

# Building Capacity in Military-Connected Schools

## Temecula School Shows Appreciation for Military Members

**Happy Holidays from the Building Capacity Team!**

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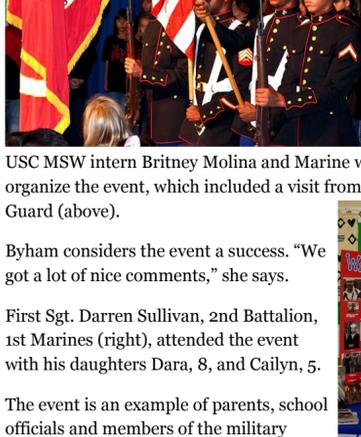
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Staff and students at Temecula Elementary School gathered last month in a first-of-its-kind event to show appreciation for members of the school community who serve in the military.

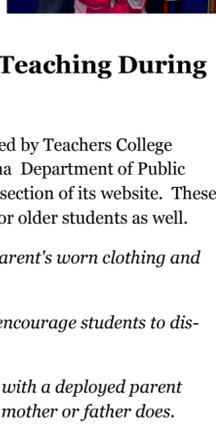


USC MSW intern Britney Molina and Marine wife Andrea Sullivan to organize the event, which included a visit from the Marine Corps Color Guard (above).

Byham considers the event a success. "We got a lot of nice comments," she says.

First Sgt. Darren Sullivan, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (right), attended the event with his daughters Dara, 8, and Cailyn, 5.

The event is an example of parents, school officials and members of the military working together to organize an event that makes military students feel welcome and appreciated.



## Building Capacity Guidebook Preview: Teaching During a Deployment

In our forthcoming guidebook for teachers, which will be published by Teachers College Press, we feature a number of suggestions from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction that appear on the "N.C. Supports Military Children" section of its website. These ideas are geared toward younger children, but could be adapted for older students as well.

- Encourage younger children to bring in some of the deployed parent's worn clothing and uniform items to use for dress-up play.
- Put together a "Proud to be a Military Kid" bulletin board and encourage students to display pictures of a military family members.
- Have a clock in the classroom that shows military time. A child with a deployed parent might want to help the class learn how to tell time the way their mother or father does.
- Arrange a field trip to a nearby military base or training facility.
- Write cards or letters to the deployed family member.
- Track the deployed parent's journey on a map, allowing the class to learn about the world.
- Turn a shoe box into a deployment time capsule. Fill the box with items like a piece of string as long as the child's height, a tracing of the child's hand or foot, a list of the child's favorites (song, television show, toy, etc.). Open them when the deployed parent returns to measure changes that have occurred.

## Spotlight On: Amanda Datnow

Amanda Datnow is a professor and chair of the Department of Education Studies at the University of California, San Diego, where she has worked since 2008.

One of her department's most successful initiatives is [Partners at Learning](#) (PAL), a service-learning program in which undergraduate students provide tutoring and mentoring services in San Diego schools. This fall, PAL has teamed up with *Building Capacity* to bring those services to military-connected students in our consortium schools and to educate UCSD students about the needs of military students.

"We are excited to partner with the *Building Capacity* project to offer two new courses in which UCSD undergraduates will serve as mentors and tutors in schools serving military-connected students," Datnow says. "The schools in which the undergraduates will be placed are the same schools where USC Social Work interns are also supporting military students and their families."

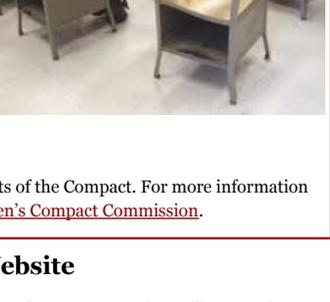


## Featured Resource: Military1click.com

Links to just about any resource imaginable for military families is available at [www.military1click.com](http://www.military1click.com). The website is a clearinghouse of information for military spouses and families that was created in 2011 by military moms Jennifer Pilcher and Kristi Hamrick.

In addition to linking to dozens of websites in their "link library," Jennifer and Kristi provide some of their own humorous "top 10" lists, such as "Jen's Top Ten PCS (Permanent Change of Station—also known as Pretty Crappy Situation) Tips."

The site also links to popular blogs for military parents and initiatives such as Michelle Obama's and Dr. Jill Biden's Joining Forces campaign.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

-Members of the *Building Capacity* team will be presenting at the **Society for Social Work and Research** conference, scheduled for Jan. 11-15 in Washington. Five oral presentations are scheduled. Check this [link](#) for conference information.

### What the Interstate Compact Says About: Attendance

School calendars and military operations don't often match. This means that sometimes military members leave or return from a deployment when their children are in school. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children recognizes that military children often miss school to be part of these important days for their family.

The Compact states that military students should be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency to spend time with parents or guardians who are either leaving or returning from a deployment.

This concludes our monthly feature on key aspects of the Compact. For more information on specific topics, visit [Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission](#).



## News and Resources on Our Website

We regularly feature important articles on schools and programs serving military students on our website. Check the [site](#) often to stay informed.

-The *Review of Educational Research*, an education journal, has published a literature review on education issues affecting military children, written by members of the *Building Capacity* team. Click [here](#) for the press release.

-This [press release](#) announced the annual survey of military families conducted by Blue Star Families. The survey is intended to "reveal the truth of what it's like to maintain home, family, career, and healthy relationships despite the necessary absence of a loved one." Results are expected to be released in May.

-[KPCC](#), Southern California Public Radio, recently featured the *Building Capacity* project and the *Review of Educational Research* article.

Questions, comments or to unsubscribe, E-mail us at [raastor@usc.edu](mailto:raastor@usc.edu)