



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
MEDITERRANEAN DISTRICT
UNIT 31401, BOX 11
APO AE 09630-0005**



10 August 2012

Dear Students and Parents, Community and Commands, Educators and Support Staff:

As the new Superintendent of the Mediterranean District, I am delighted to welcome you to another school year! Last year was an extraordinarily busy one, with many challenges, and this year seems to be headed in the same direction—only faster! However, I am sure that, with the tremendous expertise and great efforts of all our administrators, teachers, and support staffs, we will prevail on all fronts. I am counting on the continued dedication and good will of everyone in our wonderful district so that all our students receive the very best educational opportunities possible.

Having come to the Mediterranean District from the Isles District, and now having spent two years here as the Assistant Superintendent, I am fully aware of the various country requirements, cultural differences, logistic problems, and extraordinary challenges you are facing. One of my major goals is to guarantee that each of our 18 schools in the five countries comprising our district has a smooth and very successful year. In order to do that, however, I need open and frequent communication with all of you. Equally important is that I am very fortunate to be working with a veteran leadership team, knowledgeable and productive educators, and a finely honed District Office staff.

What awaits us this year? Aside from the ever-present funding hurdles, we are looking at important military transitions in Rota, Vicenza, and possibly Sigonella. Where other districts are facing closures or "drawdowns," the Mediterranean District is facing significant student increases due to military adjustments around the globe within the next two years. We already are seeing significant use of the Video Teleconference (VTC) in all areas—for training and interactive meetings. Strong security measures will remain in place throughout the district, and our Safety & Security Officers will be keeping close watch on potential problem areas. Our most important goals are to provide all our students with challenging 21st Century educational opportunities in safe and solid environments, guaranteeing their highest achievements in all aspects of school life.

I will be visiting your schools and look forward to meeting you.

Mr. Kent Worford, Superintendent
Mediterranean District