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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

Waking up
in the
morning

with an absence in the house.
Blame it on your mom, a military spouse?

They are out on the ship or deployed in Iraq,
Just pray that their convoy does not get attacked

They were reprogrammed to do this as soon as they
got off the bus

Moving to a new place seems harsh but it's alright
As long as they don't have to leave in the night


They fight for what's right like it is all that
mattered

Called out by the higher ups on orders
Sent to aid others across borders

Keep everyone safe even if it means they come
home a bit battered

They may be strict
sometimes but it's only to
help us

- Poem by
Nicholas DeWolfe, 9th grade,
Matthew C. Perry High School



Annie

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

Sender's name

Congratulate a 2021 grad!

Our annual Grad Tab
highlighting Pacific DODEA high
schools and their graduating
classes will appear in the May 28
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For just \$19, customize your
own message that will appear in
this keepsake edition.

What you need:

- A photo of the graduate
- Graduate's first name
- Your name, as you want it to appear in print (e.g. "Suzy & Steve" or "Mom & Dad")
- A congratulatory message of no more than 20 words
- The graduate's high school

Send info by May 14, 5 p.m. to
PacificGrad@stripes.com
and a Stripes representative will
follow-up with you right away.

INSIDE INFO



ZAMA RUNS, JUMPS TO FAR EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

PAGE 21



YOKOTA TEENS' PUSH FOR NEW SKATE PARK A SUCCESS

PAGE 22

- Illustration by
Sofia Malaca, 9th grade,
Matthew C. Perry High School

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
STORIES
ON PAGES 2-21





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Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mrs. Pitroff
5th grade

Illustrations created by students in the Mendel Elementary School art room with Mrs. Davis.

I do not live in Japan because I left my family and friends in Mississippi. Every morning I miss my dog Maximus. He is my only best friend. He is playful and crazy and may make it show with out poken claws but I love him with all my heart.

- Aubrey

I like being a military kid because of the exciting things I get to discover. The things I enjoy going to explore are Torii Gates, Mt Fuji, Snow Monkeys, Cherry Blossoms, Temples and Shrines, and so much more! Also I like the food! And when its time to fly, I know more.

- Mei Li

I enjoy living in Japan because I get to experience things that are different from things in the states. I get to enjoy a new culture. Here in Japan as well it is a benefit to live here because not all people are able to come here. I also love the food here. I get to see every different things, like the cherry blossoms.

- Kaitlyn

I like living in Japan because everything is better and celebrated like markets, fancy places, food, video games, clothes, useful things, everything. I love the views, the sea places, shopping, oceans, and zoos. The biggest part is Mount Fuji.

- Rylee

I like being a military child because we get to travel to all the different places in the world like Italy, Arkansas and Texas. This is why I like being a military child.

- Cameron

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I like being a military child because I get to see many different places and I get to see many new people. I like living in Japan because of the food, the cherry blossoms, the torii gates, and the beautiful views. I also like the fact that in Japan because I listen on YouTube.

- Alexis

I like being a military child because I can see new and amazing things all the time. Living in Japan is amazing and fantastic and I love it.

- Kylie

I like being a military child because I get to make new friends. I like seeing the cherry blossoms during the spring. I also like seeing Mt. Fuji and I like my family too.

- Addelyne

I like being a military child because of the ability to afford to go to different places. However, my family cannot control who and where we move.

- Michael

I like being a military child because there's a lot to explore and I feel safe here. Mostly because I like the food like sushi and ramen. I mostly like exploring shrines and torii gates.

- Jett

I like being a military child because I get to see tanks, airplanes, cars, and friends. I also get to see the world and do fun things. I play golf.

- Frederiek

I like being a military child because I get to see to different places. I also like being on a plane. Mt. Fuji is beautiful. We get to travel Tokyo.

- Jazlynn

Being a military child is the same as being a normal child except the moving. We have to do projects for grades in school that are graded on the other kids. The world has different people, the rich and the poor and the mid.

- Rylee

Good Things: I see being a military child because I get to get in exciting places. I can go on adventures that are fun and I get to see different things. I also like that I never get to see the same thing. I also like that I never get to see the same thing.

Bad Things: I don't like that I never get to see the same thing. I also like that I never get to see the same thing.

- Ami

I like living in Japan because I get to see all the camera. I get to see all types of food. And I get to make new friends.

- Nate

I like being a military child because I get to see many new places and explore. I like going to arcades and walking under the cherry blossom trees on base. I don't like it when my dad leaves but I still cope without him.

- Riley

I like living in Japan because there are beautiful experiences like Mt. Fuji. Another thing about Mt. Fuji that is beautiful is the sunset behind it.

- Lou

I like being a military child because I get to see amazing landmarks. I don't like being a military child because my dad goes away and it makes me really sad.

- Adawanna

I like being a military child because I get to go to places some children will never be able to live or visit. I like living in Japan because of the culture, food, people, and much more.

- Annabella

I like living in Japan because it is unique from the states and I make new friends. The people are also polite. The trains are also a new experience as well.

- Frederick

I like being a military child because I get to try new food all around the world. I also get to travel all around the world and make new friends.

- Max

I like being a military child because I get to see more and more places I go. I also get to meet more people and make more friends. And trying different food. Being a military child also lets me learn a lot of different languages because at all the different places I go to. And I love seeing the mountains in Japan.

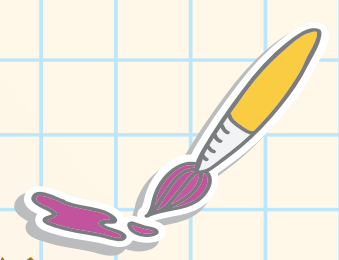
- Rachelle

I like Japan because its buildings are cool.

- Jamel

I like being a military child because of all the friends that I make. I have friends all over the world. I have to travel the world. I also like the food. I really like the shows that the different states they draw. In this type of drawing, it is called anime.

- Cara

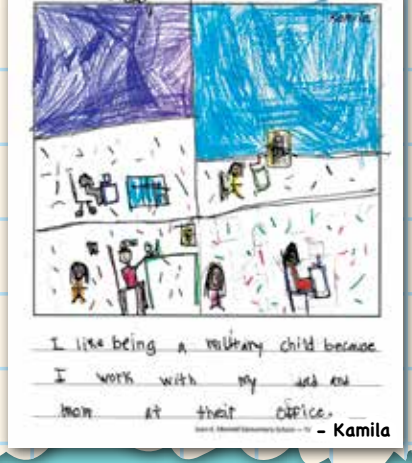
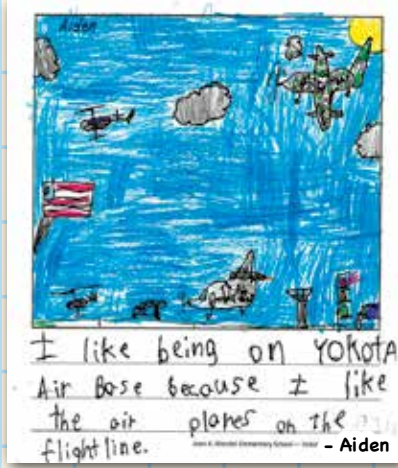
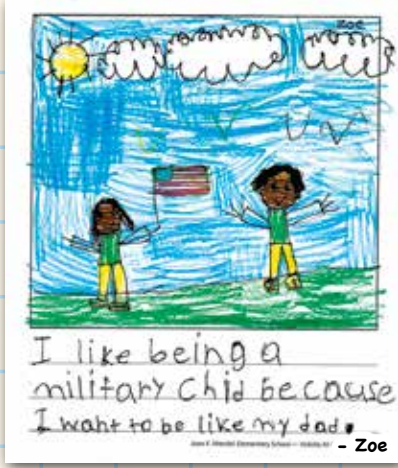


Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mrs. William
1st grade

Illustrations created by students in the Mendel Elementary School art room with Mrs. Davis.





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Sasebo 1030-2000

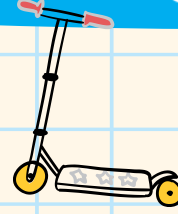
Offering: Tacos, Burritos, Quesadillas, Salads, Desserts
Tostadas, and Many other TB Promotional items.

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ms. Willingham
2nd grade

Illustrations created by students in the Mendel Elementary School art room with Mrs. Davis.



I like being on a military air base because I feel safe and there's no noise and there is alot of stuff to go sailing like the seas.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Isla



I like living on a military base because it has no floods you can go into the office, who in up the office i can sit down to the various games.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Emily



I like the base because I get to have a lot of fun in the base it is so cool I get to have a cool and fun day.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Liam



I got to go travel to world and its a lot of fun.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Jordyn



I like being a military child because I like air planes and helicopters, my dad tells me about them.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Jayden



I like being in the Yokota Air Base because it feels like a safe and comfortable. I like being in different places and with my family.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Aubrey



I like Yokota Air Base because I get to see my teacher and my friends too I love my school.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Elise



I like being a military connected child on Yokota Air Base because its safe. You can also do tons of fun stuff at Yokota air base.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Braxton



I like being a military kid because I get to travel around with my Mommy. Also I like being a military kid because I feel safe.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Adalyn



I like being a military child because you can travel to places for a couple of days.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Ayanna



I like living on Yokota Air Base and being a military child because it makes me feel really safe.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Gwendolyn



I like being a military child because the police keep us safe from robbers and kidnapers.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Ransom



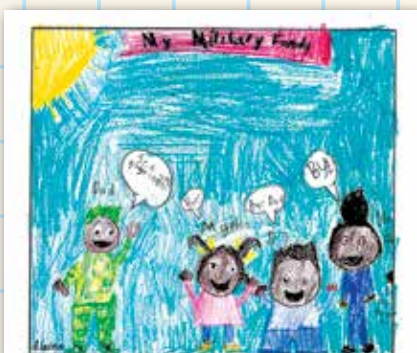
I like to be a military child because when my dad moves away he makes new friends.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Sophia



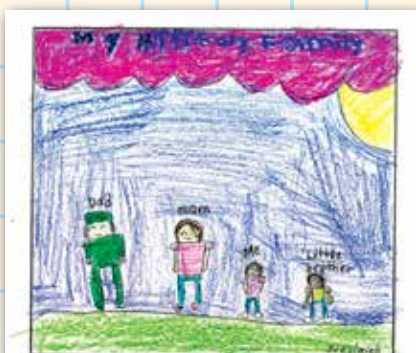
I love being a military child because I like playing with my stuff. I like playing games.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Camden



I feel safe and happy on Yokota Air Base in Japan. I love moving and seeing a lot of things and places.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Aliya



I like Yokota Air Base because there is a nice school near the post office. I like my school.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Alaina



I like being a military-connected child because I make lots of friends and have a great school and that why I'm here.
Joan K. Mendel Elementary School - Tokyo - Presleigh

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD


Mrs. Tappan
2nd grade

Illustrations created by students in the Mendel Elementary School art room with Mrs. Davis.




What I like about being a military child is I learn a new language and I can make new friends.

- Mya



The best thing about living in Japan and being a military child is experiencing new cultures.

- Alivia



One thing I like is that sometimes I get to go to work with my mom. Another reason is that my family gets to go exploring Japan.

- Aylon



Living in Japan is great because I get to see the cherry blossoms, and explore.

- Eila



My experience in Japan is I make so many friends in Japan, and I get to explore places, like the military.

- Luis



The best experience was to see the cherry blossom bloom in Japan and I get to go new places.

- Cavanaugh



My experience in Japan is I am more educated, and my family is more connected to each other.

- Kiera




My experience in Japan is my school because I like my teacher and specials.

- Alyssa




Japan is special because we can see cherry blossoms a lot and very hot beaches.

- Gwenaella



In my opinion I would live in Japan because we can see the cherry blossom trees to see falling down. That's why I like Japan.

- Layla




I think it is special to live in Japan because they only have Team Lab in Japan.

- Julian



My best experience is when I went to China town. Also looking at the cherry blossoms and going to off base parks.

- Aaliyah



My grand parents live in Hokkaido. I love being a military kid.

- Noah



The thing that I experience in Japan is the cherry blossom blooming and spending time outside.

- Addisyn



What I love about living in Japan is the cherry blossoms.

- Abby



I think the best thing we in Japan is getting to see the cherry blossom and having a baby.

- Sophia

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mrs. Mesina
3rd grade

Illustrations created by students in the Mendel Elementary School art room with Mrs. Davis.



I like my stepdad because if my mom did not meet him I would not be I don't like moving. I like being a military child because I get to make new friends.



I like being a Military child because my dad comes home and makes money when he goes to work I don't like moving. It's hard to leave a good place.



I like being a military child because I get to eat good food and live in a peaceful base. And I like to live on Yokota AB because it is safer on the base than off base. So I live on the base. I love to see Fuji and I love my family. My father works for the military.



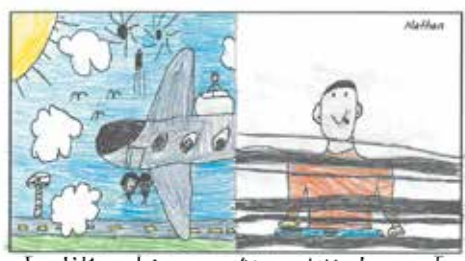
I like being a military child because I can meet new people and see new places and new things.



I like being a military child because I get to go to places I wanted to go to before. I like living in Japan because I get to study history and cultures.



I like being a military child because you get to try new foods. I also like to travel to new places. I like Yokota Air Base because the food is so unique. But I miss my friends.



I like being a military child because I get to move to new locations, and eat new foods.



I like living in JSMH because of the food the flight attendants, the jets, the helicopters, and trains.



I like being a Military child because I get to play sports. I also get to see cool machines. I also get to watch fireworks.



I like being a military child because I get to meet new friends. I don't like it much because I miss my friends in the Philippines. I really miss Cassidy.



I like being a military child because I get to eat lots of yummy food. I don't like to be a military child because I have to say good bye to friends. I also like seeing the cherry blossoms.



I like being a military child because I get to go to the mall, see and play. The purpose is that you spend the day with your dad and get to go to the Japanese military school with friends like Emily, Kate, Isaac, Denji, Loren, and Sammie and wish I could stay here for every day. I wish I could stay here for every day. I wish I could stay here for every day.



I like being a military child because I can explore new places and make new friends. I also like to go to the gym and play sports. I also like to see new things. I also like to see new things. I also like to see new things.



I like to be a military child because I get to see a lot of places, and it's really cool, but I don't like to leave my friends and family.



I don't like being a military child because I don't get to see my dad everyday because he works night shifts sometimes. But I like it when he gets home.



I like being a military child because I get to eat good food like the military. I get to see Mount Fuji. I don't like when I have to move. I also get to play on the computer.



I like to live in Japan because I get to eat new yummy foods and I wear cool Japanese clothes and shoes. I love being a Military child because I meet new friends and families and get new pets like shiba inus and cats!



I like being a military child because you get to go to different countries and learn new languages. I love to make new friends and have fun with them. I love my friends in the States too.



I think being a Military Child has its ups and downs because when you move your moving away from friends, but you're also moving into a new place where you'll make new friends. Plus, you can hang out with your friends and family. I like to see my friends and family. I like to see my friends and family. I like to see my friends and family.



I love Japan because it has the most beautiful mountains in the world. Mount Fuji. My dad said one day we would climb Mount Fuji. I like being a military child well not all the time if I can't see my live like moving.

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mr. Anderson
4th grade



Illustrations created by students in the Mendel Elementary School art room with Mrs. Davis.



I am a military child. My dad works for the Air Force in Japan. I like to be a military child because I like learning in Japan. One thing I don't like about being a military child, my dad needs to leave sometimes but mostly, I am happy to be a military child!

- Bowen



My Mom likes to take family pictures and here in Yokota Military Base we don't need to drive out far to a pretty picture spot because there are a lot of beautiful cherry blossoms that make great picture spots all over base but I would love to be here if my dad was in the military. I am a military child.

- Viloet



I am a military child
As pure and as true as can be
My father served to protect our country
I am proud of him and he is my hero
I am proud of being a military child.

- Daniel



I like living on Yokota Air Base because there are lots of trees and flowers, and all year around they attract birds. And I love to chase them around the park. I like being a military child.

- Alexander



Playing in snow, a long bike, and snowboarding, these are all things I do in Mt. Fuji because my dad is in the military. Cherry blossom trees, two gates, and castles, these are things at Fushimi Inari Shrine, a place where I go because I am a military child. I am a military child.

- Jackson



There are many big stadiums, from Tokyo Dome, this is my favorite. I can ride the train and see the Tokyo Dome. I love to go to the Tokyo Dome because my dad is in the military and I am a military child. There are many interesting things to see at the Tokyo Dome.

- Mason



Every morning, I wake up, I open my eyes, I see a few of my friends, I only see a few of my friends, I see a military child and I love to see them.

- Oakley



My family lives being in the Military because we got to move a lot and see different things, people and more. For example, Okinawa has the only white sand beach in Japan and America. Some parts of Tokyo are like a city and that's what I like. Being a Military child is the best!

- Aimi



My favorite thing to do in Japan is going to Mt. Fuji and Mt. Fuji is a volcano. I am a military child because my dad is in the Air Force and we live in Japan. I am a military child!

- Ethan



There are many things to see in Tokyo, like the Tokyo Skytree, the tallest tower in the world. I love to go to Tokyo because my dad is in the military and I am a military child. I love to see the Tokyo Skytree and the Tokyo Dome.

- Jason



My name is Alana and I am a military child. Being a military child is not because my dad is in the military and I have lots of friends. Like my family and I go to lots of places, like temples, making a lot of friends because I miss my old friends but mostly, I love being a military child!

- Alana



Hi, my name is Ethan and I am a military child. I am a military child because my dad is in the military and I am a military child. I love to see the Tokyo Skytree and the Tokyo Dome.

- Ethan



Kawaii, riding waterfalls, jumping on trampolines, walking in big hamster wheels, these are just a few of the many fun things I do with my family at Base. I can go to Base because my family is in Japan, because my family is in the Military, and I am a Military child.

- Abigail



A lot of gift shops, a great view of the Tokyo skyline at sunset, one of the tallest towers in Japan, where is this? Tokyo Skytree! One of my most favorite parts of being a military child is seeing new places and making memories with my family. I really enjoy being a military child.

- Harmoni



I am a military child and I live on Yokota Air Base in Japan. I enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji when driving around the flight line.

- Mariah



My dad works for space force. Space force is about studying space. It excites me that my dad's new job is about exploring what happens in space. I am a military child.

- KeKoa



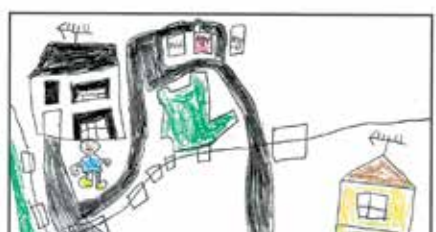
I am a military child and I live on Yokota Air Base in Japan. I enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji when driving around the flight line.

- Leana



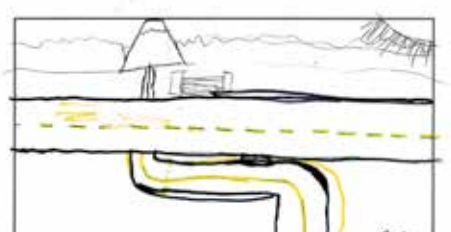
Hi, I live on Yokota Air Base because you can see the Fuji when crossing the flight line. The USA has cool things, like the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. I am a military child and I live on Yokota Air Base in Japan. I enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji when driving around the flight line.

- Dominique



My dad works for Stars & Stripes and he wrote about Ethan Kliber playing golf on base. He also wrote about Mario food in Telegen but it's limited edition. I am a military child.

- Kaito



I am a military child and I live on Yokota Air Base in Japan. I enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji when driving around the flight line.

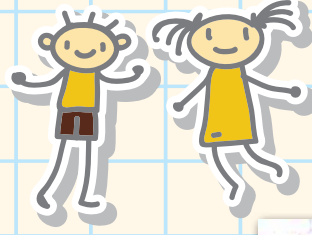
- Gavin

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ms. Jackson Kindergarten

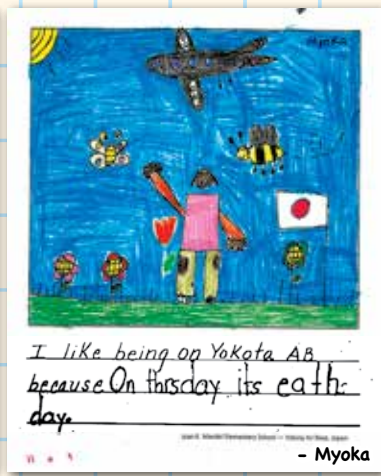
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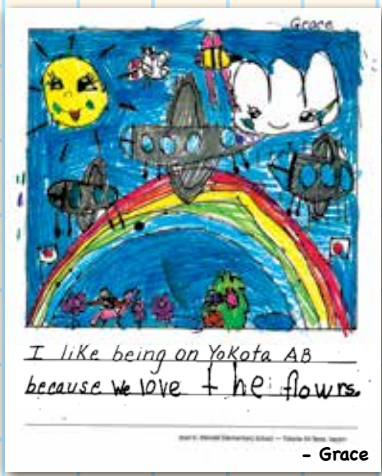
I like being on Yokota AB because I love the view.
- Liam



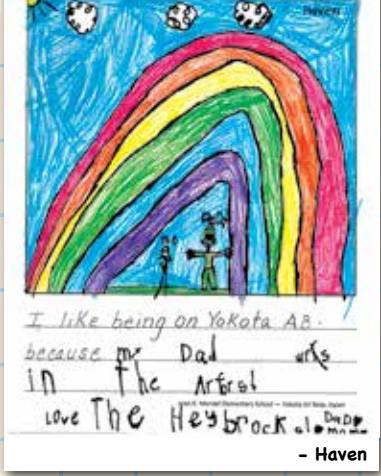
I like being on Yokota AB because my dad work with 931 Diane S.
- Madison



I like being on Yokota AB because on this day its eath day.
- Myoka



I like being on Yokota AB because we love + he flowers.
- Grace



I like being on Yokota AB because my Dad work in the Arsenal love The Heybrook and the...
- Haven



I like being on Yokota AB because I like to be in Japan with my friends at the playground!
- Wesley



I like being on Yokota AB because I get to play with my friends.
- Titus



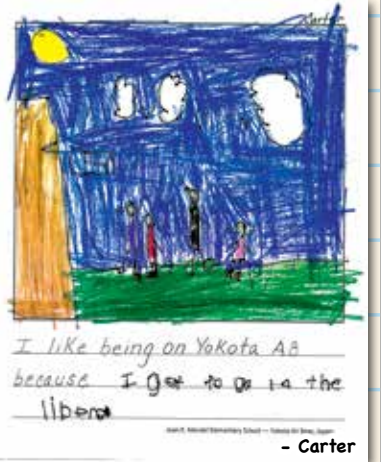
I like being on Yokota AB because I get to play with my dog.
- Olivia



I like being on Yokota AB because I can look up at the sky with my family.
- Immanuel



I like being on Yokota AB because I get lots of food.
- Amora



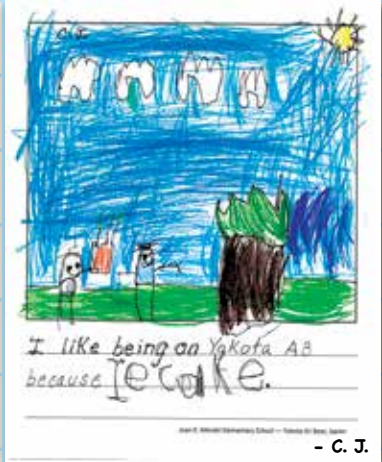
I like being on Yokota AB because I get to go to the library.
- Carter



I like being on Yokota AB because I don't like to be sad.
- Sophia



I like being on Yokota AB because I like to be a mute kid.
- Laila



I like being on Yokota AB because I like cake.
- C. J.



I like being on Yokota AB because I feel safe.
- Wendell



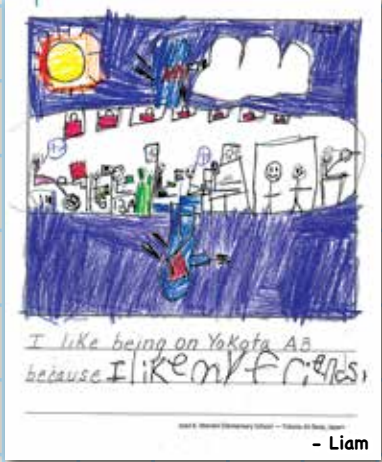
I like being on Yokota AB because I like going to Universal Studios.
- Mason



I like being on Yokota AB because I like to...
- Connor



I like being on Yokota AB because I make friends at school.
- Noah



I like being on Yokota AB because I like my friends.
- Liam



I like being on Yokota AB because I get to see all the military planes with my mom and dad.
- Amerie



I like being on Yokota AB because I can play with all my friends.
- Kryztopher

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Matthew C. Perry High School

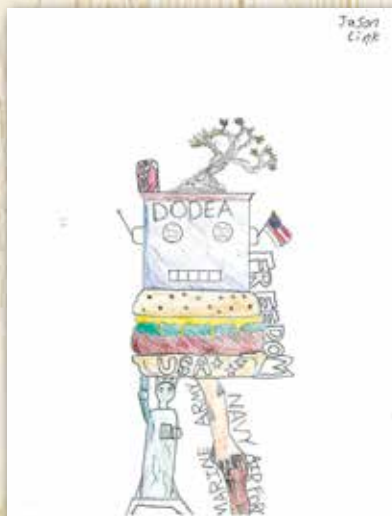
Ms. Sullivan ★
★ 9th Grade



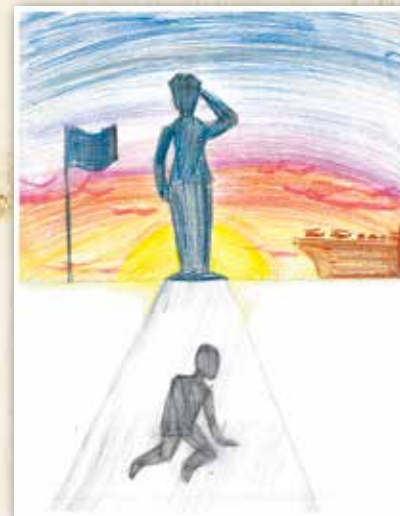
- Ryu Woodruff



- Raelin Reyes



- Jason Link



- Suphani Reagles



- Eric Jacob Watson II



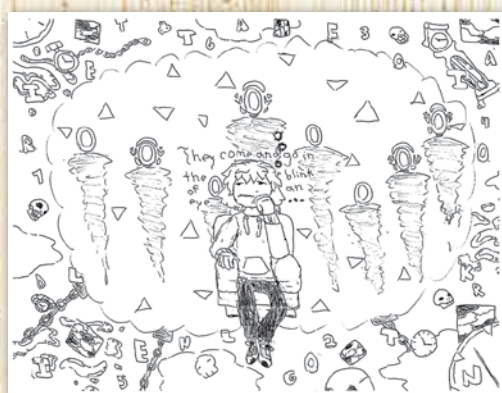
- Mariyah Dubey



- Sa'Nia Moore



- Sofia Malaca



- Max Weidler



- Alirah Padamada



- Elayna Maratta



- Camden Palanca

Ms. Sullivan ★
★ 10th Grade



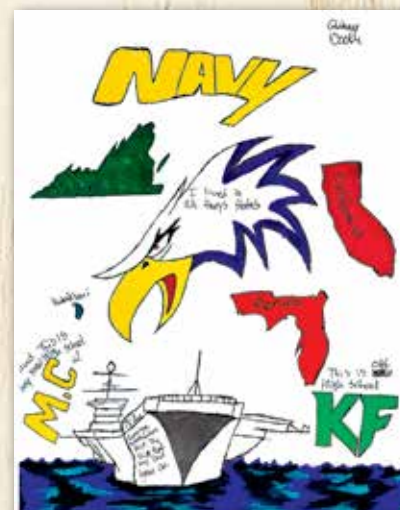
- Julie Apperson



- Alaysia Clavijo



- Leahana Corcino



- Quincy Booth

I Love You, Mom

I love you, see you in 6 months!
I'm home! Oh, it's been so long!
I love you, see you in 6 months!
I'm back! What happened while I was gone?
I love you, see you in one year!
I'm home! When did you get so tall?
I love you, see you this summer!
But five summers have passed and now I'm all grown,
Oh, Mama, wasn't it fun raising me over the phone?

- Soledad Arce

The Start of the Journey

At the start of the journey
You may not feel well
You've gone out and found a new shell
You keep going forward but hitting a nail
There is still a part of you left

Three years, the long wait
Be patient and catch the bait
You're content with where you are
And think you'll go far
But there is always a bump in the road

The time to leave has come again
This depression has surrounded you
Tell your friends you'll see them again
But it's never what happens

Try to chase your dreams
But now you're facing a nightmare
The things you do
You cannot choose
You may find out after

At the end of the journey
You may not feel so well
You've gone out and found a new shell
You keep going forward but hitting a nail
There is still a part of you left

- Eric Jacob Watson II

One main thing I had to go through a lot as a military child is constantly losing and gaining new friends. Every year or so I'd had to move away to another place, and so, I had to leave my friends and say goodbye to them essentially for good. So far, I've moved around 8 times in my whole life, so I have lost a good number of friends. This really upset me at first but over time I kind of got used to it. However, recently I have been able to still keep talking to my friends, even after I move away. This is all because of social media and messaging! Using things like Skype or Instant Messaging has led me to still be friends with a girl named Janea, someone who I have been friends with for about 9 years now. Almost every day we either text or video call to keep in touch with each other and our lives. And of course, I've done this with many of my other close friends as well. So, I think I have overcome my "friendship problem" pretty well!

- Hailey Anderson

My name is Jai Turay and I was born on July seventh of 2006. I could say that I travel a lot but not for the reason you think. I, like many others, am a military child. That means my parents serve in the military and we move about every three years. Some may dislike being in a military family, but I like it. Even though there are some downsides, there are many more upsides I have seen throughout my life.

Even before I was born, my family was in the military. Now, being in the military hasn't affected me at all until I was in elementary school. I wasn't ever bothered by being in a military family in elementary school as all of my close friends, I would keep in contact with and all of my school friends would simply be school friends until I moved again. Now, this happened every about three years of my life and for the majority of it, I wasn't bothered. Also, being in the military has benefits. Everyone on the bases have met many different people and many different personalities. Everyone is friendly and it is also safer on bases. Plus, I met my best friends on base so I wouldn't say that living on base is all bad. Mainly, just focus on the positives of living on base as, based on my experience, it will probably be one of the best times I will have in my life so far.

Overall, some people may like or dislike living as a military child but just try to make the most of your time with your friends and you might even possibly see them again since it's on base. Always remember to persevere and make the most of it.

- Jai Turay

As a child in the civil service, there are many opportunities. I live near a US Military base here in Japan. This already gives me options on what I could or might want to do. Although what I want to do is not tied to the military whatsoever, it's still nice to have options, and if I were to join the military, I would most definitely join USMC. The challenge of living on a military base or having a military parent is quite a huge one, because sometimes they have to leave, or they constantly push you to be in the military. However, in the end it is your choice.

Some challenges are quite sacrificial, for instance, friendships. You get to wherever you and your family are deployed, and you make friends. Sadly, three to seven years later either your friends leave, or you leave. Most people don't stay more than 5 years, but some people choose to. There are a few people who will stay alongside you, and if you're lucky, that person might be your best friend.

When it comes to being a kid, moving and trying to settle down and be comfortable can be involuntary. You can't really "choose" what you want to do. You and I are both probably not old enough to have a say in that decision. Now in most terms, it does count because parents care for their child but also want better job opportunities. Parents want their kids to be happy, but also want the boost themselves as well.

Lastly, supporting the mission and being successful is important. If your parents are military, they most likely need support, not only from their fellow marines, but from you as well. The public opinion truly shapes our military, so they need as much love and support from everyone as possible.

- Jason Cook

Celebrating Month of

Matthew C. Per



Being a military child, you have to leave things behind, and you make sacrifices. You don't even have to be in the military to make sacrifices, but you do have to make more as a military child. I was born into the military and had my first move when I was 4. In my experiences as a child of a Marine, I've realized how much I look back on all the things I had to leave. Previous girlfriends, friends, best friends, and family are all examples of relationships that I had to leave. Although I may still be in contact with them, it's not the same as being there with them in person. You tend to have some thoughts of whether or not you should make friends or have girlfriends/boyfriends. I've learned over the years that these thoughts are not justified. Being a military child is definitely an obstacle, but the military shows you that you must jump over obstacles rather than be stopped by them. You are not alone in the sadness and anger that is sacrifice. Look around, all these kids you see who are old enough to know that they have made sacrifices are in the exact same spot as you. They may have a different story, but they all end the same. Surround yourself with those who understand and those who understand can help. People who have made sacrifices may be broken but a quote from the movie Split states, "The broken are the more evolved." When I'm hurting, I refer back to this quote and it makes me realize that being broken is okay. As a fellow military child, take it from me, sacrifice hurts and it breaks you down, but you are NOT alone.

- Jacob Morton

As a military child I have had the opportunity to travel to foreign countries, where I can meet new people, appreciate different cultures, and do things that I've never done in the United States.

Although I've faced many challenges as a military child, particularly having to frequently move away from my friends and extended family, which means that I always have to make new friends once again. The second challenge for me is language barrier and communication. Without simple knowledge of another foreign language while living in a foreign country, it makes it more difficult to get around. Sure, English is a globally spoken language (You might call it the Lingua Franca) but my advice is that you should try to learn the language of the country you're living in, especially in Japan. Even though the residents are taught English in school, many Japanese are uncomfortable speaking English and sometimes have doubts about speaking English competently. Besides, we are living in their country, and it is nice to talk to people in their native language.

- Kevin Flores

He takes off his old badge, and replaces it with a new one
Proud of who he is

Your whole family is happy for your dad

But

You soon find out that you have to move

Three years in three years out

East Coast to West Coast Your home country to overseas

Some people may think it's bad and some think it's good

But one day it will be understood

It's hard to call and place your home when you've lived in so many places

From bases to new faces

You will one day see a benefit

It's a nerve to run free

But our parents do it for our country

- Nickolas Elizando

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children stories at:
militarychild.stripes.com



the Military Child

Perry High School

Ms. Sullivan ★
★ 9th Grade

My name is Aidan Gregory and I was born on the 13th of June 2006 in Tucson Arizona. My father is a civilian who works on the MCAS Iwakuni at the moment. I have been living near military bases for a huge chunk of my life, and it definitely isn't anywhere near bad. The bases I stay by are usually overseas rather than in the United States, although I have lived on the bases in the United States sometimes. I'm glad to be here with everybody.

Other places I've been stationed at have been Qatar, Germany, and Atsugi. These places are very different from one another since they are in entirely different countries. For example, Qatar is one of the hottest places in the world being located in the Middle East while Atsugi is more of a city location near Tokyo, Japan. I have also lived in Germany, although I can't recall much since it has been so many years. I've had many good experiences in each of these places, especially with the easy access to Pizza Hut.

Speaking of that usually the bases provide many activities, which is quite cool. We have our bowling alleys and our fast food places that are easily accessible to everyone. Since we have a grocery store, called the Commissary, on the base, we can get all the American products that we are used to having in the United States. It is nice to have the products we all know. That makes living on or by a base an even better experience. It prevents me from getting home sick. This also entirely removes the challenge of going to a store and trying to figure out what everything is because the label is an entirely different language. Sometimes there are pictures on the label but that doesn't always help.

Anyways my life being a child of a civilian hasn't been too challenging. Of course, we have overcome some very brutal challenges, but that is the past and we are in the present, and in the present, I try to make the best of it. I try to enjoy myself the most I can while it lasts and being stationed overseas is pretty cool. I highly doubt anyone would or could disagree with that statement. Well, I'm here to stay for quite some time, it's going to be nice!

- Aidan Gregory

Sad to Happy

Living with my mom,
my siblings and my grandma,
but a mostly absent dad.
This Made me
Sad.

Traveling to Japan,
leaving my friends,
my relatives and all I once knew,
Made me Silently Cry Inside.

Finding new friends,
that know the pain of leaving,
see them gone in a couple years time,
Had me Sinking in an Agony I
Never Knew Existed.

Coming to terms with life,
exploring this new land,
and finding family in friendship,
and my Heart Burning with Embers of
Hope.

The embers turn into flames,
as my makeshift family
help me believe,
that Even the Sad can be Truly Happy.

- Hailey Bolden

FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

Waking up in the morning with an absence in the house,
Blame it on your mom, a military spouse?

They are out on the ship or deployed in Iraq,
Just pray that their convoy does not get attacked

Moving to a new place seems harsh but it's alright
As long as they don't have to leave in the night

Called out by the higher ups on orders
Sent to aid others across borders

They may be strict sometimes but it's only to help us
They were reprogrammed to do this as soon as they got off the bus

They fight for what's right like it is all that mattered
Keep everyone safe even if it means they come home a bit battered

- Nicholas DeWolfe

"I, a military child"

I, a military child,
Whose life is nomadic and temporary,
where adventures are filled with beauty.
Sometimes, not everything comes to a bloom
when we leave, our time may gloom.
Leaving our family and friends,
and where we finally cut the loose ends.

I, a military child,
Where I am far away from my mother country,
where I discover new cultures and diversity,
Although I miss her very deeply,
it's still good to make new comradery.
Sometimes, I may be blindy offensive,
but I always try to look at their perspective.

I, a military child,
Whose adventures always alter my manners,
every time I live in countries with different banners.
Where travelling is such a great opportunity,
and discovering new places always fills my curiosity.
Where our parents are periodically on deployment,
whilst we should make up our own entertainment.

I, a military child,
Who's seen the horrors of politics in foreign countries,
where I have lived through the troubling times against
their adversaries.
Where the politicians themselves lie and exploit the people
in their vicinity,
and use the citizens as their excuse for lack of leadership
and integrity.
Whose travels have seen a new insight of the world,
and develop ourselves to be good citizens and help our
world.

I, a military child

- Patrich Lorenzo

How hard can it truly be to be a military child? Coming straight from a military child currently stationed in Japan I can say that there are some real struggles. You are constantly losing and gaining friends all the time. Plus, you have to leave behind the life you have already made and start all over again. It will never be easy to leave your home, but you will eventually get used to it.

I have only had to move once so far, so I can't say much. But that move was one of the worst moments of my life. I left behind all of my friends and family to move to a completely new country. I had trouble really connecting with anybody and getting used to my new surroundings. But about a month after my move my time here had completely changed.

I started enjoying it here. I made friends who have stuck by my side ever since, and I have even stayed in touch with some of my friends from back home. I can't tell you that it's easy having to move. But sooner or later you will fit in wherever you end up going. If being a military child has taught me anything, it is how to find out who a true friend is, because no matter how far you go, they will always be there for you.

- Maya Slaughter

Yin and Yang

There's always the good and bad
like the yin and yang
traveling around the world
but far away from friends
meeting many people is fun
but fake people aren't
I feel like I can't have many friends

You see, there are many opportunities
going to DoDEA schools
being able to go on base
but sometimes I want to be different
staying in just one place

Traveling to different countries has its
benefits
exploring new culture
trying new food
it's a good learning experience
but sometimes I feel out of place

But overall it's an experience
with its good and bad
meeting new people
or feeling left out
it's the yin and yang

- Jessica Griffin

My family has moved quite a bit, but it has allowed me to make friends all over the world and I have been able to stay in touch with a few of them. I enjoy playing video games on my PS4 with friends in the States and the ones here. I am into playing soccer and I am on a high school soccer team where I play for the M.C Perry Samurai. But all of this moving and experiencing new things as a military child presents us with some small challenges with big responsibilities. One challenge is moving to a new place and starting back over. It's not easy for me to leave somewhere that I enjoyed staying for many reasons. But it's not all that bad of a challenge, because I will have more opportunities to enjoy different places. For example, I went snowboarding in Japan and it was the best experience I've had there. I also experienced new friendships along the way which is honestly the best growing experience in Japan. I was so thankful to my dad for being in the military. He inspired me that I could go anywhere in life by putting in the work and focusing on my goals. Now I know it's up to me as a military child to reach it.

- Aiden Guardado

My name is Trenton Hughes. Currently, I'm in 9th grade and 14 years old. I was born in Las Vegas. I have two younger siblings, a mom, a dad, and a boxer. I'm the child of Civilians on a Military Base. We don't really move a lot despite that fact. This is my second time on a military base. I am a gamer and I've played soccer before. I went to Triggs Elementary school from first through fourth grade when I lived at Chimney Bluffs. Then I moved and went to Heckathorn for fifth grade. Now I was living on Parading Pokey street and I went to Saville Middle School from sixth through eighth grade, but halfway through eighth grade, we moved to Iwakuni and I continued 8th grade. Then, we went digital because of COVID 19. I chose to remain digital for the first half of 9th grade, switching to in person for the second half. Usually it is my parents that are moving a lot-one will move and the other stays. I prefer Las Vegas over Iwakuni because Iwakuni is more humid making it hotter than it probably is, while Las Vegas isn't humid and therefore isn't that hot, to me at least. Winter is also way too cold here.

- Trenton Hughes

As a military child, I've moved around plenty of times in the past. I was born in San Diego, then right after that, I moved to Georgia. Then after staying in Georgia for about 3 years, we moved to Florida. We stayed there for about 5 years. After staying there, we moved to Virginia and stayed there for a very short time. About a month or so. Following that, we moved to Texas and lived there for about 3 years. And finally, we moved to Japan. We've been here for 2 years already and plan on moving in June back to Texas. I believe that here in Japan, or overseas in general, gives you many opportunities. You have a lot of freedom here unlike living in the States-from being able to do almost anything you want, to being able to go anywhere with friends and family. That is definitely a reason why I enjoy living here overseas. I also feel like you have to make a lot of sacrifices when you decide to move overseas. If you can't keep in touch with friends in the States then you may have a chance of losing those friends.

- Alexander Farrow

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Matthew C. Perry High School

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★ 9th Grade



I am a military child. I fight too. Life as a military child. What does that mean? To me, it means making a sacrifice. Being a military child is tough. Saying goodbye to friends is never easy, or even having to deal with the stress of moving to a new place. I recently arrived here in Iwakuni in July of 2020. This was somewhat my first actual move as a military child, and I was nervous. For me, the challenge always was the friends that left while I stayed. I've seen people come and go, and it can be hard sometimes. Moving here, I was anxious about having to make new friends. Everyone knows how hard it is to be "the new kid," especially in an area you don't know at a new school. Being a military child comes with sacrifice, emotional turmoil, and stress. I've had birthdays missed, Christmases missed, award ceremonies missed, school and sports events missed, but as hard as it is, it's a sacrifice we make so we're protected. Most of all, being a military child comes with opportunity. We as military children get to move to new places and explore new countries. Not every child gets that opportunity. We get to see new cultures, make new friends, and see new things. I can't complain about being a military child. All of our families make a sacrifice for us: the children. Yes, it can be hard, but our parents are protecting us. We don't have to worry about going to school and not returning home. We don't have to work to provide for our family. We are very fortunate to be military children. I am a military child and I fight too, now and forever.

- Makayla Colar

My life as a military child is one of great adventures and opportunities. I say this because I get to move around a lot to different places in the world which is a very exciting thing to do. Most people can't say that they've been to a foreign country before, but I can say how I've been to almost all seven continents and can share my experiences with my friends and family. For opportunities, I can say I have the option to learn many different languages from the places I've lived in and keep that knowledge of different cultures with me. So that is why I think life as a military child is great.

- Richlyn Clark

Personally, I am not a military child, but I do live on a military base. I have never fully felt like a "military child" even though my whole life I have grown up around other military families. My parents work for the military but aren't actually in the military since they are teachers. I am honestly very grateful for the fact that my mom or dad never went into the military because I couldn't imagine not being able to see my parents for months at a time. Even though living overseas has a lot of disadvantages, it has a lot of advantages as well. I honestly love living in Japan, it gives me experiences I would never get anywhere else, whether it is long sports trips with friends, the Japanese culture, or even being able to eat really good sushi. I know I could eat sushi or go on trips anywhere else; it just feels so different when I am in Japan. Even though I live on a military base and I am not actually Japanese, everybody in Japan is so welcoming and nice. It really makes me feel like I am welcomed into their country and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I love the jobs my parents chose and even though I am not technically a full-on military child, I am proud to represent my parents as being a military child.

- Jack Munsell

On November 27, 2020 We had arrived in Iwakuni, Japan. I was intrigued by the beautiful view as I stared into the night sky. And at the same time, I was nervous about entering a foreign country. As I looked at my surroundings, I was not surprised my family was also shaken. But there was an entirely different story before our journey to Japan.

I came home to some news. My dad got an opportunity and got orders or PCS (Permanent Change of Station) to be sent to a new foreign country. We were excited to hear the news but also scared. We had never left the country, but this was the perfect opportunity to do so in Asia. At first, I was mostly thinking about what we were going to leave behind in the States. I also thought that it was going to be a challenge because the thought of leaving my best friends and my family behind was strange. My family back in the States was sad about the news, but they got over it within time. We usually talk on the weekends as well.

My friends did not believe me about me leaving for Japan. So, when I actually left, they were surprised, even though I tried to convince them that I was not lying. To this day I still keep in contact with them. They frequently ask me "When are you coming back?" I will sometimes reply with "soon."

Although I miss my friends and family, Japan has been a great experience for me and my family. We are more active than ever. I have made many new friends, and I get along well with my peers. Overall, I would say it was worth the trip.

- Gabriel Mandujano

Life as a military child is weird. It's not like a typical American household because as you can guess, you are moving everywhere. There's not really a place you can call "home." The latest I can remember being a military child is in kindergarten. There I met one of my closest, if not the closest friend I have. I still talk to him today and we still go to the same school. His name is Sean. Both of our families were stationed at Atsugi and I lived there roughly six years. Unfortunately, Sean moved in either first or second grade. He did however come back to Atsugi in third grade and stayed there for the same length of time I did. In 2017, I had to move to Iwakuni. I was pretty disappointed about it. Living in Atsugi for more than three years led to really strong relationships between my friends, so it was a bummer that I had to leave them all. Little did I know, Sean was moving to Iwakuni too. By the end of fifth grade, I'd made some friends who I trust a lot. I'd say my time in the Middle School was definitely worth savoring. Those were some of the best years of my life so far, especially eighth grade because the work wasn't too hard, and I really enjoyed talking to those friends I made around three years ago. The summer after eighth grade hit hard. All of those previously mentioned friends moved away except for Sean and a couple others. So, at the beginning of my freshman year, I only had around four to five people I could call my friends, but I eventually made more friends throughout the year. But overall, the experience as a military child is interesting to say the least.

- Ram Paningbatan

I sometimes wonder what it would be like if my parents weren't in the military, or if my mom didn't marry my dad. I've had thoughts and wondered what it would be like to have a normal childhood, you know, the typical: grow up with your best friend from kindergarten and graduate together. Well, I won't ever experience that. I'm not saying that it's the worst thing in the world, but I would love to experience it.

I was born in Misawa, Japan where I had spent zero percent of my life. Kids from my school when I lived in the States would always ask me where I was from, but when I told them where I was from, they were in disbelief. They acted as if it was impossible to be born there just because I'm American. Some kids would even ask me, "If you were born in Japan, why can't you speak Japanese?" So, the majority of my life people thought I was a liar, but that wasn't the biggest problem.

People think being a military child is so great because you get to travel a lot and visit different places. Yeah moving to locations is cool and all but you have to think about the people that you're going to be leaving behind. Leaving your friends and family is hard, especially when you know you'll never see some of them ever again. You get so attached to people for the period of time that you're stationed here and then, you just have to let them go. This doesn't entirely mean that I hate being a military child. I'm grateful that I can experience things others normally can't, I'm grateful that I can say I've traveled the world. Being a military child is just part of my life.

- Ciera Roberts

Being a military child has its ups and downs. One big thing that military families have to deal with is travel. You constantly have to travel and go to new bases which can be a good thing. You are able to see new places that non-military families wouldn't get a chance to go to. However, you will have to leave behind friends that you possibly might not see again. This is a big problem I have with being a military child. I've had very good friends that I have to leave and it's a very hard thing to do. But sooner or later, you will get used to it.

I only have one parent in the military; the other one stays home so it doesn't get too lonely. I can imagine families with both parents in the military. It is probably hard to have family time. My dad, who is in the military, comes home at around 6:00 PM, so there's barely any time to see him. Sometimes your military parent goes on deployment which means they leave for a while. It's hard because your parent isn't with you for a long time. Sometimes it may even be for a year or two.

It's still a thing to be proud of because your parents are supporting their country and that's a great thing. Everything they do is crucial to the country. They are very brave for choosing the jobs they chose. Military children probably don't fully understand their parent's jobs which is why they are annoyed about a lot of things. As they grow up, they will understand that their parents have done very important things for their country and should be seen as heroes. As I have grown up, I became aware of the sacrifices my parents make so that the rest of the family can eat and have a roof over their heads.

- Darnell Tyler



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Being a military child, means I live with a soldier. Being a military child, means I have a parent that is respected. Being a military child, means that I have a better experience than others in the world.

I was a military child, because my dad was in the Navy. My family had a lot of good experiences because of it. We have gone to other countries and have done a lot of things like learning other cultures, going to school with people who have different experiences than me, and having fun shopping in other countries. We get to learn about other cultures, how it is to be in another country, and learn how it is to be in multicultural communities. This has given me a lot of experience that normally people are not able to have.

Unfortunately, I have not just had great experience: I have had times when I had to let my dad go away. He would go far away for up to six or seven months. During this period my family would be somewhere and live there without my dad for long time. It felt unnatural not having one of my parents in the house, but not just that, the one that is left there has to do all the things for us children. This is a very hard task. It's even more difficult when their loved one goes out and has the risk of death, but that's why there is nothing more emotional and happier when they come back. I remember when my dad came home after his duty, my mom, my brothers and I were at the station waiting. My dad saw us and he had the biggest smile that showed it had been six and a half months since we saw him. Nothing had changed from our view, but from his view, all of his sons were growing like weeds. He was happy to be welcomed back to his home sweet home.

This is why I would want to continue to be in the military. I am able to have great experiences with my family and work for the country. Being in the military is saying that you would protect and fight for your country, but at the same time it bonds your family together. Being a military child makes your family stronger together.

- Kai Smith

Growing up with parents in the military is different than growing up with parents that have a job outside serving the military. Being able to travel the world, to try, eat, and see new things. The opportunities are limitless in terms of travelling. However, there are some sacrifices that need to be made in order to achieve those opportunities and experience the world. There were times a few years ago when my mom would go on deployment for a couple weeks to at least a month. There are times when my dad has to work late or sometimes overnight. Aside from the short and temporary absence of our parents, I've had many friends, from all over the world. I grew up in California and made some friends at daycare. When I was 5, my parents chose to work and live in Iwakuni, Japan, an Air Force and Marine base. Since then, my family and I have moved back and forth from San Diego back to Iwakuni. My brothers and I have made many friends, almost all of them we are no longer keeping in touch with each other. We also had to leave our cousins, aunts and uncles to live in Japan. We would call them and keep in contact with them. They would send us food that was only available in the states and we sent food that could only be found in Japan. There have been a lot of opportunities being able to live in Japan. Our parents took us to China, and South Korea. We were able to learn more about Japanese culture and its history. Another opportunity is travelling around Japan, visiting Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Okinawa. From being able to try Japanese food to being on the top of the Tokyo Tower. It was a great experience for everyone in our family. Being able to travel and move to other countries has been a great experience. When my father was being promoted a couple months ago, he said "I couldn't have done it without my kids, they travel around the world for the sake of my career." I didn't understand what he meant at first but taking a look back and typing this, I now understand what he meant.

- Ivan Villatoro

Being born in a different country, moving every 3 years or so, deployments, absences, and more than I could list are all things a military child lives through. Through our entire lives this is what we have to say we have been through in our childhood. Some take it for granted, some take it in a bad way, and some take it as an amazing experience.

Being a military child is a blessing in a curse. We get to experience so many things that only people in the States could dream of. Living in amazing places like Japan and being able to visit other countries often is such an amazing thing to say you've done. Imagine telling someone not tied with the military that you've lived in Japan, Germany, etc! It would seem like a crazy fantasy to them. But at the same time there is the other side-and an unfortunate thing to be tied into.

From a young age, you're greeted right away with deployment, the pain of saying goodbye to a loved one for months at a time. You are taught from that point that it will continue for the rest of your childhood. Every single year from that point events like birthdays, ceremonies, and graduations will be missed. Communication can be hard too. Whenever I talk to my dad while he's on the ship, he usually is only there for a limited amount of time and then he's gone for another 2 weeks until we get to talk for those next anticipated minutes again.

One thing it's taught us though is to be closer to our family. And ironically, it brings us closer after not seeing each other for a long time.

It does seem depressing when you just think about it: your parents are not there for a large chunk of your life especially in the times they probably need to be there the most. But I think most military kids can relate to this: it has just become a part of life. It's not as bothersome as if we were younger. It makes us stronger and more independent. I admire the positives of being a military child rather than the negatives. And I think that's something a lot of us need to do.

- Sean Navarro

It's nice being a military child, but we do give up a couple of things. The most prominent sacrifice in my life would be my friends and family. You lose ties frequently, especially in the past if you didn't have a phone or device, like nowadays. I remember I had a couple of best buds, named Jamar and Colin. I PCS'ed and never saw or even heard from them again. I was also pretty much isolated from the rest of my family afterwards for a couple of years. At the time, the best thing I knew about was this Verizon phone with a keyboard. But now things are easier- with my iPad I have a way to see friends and family.

For those whose parents go on deployment, they might not see their mom or dad on a birthday or at a ceremony. The last thing I'd want to think about is not seeing my dad coming up to me when I have my diploma in my hand to congratulate me saying, "Good job son" or even a "I'm proud of you."

Then for some, the challenge is the ability to settle down. Sometimes it feels weird; it's not normal for us. We hop around every few years with our parent(s). It may not be until we turn 18 and leave them that we may be able to try to find a place to call home.

It's a cool thing, to do all of this and experience new things. Only to be an odd bod, who faces the annual problem of trying to fit in once again.

- Bradley Torres Cota

Have you ever wondered what it was like to live life as a military child? Well, it's quite a ride and I'm going to tell you all about it. It may seem "fun" to be able to move places often but looks aren't always as what they seem.

My dad has been in the military before I was even born. Because of this, I have spent a good bit of my childhood with just my mom and sister while my dad was on deployment. We weren't able to spend a lot of birthdays, holidays, and vacations together as a family since my dad was typically busy. However, although he was gone a lot, we managed to make time to talk to each other, and when he was here, we would try and spend a lot of time together. I'd often wonder what it would be like if my dad were home a lot more often and didn't miss all of those events.

With that being said, that's not the only downside to being a military child. You're constantly moving every so often unless you get stationed in the same place again. I'm a pretty shy kid myself so whenever I move to a new place making friends isn't very easy. Not to mention, it hurts when you have to leave a place that you're comfortable with, especially if you've gotten to know some people who you were really close with. I'd always struggle with interacting with others at my new schools so I would usually end up alone for a bit. But, I guess with every downside there is a good side. Over time as I got used to moving around and everything, I finally got the confidence to speak up and talk to new people which helped me make a lot of new friends. I have to admit that whenever we moved around, I've always enjoyed trying a variety of new foods and visiting all sorts of places.

I know being a military child isn't easy, but I think you should always know that someone is there for you. Things may also seem tough at first, but you'll work through it eventually.

- Nina Altig

Being a military child has its pros and cons like most things. However, I am very grateful for the life I live as a military child. One reason is that as a military child, you have tons of opportunities open for you. For example, you are able to travel and attend a ton of events. You are also able to make a lot of connections with others, making new friends and even creating closer relationships such as family friends. Being a part of a military family always means to be proud of your family members who serve in the military and be grateful for their hard work and dedication to our country.

Despite all those benefits, there are some sacrifices as a military child. You will have to move around a lot and start a new life again-with a new school, new neighborhood, and just a whole new location. It will be a difficult start till you settle in, and then have to move again. It is also tiring when your friends have to move away. From experience, I've had many times where I would make new friends, but with my luck, they would end up moving to somewhere else. Either way, it is a nice way of knowing new people around you and getting to new experiences. However, in the end, it will get better, and you will get the hang of it as time goes by.

I will always be very thankful to be a military child. It is a great opportunity for me, and I am thankful for those serving in the military.

- Sophia Nye

See more from Matthew C. Perry High School students on Page 16

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

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Being in a military family has its ups and its downs. Moving often is part of the less glamorous side of being in a military family. Just to give a little insight, when I move this summer, it will be my 8th move in 17 years. That is just the beginning of the many struggles we all deal with. But it isn't all bad, because so many families move so often, most kids pick up really good social skills and can make friends faster than everyone else. Another perk would be getting to see different cultures all over. For me, I could say that I've driven across the country two times and lived overseas for two years. Not many people my age get to say that, and I think that is pretty cool. I'll end by saying that kids of service members are presented with a set of hard challenges but also pick up a lot of helpful life skills and lessons that most normal kids don't get.

- Joseph DeWolfe

I have been a military child for almost my whole life. In the beginning, it was confusing. When I was younger, I never understood. But it never really bothered me why we would move every three years, leaving friends and family. Now that I am older, I see the pros and cons of being a military child. Some of the difficulties of being a military child are every rotation, we have to move away from friends and relatives, or someone always moves away from me. So, when I moved, I felt as if I was always missing out on everything: friends' or families' birthdays, hanging out with my friends, and making new friends.

I also did not want to leave my schools and teachers. I think I made most of my memories in school, and leaving that behind was a struggle for me most of the time. Going to a new school and trying to cope with new learning techniques and how teachers taught was challenging, but after staying, you get used to it, but then you have to leave it all behind when it is time to leave.

Nevertheless, there are always advantages of being a military child and traveling all over the world and seeing all the different cultures around you. I can always make memories of trying out new things and spending time with my family and new friends. There might be situations of being a military child you might struggle with, but there will always be something that you will make memories of and share with others.

- Dejah Arroyo

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

Hi, my name is Owen. I'm 16 years old, and I'm a military child. Together with my parents and my two siblings, we have traveled the world. I've traveled and lived in three separate continents, and have been to somewhere around 15 separate countries. I've honestly lost count. This is the life most military children have.

Now, this might seem like a cool life to have. You would be right: it is pretty cool to be a military child! I've met plenty of really cool people during my travels, even people I still consider to be my best friends, who are also military children. I first moved to England. During the surprisingly short period of four years, I made my best friends and saw a good chunk of Europe with my family.

Unfortunately, with the large amount of travelling that military kids get to experience, this means we never really have a place we can actually call "home." We're at the mercy of where the military wants to move our parents. I've been lucky enough to call Albuquerque, New Mexico my home, but I'm well aware other kids aren't. It's really conflicting to not be able to keep a childhood home or keep friends, in exchange for a life of seeing the world. All I have to say is that I'm incredibly thankful for the internet to keep me and my friends and siblings connected, even with a whole ocean between us. With this conflicted life I live, I don't think I'd trade it for anything. I love being a military child, even with the many conflicts that comes with it.

- Owen Trigo

I sit on my bed, holding my breath, as a million thoughts swirl through my mind like a whirlpool. There's so many, and they're all going so fast. I can barely focus on the loudest thought, despite it basically screaming at me. Screaming in my face. I still can't hear it. Even then, I know what it is. Coming to terms with it was the problem. This was always the problem. My hands engulf my face as I try to think harder. As I try to find any sense in what my brain trying to say. Then it's clear. My head becomes silent and a single thought rings through, surrounding my entire being.

"Things are changing again."

And I can feel my heart rip violent beats through my chest, once I finally face the truth. I had just got comfortable, and here we are. Things are changing again. I wasn't ready. I was never ready. I don't want to leave. I'm not ready to leave. I don't want to leave my family. I don't want to leave my home. I'm so scared.

Then my mom walks in. I see her, and I see her smile. Everything settles. The walls of heavy tension do not crumble, but they fall. They fall down and let her in. My life's comfort. Things are changing again, but family stays the same, right?

- Makayla Johnson

Growing up as a military child isn't always the easiest. Being a military child has its ups and downs, but as a military child you get to experience many things most people will never get the opportunity to experience. The moving aspect of being a military child is bittersweet because although you feel like you're leaving people behind, you get to explore and travel which is an amazing thing to look back on when you grow up. Moving to Japan wasn't the easiest, and at times I still want to go back home, but I know this is an opportunity of a lifetime to learn about different cultures. Not only is it interesting but it could also come in handy one day. If I had the choice to not be a military child, I wouldn't choose it.

- Jordan Wooten

Goodbye

"Hello"

A word known by all

At such a young age we have learned to say hello
But the difference between you and I
Is I have been forced to learn to say goodbye
From the boxes piled high to the tears that never dry
Packing all the memories made
In just one day
Years and Years of memories made
Gone in just one day
Everything I know gone in a day
The empty wall and empty halls
No longer say "hello"
There must be a reason
For this stupid sacrifice
Cause why would the country purposely make a child
Always say "Goodbye"

- Hailey Gibbs

I am not a military child. Most of my friends however, are. I don't get the same opportunities as them to travel the world, but I do get the opportunity to meet them. The versatility of my friends has allowed me to get to know their cultures and lifestyle. But with making military friends comes the downfall. Watching them leave your life forever.

It is heartbreaking seeing them leave, but it is even more heartbreaking when you know they don't want to leave and they can't do anything about it. Sometimes they move far and with the distance, the closeness of the friendship tapers away. Sometimes you miss the chance to say goodbye and express to them how important they are to you.

My best friend once said we are all ticking time bombs waiting to explode, but when we are with each other the bomb stops ticking and there is nothing but joy and the smell of teen spirit. Being friends with military kids is an honor but often a loss. Sometimes I wish that I was one too because then maybe I would be better at letting go. Watching them be torn away from people who become family never gets easier no matter how accepting you are.

- Morgan Drummond

My life as a military child has been an adventure to say the least. My military life began in Tennessee. I don't really remember much about my time there, just bits of pieces. During my dad's tour in Florida, he went to Afghanistan and I was nervous for him. He came home safe and we were happy and couldn't wait to hear all of the stories. My family's time overseas would be in Japan for three years. My life changed as soon as my father retired from the Navy. My father is very happy to be retired from the military, and he is glad just to enjoy everybody talking about their times in the Navy, so that he can tell them his stories.

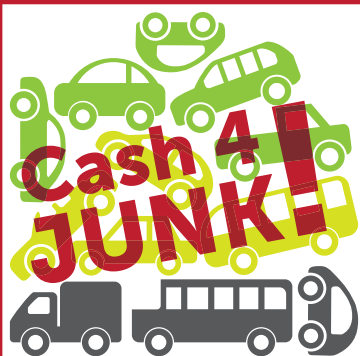
- Alicia Williams

I have been a military child my whole life. All I have known is that I move every three years. So, the cycle stays the same: make new friends; they move; I make new friends; I move. Then the whole process starts over once again. It does have its hidden beauty though, like traveling the world and making friends that move all over who you can stay connected to, even if you are halfway around the world. It is a love hate relationship, but I would not give it up for anything.

- Kirby Kendrick

Being a military child isn't hard but it isn't easy. There are so many opportunities, That's why so many people might want to be me. In this case I wish I could just stay in one place. But a place I call home is all over the globe. Traveling the world on a boat, I don't want to row. Even though it's a great life experience, There's a lot of friendships and sacrifices. I love being a military child. That's all you have to know.

- Kayleena Thevenin



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Yokota High School

10th grade



Celebrating
Month of
the Military
child



10th grade

Moving

As a military child
Travelling is inescapable
Seeing cool, and amazing places
Sightseeing, then another three years
We are off to another country
New lives for us all, new friends,
Have to learn a new layout and learn
to fit in
Life as a military child is fun and
amazing and
We are all lucky people.

– Erin Gilmore

It's Me.

I know what it's like
To move every four years or so,
I know what it's like
To leave friends behind.
But every time,
I meet new people.
Every time,
I make new friends.
And I know what it's like
To have a parent away
For two months or half a year.
It's just me. It's how I live.

– Arthur Tuxhorn

New school

First day at new school
excitement and anxious
Take a step forward
Being a military child
Tairyn Harrison
Saying goodbye
Packing up and moving place to place
Life in the military

– David Fink

PCS

Like new pairs of shoes
You get comfortable in them
It's time for new pair.
Purple Days
Jeremiah Simmons
Day to remember
Purple shirts all around
Spot those different

– Matt Hullman

Japan

Always be moving
Moving places to places
Staying in Japan

– Zemon Davis

New home in Japan

I look from my house
Blossoms blooming from the trees
Take my breath away

– Jayden Franklin

The Military Child

Always adapting
Never a stable lifestyle
There is always change

– Marcus Wood

Eagle

Fly like an eagle
You can soar across the sky
A new Land is close

– Kai Garcia

Standing tall

Constantly moving,
Nowhere for us to call home.
Yet here we shall stand.

– Carter Bevilacqua

Light and Darkness

Our soldiers so brave
They always fight for the light
Darkness hides in fright

– Kai Swinehart

The Dilemma

Moving is normal
Being Still doesn't feel right
Yet I Yearn for it

– Richard Lehman

New beginning

Going to a new place
Leaving from what was once home
Starting over anew

– Angelo DeFazio

Military Kids

Friends have come and gone
Because they are just like me
Military kids

– Michael Woodworth

Every couple of years

Every couple of years
I start to shed my tears
Time to leave my beloved home
Starting to feel like I'm on my own

Time to head to California
I'll be lucky if I ever see ya
It's time for me to go
Let's get this show on the road

– Layla Morford



The Path

I'm walking this path
Heading to a bright future
Military child

– Noah Meadows

The Life

Meeting new people
And having to make new friends
Traveling a lot
And visiting relatives
Sharing experiences

– Troy Johnson

The Routine

I am leaving soon
Hope I see you once again
Life will be boring once more
A new life: California
Good-bye my best friend

– Carter Scarberry

Goodbye

It all seems to be
That there are more "Goodbyes" said
Than all the "Hellos"

– Nolan Dunn

The Perks

You can meet new people and interact
with them
And experience different cultures
When you see it from a different
perspective
So I think it's fun being a military
child

– Paul Franks

Japan

I never thought I would live in Japan
With its beautiful cities, but yet
calming nature
And its unique festivals and elegant art
Yet, the thought troubled me...
I did not want to move to another place
When my life here was already perfect
I had amazing friends, a great school,
and a loving team
How could I ever leave it?
But soon I realized that
This is an opportunity for me to grow
and change
An opportunity to see what was past the
countryside
Maybe it was time for me to leave

– Davaney Overton

Impatience

Deployment is tough
With him gone everything's rough
I've just had enough

– Jazira Coburn

Easy

Moving for me has been easy to cope
Though on days I do nothing but mope
My grades are dead
Their jokes in my head
But my friends can still text me with
hope

– Noah Freshley

The Real Life of A Military Child

Filled with many joys, life as most of us
know will change,
Every three to four years bags will be
packed and friends will be lost,
Best friends will inevitably, become a
distant memory,
But always be a chance to make new
friends, move to different places,
See new wonders of the world then it
will get repetitive,
Because in another three to four years
we'll pack our bags and leave,
Tears will be shed, bonds will break,
we could call it a heartbreak or a new
beginning,
But the life of a military child is great
or it could be stressful
almost seeming as if we never know
what to truly feel,
we're along for the ride just going with
the flow,
like a never-ending waterfall
The military is unpredictable
we never when there's an emergency
leave or a change in plans,
we are considered to be lucky,
Most of us are seeing places that many
dream about

– Frederick Bryant

Being New

I just got to my new school
I hate the staring
I know no one here
I just want to go back home
Wherever home may be
The sorrow I feel

– Aden Dehm



See more Mr. Wagner's
students on Page 18

Yokota High School

10th grade



Mr. Wagner

Celebrating
Month of
the Military
child



10th grade

Military Child Tanka

Why am I writing this?
Really what is the point?
What can I say about this?
I'm a military child.
Nothing more and nothing less.

– Gunnar Ern

Deployed

Long nights, Such long years
Tossing and turning all night
Thinking of what's gone

– Jada Travis

"Only a Sea Apart"

Who would have thought
The woman who raised me would be
left apart
Although the sea keeps us separate
Memories of you fill my heart

– Dakota Rhoads

New places

Life can be so wild
Experiencing cultures
Eating all the food

– Aiden McCollum

Disappointment

Not only do I wish I went,
But I wish I was there when it happened
I hate being told that I missed out on
something
Especially when I was thousands of
miles away

– Michael Kasten

We Serve Also

So much to say, So little time,
We do what we are told,
It's time to go, Again
another duty station,
Another school, another Base
Goodbye old friends, Hello New friends,
Goodbye old Teachers, Hello New Teachers
It's what we do, our parents choose to
serve

– Mikaly Sales

Moving

There are good things too
Met amazing people, friends
Got to see places
Beautiful places and views
Beautiful culture and food

– Angelica Eddy

Deployment

After the big departure,
Watching the ship sail away
Leaving the harbor
My eyes fill with tears
Waiting for him to return

– Sydney McDonald

Weed

No matter how strong
Or how supple the plant is
It only stands as a weed

One that may be trampled
By the needs of the nation

– Jordan Dean

Reminder

A maze made of boxes
Is the constant reminder
nothing ever lasts

– Emma Hardy

Luck

I am considered lucky
Travelling the world,
Friends littered everywhere,
Experiences at the tips of my fingers.

What about the dark secret,
That every child who serves knows.
The horror of moving,
Leaving everything and everyone
behind.

Talked about so much yet forgotten
after their month.

The pain of being deserted, an
abstract memory in their friend's
mind.

Yet to everyone,
We are still lucky.

– Angela Sylvain

Dandelion Fluff

We can never stay
So may the wind blow kindly
As we go away

– Kaila Kennedy

Moving On

Whenever I stay in a place for too long
I get bored because I am used
to moving on
Moving is sad and hurts a lot too
But I have my family to get me
through
Memories stay with you throughout
your life
But the positive thing is that you can
make as many as you like
Hawaii, California, and Japan too
These places each have a piece of me,
and I love them to the moon

– Reagan Cheramie

Me the Dandelion

Plucked out of my home again
Time to rebuild and regrow
They disregard me
As hot tears fall down my face
The dandelion

– Zoie Martin

Dandelion Tuft

The way the weed sways
From the harshly gentle wind
Then it's blown away

– Marilyn Fresquez

Can't Say Goodbye

To parents who leave
They all have to say goodbye
Not being able to say
To those who may never come back
Please do not leave me

– Eli Francis

Forever Friends

I can hardly believe
it's been a few years
the thought of me leaving you
reduces me to tears

we've been on such a grand adventure
you still owe me 26 sodas, no less
I don't know what I'll do without you
I'll probably be an emotional mess

I will always remember
the late-night walks and 10 PM cakes
spending our time napping and
reading quietly
or hanging out while a typhoon quakes

and even though we've fought
our friendship has never been stronger
I know it's because of you
I resent myself no longer

we're nearing the end
I'm so sad to say goodbye
three months will feel like nothing
when time has just flown by

I know it's not always been easy
but I'm so grateful I can say
I know you'll always be my friend
for forever and a day

– Sage Fisher

Thankful to be
a Military Child

Proud to be a son or daughter
Of someone who,
Commits their life to everyday service
I don't know if I could do what you do

– Alex Kosinski

Relief of Moving

Relief of moving
Arriving with a clean slate
Where you can create yourself
Where I know nothing
And nobody knows about me

– Ethan Buss

Another New Place

I love visiting places
Eating new cuisines
And seeing wondrous sights
But I've been here a while
I want to go home

– Leia Marker

Normal

I always wonder what it's like to be
normal



Yokota High School

10th grade



To not be a part of the vicious cycle
To not be swept away with the wind
But to have a place to call home

I always wonder what it's like to be connected
To not fear the inevitable heartbreak
To not feel like I am racing the clock,
But to have the precious time I've always longed for

I always wonder what it is like to be myself
To not have to mold into my surroundings
To not see a stranger in the mirror
But to just get to be normal like everyone else.

– Lilly Wellons

My Life as a Flower

A dandelion, at first a green bud
Uncertain of the world
Becomes a yellow flower
Open to people and places

Transforms into a white fluff
Easily carried away in the wind
Scattering itself everywhere
Leaving nothing left

– Kaci McBrayer

The Colour of Honour

Purple unites us
And yet, moving all over the world
Purple Divides us.

– Allison Mahone

Tax Evaded

Have to pay a tax
Extra cost on my purchase
Not at the BX

– Brodie Galus

Unordinary Adventures

Living nomadically, never settling down
It feels never-ending, in every city and town
Being restricted, yet free at the same time
Never having a place, or a home to call mine

I'm proud to be a part of this force that stands up to fight
But I sometimes doubt it, I even lose sight

With fear, anxiety, and excitement in my chest

I still continue to wonder, where it will take me next

Permanent Things
Illianna Gomez

I always wanted a treehouse,
A pretty one, in the tallest tree of my backyard.

I always wanted to paint my walls pink,
A pastel shade, though the choice was always hard.

I always asked Mom and Dad if I could have these things,
A question where the answer was always no.

I never could have permanent things,
We were never sure the next place we would go.

– Piper Rose

Blessed

Adventure changes one's perspective
No longer ensnared to the same
But opened to the world
And to the beauty of God's creation

O' how grateful I am to be a military child
With a different story than most
Blessed to go beyond the borders
And live to see sights some will never see

– Nora Grace True

Cycle of the Military Child

The movers come,
Every two to three years
And I say goodbye to friends
With a few tears

A new country, a new chapter
I move to a new place

At school I'm a little shy at first
But that's always the case

For this next chapter in life
I will make all the memories I can
Because before I know it
In will come the moving van

– Audrey O'Dell

Choice

I don't belong to one culture
I have many
I gather families across the world
I belong where I choose

A blend of experiences
Taught me to see
The world
With many perspectives

Differences divide people
Like the ocean between me and my home

But I always get to choose
Who I will be
Being a Military Child
Faith Williams

A dazzling purple
That represents our patience
And our steady strength

I did not think I would be here
That I would have done the things I did
But it has made me who I am
This experience
The people I've met and will never forget

Many walk in my shoes
And many will never get the chance
So I am thankful to be a military child

– Audrey Auna

Family Tree

I wonder what normalcy is.
Do generations of a family tree normally live in the same town?
Do people seriously live across the

street from their relatives?
Do they get to plan out their lives for at least years in advance?

I can't ask my parents about this.
Or my grandparents, or their parents.
My family tree has belonged to the Air Force for as long as my family remembers

I'm starting to think being in the military is an inheritable trait in my family.

– Devynn Martin

Once Had/ Now Have

It is hard to start over,
It is hard to leave what you once knew
Now that you have moved,
You must start over anew.

With new places comes new experiences,
Some weirder than most,
People welcome you to their country,
just like gracious hosts.

– Arion Johnson



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

See more Mr. Wagner's students on Page 20



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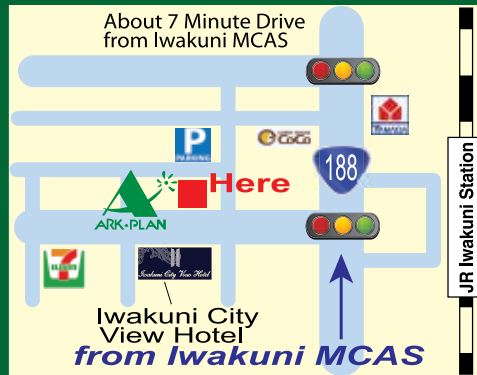
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Yokota High School

12th grade



Celebrating
Month of
the Military
Child



12th grade

Gratitude

You have sacrificed a lot,
And for that I am grateful.
You have missed key milestones
But made up for them
With quality time

– Joshua Jordan

Resilience

New place, new home, the same stuff
These things never change
Introduced around the base
Fighting for the biggest room
Being called “resilient”

– Maresa Guzman

Lonely

Constantly alone
Feeling like an outsider
Could I make new friends?

– Aki Diehl

Dandelion

A yellow flower
that changes into white seeds,
Whose seeds are blown far away
by the wind, and blooms
wherever it wants to grow.

– Regine Familaran

Culture

Cultures are unique
All in the military
Supplies much insight

– Dalton Burgess

Military Child

We leave with our parents
Making new friends with them
Loving our life and many experiences
Military Children love each other
because we know our pain
Moving around and finding our
military friends

– Chris Jones

Friends

All eyes are on me
I seem all alone to them
I know we'll be friends
Soon they'll forget I was new
My new friends will make this home

– Ozzie Nelson

Military Child Month

April is our month
The children of the soldiers
Celebrate with us.

– Jackson Smith

To the fullest

We see new faces
Show them around and have fun
Right until they leave

– Aiden Valiente

Boxes

Empty room to room
Travel with heavy bags
Stress on our faces
Boxes fill every single room
Let's never pack this again

– Andrew Beene

Sacrifice

As he gears up and puts on his uniform
a tear drops
Making it heartbreaking never
knowing when he will come back
Understanding the sacrifices that are
being made
Leaving family behind

Missing every important memory as a
family
Birthdays, anniversaries, and
accomplishments being missed
However, knowing that they our
fighting for our country
Trying to make it back home to the
loved ones

– Haley Singleton



View From The 'Q'

Pink over live grass
A sick gloss of new color
Dry, wall paneled ceiling

– Brendan Thorne

Promotion

Watching my Father
Receive a new Insignia
Fills me with great pride

– Kelsey Bustos

Moving

Getting rid of our clutter
Rooms filled with boxes
Spending my last days with friends
Long hours of travel
New home, new friends, a new life

– Terra Mills

Moving Along

Adjusting to a new place with new
faces
Ready to make more friends once
again
Taking old memories of friends and
family
To help remind of the good old days
As my happiness fades away
I lose the friendship of those who stay
Just one greet can change everything
From feeling lonely and depressed
To belonging to a brand new and
welcoming home

– Johnny Marker

Cold Breeze

It is a new base
Summer but I'm feeling cold
North Dakota breeze

– Kuranosuke Sato

Plus and Minus

Time and time again
Life packed in cardboard
boxes
Goodbyes to friendly
strangers
You wish to have known
Free education, at least

– Gwyn Nacionales

Military Life

People come and go
you have to just go with the flow
always having to leave old places
and saying hello to new faces
nothing is ever mine for long
each place I've been has its own song
learning that I have to accept change
never realized my life would be this
strange

– Aaliyah Velasquez

Life Adventures

Leaving familiar
Going to uncertainty
Hoping it works out

– Anthony Logue

Travel

Going place to place
I leave behind many friends
Only to make more

– Ezekiel Woo

The Young Patriot

I am a military child
It is not simply leaving and going
Saying goodbye only to say hello again
But so much more

Being a military child
Is the honor that we carry
Forever written on us
The history of all those before

We are the heart of the military
Worldwide ambassadors
Making our country proud

– Erica Young

Come Home

Parent please come home
Praying for your safe return
Waiting on you now

– Toy Williams

Empty

Boxes fill the empty rooms
Mattresses without bed frames

Clothes in suitcases
Voices echoing
I don't want to leave

– Lekysha Cintron

Meeting at the Airport

the sigh of relief
he is back home finally,
our arms safe and sound

– Aliyah Isidro

Check out more
military children stories at:
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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Hi! My name is Geraliz! I am a "Military Brat" how some people call it. I am 11 years old and an only child. I arrived to Hawaii just 3 days ago, and want to share my PCS story. My family was stationed in Atsugi, Japan for 3 years. I really liked it there.

At first, I really didn't like Japan and everything to do with it. The food, the language, the culture. I didn't want to be there at all. I missed my friends, my house, and everything was really confusing. I had to go to a new school, meet new teachers, and make new friends. I was scared to see what would happen and to find out my new future.

The houses were so different, and so was everything else. Even with 2 years of being there, I still told me parents that I felt alone, and that I wanted to go back to the states. My last year in Japan made me realize how great it actually was. I thought I had lost my home, my family, my friends, and my school. Turns out that at first I didn't really have it. Then as my adventure continued, I found it all again.

I was really sad when I had to leave Japan. I went to visit my family in Puerto Rico, Florida, and Virginia. When I got to the U.S, I was shocked. Everything was so different. At that moment, I wished I was back in Japan, lol! It was the same process from when I left the States, I feel it again. I learned that life is always going to change, and my adventure hasn't ended. My advice to other military kids, like me, is to always keep your head up! Always look on the bright side, and eventually you'll learn to adapt to your new duty station! Even though you may think everything is bad, and went wrong, there's always a small light that will keep growing as you move forward with it.

– Geraliz Matos
Shirley Lanham Elementary



Zama's Kalil Irby took first place in the boys D-II high jump. Photo by Grace Bryant, For Stars and Stripes

Kadena, Zama join short list of Pacific champions this year

BY DAVE ORNAUER,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: May 3, 2021

Far East track and field championships are almost inherently memorable.

Athletes straining against each other until they cross the finish line. Records often fall. The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, to borrow a famous phrase.

But the 2021 version, conducted virtually over the weekend at locations sometimes thousands of miles apart, may go down as one of the most unique.

Kadena coach Doyle Robertson's Panthers scored their first boys and girls team titles and overall Division I school banner in his seven years at the helm. Zama coach Veronica Jones and the Trojans recaptured the Division II school banner for the first time since 2017 and won the boys and girls team titles in the process.

"Considering all the obstacles that we had to overcome, this feels like a 'breath of fresh air,'" Jones said.

"I'm excited for our kids. Good news," Robertson said. "Seventh time is the charm. This was seven years in the making for me. We really busted our butts for this."

It was one of only two season-ending Far East sports championships this school year due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. Cross country was held in the fall and was also run virtually.

"It would have felt a little better if it had been a non-virtual meet," Robertson said.

Each school fielded 14 individual events and team relays using automated timing at each school's respective track – if they had one.

That was not the case for Nile C. Kinnick in Japan and Osan and Daegu in South Korea – schools at bases without regulation tracks. Kinnick ran at Yokota, while Osan and Daegu ran at Humphreys.

Even schools with a track sometimes felt the pinch of



Nile C. Kinnick's Austin Shinzato won the boys D-I 1,600 and 3,200 and anchored the Red Devils' 3,200 relay-winning team. Photo by Jack Higbee, For Stars and Stripes

1.52 seconds. Kadena's girls swept the three relay races, Isamar Vargas won the 800, Karise Johnson the 1,600, Amayah Smith took the 3,200 and Shaunay Rose the high jump.

Kadena's Kevonte Speight took the D-I boys 200 and 300 hurdles, and the Panthers teams won the 400 and 1,600 relays. O'Connor also won the long jump, Kadena's Andrew Wake the high jump and Keith Toncu the 800.

Zama's girls took the D-II 400 and 1,600 relays, Madison Anderson captured the long jump and the 100 and Theori Lindsay took the high jump.

On the boys side, the Trojans won the 400 and 3,200 relays and Kalil Irby took the high jump.

Among other multiple winners, Yokota's Aiko Galvin took the D-II 400, 800 and 1,600, after battling a hip flexor injury most of the school year. "Her speed is almost there, but her stamina could get better," said her father and coach, Dan Galvin.

Trinity Stegall and Antonio Mack were two more Yokota multiple winners in the boys and girls 200 and the 100 and 300 hurdles. Kinnick's Austin Shinzato ran to victory in the boys D-I 1,600 and 3,200 and anchored the Red Devils' 3,200 relay-winning team. Osan's Parker Hendrickson was a D-II boys multiple distance winner, capturing the 1,600 and 3,200.

E.J. King's Avanni Gardner swept the girls D-II shot put and discus and Osan's Gregory Lunn did the same for the D-II boys. Humphreys' Chasity Johnson swept the girls D-I 100 and 200, while Kubasaki's David Magbagbeola won the boys 100 and 400.

Robert D. Edgren, with just one in-season meet and nine total athletes, saw two of them win events. Morgan Erler took the girls D-II 3,200 while David Blake won the 400.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com
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Petition pays off for teens who asked Yokota's commander for a new skate park



Ben Wellons, 13, performs a trick at a renovated skate park at Yokota Air Base on April 30. Photos by Theron Godbold, Stars and Stripes

BY SETH ROBSON,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: April 30, 2021

YOKOTA AIR BASE – Teenagers are zooming around a newly renovated skate park at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo after convincing the base commander to approve the work.

The skate park, on the east side of

the base, was torn down last year after damaged asphalt and rusting equipment rendered it unsafe. No funding was available to restore the park.

However, Yokota High School freshman and Boy Scout Thomas Vogeley, 15, and Yokota Middle School seventh-grader Ben Wellons, 13, managed to reverse that decision. Both are avid skaters and Boy Scouts.

Vogeley, with Wellons' help, gathered nearly 250 signatures on an online petition calling for a new park or dedicated skate spot that he presented to Col. Andrew Campbell, commander of Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing, in February.

The petition jump-started a project to refurbish the skate park that reopened April 9, Lt. Col. Bradly Bucholz, commander of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, told Stars and Stripes in an email April 21.

"Their getting involved and advocating for the needs of the community in a polite and diplomatic fashion was a great initiative and catalyst for



Thomas Vogeley, 15, left, and Wellons enjoy the newly renovated skate park.

outside-of-the-box thinking that linked our training mission to a community need and brought the project to reality," he said.

Craftsmen from the squadron removed and replaced the old skate park asphalt, using the project as an opportunity to practice concrete finishing, a critical skill, base spokesman 1st Lt. Stuart Thrift said in the April 21 email.

He said the concrete is 5 inches thick with wire mesh reinforcement.

The engineers used concrete and other materials left over from previous projects to restore the skate park at no cost to mission-related funding, he said.

In addition to a smooth concrete surface, the renovated park includes improved

drainage, lighting and a fence. Plans call for further park improvements, including larger ramps and obstacles, and parts are on order to repair the park's lights, Thrift said.

On April 30, Wellons and Vogeley were at the skate park trying out some tricks on the ramps and rails.

Both boys said they're excited about the new

facility and looking forward to watching skateboarding in its first appearance at Olympic Games in Tokyo this summer.

Wellons, who has been skating about 18 months, was stoked to try out some ollies and 180s.

"I'm pretty happy with it," Vogeley said. "The concrete is awesome."

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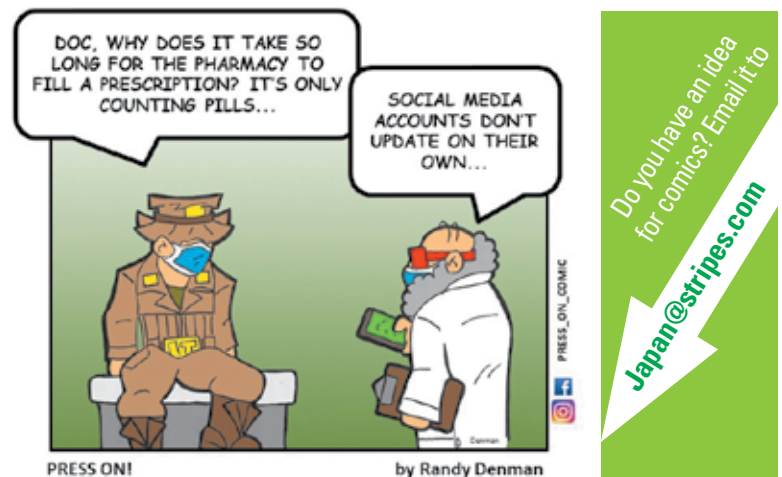


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COMICS CORNER



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Stripes Sports Trivia

Everyone knows that Fenway Park and Wrigley Field are the two oldest MLB parks currently in use. Many of today's venues are relatively new and have little in common with Fenway, which debuted in 1912, and Wrigley, which followed in 1914. At 50 years newer than Fenway, which park is the third oldest?

Answer

Dodger Stadium (1962)

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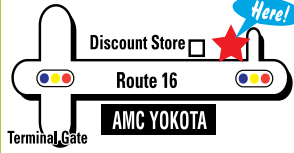
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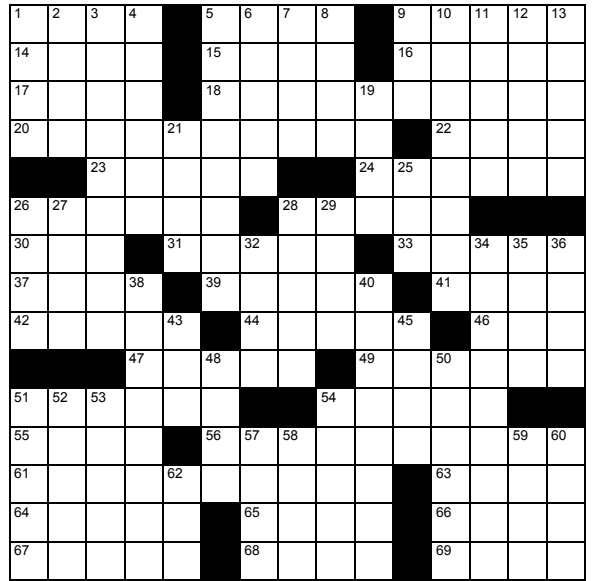
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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- Fare with chips
- Eighty-six
- Tiresome ones
- Storybook start
- Vicinity
- Cooking smell
- Way off
- Burro, for one
- Mail from a sweetheart
- Horse's stride
- Musical composition
- For the most part
- Pay no heed to
- Place to wash up
- Word with bang or band
- Striking success
- Harder to find
- In a dead heat
- Food on a stick
- Etna output
- Make a copy
- Send money
- Con's confines
- Hitchcock classic, with "The"
- Hanes product
- Put on hold
- Restrained
- Valuable deposit
- Holds oneself accountable
- Weather station gadget
- Place
- Bedouin, for one
- Airtight closure
- Buffalo's lake
- Word before slam or piano
- Peppy
- Office furnishing



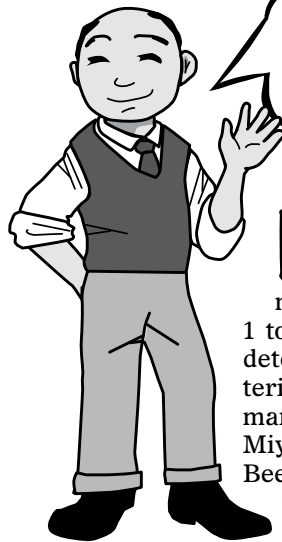
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- Regarding this point
- CD player's ancestor
- Speak from a soapbox
- Religious faction
- Put on hold
- Put an end to
- One of a kind
- Ancient numerals
- Modern message
- Like French fries
- Weapons
- Artificial bait
- Cause of inflation?
- Alpine goat
- Hand over
- "___ in Toyland"
- Molecular bit
- Cooking fat
- Like some questions
- At any point
- Carry on

- Duke or Earl
- With resentment
- Half of XXVIII
- Nicholas II, for one
- Paper purchase
- Warned, cat-style
- Street talk
- Kind of roll
- Fluid accumulation
- Use choice words
- Famed loch
- Escalator part
- Redding on the radio
- Stink to high heaven
- Eccentric

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

B	A	N	D	E	L	S	A	M	I	C	R	O	
A	L	E	E	L	E	A	F	U	N	Z	I	P	
S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T	S	T	A	L	E
H	O	R	D	E	S	H	E	L	T	E	R	E	D
D	E	I	S	T	R	E	A	R					
S	P	O	N	G	E	G	A	R	N	I	S	H	
P	A	W	N	A	S	A	L	D	A	N	T	E	
I	T	E	M	T	O	D	O	S	L	I	E	N	
C	E	L	E	B	M	O	W	E	R	T	I	C	
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	R	A	P	I	N	E	
N	E	A	T	E	M	E	D	I	A				
S	T	A	T	E	S	I	D	E	I	N	T	R	O
L	U	R	I	D	M	O	R	T	I	C	I	A	N
A	N	I	M	E	E	R	G	O	E	V	I	L	
W	A	D	E	R	S	K	E	W	R	E	L	Y	



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Kanji of the week



Stand (tatsu/ritsu)

Language Lesson

See you again.

Mata aimashoo.



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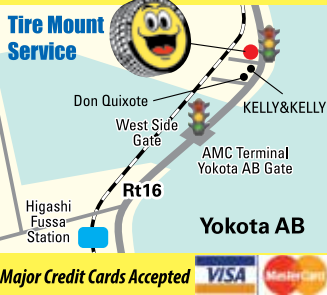
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	4			5				7
		8	3					5
2	1		4					
	8	2	6					
7			1					8
				7		9	2	
		4			1			8
	9	7				4		
				3			6	5

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.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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