

Ask A Military Kid: Why Military Children are not Traditional Students

NC STRIVE CONFERENCE



Why Military Children are *not* Traditional Students

- **More access to mentoring and internships beneficial since military dependents do not necessarily have family connections and networking opportunities to fields they want to pursue**
 - Military students may or may not take advantage of available resources or opportunities since not made aware of what is available related to higher education
- **Transition to higher ed is buffered by resiliency of military children but also environment differs significantly from military institutions**
 - Choice Anxiety—order and structure of military installations; panacea of choice on campus
 - Transition from military environment is jarring, e.g., lack of diversity
 - Military family member stigma – Campus perceptions of military families is not always positive and fellow students can be insensitive; inaccurate or biased perspectives
- **GI Bill Benefits not seamless for dependents, especially when transfer of benefits is partial**
 - Confusion around benefits available and how they differ from state to state, school to school
 - Extending military benefits to family members, parents retiring or making changes to status, etc.
- **Unique Aspects of North Carolina Military Family Experience**
 - Even though students in NC do not move as much as military in other states, still respond to challenges from being military children
 - Fort Bragg – DoDEA school experience different from public school