



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*News Release***



7073 RADIO ROAD
FORT POLK LA 71459-5342
Voice: (337) 531-1418
Fax: (337) 531-2403

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Major Ron Elliott, 337-531-1418

Samantha Bingham, 337-531-4630

Transition Counselors' Institute Training comes to Fort Polk

Fort Polk, La.— The Commanding General of JRTC & Fort Polk, Brig Gen Jason Kamiya and the Fort Polk School Liaison Office will host a Transition Counselors' Institute (TCI) training on November 5th and 6th, 2003 at the Fort Polk Warrior Club.

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), a non-profit organization promoting solutions to the hurdles facing the highly mobile children of all military services, will conduct the TCI training.

The Keynote speakers for the event are Brig Gen Jason K. Kamiya and Dr. Cynthia Gillespie, Superintendent, Vernon Parish School System.

Local military leaders enthusiastically welcome the work of the local school systems, school guidance counselors, principals, and installation family and school support personnel in embracing the MCEC sponsored action plans designed to implement changes such as reciprocity among all schools serving military installations.

Dr. Mary Keller, MCEC Executive Director, said, "We believe in the capacity of the individual guidance professional to make decisions that ease the transition for

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the highly mobile military-connected student. With these students moving an average of six to nine times from kindergarten through high school graduation, it takes an informed community of guidance professionals working in unison to ensure a strong safety net as students move from school to school. This is what the TCI is about: information, awareness, and networking.”

Vernon Parish School system that services children from the Fort Polk area, is a signatory to the Memorandum of Agreement designed to encourage cooperation among school systems serving military installations to reduce transition woes for kids on the move. The agreement currently encompasses over 100 school systems across the nation and overseas. Other schools systems are being encouraged to be signatory participants.

School systems supporting military children in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Illinois, Florida and Arkansas have been invited to TCI training. MCEC has conducted Transition Counselor Institutes and awareness sessions in over 20 states and Puerto Rico, with over 600 school guidance professionals and administrators participating.

For more information regarding the conference, please contact the Don Robinson, Fort Polk School Liaison Office, (337) 531-9481.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Media are encouraged to cover the event. Please contact Maj. Ron Elliott at 531-1418 or Samantha Bingham at 531-4630 to coordinate access.