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I am a Gold Star Child



BY ALISE W., 12TH GRADE,
NILE C. KINNICK HIGH SCHOOL

I am a Gold Star child, which means I have experienced the loss of a parent who served in the military. Currently, I am attending a DODEA school in Japan, where the military

community has been a pillar of support in my life. Since my father's passing, the military has stood by me through all challenges, providing not only emotional support but also invaluable financial assistance. Attending a DODEA school in Japan has offered

me the opportunity to connect with an amazing community, fostering a deep sense of belonging and shared experience that has been invaluable to my emotional well-being. As I moved to Japan, my options were to go to either an international school or a DODEA school. I am

familiar and more comfortable to stay connected to military life since I am a former military child and this is where I feel most at home.

Annie

Write a message to your graduate in this space. You can write up to a maximum of 20 words.

Sender's name

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Send info by May 13, 5 p.m. to PacificGrad@stripes.com and a Stripes representative will follow-up with you right away.

Special 8-page pullout inside!

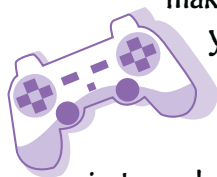
Being resilient a good thing

What does resilient mean? So resilient means that you are strong and brave. And what I mean by that is you have to be brave and strong in hard situations. Being resilient is a compliment.

For example, you have to go to a new school and you have to move to a new house. One time I had to be brave was when I moved to Japan in 3rd grade. I had to make a new friends and meet new teachers.

An advice I would give to someone who has to make new friends is to ask them if you can play and then you can ask them to be friends so it's going to be like a play date. Another advice I would give to someone that is moving is to make the trip fun by playing games. If I had to give advice to someone who has to be away from a parent I would tell them to spend as much time as possible with each parent when you are with them.

In conclusion, I think that being resilient is a good thing. It means you stand up to things you are afraid of. That's why I think military kids are resilient.



- Ulysses,
4th grade, Iwakuni Intermediate School

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Yokota West Elementary School

2nd grade Ms. Collins



What I do as a military child
What I like to do as a military child are getting to be in Ywes. Getting to meet Ms. Collins. Also to meet Jane! What I don't like to do as a military child are having to move. Having to leave friends, and

- Ariana



My dad is in Korea. My mom and I help people. I miss my dad. Dad can't choose. Dad is trying to go to Japan to be with me.

- Aiko



being a military child I like being a military child. I can make new friends and help some. I like to go on airplanes. There's that's why I like being a military child.

- Gabe



I like being a military child because I get to travel a lot. I get to explore. I meet new friends. I see new places every day.

- Hadley B.



Being a military child you have to move. I have moved 8 times. I'm only 8 years old. I am always the new student.

- Lilyana



It is safe on a military base. I get to travel a lot. I have lived in Alaska, Okinawa, Romania, and the states. I like being a military child.

- Anisia



What I like about being a military child is that I'm safe. I can live peacefully. We have a cool Airbase. We have a peaceful school. I can see cool air plans.

- Fin

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Melanie

I can move and meet new friends. A start over is good. I can visit friends. It is fine that parents go. Your parent will come back. Are you a military child?

- Melanie




I like living in the military community because I like going to school on base. I like going in my dad's classroom. Also, I like shopping in the base for with games. Over all I like living in the community.

- Oscar



Military Community.
To me living in a military community is kind of hard. First, you can make new friends. Next, you move so many communities. Then, you can learn different languages. Last, it is so cool to live in a military community.

- Evelyn S.



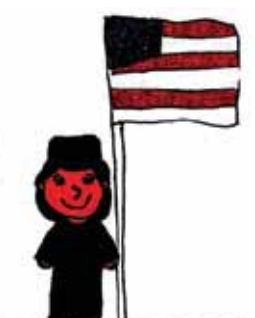
I do as a military child. We get to see family. We move it is sad to leave our friends but you can make a new friend. It is fun to live now places. When my dad has to leave I am sad but that is how we get money so we can be happy!!! That is what it is like to be a military child.

- Rilynn



I think being in military community means meeting new people. It is amazing what you can do on a military base. The community helps others.

- Emily C.




Being a Military Child
I like being a military child because I get to move and meet new friends. What I don't like being a military child is I leave friends behind, and I have to go on airplanes to travel. That is what I like and don't like about being a military child.

- Grace



Being a military child is awesome. Being a military child means you can do a lot of fun stuff. Military child it all means your dad will go on to do what he wants to do. That's why being a military child is awesome!

- Harper M.




What it means to be a military child. It means that you get to move to other places. The most important you are super safe. But sometimes your parent goes away for a month or two. And this is what it means to be a military child.

- Jude



Nolan for Mom
I'm sad that my mom works all the time and I can see her only at Christmas. I'm glad that she is in the air force because she saves other men when there is a war.

- Nolan



I like being a military child because I feel protected. Also, I feel safe. I can learn that's why I like being a military child.

- Lincoln S.




I like being a military child. Moving to places is fun, but air plane rides are not fun. I want to go back to the US.

- Bridger



I like being a military child because I get to meet people from different places. I can go to different stores. I've been on an airplane 3 times.

- Jane



Military Community
I'm happy that my mom works for the air force. My mom helps Japan. I feel safe to live here.

- Nolan J.

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Yokota West Elementary School

1st grade
Ms. Walters



Being a part of a military community means having to say goodbye to friends like Jackson from last year. I get to see planes with TVs on the back of the seats. I miss my parent's deployment.

- Nate S.

Being a part of a military community means trying new cultures like Japanese, trying new snacks, seeing new things, and making new friends like Aelias.

- Cleo H.

Being a part of a military community is fun. I miss my family sometimes. But I get to meet friends.

- Amberly Y.

Being a Military Child means leaving my family. I get to go on an airplane. I have to say goodbye.

- Alyssa A.

I like being a military child because I can make friends. My friends are amazing!

- Isabella T.

I like being in a military community because I get to go to new places like Tokyo, Ohio, and Florida. My parent get a lot of money. I get to make new friends like Dallas, Rayden, Kaitan, and Nate.

- Jonathan J.

Being a part of a military community means I get to make new friends like Rachel and Rilyn. I get to visit new places in Japan and get to fly on special airplanes like (BO).

- Annalyn B.

Being a part of a military community means having to say good bye to my dad sometimes when he deploys. Having to miss California where I was born. I get to make different friends like Annalyn, Grace, and Elise!

- Rachel L.

I am part of a military community. I get to see C-130 planes. Sometime mom picks me up from school. Dad works at the military school.

- Kaiden K.

Being a part of a military community is fun because I go to a new school. I learn more and reading. School is fun.

- Justice J.

Being a part of military community means I can make new friends like Justice and Isabella. I can go on field trip with school.

- Akemi H.

Being a part of a military community means I get to visit places like Tokyo, Florida, and Tower.

- Dallas S.

Being a part of a military community means visiting new places like Family Hill, missing my dad and making new friends like Dallas.

- William D.

Being a military child means my family. We visit new places like Yokota. I get to make new friends like William, Elise, and new people.

- Rayden S.



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LIVE MÁS

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

1st grade, Mrs. Ferguson

I am a military kid!



My Dad works in the military. My Dad works in the ship. My Dad sunbathes levs when he levs. I feel sad like

- Alyssa A.

I am a military kid!



My military parent is my dad. He work on a ship. wen my dad come back im excited.

- Mason H.


I am a military kid!



my dad helps the navy he is a commander. I am very happy when I see him

- Eli A.

I am a military kid!



I am a military kid I can protect my family by fighting how can I fight? I learn. My dad is in the navy my dad

- Nadine T.


I am a military kid!



My parent works at the school. She is a speech pathologist. She helps kids speak when she talks but I know that I am a soldier

- Theodore P.

I am a military kid!



My Dad works at the military. He work on the computer. He has a cat. Now he doesn't have to leave.

- Ani D.

I am a military kid!



My military parent is my dad. My dad works on a ship. My mom works at the school. I like to be a military kid.

- Isaiah R.


I am a military kid!



My dad is a military man. He take his things out of the ship.

- Anly M.


I am a military kid!



My dad plays music in the Navy. I like his music.

- William M.

I am a military kid!



My teacher work at the school. My mom work at the school. My Dad work in the state.

- Elijah C.

I am a military kid!



My military mom works at the NAVY. sometimes she goes on deployment like right now. I really miss her.

- Elayna S.

I am a military kid!



my dad works in the navy. my dad runs machine when he works. my dad help words do there work.

- Logan B.


I am a military kid!



My military dad works at the world ranger. I feel sad when my dad leaves. I like being a military kid.

- Camden H.

I am a military kid!



My dad helps the military.

- Lincoln D.



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

1st grade, Ms. Pepper

I LOVE BEING A MILITARY CHILD

I love being a military child. First, I get to go on my dad's ship. Next, I get to travel on airplanes. Also, I get to buy toys in other countries. Last, I get to work the radio with my family. Finally, I always feel safe. These are the reasons I love being a military child.

- Cameron C.


I LOVE BEING A MILITARY CHILD

I love being a military child. First, I get to visit my Mom on her ship. Next, I get to live in Japan. Last, I make friends all over the world. These are the reasons I love being a military child.

- Anthony R.

I LOVE BEING A MILITARY CHILD

There are many benefits of having a parent in the military. First, I get to go on Navy ships. Next, I get to visit parents who often travel. Last, I can buy toys in other countries. These are the reasons I love being a military child. Be a Military child!



- Emma M.

Check out more military children stories at:
militarychild.stripes.com

I AM BRAVE

I am brave because my dad works for the military. First, I can go on any trip. Second, you can buy things in other countries. Last, I always feel safe. These reasons are why I like the

- Isabela Z.

I LOVE BEING A MILITARY CHILD

I love being a military child. I like to go on Navy ships. Next, I get to always see my dad. Last, I also get to have a paper with a job that makes money. These are the reasons I love being a military child.

- Yariel S.

I LOVE BEING A MILITARY CHILD

I love being a military child. First, I get to go to different places. Next, I also get to go on the ship to meet new chiefs. Last, I get to eat things in Japan. These are the reasons I love being a military child.

- Ciaran I.

I AM BRAVE

I AM BRAVE because my dad works for the military. First, I get to go to different places. Next, I also get to always feel safe. Last, and I get to ride planes. These are the reasons I love being a

- Zia Y.

I LOVE BEING A MILITARY CHILD

The following are the benefits of having a parent in the military. First, we get to live in other countries. Next, we get to go on airplanes. Last, we get to buy clothes in other countries. These are the reasons why I like being a military child.

- Natalie C.

I LOVE BEING A MILITARY CHILD

I love being a military child. First, I get to always get to feel safe at night. Next, I get to go on other ships. Last, I have a parent who makes money for our family. These are the reasons why I love being a military child.

- Liana A.



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

2nd grade, Mr. Hockman

I am a military child. My dad goes to places. He went a lot of places. Brennan M. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade.

- Brennan L.

I can see my dad in the sky. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Alana M.

- Alana M.

I AM A MILITARY CHILD!

- Otto C.

my dad is in the military. He goes a lot. I miss him.

- War'yn H.

On the ship. Off the ship. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Mitsuki T.

- Mitsuki T.

What it feels like to be a military child! It is ok but it's sad because we have missing birthdays. My dad was gone for a month. But he's back to be happy. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Luana B.

- Luana B.

Being a military child is special because you have a job that makes money. You live on base and go to base schools. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Camille

- Camille

I am military child. I miss my dad. Every 3 years we move. It's hard being a military child. I get to move to new places. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Ben F.

- Ben F.

Being a military child is hard. Sometimes you have to move. It's hard to say goodbye to your friends and family. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. David B.

- David B.

Being a military child is hard. Your parents have to go to work. You don't see them for a week. After a week they come back. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Liam R.

- Liam R.

I'm a military child because my dad is in the Navy. When he goes away on the ship I miss him. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Bryson M.

- Bryson M.

I am a military child because my dad is in the Navy. It's ok if everyone's dad misses your birthday. It's ok if he's gone for a month or two. You should always love your dad! Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Samara C.

- Samara C.

Being a military child is fun but my dad has to leave for a long time when he goes away. I will be sad. I want to call him when he goes away. Sullivan's ES. 2nd grade. Lui M.

- Lui M.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

2nd grade



The Waves of Change

I'm Ruby and I'm 7 and in 2nd grade at Sullivan's Elementary. I painted this picture of The Great Wave of Kanagawa in art class. Did you know Yokosuka is in Kanagawa prefecture? I love being a military kid because I've had the chance to live places like Hawai'i, Florida and Japan!



- Ruby M.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

2nd grade, Ms. Arrant



My dad was in the Marine and my mom is a doctor and I don't like leaving my pets. My dad has a hard job. I don't like my mom leaving. I don't like moving.



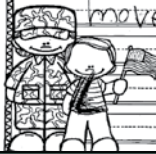
- Sam

I am going on my dad's ship. I can move and making new friends. Going to new places and trying new foods. I hate when my dad is gone.



- Ellis

I feel sad but I also want to meet new people but I sometimes like new cities but you can go new places but you can fit like it fit like it fit were you move I like to move so I can I can be a kid!



- Leah

I feel proud and proud of those who are in the military for keeping us safe.



- Walter F.

I'd miss my family. It's hard to leave your pet. You have to leave your friends but I like the food there. I want to be in the military. I like the uniform.



- Liam D.

My name is Celina and I'm a military kid. It was ever since I was born. It's really fun and stress free how you PCS alot, even a deployment and missing my friends. I love being a military kid!



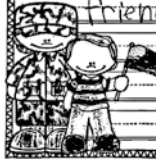
- Celina

John is a military child and my name is Amo. I like it because I make new friends. New things like eating sushi and karage. I like to eat fish and rice and I like to swim.



- Amo Y.

Being a military child is hard because I miss my old friends, grandma and my cousins. A positive is I can see dad in the ship. I love my family, friends!



- Maya L.

It is hard to say good-bye. I'm Sierra and I'm a military kid. I hate to move, but on the bright side it is fun to make new friends. I get to try new food.



- Sierra

A challenge is deployment when your dad or mom leaves ship or a plane. Another challenge is when your dad or mom misses your birthday. Another challenge is when it's hard to say good-bye when PCSing. A positive is seeing different places. Another positive is having fun in different countries.



- Cayden

Being a military child is miss my friends, miss my grandparents. I miss my dad on the ship. It's hard to say good-bye to my friends. Trying new things like hats. Try new things to learn. It's hard to make new friends. Making new friends. It's hard!



- Nakoa

My name is Zoelle and I'm a military child and it is so special because when I was born I was already a military child. When I was a baby I was still a military child and I still am.



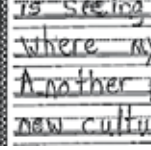
- Zoelle

Being a military child is hard but there's a lot of upsides. My dad Jacob teaches me a lot about the military and I like that. It's cool seeing all the new places. But it's really hard moving.



- Jeremy H.

Fun in different countries. Another positive is trying new things. Another positive is seeing the ship where my dad works. Another positive is learning new cultures.



I helped the crew set up for the holiday. It's hard to travel because plane tickets are expensive. But in Japan I have good friends. When my dad went on deployment I missed him very much.



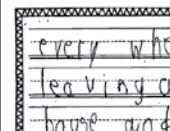
- Landon

Being a military kid is hard. I am strong and smart. I am brave at trying new things. Some times I miss my dad when in Japan. I can spend more time with my dad.



- Kia

every where. I also hate leaving at your families house and I also hate when my dad goes on deployment and I miss him a lot.



What it is like to be a military child is like difficult to move to a new place. It is so hard when dad's or mom's go away to serve the military for long long long long time. And it's also hard to leave my family and friends and my teachers.



- Athena

Hi I'm Luca I am a military kid. As a military kid sometimes you have to leave your dad or mom on the ship. Sometimes you are a military kid and get to go to different places like Disney land or Hello Kitty.



- Luca

If I am a military kid I will see different places and have fun in new countries. When you leave your friends and you will miss your friends and it's difficult to move.



- Elizabeth

What makes me feel so special about being a military child is that I get to see new places. A challenge about being a military child is that it's hard to say good-bye. Another challenge is my dad has to get deployed at sea. I get to go to Sea Paradise because it's only for military families.



- Arleigh Q.

A positive one is that I get to make new friends.

A positive one is that I get to make new friends.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

2nd grade




Do you know what it's like being a military child? A fun thing is we get to go to Mt. Fuji and we go to the ocean. A challenging thing is we have to be away from our family. Now you know about being a military child.

Zyana Ms. Forward
2nd grade

- Zyana

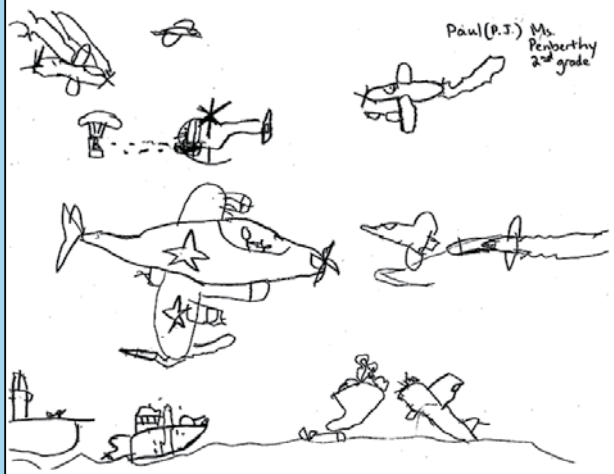
Do you know what it looks like being a military child? Military children go to Kanazawa Zoo because it is so MUCH FUN!!! Deployment is hard for me because my dad leaves for months!! I miss my dad so much!! Making new friends is fun because you can play with the new friends. Moving a lot is hard because I've been to Michigan, Japan, California and back to Japan. It was hard to leave my friends in those places. This is what it looks like to be a military child.

- Owen R.


This is what it's like being a military child is like for me. Being a military child is fun for me. I get to see the Tokyo Military Museum. I like going to Zooraisa. Being a military child is a challenge. They have dangerous jobs. When I move I will miss my friends. Now you know what being a military Child is like.

- Sirus C.

This is what it's like being a military child for me. Being a military child is fun. I got a tour of the base. Something fun is moving a lot and we get to find out about new places. My dad and grandfather have dangerous jobs. My grandfather was in World War 2 and he almost died because of friendly fire. I'm scared that might happen to my dad. I will be sad if my friends go away because I can't play with them anymore. That is what it's like being a military child.



- P. J.




#America

Santiago
Being a military child is challenging. Being away from family is challenging. Making new friends is challenging. Moving a lot is challenging because we have to pack our stuff. Visiting America is fun because I can visit my cousin. Now you know about being a military child.

Santiago
Mr. Hickman 2nd grade

- Santiago



David
Do you know what it is like being a military child? I go to Kanazawa Zoo. I always see black bears. Making new friends is challenging. I go to the pool on the base. It is fun. My Dad always goes on the ship so it is hard and it is challenging. Now you know about being a military child.

David Ms. St. Germain

- David




Hi Hello Kitty Land

Novel and Jamie
Being a military child is both challenging and fun. I get to go to Hello Kitty Land in Tokyo when I go on my trips. But when I go I can't go to the pool and the beach. I like to go to try to see Japan. Challenging because I have to go to a new place. I like to go to see the new things. Now you know what it's like being a military child.

Jamie Ms. Turner
2nd grade

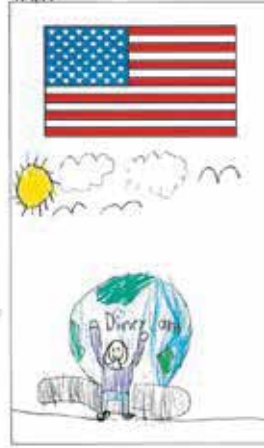
- Jamie



Lio
Do you know what it is like being a military child? I get to go to Mt. Fuji when I was little. I like to go to Kanazawa Zoo. You need to have a passport. Now you know about being a military child.

Lio Ms. Turner 2nd grade


- Lio



Being a military child is both challenging and fun. Last weekend I went to Disney. One of my challenges is making new friends. One fun thing to do in Japan is going to see Parvati sometimes. I have a challenge with being away from family. I miss my mom when she leaves. That is how it feels to be a military child.

Audree Ms. Turner
2nd grade

- Audree



Aiyana A. Ms. St. Germain - 2nd grade
Do you know what it is like being a military child? Let me tell you what being a military child is like. You can't see your family and friends for a long time. Also it's hard seeing new different things. But it's not if you can't make new friends. Being away from your family and friends is really hard for me. Now you know what it's like to be a military child.


- Aiyana A.



Kei
Do you know what it's like being a military child? My challenge is making new friends because when I get to a new school it was hard to make new friends. My fun things to do is go to the park, going to playgrounds, or to see a movie because my dad is in the military. I always have a lot of fun in America. Now you know what it's like being a military child.

Kei 2nd grade
Ms. Howard's class

- Kei



Aiyana
Being a military child is both challenging and fun. Moving a lot is challenging because first I was on Hawaii then Japan then America then Japan again. My dad goes on deployment and when he does I miss him. The beach is fun because me and my sister throw sand balls with mud.

- Aiyana P.



Kei
Being a military child is both challenging and fun. I get to go to the airport and go to see my dad. That is what it's like being a military child.

Kei 2nd grade
Ms. Howard's class



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

3rd grade, Dr. Bennett

Military kids are special because...

We get to travel a lot of places. We get to live on a military base. We get to make new friends every year. We get to go to school with a special teacher. We can live on base.

- Kaida Algea

Military kids are special because...

Mark Andaya
Dr. B. Bennett 3rd Grade

Military kids are special because their parents are in the military but it's your parents aren't in the military yet still a military kid because your parents are military.

- Mark Andaya

Military kids are special because...

My dad is a military kid in the world like my dad help blow up water but that was not in world war 2. All in I had to find away for all my friends for 3 years. We spend because I am a great helper and today I'm going to get together for the military ship or help repair them.

Oh no I had to help!

- Max Bernhard

Military kids are special because...

We can travel around the world. If your dad or mom is in the military like me my dad is in the navy. We travel to Guam, Philippines, Taiwan and Japan. My favorite was that I traveled to Japan.

- Rey Tao

Military kids are special because...

I get to travel to different countries. I am special because I live on base in Japan and my dad my best friend in the world. I am also special because my dad works on the Rock Johnson III.

- Christian Chapman

Military kids are special because...

I can go to places. I can go to tea to bed. I can do anything.

Military Kids!

- London Dickinson

Military kids are special because...

Military kids are special because they have to stay out and my grandpa when I travel with him and his wife. He we get to try all of our things. Also we get to go to school and we get to go to school.

- Alexander Conforte

Military kids are special because...

Military kids are special because I can fly around the world my first place in Japan is Yokohama. I love flying it's so much fun and all military kids are very special and I love being a military child.

- Jasmin Beatie

Military kids are special because...

I am special because I can travel to different countries and live in a new place and live in new communities.

- Samantha Mangubat

Military kids are special because...

I get to travel to different countries. I am special because I live on base in Japan and my dad my best friend in the world. I am also special because my dad works on the Rock Johnson III.

- John Gerfy

Military kids are special because...

I get to go to a lot of places with my family. I am special because I go to school in a big school. We military kids are special because we get to do things we want.

DISNEYLAND

- Lily Miwa

Military kids are special because...

They can travel around the earth with their family. And go to new places and live in new communities.

- Jaxson Hammer



Check out more military children stories at: militarychild.stripes.com

Military kids are special because...

My cousin had been to Japan but my grandpa had come to Japan too. I was like a kid like we go places for the summer vacation Sunday.

Haley Mot
Dr. B. Bennett 3rd Grade

- Haley Mot

Military kids are special because...

I get to travel to different countries. I am special because I live on base in Japan and my dad my best friend in the world. I am also special because my dad works on the Rock Johnson III.

- Zierre Jones

Military kids are special because...

I get to travel all over the world. I am special because I go to school in a big school. We military kids are special because we get to do things we want.

- Elizabeth Nguyen

Military kids are special because...

We military kids are special because they get to travel a lot of places. They get to go to school in a big school. We military kids are special because we get to do things we want.

- Emma Wilson

Military kids are special because...

I like to travel the world. What I love is to help my mom. Cause it makes me feel good. And I like to have different things. Every day.

- Wyatt Schmidt

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

5th grade, Mr. Gavilan



Life as a military is hard having to move lots and lots of places or your dad or mom having to go away for a long time. But there are more benefits to being a military child you can go to school for free you can live on a safe base with your friends you get to visit places you've never been get a house. You also get to have free healthcare even if you don't have money. Some of the emotions I feel often as a military child are feeling sad when my dad leaves but when he leaves I cheer myself up by playing video. Some of the places I have moved to as a military child are Guam Sasebo and Yokosuka. These are some of the things military kids feel.

- Bryant Bonadie

Being a Military child can be fun, and it can be hard at the same time. There are a lot of benefits that come from being in the military, but there are also detriments, or disadvantages, too.

The benefits include moving to a lot of different places. This helps you to become more open minded. Traveling also helps you be grateful for everything you have. Moving around helps you make a lot of friends all over the world. When you explore the world in new and cool ways, you see a side of the world you would have never noticed as you learn about different cultures and languages.

While being a military child has benefits, it also has some disadvantages. In fact, moving a lot is both a benefit and a detriment. You make friends, but you also have to leave your friends a lot. As soon as you get used to a school, sport teams, and neighborhood, you have to leave. You have to be flexible and move to places that you never wanted to even visit, let alone live.

So in conclusion being a military child has its ups and downs, but you can learn a lot from it. Growing up in the military is hard, but I think it will make me a better adult.

- Lachlan McIlvaine

It is hard being a military child. I used to be one but my dad retired. He was in the air force and he went on a lot of TDY. I, the oldest child, had to take care of my brother, sister, and our two dogs, who are very hard to take care of. I help my mom more often than when my dad is here. He always called him, but sometimes I went to bed early. And this one time he was almost gone for a year. Because he said he would be back in April first or second in 2022, but then the date changed and ended up on the 19th. So then my mom went to the airport but he wasn't there. And then he called and said it would be on the 29th. But my mom kept it a secret from me and my siblings. And on the day he came back my brother, sister, and I had to wait at my grandparents house because my mom said she was going to hang out with her friends when she only went to the airport to pick up our dad. But we didn't know. So when she went to our grandparents to pick us up we slept in the car and when we got home I was crying, because my dad came back home. I was so happy to see him after a long time. So being a military child is hard, but I know my dad is going to bed okay.

- Sakura Sarabia

Life as a military child is hard and fun at the same time. There are a bunch of benefits and difficulties of being a military child.

Some benefits of being a military child is that you can have a lot of friends. Even though you have to move, you can just create a group chat. Another benefit is that you can see your father succeed in the military and watch him climb up the ranks (more money). Another benefit is that you can be friends with the other people that your dad works with.

Some difficulties of being a military child is that you might get stressed about moving a lot, especially if something already happened while moving. Another one is that you might move into a school with mean teachers and bullies.

This is why being a military child is fun and hard at the same time.

- Jake Williamson

Traveling all the time, but for once staying. Living by the sea, many things to do. Life on Base is fun and new! All over you can see people, doing jobs, having fun. Many boats, full of sailors ready to sail. Schools full of students ready to learn. Everywhere you go, something new to see. Fun parks, full of birds and trees. One big ocean, lots to see. These are just some reasons. So come and see! Life on base, as good as can be.

- Clara Hansen

How do I feel, adjusting to change

New house, new people, new clothes to wear

How do I feel, when everyone's there

Do I wish I could go, do I wish I could stay

Do I wish I could see them, every other day

How do I feel, adjusting to change

- Kinsale Karaffa

People might think that being a military child is great and the perks of being a military child is amazing. Others might not feel the same way of being a military child. Constantly moving from different places, not being able to see one of your parents as often when deployed, many other things that can affect you. I am a military child and honestly, it's a really amazing experience. However, sometimes, and not all the time, it doesn't feel pleasant to me.

One of these experiences as a military child was seeing a parent go on deployment. It was 2019 when my father was deployed to Bahrain for a whole year. Seeing him go was very sad for me, but I knew that there wasn't anything changing that. After the year he was gone, when he came back I was overjoyed. It had been a whole year and I had felt so happy he came back. That was just one of my experiences.

It was in 2020 when we moved from California to Japan. I had to leave all my friends behind and all the memories I made there growing up. I even had to leave behind my pet turtle, Owen. I was pretty sad moving away. That's one thing that I don't like about being a military child.

Those are my experiences as a military child. This is how I feel and express being a military child.

- Samuel Luge

I meet friends all around the world I open my heart out to them But it shatters when we have to leave Italy, Japan, and Germany are the places I have been 3 years in Japan, 4 years in Germany, and 2 years in Italy The words "Where are you from?" are hard to answer

Daddy leaves so often There are days where I think about him for hours and hours endlessly I have a good home, good education, good everything Most of the time, I feel sad and solemn But sometimes, I think about how proud I am to be a military child

So much adjustments At this point I'm about fluent in them Have to get used to different customs

However, being a military child is not as sad as it seems We eat out at restaurants a lot Going to Disneyland I hold a special memory for each base I visit Yokosuka, Sasebo Naples, Grafenwöhr

When the carrier comes back, I see everyone with their parents A line of army men with camo clothes and a huge backpack I always wait until it's finally Daddy's turn I run over and give a big hug

So much obstacles I face It's not only me, but thousands Its for the sake of my country I'm proud that my Daddy protects the nation

- Anton Hopkins

The military flower is a dandelion Dandelions fly go and grow in every place just like a Military children! I've been across Japan and America And I come and go The sad part is I have to say bye to everyone I know I been to California and Virginia and Sasebo and Yokosuka to But I never want to move but that will be impossible to Do! I've been in Yokosuka for 1 year now And I have new friends I really care about! That is how my life is going so far As a Military kid

- Brianna Tilden

For me life as a Military is kind of sad because sometimes my step-dad is not home and that makes it harder for my mom who is doing college with three children and all of us want a different thing and it's hard to comprehend that. Now there are some ups and downs but here's some up's when my step-dad is home. He helps a lot by blocking the office from the kids and taking us outside and even trying to cook dinner but failing so normally I have to cook. I have emotional siblings when he is gone though, so that reduces my mom's work time and makes her behind and when that happens she has to try harder which makes her tired and that reduces work ethic and that reduces the chances of passing college.

- Aiden Flora

Change in Mind Haiku set by Maria Baxter Mr. Gavilan 5th The Sullivan's School

Last year this same thing Perspectives will always change Now I know that change

Last year's perspective Without swim, not knowing it Moving, now grateful

More friends, now knowing Sadness yet some excitement Perspective will change

- Maria Baxter

My dad went on a trip to America for one year for the military. We facetime or call each other a lot of times but it has been very lonely and empty. Though, I do have my brothers so it was not as lonely. We mostly only called each other on the weekends since I have school. My dad does a lot of stuff to make me happy though. We facetime on Line so there are filters and I love using them since some are funny. One time, we facetimed my dad and he had a mustache! It looked very weird but it was also very funny to see. My dad said he only did it to make my mom kind of mad because my mom didn't like my dad having a mustache. My dad shaved his mustache right after the call so he didn't come home with it. I wonder if he always had a mustache and shaved it, I wonder if my mom would hate it or like it. I would still think it is weird but also funny. My dad would always tuck me in and sometimes let me watch shows and stay up a little but when my dad left it was very different than my mom tucking me in. Although, we never finished watching any of the shows we watched. My dad would also always find a way to make me laugh even if he's not here.

- Lilica Oglesby

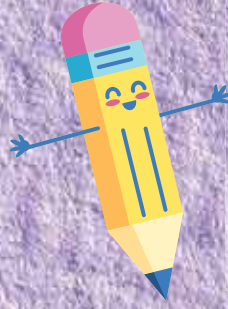
As a military child it has been hard for me. A lot of my friends have been moving and I have struggled and stressed because of that. My dad is always gone so my mom usually supports me. I always miss him and my friends but I always find a way to fight through. What makes me the happiest are my siblings Justin and Shiloh. They are the greatest people in the world. But living on base and being a military child can be good too. You get to have many friends and meet some new kids. The houses are not bad here and there are many public parks that are pretty fun! But I am grateful for the life I have and all the people who support me. Thank you!

- Hayden Kuntzleman

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY

Iwakuni Intermediate School

4th grade • Ms. Shimakura



Resilience

To be a military child is part of being resilient. Resiliency is kind of sad and not.

For example, if you are a military child, you have experienced moving. I am a military child and I had to move away from home. I miss my old friends and my daycare. I have new ones here but won't replace my old friends. I felt scared that no one would like me in the place I was moving to.

If you ever have to go through this, I have some advice for you. First, buy or get something for your friend they can treasure/keep as a memory of you, like matching necklaces or friendship bracelets. Second, take photos/selfies so you can always see them. Third, get/have them on any social media you have. Finally, take deep breaths if you are scared and think about things that make you happy.

In conclusion, you know how it feels to be a military child.

- Rikyla



Resilience

What does resilient mean to me? It means that you're strong and you're brave. If someone calls you resilient it is a compliment. Being resilient can be hard.

One time I had to be resilient was when I moved to Japan. When I moved to Japan it was hard for me to go to a new school and make new friends. It was also hard to settle into a new school with new teachers. Another example is when my parents have to leave and I can't see them.

My advice to my friend when they have to move is to make traveling fun and enjoy the plane ride. Also, to make new friends I would be nice and ask to be their friend or to have a playdate. If they have a parent leaving my advice would be to spend time with them and do things their parent likes to do, like going to the movies.

In conclusion, I think all the military kids are resilient. That means they are strong and brave.

- Maliyah



Resilience:

This is what happened when I had to face resilience. One time I had a dog named Kisa. She was a gentle dog and didn't do much. One day she passed away of old age. My mom and dad were sad. Then we got 2 gerbils named Olaf and Max. Olaf was a little scared but he wasn't as scared as Max. When I moved to Japan me and my family weren't able to bring them with us and had to leave them with someone else instead.

Here is some advice for you about resilience, first is if you are moving away from your friends don't be sad. Always be happy, and brave, always know that you could meet new friends. When you lose something that you really loved you can get a new one, but if it's a person or pet that's not replaceable. Just always have faith in yourself, and never give up.

- Mikah



RESILIENCE

This is what you go through as a military child and some advice for it. This is what happened to me when I moved from place to place. The place I moved to is amazing but moving there was sad at the same time.

When I moved to Japan from North Carolina I was very sad and wanted to go back to North Carolina because I loved it there. After being in Japan for 1 month I stopped being sad though, because I realized all the pros that Japan had to offer me. I still was sad sometimes though but I pushed through and adapted to Japan. My friends helped me make it through all the sadness and helped me out.

My advice for military children is that you should realize all the pros places you go. When you go to new places, you make new friends there and you can still keep in contact with old friends through the cellphone and on online games.

I think it's best to keep all your friends because you never know, you might see them in the future and you'll already know what happened in the time you haven't seen each other from the contact you guys have been getting. Always remember the best of the people you have met, because those people might be the best you get so always have a memory of them.

The reason all this happens is to help the state or city that you're in, remember to always remember the pros inside the place you're at. Remember it's ok to be sad or cry.

- Nathan

Resilience

This is how I felt as a resilient military child. Being resilient was sometimes sad and fun. Here are some examples. When I was little I had to move to America and leave all my friends behind. After 2 years in America I had to move again and leave my friends again.

If you have to move one day and leave your friends here is some advice. Be brave, don't be sad and think this is just part of your life. But here are some good things about being a resilient military child, you get to go places your friends might not be able to go. Since you're moving you get to also learn a new language. Also you get to eat new food and go to new schools and make new friends.

Conclusion, it might be hard being a resilient military child but just be brave.

- Ruito



Resilience

If you're a military child, you should be resilient. If you're not resilient, you probably won't feel like you fit into a new place.

For example, when I moved from California to Japan, I had to leave my friends. But since I was resilient, I was able to make new friends and some I was even more close to them than my old ones. I was really glad that my family had to leave my old friends. I was surprised by myself because when I first moved I didn't think I would like it as much as I liked California.

If you have to move away from somewhere and have trouble making new friends at new places, my advice is to try to get to know people. You can ask them questions or ask if you play with that person. You can also try to spend some time with them to get to know their personality.

So if you move away from your home and friends and you want to make new friends, just try to get to know other people.

- Zoey



Being a Military Child

Being a military child is sometimes is sad because you have to move. I lost a best friend because of moving when I moved from Japan. When I was couple of years old, I had to move because my dad was in the military. I had to move to California. Then after almost a year I had to move back to Japan again. It was easy to make friends again because military is here so there were a lot of the same kids like me. Right now, he's a civilian and we will still have to move because of his company.

My advice to kids who have to move a lot is if you are not shy you can make friends easy because you will move to military bases.

- Luke



Resilience

To be a military child you have to be resilient, make new friends and move to a bunch of different places! Don't worry though it may be sad moving from a place you love.

I had to go through that a bunch of times like the time I had to move from Florida to here, Japan. I remember crying so much when I had to leave Florida because I had so many friends there and I knew I was going to miss them, but I also knew I was always going to be their friend.

When I got to Japan I thought it was amazing and it is! I have had a lot of adventures and maybe when you move you will find something you're interested in! Like before I moved to Japan I didn't like clams but now I absolutely love them! That is because I tried something new!

Conclusion, don't be afraid and have some resilience! I bet you are going to have the best time moving to somewhere new! I hope you have a nice day and have fun moving.

- Sailey



When I got to Japan I was gone for a long time and to resilience, I made friends and learned how to be ok with it.



Resilience is when you go through going wrong, but you can overcome it. You can sometimes do something new things, like try to not be afraid. You might be in a new place and you might not know anyone, but you can make new friends. Being resilient is when you move to another place and having a bad life but you can overcome it. When I first came here I had to try to be resilient. I also had to try foods that look kind of different. People can discover being resilient in different ways. When I was resilient I was able to do a lot of stuff before having the chance to move. In conclusion, it is brave to be resilient.



Being resilient is when you realize you have to move. Here is some advice for you. When you move you have to leave your friends behind. You can find a friend in a new place. I am a military child and my dad is in the military. He is always by your side Bounce back and find your own way. You are alone, meet the guidance counselor that you are a military child. Now you know that being a military child is special in many ways. So use resilience to be a resilient military child.

- Elana

MILITARY CHILD School


Resilient

To be a good military child you have to be resilient to do that you have to be brave. Here are things you will come across being a military child: you could have friends moving but it's sad and all of the memories might be forgotten but the good part about this means you can make new friends from the other military kids. That thing is sad, moments these are also sad moments also to be brave is to be brave when your friends leave or when you're leaving your friends when you leave. These are the things you might encounter being a military child.

Firstly, since you're a military child this is why you have to be brave and resilient, why you have to be brave and resilient is when you leave your family to go to another country that's the time you have to be brave and this also a time where you would probably be resilient also when you leave your friends.

Second and also my advice would be when you are leaving your friends and family, always be brave and also sometimes you do not have to be brave you can cry and miss your family or friends so my advice would be to be brave and sometimes you don't have to.

Lastly, my example of being Resilient is when I was in Washington I had to leave my friends and I had to bounce back from that so this is my example of me being Resilient. Conclusion, this is what being resilient is when you are a military child.



- Hezekiah



Resilience


Being resilient is something that many military children need. Resilience is the ability to bounce back even when you need to take a break from it. For example, you move to a new place and leave most of your friends. What do you feel? I can relate to this because this happened to me a few years ago. Today, I will talk about resilience and a story I have from leaving my home, Virginia Beach, to Japan. The changes I had and what I felt.

First I will talk about traveling to where we were going to stay for a while until our apartment was ready. In the morning of what I believe was January, me and my family got our stuff and went to the airport. This airport was not new though, this airport is where I had gone to visit my grandparents about a year or two ago and where my family comes to visit. So the customs and security was not new. About 5-6 long hours later we stopped at my grandparents house after they picked us up. They give very good hugs that make me so happy. We went to our room. Fast forward to the last day at the dinner table. I remember my uncle saying "I can't believe that you are leaving tomorrow."

The next day in the early morning I think it was 5 A.M, I was sad. When we got to the airport we said our goodbyes. This was mental torture to me and my family. Though, the parents had to stay strong for their children. After all of that drama we had boarded the plane. This plane was, I think, about 1 hour long. After that we had about a 2 hour layover that we used to get our stuff and eat. We would have a 10 hour flight ahead of us. The flight was very long but smooth. I saw so many mountains and I thought they were cool. After we landed and got everything sorted out, we got on the bus and then went to our apartment. That is where our new house was. I was nice and clean, had food for quarantine, and we got nice, comfy beds. We then went to bed early since we had traveled all day and I fell asleep instantly. After 2 weeks we were able to go around base and we walked across the bridge to get our stuff until we got a car. And after about 8 months we had gotten everything that we had. Not everything was bad in Japan. I tried so many new foods, they had really good mochi, sushi is affordable unlike the state's sushi place called Trappers.

Now, I will give you some advice for if you are going to experience the same thing I did. One thing I will tell you is that you are not alone. Many military children go through the process of moving and leaving their loved ones. The second piece of advice to know when it comes to being a military child is that you are like family. When it comes to being a military child, you can understand other military children and share each other's experience and what they feel. The third piece of advice that you might need is that you can do many new things that others may not be able to do. For example, eat new foods that are not in the original country or state you were in. Or, make new friends, and learn another language.

I hope that this advice can help you with the things that you may be going through and that you can relate my story with one of yours. Although some things are hard, they can get better or you can recover from things. You are brave, strong, resilient, and perfect the way you are. Did you know that the military child flower is the dandelion?




- Nichole

Resilience

Resilience is an important thing to have as a military child. We have to move a lot and start all over again.

Like when I had to move away from California, on the outside, I looked fine, on the inside, I was really nervous. It was not a good feeling when I had to leave and start over again.

When I had to experience my dad being deployed and had to make new friends. And thanks to my new best friend named Logan. I also had to experience with my dad being gone for a looong time.



- Sammy




Resilience

As a military child I saw it tough like when I moved to Japan. I was nervous, afraid because I did not speak their language so I felt like they were talking behind my back, but I had a special person to help me understand and also even though I don't know what they're saying I know some stuff to help me understand, but I was still afraid for some reason.

For example: You were moving to a new unknown place and had not seen this place. You look around in fear, but don't worry. People in your new area are kind, honest, helpful, and thoughtful. And you may see a new teacher and that person will help you. Also try to learn their language like Japanese, Spanish, or something else, try to learn their culture too. And eventually you will speak with kids that are speaking their language.

My advice? Look around and try new things, like those matcha pasta ice cream. And some workers speak English, plus there are exciting parks. You might make some friends there too. And some food in your new place might look disgusting but they are secretly delicious.

So now you know, you must try new things or you'll never find out what it is like and you'll make new friends and most importantly do not be afraid of what is ahead because you're strong, kind, helpful, and never be afraid because people know how you feel and are by your side with other people who felt the same way.



- Olivia


Resilience

To be a military child it means to be the child of a military officer. To be a military child you have to be resilient. If you are resilient you can bounce back in tough situations. Like if you don't want to move or do something but you have to.

Times I had to be resilient were when I didn't want to move. I didn't want to leave my friends but instead of crying I knew I would make new friends in Japan. When I got to Japan I didn't really like how humid it was but I had to be resilient and soon I adapted to the humidity. Another time I had to be resilient was when I didn't want to go to Hiroshima because that place is often boring because all I could do was watch the ocean. It was so boring but I decided to be resilient because I didn't want to ruin the fun time everyone else was having.

This is some advice if you want to be resilient you will have to practice hiding your boredom or anger. This is good to practice so you won't get angry or bored as easily and if you can do that then everyone else will have a better time. Some more advice is that once you can keep in your boredom and anger then you can also have a better time. Some better advice is to just have a good time and be resilient then you will have true fun.

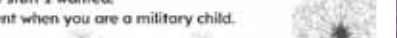
In conclusion, if you can be resilient then you will be able to have fun and be more fun around people.



- Caden

Resilience

Resilience - Ability to bounce back. Resilience means to bounce back when something is bad. Being resilient is sometimes good to have. You can try new foods when you come to Japan and try to get new friends and knowing their names. Be resilient, try to have a good life. You also experience this when you are going to a new place. For example, when you go to a new place you might find bullies in the same school on the first day when I came to school there were a lot of people who were bullies. Resilient can have some hurtful feelings like moving and not worrying because we can explore new things and do a lot of things just to be their friend. Resilient can be helpful in different ways like doing a lot of things in your new area. It is having a really bad life in my time. I always had a lot of stuff I wanted. Resilient when you are a military child.



- Vinny




Resilient

To be a military child you have to have resiliency. An example of this is when your friends move or you move it is sad because you will never see them again but you have to be resilient.

Some advice is to have a memory box of stuff you want to remember like you could take pictures of the stuff you will want to remember. You also can have something that will help you remember stuff from where you used to live.

An example of this is when your friends move or you move it is sad because you will never see them again but you have to be resilient. Some advice is to have a memory box of stuff you want to remember like you could take pictures of the stuff you will want to remember. You also can have something that will help you remember stuff from where you used to live.

In conclusion to be a military child you have to be resilient.



- Deuce



Resilience

Being resilient is a bad and a good thing. Why? Because resilient means to bounce back. You think there is nothing about that. But there is way more.

As a military child when you move then many things happen. But the worst is this: losing all your friends. But then you may get to see family and siblings. That is why it feels like everything has been reset, taken away, but old things come back. As you move to your new area you will be able to make new friends once you get there.

Still don't get it? Then let me say it this way, you've created a neat drawing. Then it gets wet, you have to start over again because the drawing got messed up. Or don't. This can happen to some military children. They get their friends taken away. But they don't want to make any more friends because they are sad. But don't not fear this sad time, as there are more friends along the way.

So in conclusion being a military child is good and bad. You lose friends but meet family members. Always be brave and stay happy, and push through. You should ALWAYS be ready for what to come as a military child.



- Andres

- Kindful
- Inventive
- Lucky
- Inventive
- Thoughtful
- Authentic
- Relaxed
- Long-at-heart
- Creative
- Happy
- Insightful
- Lucky
- Dynamic

- Nydia




Resiliency

Being a military child is hard. Especially having resilience. One example is that when you move to a new place and move away from your friends and have to get new ones, you need to have confidence and resilience.

Another example is when I moved away from Texas. I had to move away from my family and go to California. I made a lot of friends there and explored new things.

Some advice would be to always keep our head up because you never know where you are going to end up because if it is here in Japan where I am there is so much to do. One thing is go see Mt. Fuji and try Japanese food but it is my personal favorite theme parks. But there is still much more you can do. It is not like America. The language is different, and people are really nice here.

Now this is why a military child needs to have resilience and bravery and keep our heads up so we can do better and keep going and don't cry.



- Daniel

Resilient

Being a military child is amazing. So I am going to tell you why it is so good to be one. I am also going to tell you how to be resilient when you are a military child.

Here is an example of being a resilient military child. When you move to a new place like Japan, you are sad because you have to leave all your friends and family behind. Bounce back, and don't be with you to support you when you need it. Use your resilience and find a new way to solve the problem and bounce back.

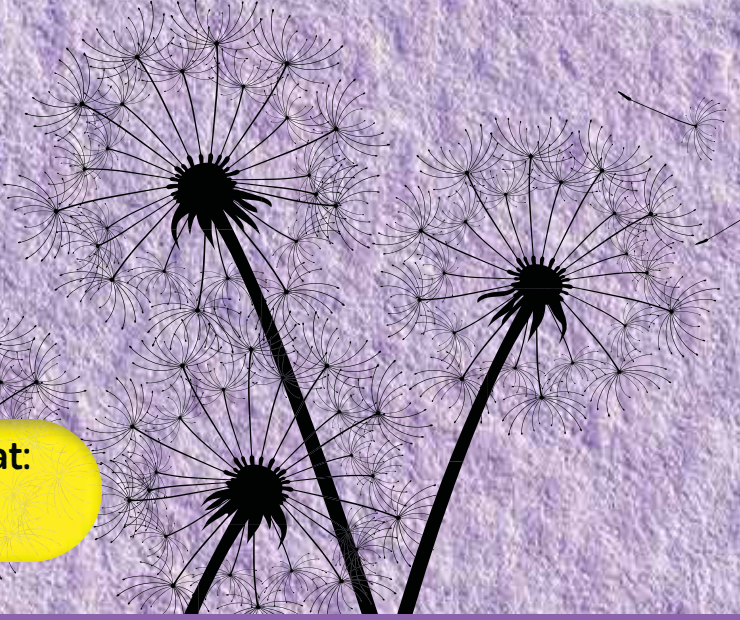
Here is some advice about being a resilient military child. First, when you move and you have no friends to help you. Second, when your parents are deployed and you are sad, tell them how you feel. Finally, be grateful for the experience.

Being a military child is awesome and fun. Just remember that you have more experience than a regular child because you are resilient and bounce back. Have fun being an awesome military child.



- Reese

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militarychild.stripes.com



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

4th grade • Mr. Anderson

Love

I am the one who sees my mom's big, sweet smile when I wake up in the morning as I am coming down the stairs in my home on the east side of Yokota Air Base.

I am the one who hears my mom's beautiful voice speaking during a pasta lunch we share on the weekend. Usually, she is asking me about school, and what I am learning at school, all while in my home on the east side of Yokota Base.

I am the one who feels my mom's hugs as she wraps her arms around me. They are warm and soft like my white furry jacket. I like the hugs I get from her after I do my chores, like emptying the dishwasher and taking out the trash. These hugs make me happy and feel proud while in our home on the east side of Yokota Air Base.

I am the one who tastes the food my mom gives me. Banana bread, warm, and sweet, not too moist, not too dry, just right, fresh out of the oven is one of my favorites, in our home on the east side of Yokota Air Base.

I am the one who smells the fresh pink Sakura flowers my mom gives me on special occasions in our home on the east side of Yokota Air Base.

I am the one who hopes my mom will always be there for me, not just in our home on the east side of Yokota Air Base, but wherever we live, around the world!

Who am I?

- Isabella Beatty

Me as a Mayor

I am the one who sees endermen teleporting. Do not stare at them for too long or they will chase you, and you do not even want to know what will happen if they catch you!

I am the one who hears creepers exploding in the distance.

I am the one who feels the rain as it plops to the ground; and ironically, outside it is actually raining.

I am the one who tastes baked potatoes, fresh from the furnace.

I am the one who smells the scent of flowers racing with the wind to my nose.

I am the one who hopes the creepers do not explode my builds which take hours to finish, because every time I come across a new village I start by making walls, and save space for my house, and work to save the villagers. I am now up to ten towns, and ten homes. In each village, I am like a mayor, overseeing and protecting, in Minecraft.

Who am I?

- Makiah Holden

Indy

I am the one who sees my dog Indy lying on the couch.

I am the one who hears my dog Indy barking at the door.

I am the one who feels my dog Indy's silky golden fur on the palm of my hand.

I am the one who tastes my dog Indy's fur when I pet her.

I am the one who smells my dog Indy's terrible fishy breath.

I am the one who hopes my dog Indy will be safe when we move in June.

Who am I?

- Ellie Lawson



Ang Buhay Ko Sa Pilipinas

I am the one who sees the kind, wrinkled face of my dad's mom, my grandmother, Nanay Jo, in the Philippines.

I am the one who hears the creaky sounds as I'm going up and down the stairs of Nanay Jo's house, in the Philippines.

I am the one who touches the rails as I go up and down the stairs, in the Philippines.

I am the one who tastes sinigang with spinach, potatoes, carrots and meat which I think is beef, hot with the first sip. Also, I taste tocino, a type of pork with a nice flavor and chewy sometimes, in the Philippines.

I am the one who smells the cold air at night under the bug nets while sleeping, in the Philippines.

I am the one who hopes to return to my grandmother's house again, in the Philippines.

Who am I?

- Eli Napa

Deep in Thought

I am the one who sees little yellow people, moving and playing in my room.

I am the one who hears little people talking, in my mind, as I make up stories about them in my room.

I am the one who feels my hands touching smooth, colorful, round little heads as I hold them in my room.

I am the one who tastes my little pinky finger deep in thought as I think about where my characters are going to move and what they are going to do, sometimes in a city, sometimes Harry Potter, sometimes Spiderman, and sometimes Star Wars. I love them all!

I am the one who hopes to have an amazing LEGO adventure!

Who am I?

- Matthias Goodwin

"Monke"

I am the one who sees all the lava "monkes" chasing me through canyons.

I am the one who hears the Minigames Kid asking to play minigames, annoying everyone in City.

I am the one who feels the branches that I'm bouncing on, one by one.

I am the one who tastes the fresh air while I'm wall running, then branching.

I am the one who smells the sweat dripping from my forehead to the cushioning around my eyes, while I am running fast, super-fast, which I can do by flicking my wrists with VR controllers in between my legs.

I am the one who hopes everyone tries the free virtual reality game, Gorilla Tag, because the game is good for all people ages 5 and above (or aliens).

Who am I?

- Oliver Sharp

Remembering Grandma

I am the one who sees the delicious food we are about to eat for dinner at my grandparent's house in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I am the one who hears my Papa, my Grandma, my Dad, my Mom, my older Brother, and my younger Sister all talking over each other, while I am crunching on lumpia in my grandparent's house in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I am the one who feels the smooth wooden kitchen floor, which massages my feet in my grandparent's house in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I am the one who tastes the delicious pancit my grandma has made. The noodles are very thin with cooked carrots and pork. My grandma makes the best pancit in the whole world to include Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I am the one who smells the room fresheners that smell like apple cinnamon. So good, I can almost eat them, in my grandparent's house in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

I am the one who wishes my grandmother was still alive, and my Papa wasn't alone, and I could visit them both again, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Who am I?

- Bennington Herrin

Fun Day

I am the one who sees the hair swaying side to side while playing with my BFFs in the park. The park does not actually have a name. We, my friends and I, just call the park "the red park" because there is a lot of red on the playground equipment.

I am the one who hears the laughing sounds my BFFs and I make all day long because one of us either says something funny or we are trying to get away from each other while exhausted after running all day long while playing tag in the red park.

I am the one who feels the sweat slipping off my face as I am feeling the cool air rushing around my face, while I am playing tag in the red park.

I am the one who tastes the drops of water hydrating me as I sip water from my purple water bottle, after playing with my BFFs in the red park.

I am the one who smells the stinky odor coming off me, and my BFFs, after playing in the red park.

I am the one who hopes to play again, tomorrow, with my BFFs; however, next time, we might go to a different park that my BFFs and I call the school bus park.

Who am I?

- Katelyn Quinn

Final Showdown

I am the one who sees the orange ball bouncing up and down while thinking how to steal it because that is what you should do to score points and help a team to win, in the Samurai Gym.

I am the one who hears my coach screaming different plays just to score from an inbound pass. His commanding voice drowns out the screaming fans, helping me focus, in the Samurai Gym.

I am the one who feels the curves and dents of the ball on my fingertips while dribbling and catching and passing, but not when shooting. You're not really thinking about how the ball feels in the moment or you might get blocked in the Samurai Gym.

I am the one who smells the stink on the hard-working players as they sweat, up and down the court, in the Samurai Gym.

I am the one who tastes the sweat dripping down my face while my mouth is open from panting on the bench after playing an entire first and second quarter. I don't want to be on the bench. I want to be in the game. I want as much playing time as possible, in the Samurai Gym.

I am the one who hopes that my team will win the championship, in the Samurai Gym.

Who am I?

- Noah Hocker

Pulchritudinous Peacefulness

I am the one who sees the beautiful streams, rivers, lakes, trees, animals, and mountains while camping in Japan.

I am the one who hears a huge flock of crows cawing their pulchritudinous sounds while camping in Japan.

I am the one who feels the nice breeze brushing my face like a gentle stream when I am in a natural pool of water while camping in Japan.

I am the one who tastes scrumptious warm, spicy, sweet curry made by my mom while camping in Japan.

I am the one who smells the peace and quiet which is why I love camping in Japan.

I am the one who hopes to go camping with my family again and again and again, not just in Japan, but in other countries, too.

Who am I?

- Kaila Howard

I am the one who...

I am the one who see trees. I see other beauties, others can't see.

I am the one who hears a wonder. A wonder of noises playing together joyfully.

I am the one who feels a breeze. This is a breeze of peace.

I am the one who tastes a taste others will not experience. What a wonder of taste!

I am the one who smells the smells of nature, fresh like a lake.

I am the one hopes for pollution to end. So please help mother nature!

Who am I?

- Heidi Behringer

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The Injury

I am the one who sees the mass of bricks I use to animate, in our living room.
 I am the one who hears my dad's yelps of pain as he steps on the plastic pine tree, in our living room.
 I am the one who feels the laughter erupting from my chest as my dad hops around on one foot in our living room.
 I am the one who tastes the shaggy tan carpet as I roll around the floor laughing, in our living room.
 I am the one who touches the bricks and mini figures, moving them so I can animate them, in our living room.
 I am the one who smells the delicious food mom is making as dad nurses his foot, in our living room.
 I am the one who hopes that my stop motion animation techniques will continue to improve; and of course, to not see my dad step on any more of my Lego pieces, despite how funny it might be, in our living room.



Who am I?
 - James Thrower

The Connection

I am the one who smells the burning of the dirt as the heat rises off the ground in the batter's box, though you can really feel it anywhere on the diamond during practice, on Taichi Field, Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who sees the spin of the red and white ball, moving toward home plate while I wait for the right moment to swing, at baseball practice, on Taichi Field, Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who hears the bark of the aluminum bat as the ball makes contact and rips through the air between first and second base, getting a double at baseball practice on Taichi Field, Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who tastes the sweet taste of victory, because normally only our most accomplished hitter can get a hit off of Cline, the best pitcher on our team, on Taichi Field, Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who hopes I can connect again, though I'd rather it be a home run, and not just in practice, but in a real game!

Who am I?
 - Henry Cline

Pure Gold

I am the one who sees the two trees on the left and right side. There's a house right in front of us; however, there's a road right in front of us too that blocks us from the house. I don't know whose house that is; however, mom knows whose house that is.
 I am the one who hears my mom talking to my grandma. I don't know what they're talking about. I know the language but they talk too fast, so it is a mystery to me.
 I am the one who touches the brown metal gate as I open it for my mom so she can walk to the store PureGold. I usually go with her. PureGold is like Walmart but PureGold smells better.
 I am the one who tastes my grandma's cooking. On special occasions she makes pancit, and lumpia too.
 I am the one who hopes to relive these memories again, in Manila, Philippines.

Who am I?
 - Min Sparkman

Waves Crashing

I am the one who sees the ocean waves crashing into me and my twelve year-old brother at Chaweng Beach, Ko Samui, Thailand.
 I am the one who hears my mom telling me to be careful in the waves. She doesn't tell this to my older brother. He can handle the strong tide. She only speaks to me, so I move closer to the shore; but it is okay, because I can still find seashells at Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui, Thailand.
 I am the one who feels wet and dry sand on my fingertips. The wet sand feels moist and cool. The dry sand feels bumpy, and rough, but my mom and I need both kinds to make our sandcastle on Chaweng Beach, Ko Samui, Thailand.
 I am the one who tastes the delicious white, milky treat every time a lady stops by with her cart selling coconuts at Chaweng Beach, Ko Samui, Thailand.
 I am the one who smells fish in the ocean water. The smell is NOT good, but my brother caught a fish in his net. Then I made a bucket home with sand on the bottom and filled it with ocean water and added in some seaweed. The fish had a new home for about fifteen minutes, before I let him go back to his bigger ocean home, at Chaweng Beach, Ko Samui, Thailand.
 I am the one who hopes to return to Chaweng Beach, Ko Samui, Thailand only next time my mom lets me go further out from the shore.

Who am I?
 - Olivia Clark

Strokes of Grace

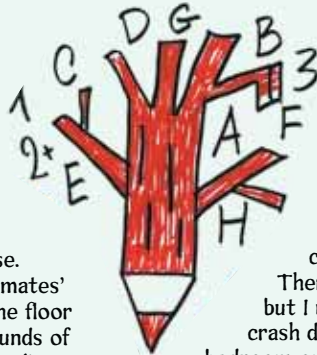
I am the one who sees my ballet teacher, Ms. Chinatsu, moving her arms and feet, slow and soft, moving them from one position to another, in the Natatorium on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who hears my classmates' feet, and my feet, touching the floor with our ballet shoes. The sounds of feet in the shoes change depending on the moves the class repeats, from Ms. Chinatsu. Sometimes we drag softly, and usually we tap gracefully, in the Natatorium on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who feels my leg muscles being stretched in many different positions, at different times. While I'm doing the stretches, it feels as though nothing is happening; however, when I am done, I can feel the difference at home, and at the Natatorium on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who tastes the cold, but refreshing water from the water fountain when the class is having a water break. When I first started ballet, I brought my own water bottle; however, I made a decision to just drink from the class water fountain. The water tastes just the same, and no water bottle is just one less thing to remember to bring into the Natatorium, on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who smells the fresh air outside, coming through the open class door. The heaters are overpowered in the winter, and the temperature outside is cold from the winter, so Ms. Chinatsu opens the door for a balance of hot and cold air, in the Natatorium on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who hopes that I will be great in my recital, Sleeping Beauty, in April. The recital will be at the Taiyo Center though, not in the Natatorium, on Yokota Air Base.

Who am I?
 - Jessie Danniels

Family Forever!

I am the one who sees my two sisters Nubia and Naiorbe coming to our front door. I can't actually see them, but I can see their shadows at the door. Naiorbe gets there first, and I know they want to come inside and give me a big hug, which always makes me smile.
 I am the one who hears Mickey Mouse on our TV while I am making snacks for Nubia and Naiorbe after school.
 I am the one who smells the Jamaican jerk wings my mom is cooking on the stove in the evening. I can't wait to eat them. I wish I could eat them every day!
 I am the one who tastes the Jamaican culture in the warm spicy, chewy, chicken wings with a bit of Sriracha sauce, at the dinner table, with my family. Everyone except my dad. He is sleeping because he has the night shift.
 I am the one who touches the warm purple comforter I pull around me while my head rests on the matching purple pillow in my bunk bed. I sleep on the top bunk. Noni, my other sister, sleeps on the bottom. Knowing she is sleeping below me makes me feel safe, but sometimes a little annoyed because when she moves, she makes the whole bed wobble.
 I am the one who feels loved every day by my big family!
 I am the one who hopes or wishes these family memories would happen every day; except, I would want my dad at the dinner table and not on night shift!

Who am I?
 - Naima Bowers



The Victory Royale

I am the one who sees my hands pressing the black buttons, controlling the characters on the screen.
 There are over 2,000 skins, but I usually just use the crash dummy skin, inside of my bedroom on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who hears the buttons that I am pressing, "click", "clack", "cluek!" One of my buttons make a deeper noise and the word cluek is the best way to describe the sound, inside of my bedroom on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who feels the vibrations which make the game play feel alive. Plus, when I am playing with my friends, it makes me feel like my friends are actually next to me, playing with me in person, instead of online, inside of my bedroom on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who tastes the salty tortilla chips, mmmmmmm, nice and crunchy. Sometimes I grab a bite to eat and my friends take over my game so I don't get eliminated, inside of my bedroom on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who smells my mom cooking dinner. I don't have a favorite dish because they are all so good, and when I hear that dinner is done, I instantly abandon my video game and just rush to eat, from my bedroom on Yokota Air Base.
 I am the one who hopes that I can find more friends to play video games with online, using my headset to talk with them while inside of my bedroom, on Yokota Air Base.

Who am I?
 - Max French

My Happiness on the Field

I am the one who sees the soccer ball going into the net to score a goal.
 I am the one who hears the people in the bleachers on the sidelines helping.
 I am the one who feels the soccer ball force off my feet after a kick.
 I am the one who tastes the air while running towards the other team's goal.
 I am the one who smells the wet grass after the morning dew on the soccer field.
 I am the one who hopes that I get better at soccer.

Who am I?
 - Mahalia Powell

England is a Cup of Tea

I am the one who sees castles, strong and gray, sitting on hills like soldiers, in England.
 I am the one who hears the pitter-patter of rain mixed in with the light chirping of robins playing, usually these sounds are soft and calm, in England.
 I am the one who touches the fresh lemons. Their skin is rough and smooth at the same time. I would pick them, fresh from a tree, in Ickworth, near Bury St. Edmunds, in England.
 I am the one who smells honeysuckle flowers on a gate, in England.
 I am the one who tastes the delicious spaghetti my mom would make for me. The sauce would get stuck on my face, in England.
 I am the one who hopes to get to see old friends again, so they can see how much I have grown, and perhaps one day, raise a family of my own, in England.

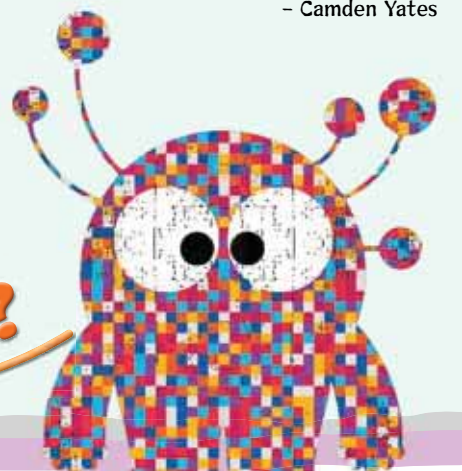
Who am I?
 - Hope Woodard

Jumping, Wrestling, and Laughing

I am the one who sees my friends as we run to go wrestle, or jump and think about what we will play, on the trampoline.
 I am the one who hears screaming, yelling, and laughing as we run to the trampoline.
 I am the one who feels the cold wet grass between my toes. We usually run around barefoot. Nobody really cares about shoes when we run to the trampoline.
 I am the one who tastes the fresh air as my friends and I are tackling each other. I almost always win; unless Pace is there, then it is an endless battle because he and I do not go down easily, on the trampoline.
 I am the one who smells the sweat, slippery, but drying off us in the sunshine as we just sit, dangling our legs on the outer edge of the trampoline.
 I am the one who wishes all my friends who moved away would come back. The trampoline is still here, waiting, but now it is at Wesley's house.

Who am I?
 - Camden Yates

WHO AM I?



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ikego Elementary School

5th grade

Mr. Shiver

Military life

Life as a military child can sometimes be hard. One of those reasons being is that you have to move to a new country or state every 3 years depending on your orders it could be longer. One of my moves was to Japan when I was 5 years old I had to move to Japan at first I was really sad because I wouldn't see my friends and I would have to go to a new country when I got there we had to go on the bus when we go to Yokosuka base we checked into our hotel and slept at the Navy Lodge after a while I made new friends and I've been to a lot of fun places but sometimes my friends move away and I can't go to school with them or hangout with them. This year I made new friends that have recently came to Japan. Some of those people are Chris, Colton and Trent. I hope that their orders will be extended. Although military life could be hard it will always become enjoyable when you get used to it.

- Caleb S.

My life as a Military Child

My life as a military child is a wonderful experience. You can travel anywhere in the world without having to pay so much but sometimes it's a hard experience because you have to leave your friends all the time and sometimes they leave you. It's also fun because you get to go to new schools and you get a lot of special treatment. My dad is in the military, specifically the NAVY as a Fire Controlman (The person that fires the missiles on the ship) You also don't have to pay for hospital, you could break your arm and you won't have to pay for a hospital bill Plus, you get to put your child if you have work, to a SAC, CDC, or even a Teen Center. All in all, Being a military child is a fun Experience to have.



- Davis R.



Life as a Military Child

I am Ethan Bakari Kyles and I am a military child. I was born in Virginia when my dad was working for the Navy in West Virginia. My dad is in the Navy and my mom used to be in the Army. I have lived in many different places such as Connecticut, Florida, West Virginia, South Carolina. I live in Japan now. I have been to seven different schools since I began preschool. I have never liked school since the beginning. I do not like moving every couple of years because I worry about different things that could happen when I travel on planes and trains. Things that I currently like about being a military child are living in Japan, eating Japanese ice cream, and being able to buy a lot more snacks with my money because of the exchange rate. My favorite place I have lived was in Connecticut because it was the first home I remember living in and I have great memories from there. Since my dad is still in the military, I will likely move again next year and I hope to move near Georgia because I have friends there that I miss. Now it has been 200 words..... Bye.



- Ethan K.



THE LIFE OF MILITARY CHILD

Life as a Military Child is sometimes hard. Good and bad things happen when me and my family move to a different Country or do new stuff we are not used to doing. Here are some CHALLENGES My family and I faced when we moved to a military life.

When My family and I moved to a new country, we have to learn How to go to new locations and new directions. Like when we start learning where a place is, every time we remember where it is or visit , we get used to it and know more about the place. One of the big challenges we faced is the language of the country. When we moved to Japan the language was hard, especially for me because I at least have to learn the important Japanese words. Like Thank you or Excuse me.

My dad works in the Base Hospital helping patients by scanning their bones. He helps many people in the Military in the night and day. When I go to school I make a lot of friends and learn new stuff in class. We do fun experience

Overall, I am glad that I am a military child.

- Harper D.

Military Life

Being a military child is a rollercoaster ,full of ups and downs.Life as a military child can be fun and annoying at the same time.Traveling is fun but sooner and later you're going to have to move.Moving was a very hard and confusing experience.After all everyone should feel that way but after a while we find it exciting to learn about others and yourself.

Sometimes it feels unfair to move because of our parent(s) but you have to know that parents just want to take care of you.We experience foods,culture,music,and history.Getting new friends is a great thing to have and a special privilege.Going to different school was a great experience.I got to learn from different people and different point of views.

That is the life of a military child where we travel and have experience that is a great privilege to have.Our parent(s) have served our nation and have taken care of us kids at the same time.The least we can do is give them credit.

- Xian A.

Life as a Military Child

I am a military child and I love and hate being one. One thing I do like is all the amazing people and friends I have. But I hate not ever being able to see my friends in Iowa Tenly Mallie Courtney and Quinn. Yes, every other summer we get to see them but I wish I could see them more. So if I could not be a military child it would be different but here are the things I love about being one.

First living in Japan I would never be here. Second, I would never have so many amazing friends. Also people I get to connect with and more people I could imagine. I also get to go so many place I have only moved 4 times but been 11 places isn't that crazy I am only 10 years old have traveled a lot already 11 places. Thank you for reading about what I love and hate about being a military child.

- Lennon G.

Life of a Military child

Life as a military child has a lot of challenges and a lot of rewards. One of my favorite rewards being in the military is that you get to see so many different places. For example, I'm only 11 but I've been to the other side of the world and back. And I get to learn about so many different cultures. I have seen Buddhism, Christian, and more cultures in my life.



My life is still a roller coaster though because I move a lot. So far I've moved 6 times but, this summer I'm moving again and my count will become 7. When I move I usually leave friends. On the bright side I have friends everywhere. I also sometimes have my dad go deployment which means he goes on his ship for a few months. After a few months he always comes back.

Lastly, one thing that I know I have is care, love and happiness. I know wherever I go I will always be safe and happy living on or off base with friends and family around me. As you can see my life is always going to be interesting.

Me and my dad

I am the oldest of 4 kids. My dad name is James he is a nuclear electrician on the Regan and a master chief. I have moved 6 times about to be 7 in the summer and have lived in California and Japan. Today I'm 11 years old and my dad is 40.



- Eden S.



- 1. He fixes ships
- 2. He has a yellow hard hat
- 3. He goes on big ships
- 4. He is strong



Military life has positively affected my education by giving me knowledge on subjects. In social studies, we learned about the world. We can also use computers to help us research information on topics for writing. At school my brain constantly gets challenged which helps my brain grow. My experiences as a child of a serving member education, Yokosuka, and Ikego communities has been great.

One challenge that me and my family had to overcome was a permanent change of station. We had to move out of our house to Japan. I had to say goodbye to my best friends. We then had to travel 13 hours on an airplane. When we landed in Yokosuka and we had to stay quarantine for 2 months. I went to Ikego and I made lots of friends and learned about new cultures.

When you're a military child changes happen a lot. For example, climate, food, culture, and language. I learned that you have to adapt to the changes instead of fighting the changes. As a military child I learned how to accept others and to appreciate family time because as a military child you can experience a lot of separation that teaches you to appreciate being together with family. Being a military child also taught me that the world is very big and diverse. Travel and meeting new people can also enhance social skills. When you are a military child, you learn to say goodbye and keep in touch, while also making new friendships with each move. As a military child you learn how to appreciate diversity, and learn how to cope with difficult situations.

- Victoria H.

My Life of as a Military Child

My life as a military child is nice I get To have a safe community and good education, with good security and good citizens. With a clean community and no being a military child is not all being perfect but there are some twists and turns like for example when your father or mother has to go on deployment, deployment is when your mother or father are going away for a few months or even years and they are sailing off the boat to go to another country. Which is sad because you won't see them for a long time.

Next thing is when you have to move. When you move it will be exciting but then all those years you were there with your friends will be gone and then you'll be really sad about you leaving your friends and maybe even your family behind but the fun thing is you get to travel the world which will be exciting in my opinion but as a military child you have to deal with it and it can be stressful but over the years you'll get used to it. So as a military child it is fun and cool but can sometimes be sad and difficult.

- Areli Rivera F.

My life as a military child



-Me

My life as a military child is cool because I get to travel to various places, meet new friends & have a month-long celebration.

First, I get to travel to various places. Traveling is awesome, the view on the plane is great. Flying over different cities is beautiful. Leaving Japan to San Diego will be sad but cool. The view will be amazing, me & my brother will probably get to watch movies on the ipads connected to the seats.

Secondly, I get to meet new friends. Rhode Island is where I met my #1 friend, Robbiel Even though we are pretty far from each other, (cough, over 100 miles) we still talk to each other on our devices.

Lastly, we get a month-long celebration in April, (that's 30 days of enjoyment) April also has lots of other events such as pajama day (you get to wear your comfy pajamas to school) and the family picnic (where your mom and dad gets to come to school to have lunch with you) Isn't that awesome? In conclusion,

I love being a military child because I get to travel, meet new friends and get a month-long celebration.

- Jaxten M.



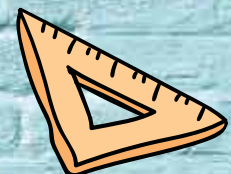
- 1. My dad is a Chaplain in the Navy
- 2. He graduated his training in Rhode Island
- 3. He works on the Dewey ship

Life of a Military Child

I think that the life of a military child is very great and interesting. You can go to many places around the world and have many fun trips while you stay in those homes. Life as a military child can be hard sometimes because you need to leave your friends and family behind. It can also be hard to communicate with them too. I like military life because I get to meet new people. A con of military life is that most of your parents go underway, so you might feel sad without them. When you are in the Navy, you have many chances to learn many different cultures. You also can get scholarships and other special things. It is my first year as a military child and so far I can tell you that it's not easy moving, especially if you lived your whole life in another country. When I moved here, I didn't know anyone, and no one knew me. I was really shy, and still am, but I've gotten better about it. I just think that when you get used to the surroundings, you can open up more. I can't wait to understand more about military life!



- Ana E.





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The Life as a Military Child



The life of a military child is a wild adventure. In my experience it has had many positives and negatives, one of the BIG positives is getting to see the world. One HUGE negative is leaving your friends behind. Today I will share a bit of my experience as a military child.

My life as a military child is different in various ways from a non military child. One way is moving and seeing the world from a young age. First I lived in Mayport, Florida. I was young and don't remember much from that time in the sunshine state. Then my family moved to San Diego, California. It was a pretty good experience living there and making memories in southern California. Then we moved to Fallon, Nevada. In Fallon it was perfect. I got to go to the indoor swimming pool when the days were hot. I got to play video games at the MWR and they would host the best Halloween parties.

Next, Disaster struck and my dad got orders to Japan. I was not excited to move across the world and had to be strong and suck it up to do it and support my dad. Getting off the plane and experiencing Japan has been challenging, but a wonderful addition to my life. I am stronger and more resilient because of my move to Japan.

Military children make sacrifices everyday to support their parents' career choice. Many have stories like mine. I like that I have a military child community who knows what it's like to move across the world and face all the challenges that come with being a military child. I am proud to be a military child and more proud to have resilient military child friends all over the globe!

- Trent F.

Life as a Military Child

Life as a Military Child seems enjoyable and helpful to a lot of people. Going to a Military Child school is a place where there are trusted adults, and a place where you could learn and get a good education. Military kids can also travel to cool and new places they maybe have never been to. But, it can also be difficult for some military children. Military kids would have to move many times and have to adapt to new places, and leave family and friends behind.



Some Military children have parents that have retired from the military or have parents that are soon going to retire. As well as them retiring in the future. Even family members like your grandma, grandpa, aunts, and uncles could have been in the military and have been retired already. The people that have been in the military and who are in the military have helped impact society and have changed the world due to their amazing work.

My Grandpa

Hi, my name is Kriscelle V. I am the oldest of my 3 siblings. My grandpa on my dad's side of the family was born on March 12, 1955. And was in the Navy for 21 years.



- Kriscelle V.

Today I'm going to talk about my life as a military child. Life as a military child is fun and sad at the same time, there are many things I enjoy and don't like so much. Another thing that I will talk about is seeing the world. Lots of military kids from all over the world love traveling, me being one of them. Lastly I will talk about the best part of being a military child in my point of view. Now I will talk about my life as a military child.

First, Some things I don't like is leaving friends. I do love to travel but leaving friends is the hardest part. Now I am going to talk about the fun parts of being a military child. I personally like when I get to go outside and play on a safe base. I like to do this because I have a lot of friends here I love to play with. Another thing I like to do as a military child is having friends that have experienced the same things as me. I also love being a military child because of traveling. I think almost every kid in the world loves to travel because you get to see and experience many different things.

These are all of the reasons I love and don't like so much about being a military child. Leaving and finding new friends and then leaving those ones, then leaving them. Overall being a military child is amazing and I love it.

My Dad

I love being a military child but I like being with my family. My dad is the one who works in the military and I like it a lot because I get to do so many things with my family this is the best part of it.

My dad works as a _____, Sometimes we get to go places together that only people in the military can go and I really enjoy it.



- Lynley W.

Life as a Military Child

Life as a Military child can be fun because you meet new people and make new friends. Being a Military child means that you will have to move to many different places around the world and that means leaving your friends or some of your family. It's a long process because you might have to wait to get a place to live and that can take a few weeks.

I'll talk about a little bit of my experience as a Military child. I was 9 years old when I first became a Military child and when I first moved to Japan. Before I moved to Japan I had to say bye to my little brother and sister. They were sad that I was leaving and I was too. After a week we left our house started driving to the airport and got ready to go on our flight. It took a few hours for the plane to get there so we walked around and got food. Once the plane finally landed we sat down and waited for the plane to take off. The flight was 14 hours so we sat for a while. When we landed we went outside and walked to a hotel that we stayed at for a few weeks.

We were picked up by one of my moms friends who lived in Japan and she drove us to our building in Ikego. When we went inside our new house we looked around and chose our rooms. Our furniture hadn't arrived yet so we waited for a few minutes. When the furniture was in place we went to the mini NEX and bought food. A few weeks later I started school. On my first day I made many friends and I have many friends now.

You will meet many new people when you are a military child. Sometimes you will have to leave those friends because you have to move somewhere. But you can still contact those friends by calling them and texting them. I'll still have contact with my friends once I move because I can text them and call them. When you move and leave your old friends you will make new friends and meet new people.

My Family

I like being a Military child because I get to meet new people and make new friends.



My step dad works on the ship, The Reagan. Sometimes my mom and I will go visit him on the Reagan.



- Olivia B.

My life as a military child

What it's like to be a military child has a lot of challenges like when we move to new places it is hard because we have to leave our friends and not see them for years and it's hard to get used to where you are going and you have to make new friends and eat new food you have never tried before and get into new schools also you have to stay in a new house that you have never been in and your in a new neighborhood but in the end it works out because you have new friends and are use to your new state or country.

It's hard when your parents goes on deployment because you never know what will happen when there gone and you will miss them a lot and you will not be happy that they can't see their parents for a while or a year. It can be really hard and it can be a emotionally times because you will miss them a lot but you will always have another parent by your side when the other one is gone but at the end you will be happy because they will always come back home.

My Dad

Some fun facts about him; he is in the navy as a Damage Controiman. He goes on ships and sometimes has to deploy.



- Serenity S.

Military Child

I am not a military child but my dad WORKS FOR the military. I went to a military child school. I moved to Japan on June 14, 2022. I had to go to this school because I lived closer to Ikego than to Sulivans.

I like being in a military school because everyone is very nice and there are a lot of fun activities. There are also a lot of opportunities to learn new things. I'm very glad that I went to this school. My favorite thing about being in a military school are my friends. I have a lot of friends that have parents that serve in the military. All of my friends are very kind to me. I play with my friends a lot. Being in a Military child school is very fun.

My dad is an Electrical Engineer. He helps build and maintain utilities at military bases to make sure that the Navy can operate and perform their mission efficiently.

We moved here because we wanted to explore mainland Japan after living in Okinawa for 2 years. I like living in Japan because there are a lot of new things to explore and I like the tasty food.

I like going to a military child school. It's very fun!

- Maya V.

4th grade

Dr. Bouchard

Hi I am Haven and I love being a military child because I get to travel all around the world and I have made soooooo many friends. Even though I have to leave all of them, they will always be in my heart. I have traveled to Japan, California, Colorado, Virginia and Texas. But it is sad that my dad has to go out to do work. I am proud that my dad is saving the world. I will be safe forever and thank you NAVY.

- Haven M.

Hi, I'm Taylor and I think being a military child is awesome! I get to meet new friends, travel the world, and my mom does everything for me.

To begin with, I get to meet new friends. I've met so many amazing people as a military child, I have so many best friends here! Even though I have to leave them, I know I'll see them again.

Furthermore, I get to travel the world! I've been to thousands of places as a military child. I've been to Washington, Maryland, Bahrain, France, London, New York, and Japan!

Last but not least, my mom does everything for me! My mom is like my superhero, she's always there for me. For example, one time I fell off my scooter and guess what my mom was there to help me.

In conclusion, Being a military child is great! I get to meet new friends, travel the world, and my mom does everything for me. And I hope you feel the same way too.

- Taylor B.

Hi, I'm Jonalyn and I think being a military child is a great thing because I can come to this school, travel a lot, and my parents were helping the military.

First, this school is great and if I was not a military child I couldn't have come here. I also get to make many friends at school because many military kids are always moving.

Furthermore, military kids are always moving, and because of that I can always make friends. I am sad when my friends move away, however I know I can make more friends and meet more people.

Lastly, being a military child means your parents Worked or served for the military. Even if you have to move or do things you don't want to being a military child is wonderful.

Overall, being a military child is great because You can go on base, travel a lot, and help your parents.

- Jonalyn W.



Hi, I am a military kid, I had to leave Nevada to go to Japan. I had to leave my friends and for some reason I did not care because I was just going to make new friends. My dad is a military teacher, he works in Ikego Elementary School and I go to school there too!

Things I like in Japan

First, the first thing I like is my friends like Austin. Then, the second thing I like is the gacha pongs. Also, my favorite gacha pong is the animals gacha pongs because I like animals. Also, I like the food there because they have more delicious things than Nevada. Last, I like the more drink choice I can pick from, like for example I pick the melon soda if they have it.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this is why I enjoy Japan so much!!!

- Shin

Hi, I'm Jaslyn. And this is what I like and don't like about being a military child. What I like about being a military child is that I love traveling to new places that I've never been to such as California, New York, and Colorado. What I don't really like about being a military child is that I made a lot of friends and I have to say bye to all of my friends and I will really miss them and I am pretty sure that they will miss me too. Another reason why I don't like being a military child is that it is hard to say bye to my dad when he deploys for a couple of months or even years, but he needs to go out there and save the world and I am proud of my dad saving the world and loving the family as well.

- Jaslyn F.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School



Kindergarten • Ms. Venter



- Yshanna C.



- Rylie C.



- Chris K.



- Luca F.



- Taelyn H.



- Lola J.



- Christian J.



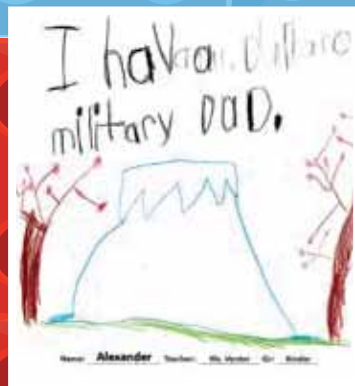
- Persephone K.



- Stella P.



- Julianna S.



- Alexander S.



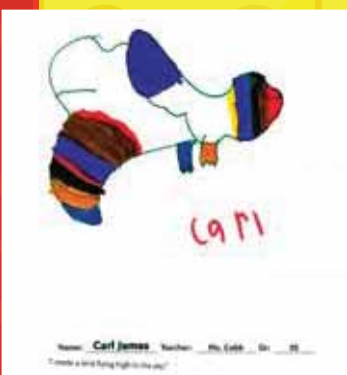
- Leonardo V.



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

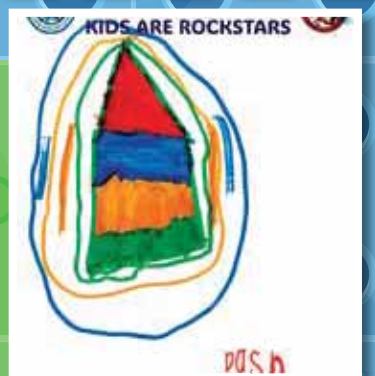
Sure Start • Ms. Cobb



- Carl James B.



- Blaire B.



- Dash B.



- Matias C.



- Charlotte F.



- Luke G.



- Raiyel L.



- Alister M.



Sure Start • Ms. Cobb



- Jiyomilyn M.



- Olivia N.



- Jordan N.



- Kai O.



- Abigail P.

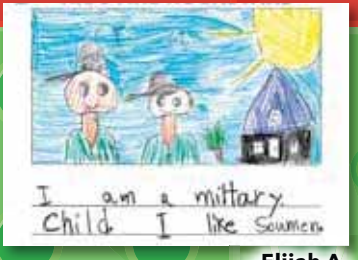
Pre-K • Ms. Saunders

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- Finn A.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
Shirley Lanham Elementary School
1st grade • Ms. Freed



- Elijah A.



- Kamrin A.



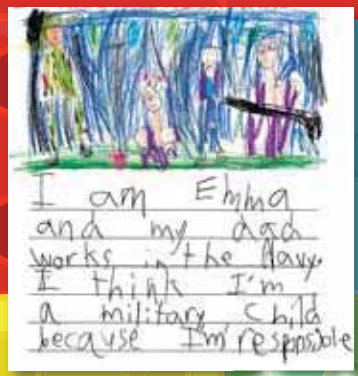
- Lucille V.



- Leonardo C.



- Ariella C.



- Emma J.



- Isabel L.



- Elizabeth S.



- Jayveri Paul M.



- Giulliana M.



- Amy N.



- Tristan R.



- Kurt W.



- Jeremiah S.



- Isabella A.



- Enzo L.



- John T.



- Kenzo V.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School



I am a rock star because I go to an on base school. Also my dad's father was in the military all year long. I also know that I am a military kid forever!

- Kiana Mae B.



What makes me a rock star? is I'm a good friend. I like to go to my parents a lot, care about my friend s. I take care of my brother. I love my family.

- Josiah C.

2nd grade • Ms. Bodwin



Something that makes me a military kid rockstar is helping others because when you're helping, it's good like helping my mom. I am a military kid rockstar because I am born in Virginia Beach and I am the only one born in Virginia Beach. My dad works in the military.

- Norah C.



I am a military kid rockstar because I get to know what the gear is like. Like I have had work in the bay so we're having a play that get to know how to work in the military. I get to know what weapons they use.

- Oscar C.



Something that makes me a military kid is being kind and helping kids at my school. All some mom works in the military. I help my mom drawing blood in the clinic and putting up bandaid on the people. I want to be in the military!!

- Ava D.



I'm a rockstar because I'm smart and kind. I'm a rockstar because I'm in the military. I'm a rockstar because I get to live in a base. I'm a rockstar because I'm in a special class. Also I'm a rockstar because my mom goes on ships! Also we only get to stay here for 2 years. Then we get to move. It's also fun. There are the rest of the rock stars!

- Jessielyn D.



As a military kid rock star I would work in the military because my dad works in the military also military people train too and my dad will be happy if I was in the military. My dad is a hero too, he would always help me and help me do my home work.

- Miguel D.



I am a military connected kid rockstar because I am in a base for the military and I am at school. Both my parents work for the military that's why I am a military connected kid rockstar.

- Calvin F.



I am a rockstar because I am good at math. And I like math. I am pleased with math. I am doing 3 pages of math every day. And my friend says 'you're good' but I need more practice and it's fun. I love math. I love my thing about math. I will thank my friends math.

- Maiya H.



because I am a military kid. I'll miss me. I feel special. I am military special.

- Patrick J.



What makes you special because you're a military kid? I'm one because my dad is in the military.

- Jaden J.



I am a military kid rockstar because dad works for Navy police. Because my dad works very hard, I study hard to make him happy. It takes a lot of work to study hard and that makes me a rockstar.

- Dalton K.



I am a military kid rockstar because I go to school in the military. My dad goes to the ship. I work at the military all the time. I want to be in the military when I grow up so I can be rich and give it to my dad so he can be rich. Then me. My dad works for the military. My dad works on base.

- Stephen L.



What makes me a military connected kid rockstar? I get to live on a military base. I feel normal about it. I go with Mrs. Olive. She's the age teacher. I get to go on field trips to post office. Both of my papers used to work in the navy.

- Emilia R.



Something that makes me a military rockstar is I love to give hugs if someone is sad and scared. I support kids who think they can't do something. If a kid thinks he or she is not going to win I will cheer. I will always be a military kid forever.

- Brielle R.



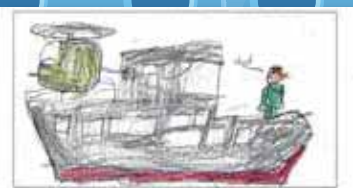
I am a military kid rockstar because I am kind to people. Also I help people when they are hurt. Also I say kind words like good job, nice, nice writing. I also help people when they need help on some thing.

- Hiromasa S.



I am a military kid rockstar because me and my family get to travel around the world. We get to learn about about different cultures. It is fun to travel because you can go on a plane or if you take a car you can bring games.

- Sawyer S.



I am a military kid rockstar because when my dad goes to the ship I help my mom whenever she needs help. I do not try to give my mom a hard time. When my mom is sick and my dad is on deployment I call my dad to let him know then he tells me and my sister to take care of my mom.

- Isaac T.

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Something that makes me a rock star is that my dad works in the military. I get to see the inside of the world. I have got to be a better student.

- Thomas M.



I am a military rockstar because I am proud to work hard. What makes me a military kid rockstar is I get to see inside the school where my daddy works. I get to live in a house and live near my school on base.

- Eli S.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

2nd grade • Ms. Brewer



I like to be a military child because I can explore, learn different traditions, and new languages. I am proud of my dad because he works for the military and protects us and our country.

LET'S ROCK THIS CRUSADERS

- Mina G.



I like to be a military child because we are learning to be smart, adaptable, resilient and strong. Also if your mom or dad are not a military like my family they are still very special because they are working to defend our country. They are trying to protect our family and our country. I am proud to my parents who read the scriptures.

- Cristelle D.



I'm proud to be a military child because I can travel around the world. And I can make new friends. And I can learn about new cultures. I go to new schools. But when I'm deployed I help my mom. I'm proud of what I do for my family. I'm proud of my dad!

- Eliana B.



The reason why I like being a military child is because my dad is in the navy and I like Dandelions. Also if the flower for the month of the Military Child. Also I am strong like a dandelion. I am strong and can grow anywhere.

- Kristine E.



In school I learned many skills. I also learned that the official flower of the military child is the dandelion. Like the plant, I put down roots almost everywhere. The dandelion is a strong plant like we and my family we adapt and are strong. I am proud to be a military child.

- Aubrey M.



I am proud of being a military child because I get to travel around the world. I help my mom and dad by going to school and learn.

- Kairon B.



I am proud to be a military child because my dad is not home. I help my mom. When my dad is home I watch movies with him.

- John M.



I am proud to be a military child because I am happy. Not sad. I'm proud of my dad. My dad is in the military. He serves the military. He also helps the country safe. I am proud of the work I do at school. LET'S ROCK THIS CRUSADERS!!

- Vance L.



While it may not always be easy being military with all the unique set of skills and perspectives that shape their character and view of the world. I am proud of myself and my family. We are strong because we are in the military.

- Marcus C.



I am a military child and I love to be a military child because I can learn about new stuff where my dad works. Also I visit him once at work and he was very busy. My job is to learn and help my family. I love military life.

- Anamarie S.



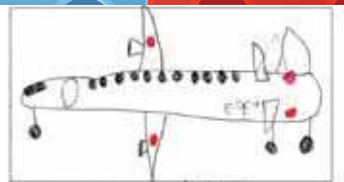
This is the first time I left in another country. I don't understand the language but I like it. Being a military child gives me opportunities to travel around the world.

- Miyah S.



I am a military child. My name is Samiya. I love my mom and my dad. My dad is in the military. He sometimes gets deployed and when he is I help take care of my mom when he is gone. Let's rock this crusaders!

- Samiya W.



I wish I'll be in the military like my dad. My dad has a job and the people in the war. Oh he has I will join the Navy like my dad. I am proud to be a military child.

- Dante N.



The reason why I like being a military child is because people who work in the military make money for their family to buy food, clothes, and other things that are important to people. Another reason why is my dad protects our country.

- Anakalia G.



I'm proud of being a military child because I'm brave and strong for my mom and dad. I was born ready!

- Joshua K.



I like to be a military child because we are proud to defend our country and to protect us. All the things we learn from work on learning. Let's rock this crusaders!

- Clyde C.



I am proud to be a military child because I can help my dad protect us. My job as a military child is to learn and listen to my parents and teachers. Let's do this crusaders!

- Marcel L.



I am a military child. I love being a military child because if there's an event my mom lets me go to the event with her. It's also nice when I visit her at work because I am proud of what she does. I support my mom. Studying diligently and being a good daughter. I am strong.

- Anaiyah R.

GSA in Japan



GSA Global Supply® is now storing and delivering approximately 750 high-demand National Stock Number (NSN) items formerly stored in and shipped from the continental United States. The change reduces delivery time to a few days from weeks or months.

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Sid Frazier

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School



3rd grade • Ms. Meeks



Military children are Rock Stars because moms and dads work in the military and we see a huge love the military. we are Rock Stars because we are military children

- Annie B.



We are military rockstars because we help people. And we can save people.

- Kyreek B.



I am a military rockstar because I am smart. I learn hard and I help people. I help people and I work hard this is why I am a military rockstar

- Ryley C.



I am a military rockstar because I do my best and make new friends. I get some challenges help and hope. This is why I am a military rockstar.

- Kaiden R.



I am a military rockstar because I work hard. I learn hard. I want to get better and that's why I am a rock star

- Charles G.



We are rockstars because we get to travel the world. We get to have fun at our new locations. Finally we make new friends everywhere.

- Brayden H.



i help to use in heads i help my family

- Chase J.



I'm a rockstar because in kind I help people. I'm talented and in a rockstar because I travel around the world.

- Kayden P.



I am a military rockstar because I am good at math and I am good at reading books. I am good at art. This is why I am a military rock star.

- Lani W.



We are military rockstar because we are the ones that sacrifice to move to new homes. We are the ones that have to deal with the same thing over and over.

- Geoffrey J.



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SEE MORE MS. MEEKS CLASS ON PAGE 24

Stripes Sports Trivia

The American League MVP and Cy Young winner in 1968, this Detroit Tigers righty finished the season with a sub-2.00 ERA and 31 wins – the last pitcher to reach the 30-win plateau. The outspoken hurler left baseball in 1973 at age 29 and later spent time in prison for various felonies. Who is this former pitching bad boy?

Answer

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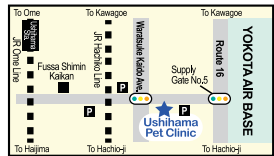
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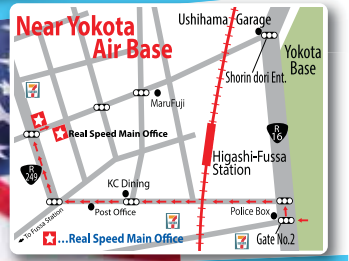
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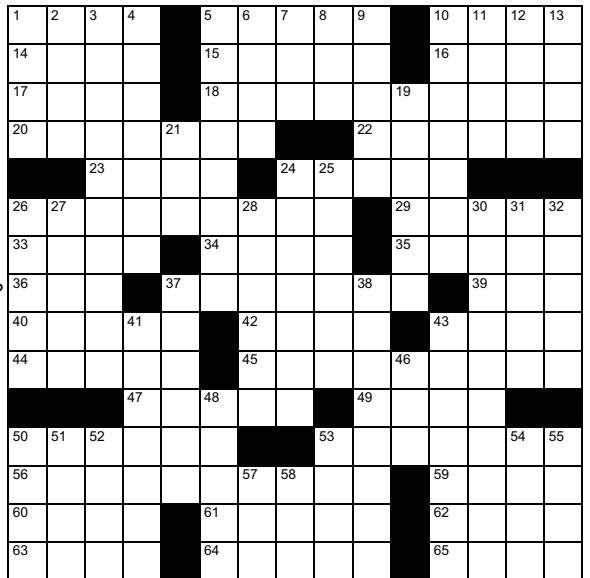
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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Leading man?
- 5 Top dog
- 10 Colorless
- 14 Etna output
- 15 Defiant response
- 16 Mark's successor
- 17 Age, in Acapulco
- 18 Dead reckoning?
- 20 Cedar or cypress
- 22 Fairly long time
- 23 Pre-1917 ruler
- 24 Steaming
- 26 Try to work it out
- 29 Structural support
- 33 Get-up-and-go
- 34 Seafood choice
- 35 "Twin Peaks" co-creator David
- 36 Word said with a salute
- 37 Keep hidden
- 39 Rage
- 40 Warming drink
- 42 Scouting outing
- 43 Tried to get home, maybe
- 44 War horse
- 45 Ben & Jerry's offerings
- 47 Alpaca's habitat
- 49 Airy melody
- 50 Star of "The Blacklist"
- 53 Unfortunate
- 56 Bird of the South Pacific
- 59 ___-clad
- 60 Stratford-___-Avon
- 61 Get the point
- 62 Discovery grp.
- 63 Oversee
- 64 Employed a Singer
- 65 Lcky stuff



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DOWN

- 1 Knighted
- 2 Guinness
- 2 Woodworking groove
- 3 Like innovative art
- 4 Noted NYC avenue
- 5 "The Vampire Lestat" author
- 6 Sly glance
- 7 Pipe material
- 8 That girl
- 9 Mealtime lure
- 10 Clerical residence
- 11 Litter's smallest
- 12 St. Louis landmark
- 13 80's flick, "The Lost ___"
- 19 Splotch or blotch
- 21 ___ Tuesday (Mardi Gras)
- 24 Slanted type
- 25 Chastise

- 26 Hatchlings' homes
- 27 Poet T. S. ___
- 28 Riverdale High redhead
- 30 Kind of decision
- 31 Theater curtain fabric
- 32 Outbuildings
- 37 Site of a famous opera house
- 38 Announced
- 41 Maze setback

- 43 Retailer's forte
- 46 Tide type
- 48 Slip cover?
- 50 Not even ajar
- 51 Vatican VIP
- 52 Poetic adverb
- 53 Command to Fido
- 54 Fair
- 55 Like some decisions
- 57 High card
- 58 AAA service

Answers to Previous Crossword:



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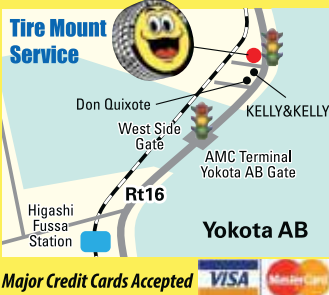
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Kanji of the week



Neru/shin (sleep)

Language Lesson

I am in hurry.

Isoide masu.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

9	6	5	2	4	1	8	7	3
4	3	1	8	7	5	6	9	2
8	2	7	3	6	9	5	1	4
2	1	9	6	5	3	4	8	7
5	7	3	4	8	2	1	6	9
6	4	8	1	9	7	2	3	5
3	8	6	9	2	4	7	5	1
7	9	2	5	1	6	3	4	8
1	5	4	7	3	8	9	2	6

	4	5						2
6				7	9			
	2		3	8				
		8		5		9	1	
	7							
		2						
		7	8			5		
		7		9		1	4	
5	4		6				8	

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23



Military children are rock stars because their dad or mom are in the military and they work their very best. I also work my very best by learning at Shirley Lanham Elementary School and by being nice to the teachers of this school.

- Adrian P.



Military children are rockstars because they appreciate the NAVY. We move to new areas and help others, we do what we have to do and use our skills on the way.

- Nicholas R.



I'm a military child and I rock! I salute to my military children I love my uniforms I will always encourage them to try their best everyday I'm extremely happy for this being here but other things matter. I hope you guys a trying your best you don't need to fear anything because you rock! LETE ROCK THE CRUSADERS!

- Avarie May M.



- Viktoria R.



I am a military rockstar because I work hard and overcome big challenges. That is why I am a military rockstar.

- Lily K.



Military kids are rockstars because they get to travel to new places and their parents are out saving the world I am a rockstar because I get so lucky to get to travel to japan and make great friends.

- Amya M.



Military kids are Rockstars because we are very smart and cool. We are really fast and we even ride on our heels.

- Sergio F.



- Mason C.



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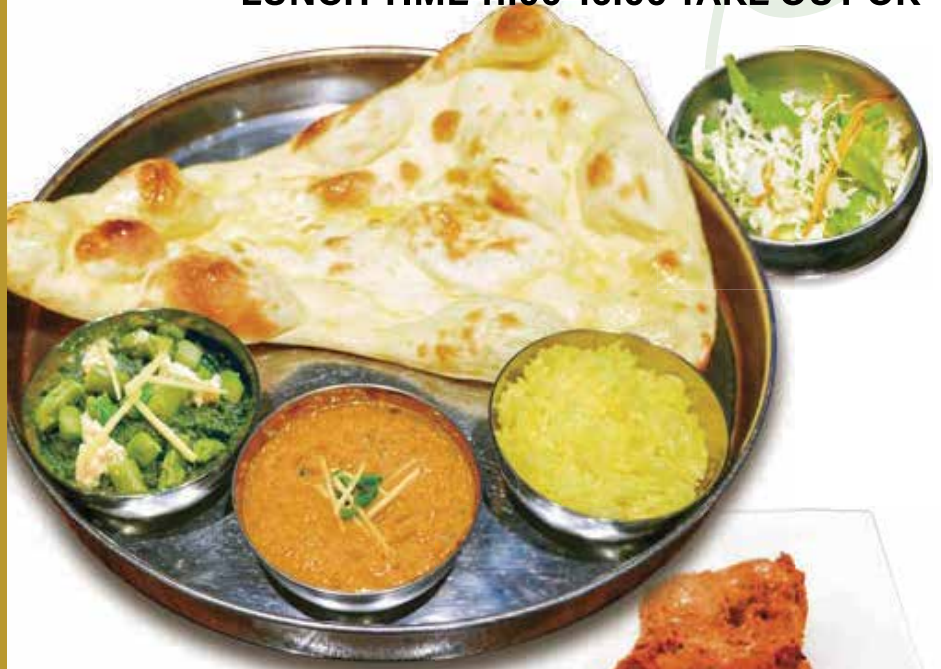
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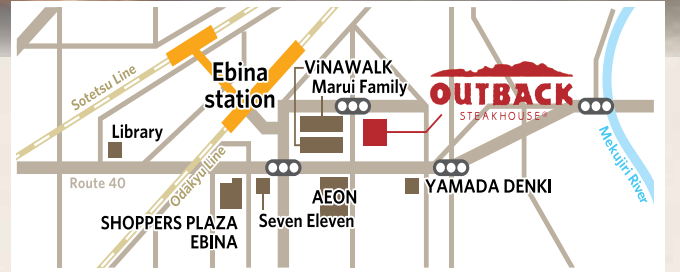


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Lots of tasty options at Sky Plaza Misawa

Pizzeria Massimo, a restaurant specializing in Neapolitan pizza and located on the 1st floor of Sky Plaza Misawa, offers a wide variety of delicious pizzas, as well as Hawaiian Huli Huli Chicken and Lani Chicken. At Dem's Café, also located at the Sky Plaza, you can enjoy snacks and desserts, including churros, pretzels and tapioca drinks. Inside the Aomori Prefectural Misawa Aviation Science Museum, stop by Jack & Betty II for tasty hot dogs and hamburgers. And during special events, there is a food truck outside that serves up some tasty treats.

RESTAURANT INFO

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SYDNEY SEEKFORD,
BYFOOD



Most people would agree that if you haven't tried tonkatsu, you're missing a big part of Japanese food. It can be found on just about every menu at home and abroad, alongside staples like ramen (hint hint). But just what is tonkatsu? Where did it come from? And more importantly, have you ever ordered it, expecting to get a crunchy, juicy plate of fried meat and been met with a table of soup instead!?

Keep reading. All secrets will be revealed.

What is tonkatsu?

Tonkatsu is best explained etymologically. That's to say, looking at the word itself since it is basically just a description. Like calling ketchup tomato paste, for example. The "ton" in tonkatsu is simply a reading for the kanji 豚, meaning pork. The katsu part is a little more complicated and gets really complicated later, but stay with me.

To katakana-ize the English word "cutlet," we get カツレツ "katsuretsu". Pull out the first part, 'katsu', and top it off with the pork 'ton', and you get 'tonkatsu'.

From here, you can probably figure out that tonkatsu is a pork cutlet.

Specifically, it's a pork cutlet that has been rolled in breadcrumbs and egg and double-fried for that extra-crispy, like-no-other texture. Abroad, the dish has taken on many forms and is occasionally double-named pork tonkatsu, but technically tonkatsu only refers to katsu-style fried pork to begin with.

You might be a little surprised to learn that the katsu part of tonkatsu comes from English, but its culinary origins are even more interesting than that!



Photo by Kai keisuke, Shutterstock

The history of Tonkatsu

The first iteration of tonkatsu was served in Tokyo's glamorous Ginza district in the 1890s under the simple moniker "pork cutlet." According to the Nihombashi Restaurant Association (whose authority, I believe, personally,) this took the form of a thin slice of pork served aside raw cabbage due to a lack of personnel and funds. It wasn't until 1929 that today's melt-in-your-mouth juicy, thick tonkatsu was born in a competitor's kitchen in Chiyoda, a few train stops away.

Clearly, tonkatsu came out of Japan, which doesn't explain the foreign name. In fact, plenty of Japanese apparently even debate the classification of tonkatsu as yoshoku (western-inspired Japanese food), because it is so entrenched in the country's food culture. Thankfully, there's an explanation for this as well.

About a quarter century before the first tonkatsu ever graced a heap o' cabbage, the Meiji restoration established policies to popularize Western culture. Along with this came cuisine, such as the French cotelette de veau. Without Europe's long history of incorporating rich animal products in their diet, the buttery, pan-fried veal of this French dish proved not only expensive but unsuited to Japanese tastes. Fortunately, the Japanese had developed the deep-frying technique of tempura, which wicks off excess oil on the second dip. In this way, Tonkatsu uses the original flour-egg-breadcrumb breading technique of French cuisine but Japanese frying methods to achieve its unique texture. Sounds perfect for something that came out of Ginza, right? Add to that readily available cabbage, a characteristic tonkatsu sauce with its own history, and you get the beloved tonkatsu of our time.

All about Tonkats the Japanese crispy pork

Tonkatsu vs. tonkotsu

At the start of this article, I asked if you have ever been unfortunate enough to witness this scene: Eagerly, you eye waitstaff coming around the corner, tonkatsu hopefully in tow. Then, in horror and surprise, that same waitstaff places before you or your dining companion a steaming bowl of soup instead of the requested hunk of meat.

The graphic scene I paint here is one that can only be born of experience. And shame.

On my first trip to Tokyo, I had the misfortune of ordering tonkotsu instead of my desired 'tonkatsu' thanks to a little language slip. Briefly, let's return to that etymology issue to explain.

We know that ton is pork. So obviously, I had ordered pork something. The kicker is that kotsu-katsu delineation. With a single letter, the whole menu changes.

Katsu, as we have learned, comes from cutlet.

Kotsu on the other hand comes from Japanese originally, and means bone. What I had requested (and you may have too, had I not saved you from this) was 'pork bone', which naturally conveys a desire for pork bone soup, a common base for ramen and readily available at most Japanese restaurants alongside its fried, hammy companion.

In brief, tonkatsu is a fried pork cutlet dish. Tonkotsu is the name for the rich pork-bone broth used in ramen. Sound similar, very different. Should one order tonkatsu ramen outside of Japan, however, you will probably get tonkotsu soup and not noodles topped with pork cutlet, though that would probably be great.



Variations of 'ton'katsu

Aside from the original tonkatsu combination of pork cutlet, cabbage, and sauce on a plate, other delicious takes on tonkatsu have been born of novelty and necessity.

Katsudon

Katsudon is a tonkatsu recipe that swaps out the crunch of cabbage and zing of vinegary katsu sauce for an easy-to-eat meal even young children feel at home with. Fried pork cutlet gets simmered with sweetened egg, onion, and sauce, then served over rice. It's a one-bowl meal popular across the world and brings together some of Japan's best cooking techniques.



Katsu Curry

Apparently, the product of a customer's whims, katsu curry is now a staple in katsu and curry restaurants alike. Slightly spicy, thick Japanese curry meets the crunchy savoriness of tonkatsu in a perfect harmony of texture and flavors.



Photo by Katie Thompson, byFood

Katsu Sando

Some genius came up with the perfect way to enjoy the classic katsu combination of katsu sauce, shredded cabbage and pork cutlet on the go. Pillowy shokupan style Japanese white bread soaks up the sauce to prevent drips and softens the prickly crunch of katsu panko. Served hot or cold, katsu sando are a delicious, discrete riff on tonkatsu.





File photo

u,
cutlet

Types of 'but it's not really ton' katsu

Now that tonkatsu has become an international catchall word for katsu-style fried foods, let's look at a few other members of the katsu-family you may come across in Japan or abroad.

Other Meats: Chicken, steak and tuna "rare" katsu

For the many reasons one might abstain from pork, there is torikatsu. It's what you'll be getting if you order chicken tonkatsu or chicken katsu overseas. I like to think of it as a katsu that was adapted for western tastes back again....

On the other hand, recently popularized rare katsu takes inspiration from searing to flash fry high-quality tuna or steak in a katsu-style panko breading. The mouthfeel retains the juicy quality and envelopes the rare morsels in crunchy katsu-style goodness. It's the opposite of the humble katsudon and elevates katsu to the luxury dining sphere with wagyu and maguro. Are you drooling yet?



Photo by Eliska Sikulova, byFood



Kushikatsu

Katsu on a stick! Shove a yakitori stick through just about any bite-sized piece of food, fry it katsu-style, and you get kushikatsu. This style of katsu frying has become popular enough to have its own restaurant chains and is a great way to enjoy many different types of ingredients. Some especially fun takes on kushikatsu are mochi, cheese (mozzarella stick...on a stick. Excellent.), and quail eggs, plus tons of veggies! Kushikatsu is a popular food in Osaka, the city known as the nation's kitchen.

Bento-box katsu: Menchikatsu and friends

Menchikatsu, a combination of mince-meat menchi and katsuretsu katsu, is essentially a hamburger or meatball that has been katsu deep fried. It is often billed as a "healthy" form of katsu because cabbage and onions are included in the patty. Other bento-box staples like ham cutlet get the katsu treatment too, and korokke use the same panko-frying technique to get their unique soft inside crunchy outside texture.



Photo by Toyakisphoto, Shutterstock



Seafood katsu: Ebi-fry and Aji-fry, etc.

Although the name is different, the prep method for making these seafood "fries" is the same as making katsu. Since dishes like ebi fry are made from whole shrimp, aji fry from fish filets, and ika fry from sections of squid, they don't receive the cutlet-shaped delineation of katsu. If you want a lighter taste with the same katsu crunch, try a fry! As a side note, ebikatsu does actually exist - in the form of a katsu-fried shrimp paste patty. Yum!



Photo by Katie Thompson, byFood

Hirekatsu: Actually, this one is tonkatsu?

Hire(hee-ray)katsu uses leaner cuts and has a reputation for being popular with women since it's a little more tender, less fatty, and higher quality compared to classic tonkatsu. The characteristic shape of tonkatsu is called "ros" or "roast" katsu, as opposed to hirekatsu. These are still made of pork but tend to come in a nugget or round shape instead of a slab and at a higher price point. The precise cuts for each classification vary depending on where you look, but fat-on pork katsu is usually ros, and lean is typically hire.



How to enjoy tonkatsu

The short answer is: However you like!

Even within Japan, people's preferences for tonkatsu vary greatly. The classic tonkatsu recipe is simple. Serve a panko breaded and fried sliced pork cutlet with a pile of shredded cabbage and drizzle it with tonkatsu-sauce. In Hokuriku, sauce tonkatsu features a pork cutlet dredged in sauce and served over rice donburi style, sometimes omitting the cabbage altogether. Nagoya is known for its miso-katsu using sweet miso sauce, and of course, you can class the dish up or down as you please. The best thing about katsu, ton or otherwise, is that it is a super versatile and always delicious way to enjoy Japanese food. So go out and explore the wonderful world of katsu!

Fun facts about katsu

The official unofficial companion to tonkatsu is bulldog brand sauce, but plenty of restaurants make their own.

On Bulldog's English website they assert that it is indeed a form of washoku and not yoshoku. Rengatei, the inventor, calls it yoshoku, though! And so the debate continues...

Katsu sauce is based on British Worcestershire sauce, adapted to Japanese tastes. How's that for cultural exchange?

Originally, julienned carrots and other root vegetables formed the sides of cotolette, but shredded cabbage was quicker to prepare and its antioxidant properties helped break down the oiliness of tonkatsu, so it won out.

Katsudon is similar to oyakodon made with tonkatsu instead of chicken! You can easily adapt an oyakodon recipe into katsudon at home.



Photo by Katie Thompson, byFood

A ton of information

The word tonkatsu, born of a combination of languages and lifestyles, has taken on a life of its own. In the modern day, Katsu has globe trotted its way to become one of the most recognizable Japanese dishes on the planet, no matter what form it takes. If you've ever wondered, "what is whatever-katsu? Is it the same as tonkatsu? Why did they bring me soup?!" hopefully, this article helped.

byFood is a platform for food events in Tokyo, with over 80 experiences to choose from and a fantastic resource for learning about Japan's thriving food culture! What's more, byFood runs a charitable outreach program, the Food for Happiness Project, which donates 10 meals to children in Cambodia for each person who books a food event through our platform!



Kanten Japanese jelly a sweet, healthy alternative

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES JAPAN

As a kid, every New Year I would look forward to a sweet jelly called kouhaku kanten. Kanten is a jelly made from boiled ten-gusa algae and seaweed. It is known for being low-calorie and rich in fiber, so it is often used as a healthy alternative to regular sweets.

If you are a foodie, you may have heard of or tried tokoroten, another Japanese food with a similar jelly texture to kanten. Though both tokoroten and kanten look the same, tokoroten retains some smell of the sea (weed) and kanten does not. This is because kanten is frozen and dried after boiling, which casts off the ocean odor.

According to officials of Nagano Prefecture, a major producing area of kanten, this unique food recipe was accidentally discovered by a lodging owner in Kyoto during the Edo Period (1603 – 1868). Tokoroten, on the other hand, can be traced earlier to the Heian Era (794 – 1185).

Back in the Edo times, it may have taken a lot of time and effort to create kanten from red algae, but these days konakanten, powdered kanten, saves us time. Konakanten is mixed with water and milk and once set with fruit, creates a photogenic food which has recently become a popular sweet to cook at home.

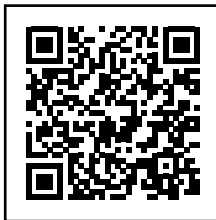
I found the recipe below online to try my hand at making the healthy and eye-catching treat. It was fun to mold the white jelly in a milk carton and see the way canned fruit can add vibrant colors to it. And most importantly, it tasted great and the soft texture was delightful.

Making this dish was probably the least difficult of any of the previous dishes I've tried. The recipe did call for any cutting or slicing ingredients, so it only required time to heat the milk, water and condensed milk.

Though hearing that kanten is made from algae may make you second-guess trying it, I guarantee that after the first bite you will not care what it is made from. It is that delicious!

Why don't you try kanten and find what this unique Japanese food tastes like?
kudaka.shoji@stripes.com

 CHECK OUT THE VIDEO



INGREDIENTS Recipe adapted from Cookpad

- Milk (600 ml) ■ Water (100 ml) ■ Powdered kanten (4 g)
- Sugar (40 g) ■ Condensed milk (30 g) ■ Vanilla essence (a splash)
- Canned fruit, strained (one can of whatever fruit you like)
- Empty milk carton, washed (I used a milk carton with 946 ml capacity. Any size over 800 ml would suffice.)

DIRECTIONS

1 Pour the milk and condensed milk in a heat-resistant bowl. Microwave the mixture for three minutes (600w).



2 Measure out sugar and powdered kanten into the water in a pot over low heat. Stir the mixture while heating it. Once the mixture starts to boil, heat for two more minutes.



3 Next, add the microwaved milk and condensed milk to the pot and continue to heat the mixture over low heat. Remove from heat once mixture reaches a thick consistency.



Tip: Test the consistency by adding a drop to a wooden spatula. If the mixture runs, it is not ready. If the spot of the mixture sticks, then it is ready.

4 Mix in the vanilla essence then pour the mixture into an empty milk carton. (Make sure the milk carton is washed well). Tip: Pour the mixture through a tea strainer to keep your final product smooth.



5 Add in the strained canned fruit.

6 Close the milk carton and apply a laundry clipper to secure the top opening. Once it cools down, put it in the fridge to let it set for several hours (I refrigerated it overnight).



7 To remove the kanten, pour a splash of water to loosen it from the milk carton and gently slide it onto a plate. Alternatively, cut through an edge of the carton and use a splash of water to ease the process.



8 Cut into even portions, serve and enjoy with tea or coffee. いただきます (Bon appetite)!



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LIVE MÁS

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