



# *Executive Summary*

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The Alaska Military Education Forum met on Saturday, February 3, 2001. The Alaska Parent Teachers Association (PTA), Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Anchorage West High School Parent Teachers Students Association (PTSA), and Alaskan Command sponsored it.



President Mark Hamilton

The purpose was two-fold. *First* to provide information on several key subjects related to K-12 education of military students in Alaska. The *second* objective was to formulate items of interest (A comprehensive list articulating the concerns of the attendees follows at enclosure 1) with recommendations for the military leadership and Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

Across the Department of Defense (DOD) there is renewed interest in school liaisons and partnerships. (A list of resources is at enclosure 2) Military family members are encouraged to discuss local concerns with school administration officials or District School Boards. Comments regarding items at the state, national or DOD level may be addressed to the Alaskan Command (ALCOM) J1, Director for Personnel and Administration at 907-552-4841/2820.

Commissioner Shirley Holloway



Guest speakers included the US Army Alaska Commander and Deputy Alaskan Command Commander, Major General Lovelace; University of Alaska President, Major General (Retired) Mark Hamilton; and the Commissioner for Education and Early Development Dr. Shirley Holloway.

Other distinguished guests included: Alaska State Senator Loren Leman; Anchorage Distr 23 Representative Eldon Muldor; Anchorage Distr 14, Representative Lisa Murkowski; Senator Dave Donley; Director of Military and Veterans Affairs and Adjutant General for Alaska, Major General Phillip Oates; the First Lady of Alaskan Command, Mrs. Suzie Schwartz; and the first Lady for US Army Alaska, Mrs. Gail Lovelace.



Ms. Joyce Raezer, Associate Director,  
National Military Family Association,  
NMFA



Youth working group

General (Ret) Pete Taylor  
Chairman, Military Child



Education Coalition, MCEC

Ninety-two adults and 10 students representing the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Air National Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), state administrators and national organizations attended the conference. Following opening remarks by keynote speakers emphasizing the importance of a child's education, there were seven available breakout sessions. (A brief description is at enclosure 3). More detailed information discussed in the sessions is available at the following tabs (complete book only), upon request to ALCOM J1, or at [www.akpta.org](http://www.akpta.org). The sessions were designed to provide current information and educate the attendees. The sessions were:

#### **Nationwide Curriculum**

**Ms. Joyce Raezer**, Associate Director National Military Family Association (NMFA)

#### **Military Student's Transitions**

**General Pete Taylor**, Chairman, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

#### **Alaska Benchmarks and Graduation Exams**

**Dr. Bruce Johnson**, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education (EED)

#### **Empowering Parents Program**

**Ms. Paula Pawlowski**, Commissioner, National Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

#### **Social Emotional Needs**

**Ms. Nicole Moyer**, Anchorage School District Psychologist &  
**Ms. Marti Romero-Mitchell**, Behavior Strategist

#### **Early Childhood Development**

**Mrs. Yvonne Chase**, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Early Development (EED)

#### **Teens Involvement**

**Michael Pawlowski**, Youth Coordinator. The teens provided invaluable insights during a lunchtime presentation of their experiences and concerns.



Break out session

The afternoon was reserved for small group discussions and development of items of interest with recommendations, which an organization might be able to affect change. Many topic areas were available and participants migrated primarily to the following.

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION EXAMS  
SPECIAL NEEDS/ GIFTED PROGRAMS



Small group discussion

From school start times to the development of transition labs, attendees and students examined the challenges of being a military student in today's educational climate of accountability and reform.

Providing orientations, improving transfers of records and classes, transferring National Honor Society membership, establishing chat rooms and providing web access to school information, developing clear consistent definitions for Gifted and Talented and standardizing Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and providing reciprocity for high stakes exams were only a few of the recommendations. Complete findings of the small group discussions were gathered on flip charts and are detailed on enclosure 1.



Small group out brief

The Forum was the culmination of many convergent efforts. A planning committee met on several occasions to develop the format for the Forum. Coordination slides are provided at enclosure 4 for background information. The budget is listed on enclosure 5. Acknowledgements of the people who made this Forum possible in addition to the Alaska Board of Education & Early Development, Alaska PTA, and Dr. Lance Bowie, Anchorage West High School. We are sincerely grateful to all the individuals and organizations at enclosure 6 who made this Forum possible.

Enclosures:

1. Concerns
2. List of resources
3. Breakout sessions
4. Committee slides
5. Budget information
6. Acknowledgements

The distribution of information has been dispersed to attendees, legislators, and educational leaders, military leaders and is available upon request to interested parties. Recipients of this report are encouraged to copy and retransmit material as desired.