



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release:**  
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## Base Officials to celebrate Month of the Military Child

**Panama City, Fla.** – Base officials and personnel celebrate the annual Month of the Military Child. Naval Support Activity Panama City Commanding Officer Cmdr. Keith Foster kicked off the month by signing and reading the proclamation, April 8.

“By ensuring military children are safe and supported in our schools and communities,” Foster remarked. “Our men and women in uniform can focus on the challenges and missions they face in the line of duty.”

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.

“These kids sacrifice a lot. They sacrifice not seeing their mom and dad,” Erin Pickard, school liaison director, NSA Panama City, said. “The average time a child moves during their (parent’s) military career is six to nine times.”

NSA Panama City is honoring military children by wearing purple on Purple Up Day, April 15, to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices. Base officials encourage community members to Purple Up for military kids.

“The color purple is a combination of all the colors of the armed forces so purple symbolizes all of the military families coming together,” Pickard added.

The base is also holding a door decorating contest for military children living on and off the installation. Participants can create any door design using the color purple. The contest ends on April 23 at 5 p.m. Winners will receive prizes. For more information on the contest, please email Erin Pickard at [erin.pickard@navy.mil](mailto:erin.pickard@navy.mil).

The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.

Photos of Purple Up Day and soundbites from Erin Pickard will be released on [DVIDS](#) for media use.

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