



# School Scuttle

*Educational issues affecting military kids from  
Camp Lejeune - New River - Cherry Point*

*April 2010*

*This Month's Theme is:*

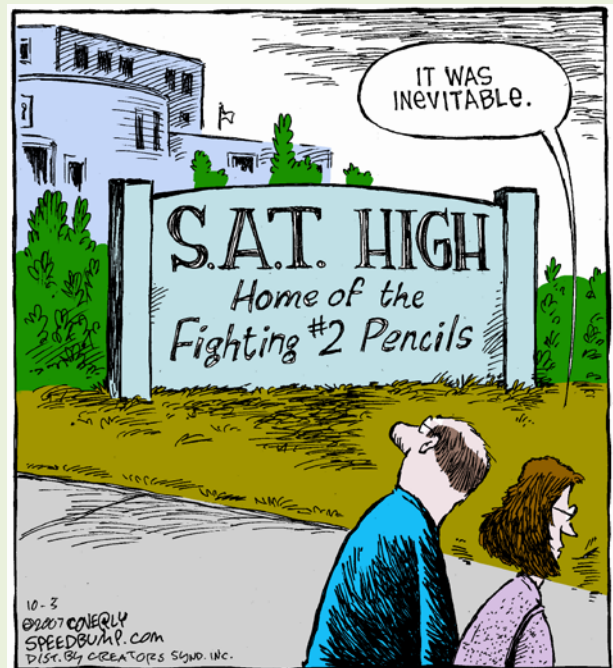
## **Standardized Testing**

### **NC County Schools**

For military families whose children attend school off base, the time is drawing closer for end of course (EOC) and end of grade (EOG) tests. For families who are new to the area and even those who have been around awhile, it can be a stressful time. "High stakes testing" means that a child might be retained if he or she can not pass the end of grade test, so families can feel stress and anxiety as the time for testing approaches. Many parents don't realize that if a student does not meet the minimum score on the first try, they receive additional support and tutoring and are allowed to retest one or two additional times. Parents can help ease test anxiety by allowing their child to see what the test will actually look like. Previous test forms are now posted on the NC Department of Public Instruction website.

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/releasedforms>

Parents can download the test form and go over sample questions with their child. Simply knowing what to expect can make test day easier for some kids.



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## DoDEA Schools

Students attending base schools take different types of standardized tests. The Terra Nova is the main test for students in grades 3-11. That test is administered in February or early March each year. Parents will be receiving their child's score reports in the next month or so. What does the Terra Nova tell you about your child's performance? Like many standardized tests, student's scores are shown as percentiles. These scores are different than when you take a regular test. A 60% on your average math test might not make a student very happy, but scoring in the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standardized test means the child did better than 60 out of every 100 children who took the test. Even a score as low as 26 can mean the child is scoring in the average range. A score of 0-25 is the first quartile and considered below average. Scores within 25-50 fall in the second quartile; this score is in the average range but shows the child may be struggling in some areas. A score of 50-75 is the third quartile. While students in this range are still considered to be in the average or proficient range, they are scoring above the majority of students who have taken the Terra Nova test across the nation. Finally the fourth quartile is above average. These students score between 75-100. These scores are reported for each subject area the child is tested in. Students who are scoring in the first quartile should be receiving extra support either through an IEP, special coursework, tutoring, or some other form of assistance to help them increase their scores. If you see these types of scores and your child is not receiving any extra support, you should talk with your child's teacher about what programs or help are available.

Julie Fulton, Camp Lejeune, School Liaison

## **IS YOUR SPOUSE DEPLOYED OR INJURED?**

**Did you know you qualify for 16 hours per month of free childcare?  
Call 1-800-424-2246 for more information.**

## From the Bulletin Board...



### WEB RESOURCES OF THE MONTH

Check Out this Amazing New Resource!

Students at the Center – for educators, families, and military leaders

<http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter/>

Month of the Military Child Web Activities - crafts, worksheets, teaching ideas

<http://www.monthofthemilitarychild.com/>

FREE SAT PREP MATERIALS for military connected kids- Get high quality materials FREE through a grant from the USO and NFL among other sponsors

<http://www.eknowledge.com/powerprep-promo.aspx>

### ASK AN EXPERT

(Do you have a question for Ask the Expert? Email your question to any school liaison using the addresses on the last page)

**Q: Are there any special camps that my child can attend for FREE with other military kids who are going through the same deployment struggles as my child?**

**A: YES!! Check out the information below to see how your child can participate in one of these life changing camps!**

### REGISTER NOW FOR OPERATION PURPLE SUMMER CAMPS

When you hear "*Operation Purple* camp" you should think: Kids Serve Too! The National Military Family Association's *Operation Purple* camp is a time for having fun, making friends, and reminding military kids that they are the Nation's youngest heroes. As an organization dedicated to serving military families, the National Military Family Association recognized the need for more resources to support military children. In 2004, the *Operation Purple* program was created as a way to help military children struggling with the stresses of war.

These free, week-long, overnight camps are open to all military children ages 7-17. The program aims to help military kids experience carefree fun while also learning coping skills to deal with deployment-related stress and fostering relationships with other children who know what they are going through. *Operation Purple* camp allows kids to gain confidence by learning to be stewards of the community and of the environment.

Since *Operation Purple* camp's implementation, the National Military Family Association has sent more than 20,000 military kids to camp for free. In 2009, *Operation Purple* will host nearly 90 weeks of camp held in 62 locations in 37 states and territories. Camps are free to all participants' thanks to support from the Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation.

The *Operation Purple* program currently includes traditional summer camps, teen camps, teen leadership camps, family retreats, and camps for families of the wounded and day clinics in overseas locations. Please direct questions regarding *Operation Purple* camp to [operationpurple@nmfa.org](mailto:operationpurple@nmfa.org).

**Check out the 2010 locations** for a camp near you.

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/camps/>

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Standardized Testing and Children with Special Needs

By Donna Bagley, Cherry Point, School Liaison Officer

The topic of standardized testing and children with special needs has been one of much debate and one that has been very close to my heart. For 8 years I have had the pleasure of serving children with special needs, and as you can imagine, this topic has come up during many discussions with my colleagues, administrators, and my students' parents.

In the spirit of keeping this a focused and meaningful article, I have chosen to focus on one topic: student eligibility and criteria for testing modifications. We will save the debate on whether standardized testing is a true and meaningful indicator of a person's success in life and on how to evaluate the excellence of a school based on its test scores. Those topics, I promise you- will come at a later date.

With that said, let us consider who is eligible for testing modifications: students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Accommodation Plan (504) and need special modifications in order to access the prescribed test. However, there are 3 other possible avenues that can be taken to provide alternate testing techniques without being classified:

- School principals have the authority to approve a student's need for a testing modification that does not alter the intended purpose of the test for a student who may have a disability, but not severe enough to warrant having an IEP or 504 plan. This could be a student who has Attention Deficit Disorder, but they do not have a severe discrepancy in his or her functioning.
- Students who have been declassified and require transitional services are entitled to receive services and/or modifications for the period of 1 year after declassification
- For the college bound student: in certain cases, students can use testing modifications on college entrance exams and SATs. Usually, 2 pieces of documentation are required (testing from professionals, but not from the same agency), indicating the need for alternate testing.

## Mark Your Calendar!

APRIL	EVENT	LOCATION
7	Parent Forum – School Issues, Info and Q&A TT Community Center 1000-1100 Watkins Village Comm. Center 1800-1900	Camp Lejeune For all parents, on and off base
7	School PCS Class as part of PLAN YOUR MOVE 0900-1100	Cherry Point Marine and Family Services Rm. 166
8	SOAR – Student Online Achievement Resources 1100-1200	Cherry Point HQ Conference Room
10	Kids Gone Fishin’ Derby FREE – Register 0800-845 Ages 15 and under, bring a pole, bait provided.	Camp Lejeune, Orde Pond
12	Parent Forum – School Issues, Info and Q&A Watkins Village Comm. Center 1000-1100 TT Community Center 1800-1900	Camp Lejeune For all parents, on and off base
13	Special Skills for Special Families EFMP Training 1200-1330	Camp Lejeune Russell Family Service Center, Room 139
14	Positive Change of School 1000-1100 am Call to register 449-5343	New River Air Station Marine Corps Family Team Building Office
15	Writing an Effective IEP 1100-1300 FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE Please RSVP at 451-4394	Camp Lejeune, NC Harriet B. Smith Library
15	School Volunteer Information Session 1100-1200	Cherry Point HQ Conference Room
15	SOI Education Fair	Camp Lejeune Russell Family Service Center
17	Teen Job Fair 0900-1200	Camp Lejeune TT Youth Pavilion
22	Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day	Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune
22	Earth Day	Check with schools for local events
24	Skills for Parenting Military Teens (Keeping your Cool, Taking Care of Finances, and Early Signs of Drug Use) Presented by Project Focus 0900-1130	Camp Lejeune Russell Family Service Center Room 139
DURING APRIL	Register by May 1 <sup>st</sup> for LINKS for Kids! Specially designed for children with special needs. May 14 <sup>th</sup> . Call 449-4676	New River Air Station – Chapel Annex

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

By Courtney Buzzard, New River School Liaison

As a parent, we often feel like our hands are tied when we send our child off to school to take their standardized tests. We want to be able to help our child when they face these hurdles in life. By following a few tips we can help.

It is important to remember these tests are assessments of a whole year or semester worth of work and cramming the night before rarely helps. We need to encourage our children in other ways.

Remind our children of a few test taking skills:

1. Re-read the directions to make sure you fully understand.
2. Answer the questions you know first.
3. If there is time, double check your answers.
4. When unsure of the correct answer, eliminate the ones they know are not right.
5. Take a deep breath when they feel nervous and/or rushed.

Other ways we can help:

- Have them get a good night sleep the week of testing.
- Provide a nutritious breakfast.
- Let them know the tests are important.
- Above all express your confidence in them and you know they will do their best work.

For more information visit: <http://www.greenspun.org/PreparingStudentsStan.pdf>

**CONTACT US:** We'd love to hear from you!

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[www.mccsLejeune.com/schools](http://www.mccsLejeune.com/schools)

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[www.newriver.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB.htm#school](http://www.newriver.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB.htm#school)