

## THE OPERATION CHILD CARE PROJECT



### **Meredith Dost**

*Board Member, Data Security & Project Management, The Operation Child Care Project*

Highly experienced information systems and data security professional Meredith Dost is giving back to the military community in a powerful way through her involvement in The Operation Child Care Project (OCCP). Meredith serves on the board of directors for the 501(c)(3) non-profit, lending her high-level project management expertise to its mission to ensure military families have access to affordable, high-quality child care options, empowering them to pursue their career goals and create stable environments for their quality of life.

Meredith leads the Cloud Security Solution Area at Applied Information Sciences (AIS), focusing on crafting and maintaining secure, compliant IT environments for clients in highly regulated sectors requiring robust data protection and advanced security strategies. While not a member of the armed forces or a military spouse herself, Meredith has worked in support of military members and organizations throughout her career.

When Meredith had an opportunity to join forces with OCCP, she jumped at the chance to support. “Kayla Corbitt has been my friend for around 20 years, and I’ve been cheering her on from the start,” says Meredith. “I’m incredibly proud of her latest achievement: successfully launching the first specialized child care solution specifically for military parents. It’s a big deal!”

“The decision to engage with OCCP was profoundly personal and deeply rooted in my own experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic,” Meredith shares. As a mother, Meredith experienced firsthand the relentless challenges presented by the constant closures of daycares due to outbreaks. She says, “The quest for reliable backup and ad hoc child care became a constant struggle, compelling me to navigate various apps in an effort to piece together last-minute care solutions. Despite my best efforts, I never felt at ease with my options.”

For Meredith, this experience accentuated the universal necessity for reliable child care, a need she feels is especially crucial for military families. “The unique challenges they face, including frequent relocations and the consequent uprooting of established support systems, resonate deeply with me. Although I am not part of a military family, the empathy I hold for their situation is profound.” Meredith shares that when she discovered the mission of OCCP, it resounded with her on a fundamental level. “The organization’s commitment to providing military families and women with access to a trusted, reliable child care support system was not just a cause to support—it was a call to action. This alignment of OCCP’s mission with my personal values and experiences drove my involvement, driven by a firm belief in the power of a trusted village to transform the child care landscape for those who serve our nation.”

Meredith is a leader in her professional space and is also intensely dedicated to her family. She comes from a large family with eight brothers, two sisters, and almost 30 nieces and nephews. Meredith lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband and loves being a mom to two awesome boys. When Meredith manages to grab a moment for herself, she usually dives into an audiobook, hits an early workout at Orange Theory Fitness, or just makes great memories with her family watching Netflix.

To learn more, get involved, help get the word out, or give financially in support of the work Meredith and the team at OCCP are doing, visit [occproject.org](http://occproject.org) and stay tuned for updates on [facebook.com/theoccproject](https://facebook.com/theoccproject).