



**THREAT:** Eliminate DOD Elementary Schools

**SITUATION:** Critics in Congress call the Department of Defense elementary schools inadequate and outdated.

**VFW POSITION:**

- No proposals presented by Congress or the Administration demonstrate a clear plan for students to successfully transition from DOD schools into local school systems.
- Non-DOD schools in military communities receive funding from Congress to support military-specific functions, but the funds are often mismanaged on the local level, and military-centric schools are often neglected by local school departments.
- Overcrowding in DOD schools has been an unintended consequence of base consolidation. Simply closing DOD schools thrusts this very same overcrowding issue onto school districts lacking the proper resources and experience to deliver quality education to a sudden surge of new students.
- Independent reports show that students from military families also feel the strains of repeat, prolonged deployments. Civilian schools – even those that receive DOD subsidies in military communities – have been shown to be ineffective at delivering the unique challenges military children may face.