The grant, called Promoting Student Achievement at Schools Impacted by Military Force Structure Changes, will focus on enhancing the education of military students. Funds, however, may be used to raise student achievement for all students at the target school.

Projects will enhance student learning opportunities, student achievement, and educator professional development at military-connected schools that are experiencing significant military growth between 2007 and 2009 due to force structure changes. The priority is to award grants to schools with low student achievement.

The grant solicitation is open only to school districts serving 22 military installations: Randolph AFB (TX), Fort Lewis (WA), Fort Bragg (NC), Fort Carson (CO), Fort Knox (KY), Cannon AFB (NM), Fort Bliss (TX), MacDill AFB (FL), Scott AFB (IL), Fort Sill (OK), Fort Campbell (KY), Fort Lee (VA), Dover AFB (DE), Fort Leonard Wood (MO), Fort Sam Houston (TX), Naval Station San Diego (CA), Fort Irwin (CA), Fort Polk (LA), Camp Lejeune (NC), Fort Benning (GA), McConnell AFB (KS), and Schofield Barracks (HI).

The DoDEA point of contact is Brian Pritchard, DoDEA, [brian.pritchard@hq.dodea.edu](mailto:brian.pritchard@hq.dodea.edu). A copy of the complete solicitation in the federal register can be found on the MISA website under “Congress.”

## MISA meets with representatives of the Council of State Governments



Representatives visit Bellevue Public Schools Early Childhood Center: (l to r) Hawaii Representative Mark Takai, MISA Executive Director Dr. John Deegan, Bellevue Teacher Julie Valentine, Council of State Governments Officials Keith Scott and Rick Masters.

MISA met with representatives of the Council of State Governments (CSG) regarding the Interstate Compact on the Educational Opportunities for Military Children. MISA was involved in the development of the Interstate Compact which addresses problems that impact military children as a result of transition and deployment. Eleven states have passed the Compact with many states working on legislation for 2009.

The meeting was very productive. There was a strong interest in partnering on the next steps of developing the structure, implementation, and education. Each state will appoint a superintendent from a heavily impacted school district to serve on the individual state councils. The councils will then name a state representative to attend the Interstate Commission meeting. In October Cheryl Walker, Superintendent of the Fountain Fort Carson District 8 (CO), was elected Chairman of the Interstate Commission.



(l to r) Tom Hinton, Senior State Liaison in the Office of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy), Martin Dempsey, Regional Liaison for Midwest, Rick Masters, Keith Scott, Mark Takai, and John Deegan

## DACOWITS Makes Recommendations

DACOWITS is a DoD Advisory Committee appointed to provide advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to recruitment, retention, integration, and treatment of women in the military. In October MISA wrote a letter to DACOWITS concerned with their proposed recommendations regarding the education of military children. Since then MISA and representatives of DACOWITS have been working together in developing the final recommendations.

Their recommendations, which will be made to the Secretary of Defense, include: full funding of the Impact Aid program, partnerships between school districts and DoD, and support for the Interstate Compact. A copy of DACOWITS findings and recommendations for military children can be found on the MISA website under "Transition."

## MISA and DoDEA Superintendents to Hold Joint Meeting

MISA and DoDEA have been working together to determine how best to serve military children. "We recognize that there is only one military child," Dr. John Deegan, MISA Executive Director, said. "Our role as educators is to ensure a quality education for all military children and their classmates. We can do that through partnerships."

MISA and DoDEA superintendents will meet during the AASA conference, February 18, 2009, in San Francisco. The meeting will include a discussion of programs, exchanges between the school districts, and a link between stateside and overseas schools. The meeting, immediately followed by a reception, will be held from 1:00-6:30 p.m. The agenda and hotel is being finalized. Additional information will be sent to MISA members as well as posted on the MISA website.

## Obama Names New Education Secretary

President-elect Barack Obama has chosen Arne Duncan as his nominee for Secretary of Education. Mr. Duncan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools.

Mr. Duncan has headed the nation's third largest school system for seven years. During that time he has raised elementary school scores, reduced dropouts, improved college entry rates, and increased the number of master teachers who have completed the national certification process, President-elect Obama said.



"Mr. Duncan has tremendous experience working with large public school districts," MISA Executive Director Dr. John Deegan said. "I am impressed that his first order of business is to travel the country to meet with various stakeholders. Impact Aid was passed into law in 1950 to provide for the education of military children. We are working with the new administration to enhance the understanding and need to fully fund Impact Aid, and address the needs of military families and the school districts that serve them."

# Calendar

*Additional information and registration forms can be found on the MISA website.*

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| January 28   | Principals' Workshop<br>Langley AFB, VA                 |
| January 29   | Principals' Workshop<br>Norfolk, VA area                |
| February 3-4 | Principals' Workshop<br>Las Vegas, NV                   |
| February 5-6 | Region IV, V, VI Meeting<br>Las Vegas, NV               |
| February 18  | MISA/DoDEA Superintendents Meeting<br>San Francisco, CA |
| March 8-10   | NAFIS Conference<br>Washington, DC                      |
| March 9      | MISA Spring Meeting<br>Washington, DC                   |
| June 21-23   | MISA Summer Meeting<br>Newport, Rhode Island            |