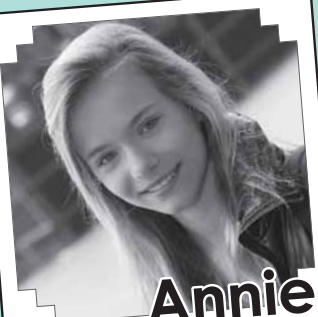


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- A congratulatory message of no more than 20 words
- The graduate's high school

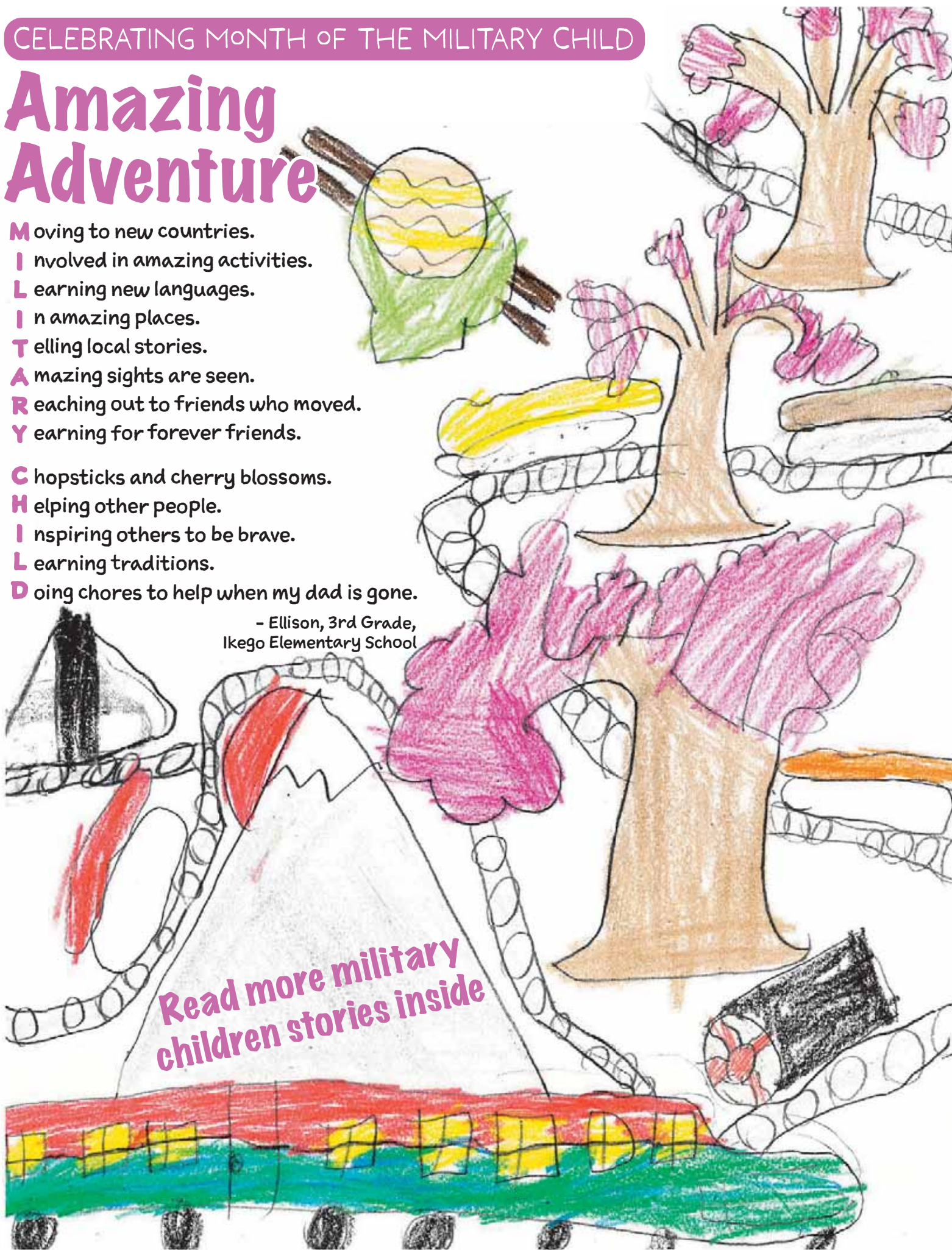
Send info by May 13, 5 p.m. to PacificGrad@stripes.com and a Stripes representative will follow-up with you right away.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Amazing Adventure

- M**oving to new countries.
- I**nvolvement in amazing activities.
- L**earning new languages.
- I**n amazing places.
- T**elling local stories.
- A**mazing sights are seen.
- R**eaching out to friends who moved.
- Y**earning for forever friends.
- C**hopsticks and cherry blossoms.
- H**elping other people.
- I**nspiring others to be brave.
- L**earning traditions.
- D**oing chores to help when my dad is gone.

– Ellison, 3rd Grade,
 Ikego Elementary School



Read more military children stories inside

INSIDE INFO

DID YOU KNOW?

An aspect of Japan that just might surprise you

PAGE 31




Special 8-page pullout inside!

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child





Being a military child is fun and cool. I get to see places that my extended family is unable to see.

- Bridget Aker, 4th Grade

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





- Ruby McNab, 3rd Grade, Sullivans Elementary School

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

1st Grade
Ms. Jackson

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



I reach for the stars by always having a good attitude when we have to move to new places.

Name: Yuhanna C. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



I am a military child. I reach for the stars by being brave.

Name: Christian J. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



I had to go to Oki hawa.

Name: Marceline M. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



I have to move a lot my dad dose dooty I have to get on a plane a lot.

Name: Jamie B. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



moving to new places.

Name: Gabriel N. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st


MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



My Dad is in the ship he bin gone a lot now my dad is back.

Name: Liliana O. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st


MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



My dad is in the ship he bin gone a lot now my dad is back.

Name: Carter A. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



My Dad going on deployment reminds me of being a military child.

Name: Halley M. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

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



MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



I like annies becks She plays basketball with me and she is my best friend.

Name: Jade T. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



when my DAD came home i was happy.

Name: Elena S. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



This is me moving.

Name: Annalise S. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



The work laits this school is esy because of christian.

Name: Alexander S. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS REACH FOR THE STARS



I miss my dad when he is gone but I'm so proud of him.

Name: Evalina O. Teacher: Ms. Jackson Gr: 1st

2nd Grade
Ms. Bodwin

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
my dad is been on
the sea for years

Name: Hamrin A. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
going through deployment
Moving to a new place
Making new friends, being
brave.

Name: Ethan A. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
dreaming, because they
are in space.
and stars is my favorite
thing.
and I love to look
no less

Name: Elijah A. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
always be a good at moving
to new place and make
new friends. I reach for
the stars by starting a
new school in another
country. I reach for the
stars by moving to another
country and seeing cherry
blossoms.

Name: Rose B. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
going through deployment. My
dad had to go on the ship for
deployment when my dad is on
deployment I sleep with my
dad. My picture shows
me and my family saying goodbye
to my dad when he goes on
the voyage.

Name: Luke E. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by my community.

Name: Thoma C. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



Reach for the stars crusaders!
and try your best! The way
I made my dream come true
is that to try my best! My dream
was to draw a picture, it was
hard but I tried my best! What
makes me a military kid is that
my dad is a Military and I'm
very brave.

Name: Gabrielle H. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
being happy and having
fun with my family at
universal studios. It was
also scary at halloween
night. There are so many rides.

Name: Emma J. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by coming
to school every day. I like math
at school.

Name: Anabel L. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars:
by waiting for my dad to
come back. This picture
shows my dad waiting
for work.

Name: Santiago S. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
being myself and being good when
I move.

Name: Giuliana M. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

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




**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
making new friends,
moving to new places.

Name: Alden R. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by being a sports fan.
Cherry blossom they are
cute.

Name: Tristan R. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
rising to the top. I like
being a different person every
week.

Name: Enzo L. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by going another country.

Name: John T. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
bravely moving.

Name: Lucille V. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
an airplane that fly to
them.

Name: Ronan W. Teacher: Ms. Bodwin Gr: 2nd



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD "MOMC" AND MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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2nd Grade
Ms. Brewer

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
By being brave and a dad
when my dad came home to Korea
Ways.

Name: Ellet C. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the
Stars by being student
of the month and not
for being brave. And
finally last for doing
the Pledge of Allegiance.

Name: Leonardo C. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
making new friends. we
are sad, but were brave
we are going through
deployments stay brave
and stay hopeful.

Name: Jayvon M. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the star
by going through deployment.
I am a military child
on the picture it shows me
and my sister and my mom
watching my dad coming
back.

Name: Isabel L. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
being brave and a dad
is still gone on a deployment. And
I miss him a lot.

Name: Cassidy B. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by always protecting
our country.

Name: Noah E. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
being brave when moving
to a new home.

Name: Yusuf S. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



My dad was jet in the Navy when
I was up. I want to be like him. I
want to be a jet pilot too. I can explore
the world in the jet. I can reach for
the stars!

Name: Lincoln O. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by getting
over anxiety and insecurities and
worries. I have ADHD and
Dyslexia. Getting over best
friends leaving its apart of life
you can't expect your friends to
be with you forever.

Name: Yashelle N. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the
stars by missing
someone we love and
making new friends.
coming back to my
dad.

Name: Margaret E. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by being brave.

Name: Kayleigh C. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

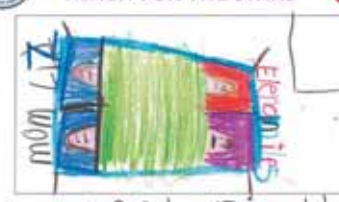
**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by facing my fears. Being
brave and trying new things.

Name: Amber L. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the
stars by going
through deployments
when my dad went
to deployment me
and family was
crying.

Name: Elizabeth E. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by being brave. Thank you for
protecting us America.
Thank you for every thing!

Name: Isabella A. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the
stars by missing
someone we love
I am a military child.
I do the things a
military person does.
I have the brain
of cleaning. I have the
brain of doing science.

Name: Lorenzo B. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by making
new friends. making new friends
starting new things.

Name: Ariella C. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd


**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
being brave and trying new
things.

Name: Marcus M. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars by
making new friends and
move to a new place and I miss him
and he is 10 years old.

Name: Jeremiah E. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

**MILITARY CONNECTED KIDS
REACH FOR THE STARS**



I reach for the stars
by missing my friends
and being brave. leave
home to home.

Name: Kenzo V. Teacher: Ms. Brewer Gr: 2nd

M.C. Perry Primary School

1st Grade • Ms. Birkland

Celebrating Month of the Military Child



Military Children

It is special to be a military child. I feel so lucky to be a military child. My first reason is you get to travel. You can take a plane. You can take a train.

My second reason is that you can try new foods. You can try sushi. You can try ramen. You can try tacos. You can try chips. I like to try new foods.

My third reason is that you can go to new countries. You can go to California. You can go to Canada. You can go to Japan. You can go to Tokyo. Now you know all about military children.

James Skolek
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

I am Special

There are many military children. I believe that all military children are special. My first reason why I'm special is because I travel to different places I have never been before. I went to Australia. I fed a kangaroo! I also went to Italy. I love pasta with meatballs!

My second reason is that when you travel you can try new foods like sushi. The sushi tastes so good!!! And you can taste chips and fish too. You can also eat ramen, tuna, rice, fruit and vegetables.

My last reason is that I'm special because I make new friends. How do I make new friends? I play with them first. I met my friend Alexandria at the CDC. I am super special!

McKenna Ross
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Military Children

There are many children in the world. I believe being a military child is cool. My first reason is some children get to go places. You can see deer on Miyajima Island.

My second reason is we get to eat different foods. I have eaten dumplings, salmon, and sushi. They taste good. I love it!

My last reason is I get to draw and color me and my dad. In my drawings, we go on adventures.

Logan Deese
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/7/25

I am a Special Military Kid

All military kids are special. I believe being a military kid is special. My first reason is that you can try new foods like sushi and sushi. It is tasty. You will want more! You can either make it or go to a restaurant.

My second reason is that you can speak a lot of languages like Hawaiian, and Polish so you can talk to different people. If I could speak their language it would be easier to order food and buy stuff like a chair, table and lamp.

My third reason is that you can travel all over the world like the USA, and Japan. Traveling is fun. You get to go on a train. In Japan, I went ice skating. I am even going to Tokyo soon! Now you know being a military kid is special.

Theodore Van Donge
1st Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Being a Military Child

I am a military child. I believe being a military child is the best. My first reason for why being a military child is special is because you can try new foods like sushi and mochi. I tried them and I don't like them.

My next reason is that you can travel all over the world to Japan, and the USA. It can be fun to travel. In Beaufort, South Carolina I went to Low County Montessori School. I had two teachers instead of one. We got to eat lunch in the classroom.

My last reason is that I can speak different languages. Like Spanish, and Japanese. It's fun to be a military child. It's exciting to be a military child because you can buy things like toys, and candy. I can make new friends. Now you know why being a military child is best.

Sydney Lasky
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Being a Military Child

Being a military child is lucky. I believe that being a military child is lucky. My first reason is sometimes you get money. When you grow up, if you work at the military you can get good grades at work, just like at school. Then you can get money.

My second reason is you can sometimes get good grades. If you work hard, you get rewards from your mom and dad.

My third reason is because you get to move to different places, you get to visit different countries and different states. Such as California in Lino, Virginia and Japan in Isosaki.

My fourth reason is you get to make new friends from all over the world and learn their cultures. Now you know that being a military child is lucky.

Murphy McDonald
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Military Children are Special

This is all about military children. I am special. My first reason is that children that have parents in the military can also buy food. They can also have movie nights and play with each other.

My second reason is that you can go to a skate park. We can go skateboarding and we can go down a ramp. Then you can go into the bowl.

My last reason is my dad keeps us safe. He keeps us safe because he loves me. If there is something that can hurt us, he goes in front of me and he tells us to go inside. He runs with us. I am special.

Hudson Marcy
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/7/25

Being a Military Child is Special

There are many children in the world. I think that I am special because I am a military child. My first reason is I know some Japanese words and also Filipino words too. The Japanese and Filipino people can understand you and know what you are saying.

My second reason is that I make new special friends like Hayden, Aliz and Laura. We make friendship pins for us and we are a team. You can be kind and good to others. You can stand up to others and be helpful.

My last reason is you can try new foods. My favorite foods are strawberries and cucumbers. They are juicy. They are tasty. You will like it! That is all about the special things of military children.

Andi Buenaflor
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Military Children are Special

I am special. I believe that some military children are special. My first reason is that my dad can protect me. Your mom can do some things to help you. She can help you cook. She can also help you when you wake up in the morning even with homework.

My second reason is you get to travel to other countries. We already went to Tokyo. We went to Disney Sea and Disneyland. We went to the Tokyo Sky Tree. Maybe you can travel and go to your family. You can go on trips and you can get ice cream.

My last reason is you can teach other people stuff. If they don't know 40 + 40 you can help them. Military children make me happy.

Gabriel Kania-Cudry
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/7/25

All About My Adventures

There are many military children. I believe being a child is cool. My first reason is that I am safe because of my mom and dad. My Dad comes home at 11:00 and cuddle with me.

My next reason is school is cool because it has math and reading. You have more new people coming in and you can greet them.

My third reason is we had a base with friends. We can play with them. We can have a playdate with them. I had a play day with Hudson. We went to the bowling alley.

My fourth reason is we come to school for work and have fun together with a fence. Now you know being a military kid is cool.

Talen Anderson
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/7/25

Military Child

There are many military children. I believe I am special because I am a military child. My first reason is that kids can travel all over the world.

My second reason is that kids can try new foods. Kids can try new food like sushi. Kids can try food like ramen.

My third reason is that kids can go on airplanes. Kids can go to different places like Korea, Fukuoka, and California.

My fourth reason is that kids can learn new things like math and make new friends. Kids get to move and meet new friends.

My fifth reason is that kids can learn different languages like Japanese, Korean and English. So kids can learn how to speak to English kids. Now you know it is fun to be a military child!

Lily Espinosa
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

I am a Military Child

There are many different children who have military parents. I have two. I am special because I am a military child. My first reason is that I can make new friends because we move a lot. Friends are honest.

My second reason is we travel a lot. We travel to different places. We went to Virginia. I was born in Virginia. I went to Washington. We went to an outside pool and I had my first time seeing snow.

My third reason is I have lived in different places. I lived on a hill in Guam. We had chickens. We had mungos and sandy beaches. It had pretty fish and friendly sharks. It was on the seewall. Because I am a military kid, I am special.

Ryann Wylton
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Military Child

There are many children in the world. I believe being a military child is special. My first reason is if you move to Japan you can go to the Kintai Bridge. Kids can try new ice cream like sakura ice cream and you will see cherry blossoms at the Kintai Bridge. Japan is the safest country.

My next reason is that you can eat new foods. You get to eat sushi and ramen. They are my favorite.

My last reason is you get to make new friends. You get comfortable with each other and you start being friends. I make friends at school. When new kids go to the park, you get to play and be friends. I think being a military child is special.

Kadence Jones
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

I am Special

There are many military children in the world and I am one of them. I believe I am special to my family. My first reason is that I learn at school. My dad works at planes. I work at school and I read at home.

My second reason is that I get to make friends. You can have more friends than one. You can write a message to somebody like Grayson and Aliz.

My last reason is we can try new foods like sushi. I love sushi. Sushi has vegetables inside and it is healthy. Sometimes when you see a yummy food when you try it you don't like it. I am special because I am a military child.

Daniela Ramirez
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Being a Military Child

All military children are special. I believe I am special for being a Military child! My first reason is our mama and dada have special jobs so we can get money and live at houses and buy stuff like vegetables.

My second reason why I am special for being a Military child is that we can travel and speak different languages like Spanish, English, and Japanese. You can talk to other people. Did you know that speaking different languages is special because you can make new friends that speak different languages?

My last reason why I am special is because I can explore somewhere else like America, Japan, and China. You can see different animals than there are in different places. You can see different foods that people are eating. These are all the reasons why you can be special being a Military child or maybe a Military connected child. Hey! Can I tell you something? OK! Let's start! Thank you for listening, friends!

Laura Bire
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

Military Special

Everyone is special in their own way. I believe that being a military child is special. Being a military child is good. Being a military child is fun. My first reason is you can travel. You can move to Virginia. You can move to America.

My next reason is we are military connected. You can find new friends and eat new foods. You can get new things like backpacks.

My last reason is being a military child is fun. You can go to the beach. You can go to a mall. You can eat new foods. Now you know being a military child is special.

Brianna Rios-Torres
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/7/25

Military Writing

I think that a military child is very creative. I believe that a military child is very special. My first reason is that military kids travel around the world. You can see new things. You can see new buildings. I have been to Hawaii.

My second reason is that you can make new friends. You can play with your friends. You can all meet to them when you are eating.

My other reason is that you can speak new languages. You can speak to different kinds of people. You can eat new kinds of food. Now you know all about military children. They are creative.

Hayden Hall
First Grade, MC Perry Primary School
4/8/25

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



M.C. Perry Primary School

1st Grade • Ms. Payne

Celebrating Month of the Military Child



My name is Ayla. I moved to Japan when I was 5 years old. I felt shy about moving to Japan. First we went to Miyajima. Next we went to 7 Eleven. Last we went to the Kintai Bridge. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Ayla K.



My name is Wesley. I moved to Japan when I was 5. I felt nervous about moving to Japan. First we got our stuff. Next we started to travel. Last we made friends. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Wesley S.



My name is Eliza. I moved to Japan when I was 4 years old. I felt excited about moving to Japan. First we went to 7 Eleven to buy food and then we went to Youme Town to buy groceries. Next we went to Kintai Bridge. To see the cherry blossoms and eat ice cream and yakitori. Then feed the ducks and fish there. Last we travel to see different places here in Japan. It was fun and adventurous. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Eliza S.



My name is Stella. I moved to Japan when I was just two years old. I felt excited about moving to Japan. First we tried Co-cos. It was delicious. Next we went to look at our new house. Last we organized our new house. Now I feel so happy about living in Japan.
- Stella B.



My name is Cayleia. I moved to Japan when I was 2. I felt excited about moving to Japan. First we stayed at hotels for a long time. Next we got to our house. Last we started school. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Cayleia F.



My name is Emma. I moved to Japan when I was four. I felt happy to move to Japan. First we went to hotel. Next we found a house. Last we ate curry. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Emma H.



My name is Diego. I moved to Japan when I was 7 years old. I felt happy about moving to Japan. First, we went to the airport. Next we went to the hotel. Last we went to the house. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Diego V.



My name is Griffin. I moved to Japan when I was four years old. I felt good about moving to Japan. First, we flew on 4 planes in 4 days. Next, we moved into our house. Last, we started school and made friends. Now I feel great about living in Japan.
- Griffin S.



My name is Ariel. I moved to Japan when I was 6 years old and now I am 7 years old. I felt scared about moving to Japan. First, we moved into the hotel. Next, we moved into our house. Last, we went to eat ramen. Now I feel happy about living in Japan and like living more than my old place.
- Ariel L.



My name is Rylen. I moved to Japan when I was six years old. I felt sad about moving to Japan. First we packed our bags. Next we got on the airplane. Last we landed in Japan. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Rylen R.



My name is Hallie. I moved to Japan when I was 3. I felt good about moving to Japan. First, we saw our dogs. Next, we got settled in our house. Last, we played with Aria. Now I feel great about living in Japan.
- Hallie S.



My name is Lola. I moved to Japan when I was 5. I felt happy about moving to Japan. First, we got ice cream. Next, we went to Deer Island. Last, we went to the arcade. Now I feel still happy about living in Japan.
- Lola G.



My name is Noah. I moved to Japan when I was 5. I felt sad about moving to Japan because I missed my friends. First we waited for our stuff. Next we made new friends. Last we travel around Japan. Now I feel good about living in Japan. I love the Kintai Bridge. I've made a lot of friends. Japan is awesome.
- Noah S.



My name is Andrew. I moved to Japan when I was 2.5 years old on October 20th, 2020 from Oak Harbor, Washington. I felt sad about moving to Japan. First we flew on an airplane and we had to ROM for 14 days. Next we went on adventures to Beppu, Osaka, Kyoto, and Disneyland. Last we don't know where we are moving to next. Now I feel sad about living in Japan because I want to see Nama and Bapa.
- Andrew W.



My name is Kaiden. I moved to Japan when I was 5. I felt great about moving to Japan. First I moved into a hotel for a little bit. Next I moved into our new house. Last I got some ice cream and spent time with my mom, dad, sister, and brother. Now I feel happy about living in Japan.
- Kaiden C.



My name is Jamari. I moved to Japan when I was 6 years old. I felt great about moving to Japan. First, we moved to TLF. Next, we moved to Atogo Hills. Last, we took a trip to Okinawa. I feel awesome about living in Japan.
- Jamari W.



My name is Ridley. I moved to Japan when I was one year old. I felt good but I was a baby. First, we moved to our house. Next we went through COVID. Last we moved to a new house and we are staying for 3 more years. Now I feel GREAT about living in Japan.
- Ridley R.



My name is Niko. I moved to Japan when I was 1 year old. I felt excited about moving to Japan. First we found a home. Next we made friends. Last we ate sushi. Now I feel great about living in Japan.
- Niko B.

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

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

M.C. Perry Primary School 1st Grade • Ms. Henry



My name is Shaun. I was born in Japan I like leaving in Japan because there are lots of parks. I have not bin to Amerika. I do not want to go to Amerika, because my dad slep my dad got hrt.

- Shaun S.



My name is Marc. I moved to Japan when I was 5. I felt scared because I did not know if it was a dangerous place. First we went to the MCX. Next we went to commusere. Last we ate at chiles. Now I feel happy about living in Japan. I like being a military child because the military does hard work.

- Marc M.



My name is Mila. I moved to Japan when I was 5 years old. I felt sad about living in Japan. First we walked to seven eleven to get some snacks. Next we ate at Srijanas. Last we drove to Osoka. Now I feel good about living in Japan. I am happy the military told us to move here.

- Mila F.



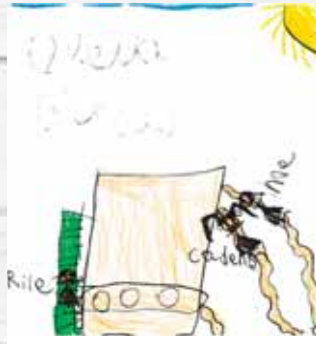
My name is Cadence. I moved to Japan when I was 4. I felt nervous about moving to Japan. First we packed up our house. Next we went on a long airplane ride. Last we arrived in Japan and started Yochien, Japanese kindergarten. Now I feel happy about living in Japan. I feel good about being a military child because it is special.

- Cadence C.



My name is Athena. I moved to Japan when I was 6. I felt sad, nervous and anxiety about moving to Japan. We lived in a hotel and then dad got keys to our new home. We explored and went to Universal Studios and the parks. I felt a little anxiety. We also went to Hamazushi and different restaurants and 7-11 trying new foods and snack. I stil feel anxiety about living in Japan. I like being a military child because it is fun.

- Athena M.



My name is Odelia. I movd to Japan when I was 5. I felt a little sad about moving to Japan. First we spent time waiting for our things to arrive. Next we had my birthday and went to a new water park. Last we started to meet new neighborhood friends, Cadence and Riley. Now I feel happy about living in Japan. I like being a military child because we have fun.

- Odelia M.



My name is Jack. I moved to japan when i was 6 years old. I felt very sad because I liked Amerika better. First we rode our bikes everywhere. Next we explored my neighborhood. Hiroshima, Miyajima, and Osaka were great. We have gone to lots of restaurants my favorite is sushi go-round and yakniku. Now I feel, everything is great and I love everything about living in Japan.

- Jack R.



My name is Noah. I moved to Japan when I was 5 years old. I felt happy about moving to Japan. First I got a bandade because I was hert when I tripped. Next I went to play at the park. Last I went to 7-11 to get my first chicken. Now I feel happy because I like living in Japan. I like being a military child because it is exciting.

- Noah N.



My name is Justin. I moved to Japan when I was 7 years old this January. Before I got to Japan I felt happy. First we packed our lugges. When we went on the airplane we left Amerika. Then we landed in Japan. Then I felt happy. Last we went to our new house in Atago Hills in my neighborhood. Now I feel happy about living in Japan. I feel happy about being a military child because they gave us a nice house.

- Justin V.



My name is Ryanne. I moved to japan when I was 4 years old. I felt happy and excited about moving to Japan. First we got our new home and went to school. Next we visited some nice places in Japan and ate some good food like mochi, ramen and yakinku. Last we get to know Japanese culture. Now I feel great about living in Japan. I like being a military child because I like living in Japan.

- Ryanne S.



My name is Damian. I moved to Japan when I was 4 years old. I felt frustrated abawt moving to Japan. First we went to the airport. Next we went to a plane. Last we got here. Now I feel good about living in Japan. I like being a military child because coming to Japan is cool.

- Damian O.



My name is Emily. I moved to Japan when I was 3. I felt excited when I moved to Japan. First we went to the Kintai Bridge. Next we went to Owl Park. I was scared of the big roller slide ,but I had fun. Now I'm not scared. Last we went to Miyajima. Now I feel happy living in Japan. I am not happy being a military child because I am going to move soon.

- Emily B.



My name is Kassidy. I was born in Japan, but I lived in Virginia Beach from 2019 –2022 when I moved back to Japan. I felt super excited to finally come to the place I was born about moving to Japan. First we drove from Osaka to our hotel. Next we slept then went shopping since our bags were misplaced. Mom took us to the bunny store for clothes. Last we got to see our new house and go to Chili's for dinner. Now I feel so so happy about living in Japan. I feel super super happy because I am proud of my dad and I want to be a military person too.

- Kassidy T.



My name is Daeven. I moved to Japan when I was 1 and a half years old. I felt excited about moving to Japan. First we left Hawaii to ride a plane going to Japan. Next we landed in Iwakuni and stayed at the hotel. Last we got our own house and our own car. Now I feel happy and contented about living in Japan. I feel excited about being a military child because I am happy about being in Japan.

- Daeven R.



My name is Elena. I moved to Japan when I was four year old. I felt super excited . First I visited my grandma and grandpa. Next we got to spend the summer with my brother and sister. Last we went to Tokyo Disney-land. Now I feel good about living in Japan. I like being a military child because I like to learn about Japan.

- Elena W.



My name is Autumn. I moved to Japan when I was 4. I felt shy. When I moved to Japan. First we went to the Kentyi brig. Next we went to a sushre restoront. Last we went to our haws and had hot coco and kerled up in a blanket. Now I feel happy about living in Japan. I like it here in Japan. Do you?

- Autumn R.



My name is Cecil. I moved to Japan when I was 2 years old. I was exsided to go to Japan. First we rode a airplane. When we went to Japan we founde a house to borro it. Next we bot furnichir to decorrat our house. Last we explored new places and are preparing to move again soon. Now I feel super happy about living in japan and never want to leave. I am happy about being a military child because it made us move here.

- Cecil A.



My name is Rhys. I was born in Japan in 2018. I feel happy about living in Japan. When we moved here first we were stationed in Misawa, which is located in the northern part of the country. Next we moved to Iwakuni and then to Virginia Beach. Last we came back to Iwakuni. Now I feel great about living in Japan because I lived here before. I like being a military child because my dad is in the military.

- Rhys B.



My name is Mathias. I moved to Japan when I was 6 years old. I just got here. The first place I went to was a hotel. Then I stayed there for a couple days. Then I got a house. Then I got a car. Next I went around Iwakuni and I liked it. I like the cherry blossoms. Next we went shopping at a mall. Last we got food and ate ramen. Now I feel happy about living in Japan. I want to see more stuff in Iwakuni. I don't know if I like being a military child because I still miss Tennessee.

- Mathias S.



My name is Nikolai. I was 1 year old when I moved to Japan. I felt great about moving to Japan. My first favorite thing about Japan is the claw machine. My second favorite thing about Japan is going to Fukuoka. My last favorite thing about Japan is going to 7-11 for ice cream and Poke-mon cards. Now I feel more better about living in Japan.

- Nikolai R.

2nd Grade
Ms. Venn

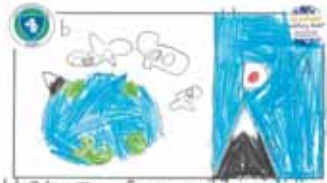
John O. Arnn Elementary School

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



1 Hi! I'm Micah. As a military connected child, I like to go to new places. I like it because I experience new food, like ramen in Japan. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Micah



1 Hello! I'm Emmalyn and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Emmalyn



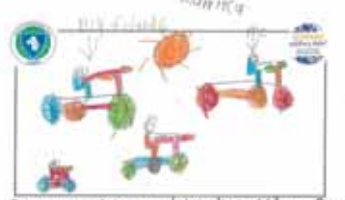
1 Hello! I'm Abigail and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Abigail



1 My name is Tyrus and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Tyrus



1 Being a military connected child is fun! You can move around. One benefit is that medical care is free so you feel safe and taken care of. I like to make new friends when I move. I also get to travel the world, live on base where there are lots of things to do. I like to ride my bike and play with my friends.

- Kawika



1 Hi! I'm Nolan and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Nolan



1 My name is Aurora and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Aurora



1 I love to be a military connected child because my dad can protect me. My dad can do crazy stuff like climb up walls and do hard obstacle courses. His job is to protect us. Since he has this job, we have to go to different places. I can see all around the world and experience different cultures.

- Aeris



1 My name is Jasmine and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Jasmine



1 My dad is in the military. I love being a military connected child because my family gets to move around the world wherever the military wants. I don't like to move, but I love to make new friends. I don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Dallas



1 My name is Lyla and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Lyla



1 My name is Florence and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Florence



1 My name is Rurik and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Rurik



1 My name is Lillian and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Lillian



1 I love being a military child because I get to travel to places like Virginia, Florida, Hawaii, and Seattle. Now I live in Japan. I just moved here. It's fun because I get to make new friends, but one part I don't like is moving. I don't like leaving my friends. I don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Annabella



1 My name is Renata and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Renata



1 Hi! My name is Liam and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Liam



1 My name is Quentin and I love to travel. I like being a military child because I get to go to new places and see new things. I also get to meet new friends. I don't like moving from my friends that are in different states. I also don't like when we have to move because of the military. We can't choose where we get to go.

- Quentin



Celebrating Month of the Military Child Yokota West Elementary School

2nd Grade / Ms. Collins

By Amberle

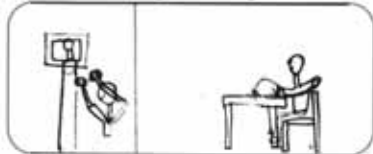
I love being a military child -



Because I'm thankful that my dad fought in the war. It takes a lot of bravery to fight in wars. Now he makes contracts for the air force. One day I might do the same as my dad.

Finn

For me, being a military child is -



I like being in a school with military children because I like my classmates as friends. Then I will share more I like to be on a military base because I like sports.

Justin

I love being a military child -



I love being a military child because I really like job because you have ice cream and it is cool.

Sakura

I love being a military child -



I love to go to school at military base. I am in a basketball team. I have a lot of friends. I really like the school lunches.

By Isabella

I love being a military child -



I love being a military child because I can go places. And it is interesting and fun and amazing.

Annalyn

I am a military child -



I am a military child because I like to be a military child because it is fun to move to different places. It is fun to meet new people I like to be a military child because I think the military is a good job.

Olivia

I love being a military child -



I love being a military child because I really love being a military child. I really like my Dad's job because I think being a military child is very cool and my Dad being in the Air Force is even cooler. I love my Dad and his job and I like his job because sometimes I have friends who's dad's friends with my Dad.

By Connor

I love being a military child -



Because I'm glad that my dad is in the military because he gets to go to different places and he gets to see his friends. I love being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends. I love being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends.

Alyssa

I love being a military child -



I love being a military child because my dad is in the military and I'm happy about that and I'm also happy that he gets to work in the military.

Elena

I love being a military child -



I like the school at in the base but I don't like yep school. I like the base park so much because I have lot thing to play. I like the base have lot of place to be sports.

JoJo

For me, being a military child is -



I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends. I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends.

Jonathan

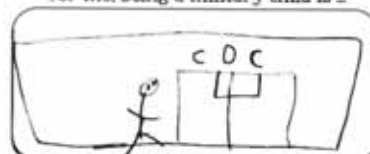
For me, being a military child is -



I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends. I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends.

DANIEL

For me, being a military child is -



my mom Dan's work can't be military. Press on she is in a lot of trouble. I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends.

By Bella

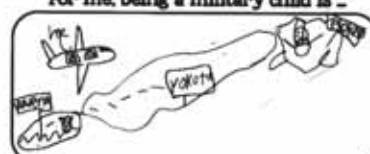
I love being a military child -



I love being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends. I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends.

Giffith

For me, being a military child is -



For me, being a military child is fun. I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends. I like being a military child because I can go to different places and I can see my friends.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child Yokota West Elementary School

2nd & 3rd Grade / Mrs. Bogdan



2nd
Grade

Spotlight

Cleo

Grade 2nd Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because I get to meet new people. I also like how are so playgrounds are so great! I don't like how my friends move.



Spotlight

Nate

Grade 2 Bogdan

I like being a military child because you get to move to lots of new places. You also get to meet lots of people. The bad thing is when you move, you might miss your friends.



Spotlight

Rayden

Grade 2nd Mrs bogdan

I like being a military child because I get new friends. Also I get to be in a great school and go to festivals. I also get to go to the bowling alley.



Spotlight

Rachel

Grade 2nd Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because you can move to a lot of different places and meet new friends. Sometimes you can go to really cool schools too.



Spotlight

Cloria

Grade 2nd Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because I feel safe. Moving is hard, but you can also meet new friends. You can move to all kinds of places. I also like all the events they host on base.



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



3rd
Grade

Spotlight

Lynn

Grade 3rd Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because you get to make new friends and meet new people. A thing I don't like is that you have to leave your old friends. I like to visit new places and new schools too.



Spotlight

William

Grade 3 Ms Bogdan

Being a military child is good in some ways like going to a lot of cool places. You also have a month to celebrate how unique you are. You also make lots of new friends each time you move.



Spotlight

Lincoln

Grade 3rd Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because I get to be close to my family. I can go bowling and swimming and there are a lot of cherry blossoms. But the best thing is I get to go to the best school ever, with the best teachers ever!



Spotlight

Bridger

Grade 3rd grade Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because I get to move around and see many different countries. I don't like being a military child because we have to move and make new friends.



Spotlight

Calvin

Grade 3rd grade Mrs Bogdan

The thing I don't like about being a military child is you move to new countries and have to make new friends. something I do like about being a military child is you can meet new people.



Spotlight

Evelynn .R

Grade 3rd grade Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because every time I move I go on an adventure and visit different places. Places like Florida, and Japan which I was born in. I don't like being a military child because you have to move away from the friends you really care about.



Spotlight

Livia

Grade 3rd grade Mrs Bogdan

I like being a military child because I have a lot of friends all over the world. And, every place I go to I make new friends.



Spotlight

Michael

Grade 3rd Mrs Bogdan

I Like being A military child because you really have fun going places like Japan. Sometimes it's hard being A military child because you have to meet a lot of new people. That's what I like and don't like about being a military child.




CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Sollars Elementary School

2nd Grade
Ms. Lewis



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Aria

Being a Military child is both exciting and challenging. It is fun because when your dad or mom go on a trip without you they could still bring you back some goodies for you. What is challenging is when you have to move away from your hometown. For example, when I had to move from Yokosuka, my home town I lived in the most. It felt really sad. But when I moved to Misawa it was really fun here!



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Alice

Being a military child is fun, cool, and nice. But sometimes it's not the best. Because your parents go away and you have to wait for them. You have to wait for the meeting to end. But you get to see them after. That's what it's like to be a military child.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Livy

Being a military child is both fun and sad. It is fun because you make a lot of friends. It is sad because you have to say bye to your friends to move. I like being a military child because it's fun and happy.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Grace

Being a military child is both exciting and challenging. It's exciting because I get to go on lots of adventures and I get to make new friends. It's challenging because my dad has to go on work trips and sometimes misses holidays. I love being a military child. It's really fun.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Thiago

Being a military child is both difficult and exciting. It is difficult because my parents can't travel with me all the time. It is exciting because I get to go to fun places. I like being a military child because I get to go to school and make new friends.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Lincoln

Being a military child is both fun, good, bad and hard. It is fun because you get to play with friends and family. It's good because stuff is cheap at stores on base. It is bad because your parents go on work trips and you don't see them for a long time. It is hard because sometimes your parents have to go on work trips. I like being a military child because I get to be here at school.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Bryan

Being a military child is both sad and fun. It is sad because you move and then you can't see your friends. It is fun because you can see new things. I like being military child because I can try all of the food. And read all of the books.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Max

Being a military child is both fun and sad. It is sad because my parents have to go away for a long time. The fun part is that I got to travel a lot. I like being a military child because my parents bring me back cool souvenirs.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Olivia

I Like being a military child because I get to travel with my family a lot. Because this summer break I get to travel to Osaka, Tokyo and South Korea. I like being a military child because my nana sends me stuff in a box for my birthday every time it's my birthday.



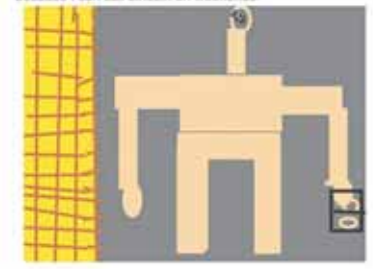
What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Arya

Being a military child is both difficult and fun. It is difficult because when me and my family go on vacation sometimes my dad can't come cause he has to work. It is fun because after my dad's TDYs he brings me toys or food and I like to travel and I can meet new friends. I like being a military child because when I go to my dad's work everybody is nice to me and compliments my hair or outfit.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Gabriel

Being a military child is both good and bad. It is good because everything is cheaper. It is bad because your parents are far away from you. I like being a military child because I can call Lincoln on weekends.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Ryan

Being a military child is both fun and challenging. It is fun because I get to do nerf gun fights with my mom. It is challenging because my dad is in Washington DC and my dog is in South Dakota because he couldn't make it for my trip. I like being a military child because on weekends I get to go on a bouncy castle.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Breya

Being a military child is both exciting and challenging. It is challenging because if you move far you aren't near your family members. Also you miss your best friends. It is exciting because you get to try new food!!!! And meet new people. Also you get to explore the new culture. I would never be able to experience this world without being a military child.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Penelope

Being a military child is both fun and scary. It is fun because you get a lot of love and courage. It is scary because your parents leave a lot. I love being a military child because my family believes in me.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Alice

Being a military child is both exciting and difficult. It's exciting because I can travel all over the world. Also, I get to eat sushi. It's difficult because I can't go on adventures with my dad because he works in the military.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Paxton

Being a military child is both exciting and difficult. It is exciting because I get to make new friends. It is difficult because I lose friends. I like being a military child because I get to go on big adventures and travel around the world.



What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Maddie

Being a military child is both exciting and difficult. It is exciting because I get to meet a lot of new BFFs. It is difficult because I have to move from my friends.



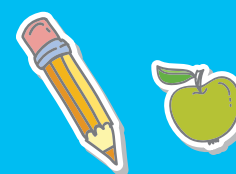
What Being a Military Child Means to Me
Ms. Lewis 2nd Grade
Sollars Elementary School
By Quinn

Being a military child is both good and hard. It is good because I get to go adventuring. It is hard because my dad will go away. I like being a military child because I get presents.



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stories at

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD Sollars Elementary School

5th Grade
Ms. Jones

Name: Eileen K. Ms. Jones Grade: 5



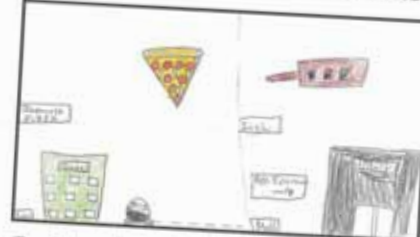
The best thing about being a military connected kid is being able to travel around and meet new people. I love learning about military, having great teachers and supporting my family.

Name: Ashlin P. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



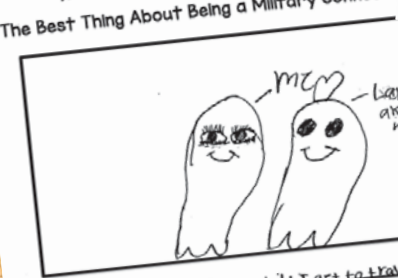
The best thing about being a military connected kid is being able to travel around and meet new people. I love learning about military, having great teachers and supporting my family.

Name: Hannah W. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



The best thing about being a military connected kid is that you get military discounts when you buy food or clothes. You can also get to travel around and explore military bases. That you live on, you also get to meet new friends and do all of fun things like going to hotels and things you get to try new foods like sushi, original pizza, and more with friends on it.

Name: Yasmine E. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



I love being a military child. I get to travel so much and see so amazing places, buildings and monuments. I've been in hot and freezing places. My favorite place that I have traveled to is Misawa and Okinawa. The only thing bad about being a military child is I make friends and then I have to leave them. Because I stay in one place for 2-3 years, but overall I LOVE being a military child.

Name: Mika T. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



What I like about being a military child is going to new places because I get to see new things. I love seeing new places and seeing new people. Another thing I like being a military child is being able to travel around the world. What I like about the states is seeing new places and seeing new people. What I like about the states is seeing new places and seeing new people. What I like about the states is seeing new places and seeing new people.

Name: Avery B. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



The best thing about being a military connected kid is that you get to experience new places. Going to new places is always fun and making new friends is always the best. My family has eating new foods, traveling and going to new places, exploring new things. The food in Japan is way cheaper than the United States. I love to see new trees, plants and flowers in new places.

Name: Jarius S. Ms. Jones Grade: 5



The best thing being in the military is traveling around the Earth and making good friends. However the downside is having to leave your family behind and go to the base. You might be in the location more than 1 year or more. It just depends.

Name: Sophie B. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



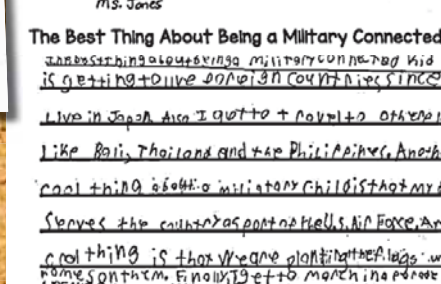
The best thing about being a military connected kid is seeing different places and learning about different cultures like Japan. I also enjoy seeing different foods like ramen. I love ramen and other Japanese foods. Another thing about being a military connected kid is visiting new amazing places. I also love to know that my dad is in the military to help others. People in my life and in the world.

Name: Kylie B. Ms. Jones Grade: 5



The best thing about being a military connected kid is getting to travel and visit places all around the world. By visiting all those places, you can also try all different types of snacks around the world. You can also experience all the amusement parks or amusement around the world. Another great thing about being a military connected kid is getting military discounts at stores or restaurants. When restaurants have military discounts, I just feel like the food tastes better. The discounts are the best thing, but I like the feeling of getting something cheaper and others don't. These are a few of the reasons why being a military kid is that other kids don't get to do most of the things I do. If my parents were not in the military, I think I would still be in the United States not traveling as much as I do now.

Name: Kai K. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



The best thing about being a military connected kid is getting to travel and visit places all around the world. By visiting all those places, you can also try all different types of snacks around the world. You can also experience all the amusement parks or amusement around the world. Another great thing about being a military connected kid is getting military discounts at stores or restaurants. When restaurants have military discounts, I just feel like the food tastes better. The discounts are the best thing, but I like the feeling of getting something cheaper and others don't. These are a few of the reasons why being a military kid is that other kids don't get to do most of the things I do. If my parents were not in the military, I think I would still be in the United States not traveling as much as I do now.

Name: George R. Ms. Jones Grade: 5



One of the best things about being a military kid is that you get to move around. You also have experiences that most kids don't. For example, you can try different foods in different countries. I have visited some of the most places in the world, like Nintendo world in Japan and Disney world in Florida.

Name: Audrey W. Ms. Jones Grade: 5th



The best thing about being a military connected kid is that you get to travel around the world. You can also try all different types of snacks around the world. You can also experience all the amusement parks or amusement around the world. Another great thing about being a military connected kid is getting military discounts at stores or restaurants. When restaurants have military discounts, I just feel like the food tastes better. The discounts are the best thing, but I like the feeling of getting something cheaper and others don't. These are a few of the reasons why being a military kid is that other kids don't get to do most of the things I do. If my parents were not in the military, I think I would still be in the United States not traveling as much as I do now.

By Dominic Castro

My name is Dominic. My hobbies include going to school.

It's the best thing for me. I love Legos, Gundam robots and Pokémon cards. I also love spending time with my best friend, Justin, at SAC, and I also love to hangout at my mom's work. I like talking to Ms. Jasmine and Ms. Karen. They are so nice. My favorite thing to do is going on a trip with my family and getting to stay in a nice hotel. I like to have a breakfast buffet while I'm there. My family likes to watch movies together every Friday night.

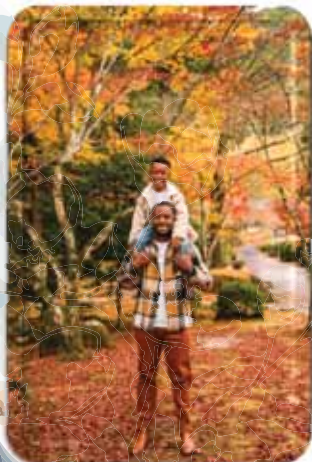
My mom's name is Deseree Castro. She works at the Child Development Center here in Hario, Sasebo, Japan. Her husband, my Dad, is Dennis Castro, and he works for the Navy.

My Mom says that she likes the opportunity to be part of other military kids' lives, being there for them when their parents need to work or going on a deployment, discovering and understanding child emotions that helps her as a parent to her kids as well. She says that the most interesting thing about being a military spouse is the privilege to have the chance to live, experience one's culture like Japan. We get to see beautiful spots and taste their delicious foods and meet friends that turn into family. My mom's hobbies are cooking, watching Korean dramas, collecting Starbucks cups and tumblers, and going to Daiso or 100 yen stores. She likes the food here in Japan, going to the spa and having time to relax once in a while. Her favorite thing to do is going on a trip with her lovely family and spend quality time with them.

**By Roman Graves**

My name is Roman. I like to play video games, and my favorite Japanese food is rice. My favorite TV show is "My Hero". My favorite sports are soccer, basketball, and football.

My dad's name is Kevin. My dad is in the United States Navy. He builds weapons for the ship, and he takes care of the ship. He teaches people how to safely use weapons. My dad likes to travel to different places, and he likes to do his job. The most interesting thing my dad has seen exploring the world was the tallest building in the world, a volcano, and whales. My dad likes playing video games, spending quality time with family, and he likes to fish. We enjoy having family movie nights. My sister's name is Ivey. My sister is two years old. My sister is nice to me. My favorite things to do are science, video games, swimming and math. My mom's name is Aikea. On Spring Break, I went to Osaka. We went to Universal Studios in Osaka. I went on so many rides. I also went to a Japanese shrine. I saw The Osaka Barrier. The Osaka Barrier is one of the most famous barriers in the Edo Period. It was the outermost boundary of the capital area.

**By Aria Collins**

My name is Aria. My favorite hobbies are reading and playing with my sister. My favorite food is pizza. My favorite colors are pink, red, and blue. My favorite animal is a bunny.

My dad's name is Edward. What my dad does in the military is cook healthy meals on the ship. What my dad likes about the military is being able to explore different cultures. It's hard for my dad to pick the next duty station. He enjoys being able to travel. He's been to Asia, Europe, and South America. However, Spain was very beautiful. What my dad loves most about being in the military is seeing the different cultures.

My dad's favorite hobby is enjoying spending time with his family. Every weekend, we all will sit down and enjoy movie nights.

**By Maleah Vance**

My name is Maleah. I am 8 years old. I have 2 brothers and 1 sister. I love school and reading. I like hanging out with my friends. My sister and I love playing together. I love my family so much. I like gymnastics so much. Our family enjoys Movie night with popcorn.

My dad's name is Marquell Vance. We all like playing games on movie night. My Dad enjoys working out. He loves shopping with his girls. My Dad likes watching Survivor. My Dad is an administrative officer and he manages pay, records, and manning for the U.S. Navy. What my Dad likes most about working for the Navy, is meeting people all over the world with different backgrounds and experiences. The most interesting thing my Dad has seen since being in the military is, Sailors and soldiers want to gather in Afghanistan to complete the same mission and goals.

**By Sebastian Coen**

My name is Sebastian. My favorite hobbies are drawing, playing sports, and playing music.

The baby is going to be so cute and funny. We'll have fun with the baby. I talk a lot on my iPad. I talk to my friends, Roman, Louella, and Luca, Maleah, and Ryder. I like to sit in my room chilling and watching tv. I take a nap on my bed and sometimes on the couch. I play soccer. My Coach is Coach Scotty.

I play with my sister and my baby. The baby is special and so is Stella. I love them both a lot. My sister and I build forts all the time. The baby isn't here yet. I know when the baby gets here, I'm going to love the baby. My sister, Stella, likes make-up, Pokémon, games, and her pretty boots. She also likes soccer. It's her first sport that she's played as part of a team. Sometimes, my sister and I go rollerblading in our hallway. We also watch tv together.

My dad's name is Bennet. His job is to move planes on the ship. What my dad loves most about being in the military is being able to travel. The most interesting thing my dad has done while in the military is seeing different cultures. When my

dad has free time, he likes to hangout with his family and also work on his car.

My Mom's name is Emily. My mom is the best. She is pretty and fancy and cute. She's the nicest mom ever. My dad is nice, too. My mom takes my sister, my dad and me to go out to have fun. I love spending time with my family. My mom's favorite things to do are to chill and to sleep. I help take care of my mom. I help out my mom throw the trash away then I get money for doing that.

My family's favorite tradition is having family movie nights. We eat popcorn, and my mom chooses a movie for us.

**By Louella McInerney**

My name is Louella McInerney, I have lived in Japan for over three years now. I used to live in Sasebo but now I live in Yokosuka. I like to read, draw and explore new places. I have played basketball, soccer and baseball. My favorite thing about Japan is the Cherry Blossoms in the Spring.

My Dad is Robert McInerney. He works for the US Navy. He navigates the ship and tells it where to go. The thing he likes most about the military, is the travel and being able to live in different places around the world, like Japan. My Dad once went to Rome, and when he was there, he took a tour of the Colosseum and the Vatican. My Dad likes to work out, play sports and do anything with the family. Our family always loves game and movie nights.

**By Eva Diorene Veney**

I like to play basketball. I like to go swimming. I have made a lot of good friends on my basketball and swimming teams. I also compete with my Swim Team. I like to do karate.

My Dad is an Operations Specialist. He watches radars on ships to keep us safe. My Dad says that the best thing about his job is that he helps keep the United States safe. His ship helped with Disaster Relief with the Earthquake that happened in Japan in the year 2011. He likes music, lifting weights, basketball, reading, and playing board games.

Our family does a lot of things together. I like spending time with my family. We have Mongolian barbecue together as a family. We also have movie nights.

**CELEBRATING MONTH OF****Darby Elements****2nd Grade****By Genevieve Stevens**

My name is Genevieve Rose Stevens. I have lived in Virginia, Arizona, and Washington. My hobbies are crocheting. I am 8 years old, and I like collecting fake flowers. My favorite flower is a rose.

My sister's names are Ellis and Shirley. Ellis is 4 years old. "Ellie's" favorite food is curry. Shirley is 2 years old. Shirley's favorite food is popcorn. My Mom's name is Jerrika Page Stevens. Her favorite flowers are daisies, sunflowers, and dandelions. Mommy's favorite food is cinnamon rolls. My Dad's name is Alexander David Stevens. He tracks the work being done on the Navy's four MCM's. The thing that my Dad likes the most about being in the Military, is that he gets to see other countries and meet new people. My Dad works on his car in his free time. Daddy's favorite food is chicken and rice.

**By Peyton Bixby**

My Dad is a security officer. What my Dad likes most about the military is that he likes to work, so that he can take care of his family. My Dad has traveled to many different countries all around the world. From this experience, he has realized how truly fortunate we are in our country. In my Dad's free time, he likes to watch football, collect coins, and spend time with his family.

Our family traditions are that we have family game night and movie night each week. We love to celebrate the holidays, especially birthdays and Christmas.

**By Jamina Ma Wong-Temani**

My name is Jamina Christine Carolina Ma Wong-Temani. I love to read, paint, and sing. My favorite hobby is spending time with my family.

My mom's name is Salvation Lietu Ma Wong. My mom is in the Executive Department of the COMFLEACT, Sasebo, Japan USN. Her current rate is Yeoman Petty Officer 2nd Class. She's tasked to assist sailors and their families with any administrative needs. It has only been two years since my mom took the oath to serve in the Armed Forces

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OF THE MILITARY CHILD

entary School

Ms. Wrenn

under the Navy Branch of the Military, the best decision that my mom picked. "The Navy is a very diversified workplace, where I have gained other skills and knowledge beyond my assigned rate Of Administrative Assistant."

The most interesting thing that my Mom has seen so far has been Mount Fuji. The second is the ability for every sailor to come together as one family and ensure that we make it home safely.

My Mom leads a very simple life, and she is very family-oriented. Her hobbies and favorite things to do are spending time with our family. Our family traditions are sushi nights on Tuesdays and Movie Nights on the weekends!



By Lily Norris

My name is Lily. My favorite animals are a capybara and an axolotl. I love my mom and dad so much. I have the best teacher in the whole world. I also like Kikyo. She is my best friend.

My Mom is an Information Systems Technician, also known as an "IT". I fix computer and radios to grab sound waves out of the air, to convert voices traveling long distances. What my Mom enjoys most about the navy is the great friends that she's met and getting to travel to places she never thought she would ever get to see. The coolest things she's seen since she's been serving in the military was watching the blue angels practice daily in Pensacola, Florida and seeing whales breaching over the great barrier reef in Australia. When my Mom is not on the ship, she enjoys baking cakes and pastries for her shipmates and our family. She is also quite fond of listening to music and reading.

We used to have a tradition where we went to Waffle House for breakfast on all major holiday, but sadly, we haven't started any traditions here in Japan yet.



By TJ Ruiz

Hi, my name is TJ Ruiz. I am 8 years old. My hobbies are playing the piano, reading, and doing math. My family and I play Jenga, Uno, and Mario Monopoly together. We also like to watch comedy movies, but we like sad movies, too. I have a dog

whose name is Shiny. She is 5 years old, and she is black and white. My favorites are pizza, rainbows, chocolate, Legos, popcorn, ice cream, watermelon, apples, oranges, chicken nuggets, French fries, and cotton candy. My favorite animals are dogs and koalas. I have two sisters, Fiona and Bella.

My dad was an Electrician in the military. My dad's name is Tito Ruiz. My dad used to travel a lot when he was in the military. He would travel with his coworkers. My father was stationed in Africa once, and he got to see elephants. My dad's hobbies are tennis, biking, and barbecuing. He also loved to swim. My dad is the reason that I came to Japan. My mom is the new reason why I'm still here, living in Japan. My dad is in Heaven now. We lost our dad a few years ago. I miss my dad a lot, but I know he looks down on us. He's always with us. He was taken away from us way too soon. My mom became our family's new Military Sponsor. Both my parents served the military, and they give their all to take care of our family. My mom's favorite hobbies are cooking, singing, doing math, and playing badminton.



By Miko Davis Ramos

My name is Miko. I enjoy playing Fortnite on my Nintendo Switch with my friends. My favorite food for dinner is stir-fry. My favorite sport is football. I also like soccer and basketball. I don't like baseball because I'm not fast paced. My favorite after-school snack is pretzels with peanut butter. I like living in Japan because of the good food; my favorites being sushi and Yakimiku. My favorite dessert is popcorn, because it's healthy and buttery. The one thing I like to add to popcorn is kettle corn.

For the past few days, the bottom of my foot from my toe to my heel hurts. I think it was because of my shoes. The job I want in the future is being a Police Officer because I want to catch bad people.

My dad's name is Jimmy Robert Davis. I sat down to ask my Dad about how he felt about being in the Military. Here's what he had to say.

My name is Jimmy Davis, and I am Miko's Dad. I work on the gas turbines for the Navy as a Marine Gas Turbine Inspector.

What I like the most about working for the Navy is the job I have learned, and being able to provide for my family. Being able to travel the world is a great perk too! The most interesting thing that I have seen in the Navy is transiting through the Panama Canal on a ship. I enjoy spending time with my family, playing games with my son and daughter. Family trips throughout Japan are the best! There is so much to see and do in Japan, and I love experiencing it with my family. Sushi and Yakimiku are a shared love with my son, Miko. Every Sunday we go out for Sunday lunch after church. We love trying new places.



By Kikyo Hillyer

My name is Kikyo. I am 8 years old. My hobbies are playing the piano and swimming. My favorites are Pokémon and cats. My favorite colors are purple and black. My family has lots of movie nights. We also play games together. My favorite game to play with my family is Uno.

My dad is an aviation ordinance man and a navy career counselor at NMC Sasebo. He manages sailors in day-to-day career decisions, and the person responsible for the issue/receipt of ammunition for all ships homeported in Sasebo.

My dad loves sharing his experiences in the Navy with Junior Sailors and helping them make better-informed career decisions with better information than he had as a young sailor.

The most interesting thing that my dad has experienced since he joined the Navy is the progress of efficiency and teamwork between over 20 different ratings from all walks of life in carrier/air-wing operations.

My dad has been active duty, stationed in Japan for 15 years straight! He loves the outdoors whether it be hiking, fishing, climbing, or camping.



By Tobias Hayes

I like playing video games. My favorite game is Fortnite. I play sports. My favorite sport is football. I love watching videos. My favorite YouTuber is Ben Azelart. My favorite foods are brownies and chicken katsu.

My dad works for the U.S. Navy, and he operates the landing craft Air Cushion, which is a Navy Hovercraft. My Dad is a Marine, and the Marines' vehicles are on the beach where they fight. My dad loves that he can serve this country and see the world and meet interesting people from all over the world. My dad got to swim above the Mariana Trench. He loves to live in different places, because he gets to live in different places and explore the Islands of Hawaii. My dad loves playing video games, and working on his car. His one favorite passion is really cooking. He loves most sports, such as baseball, football, and basketball. His favorite teams are the Chargers, The Padres, and The Lakers.

Our family loves spending time together. We all have a tradition that we always go see the New Marvel movies that come out in theaters as a family. We've been doing this for almost 10 years.



By Daniel Romens

I am Daniel Romens, and I am 7 years old. I lived in Virginia, and then we moved to Japan for a short time, before moving back to Virginia.

My Dad is in the Navy, and he is a Helicopter Pilot. A hard part about being a military child, is the moving and leaving friends and teachers behind. The best part about moving is meeting new friends and seeing exciting places. Japan was so fun, and I loved going to Sushi-Go-Round.



By Dylan Burleson

My dad is retired from the U.S. Navy, but he still supports our Military Service Members. He works for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) in the Marketing Department. He makes videos for our large marquee on Main Base and Hario Village to inform service members, their families and retirees about upcoming MWR events, trips to explore Japan, sports, and much more.

What my dad likes most about working for the Navy is that he was a Mass Communication Specialist in the Navy. That's a fancy name for a sailor wearing multiple hats such as photographer, videographer, radio DJ (my favorite hat), and journalist. His present job is similar, but he concentrates mainly on video-making now.

"Making videos is a kind of magic for me. There's nothing quite like it. I get to tell a different kind of story, and I have a lot of freedom to make the videos I like. I try to make videos that make viewers wake up, pay attention and transport them somewhere else for a few seconds. And leave them with the desire to take action on the story I shared with them."

The most interesting thing that my Dad has seen since exploring the world with the Military is Paris. "What a beautiful city full of art, statues and fascinating history! Kyoto would be a close second though, for the same reasons (plus really great food)."

My Dad's hobbies include painting. Mixing colors and painting energizes him for about a week!

Working on his "beast" of a novel. Sometimes, he plays guitar/ukelele or harmonica. He likes taking care of our two dogs (both Kishu-ken). He really enjoys getting lost in a really good movie (or TV series). All of these things influence the videos that he creates.

"Our family is not really big into tradition or formality. My wife and I are from two different cultures. We do make it a point to go out every weekend somewhere with good food, coffee and a kid-friendly menu and just celebrate each other's company."



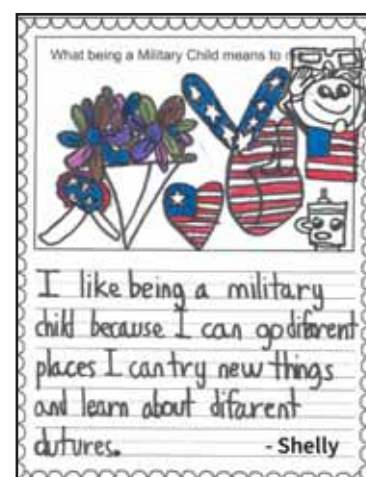
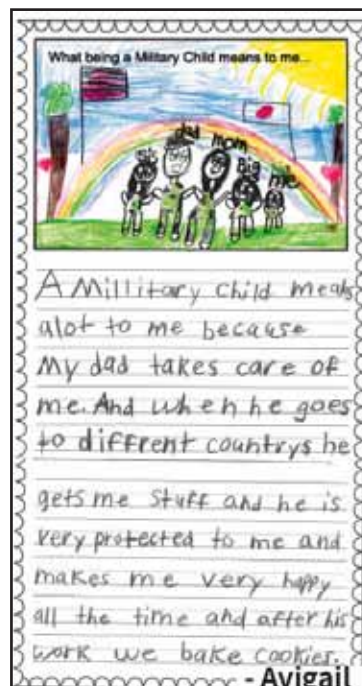
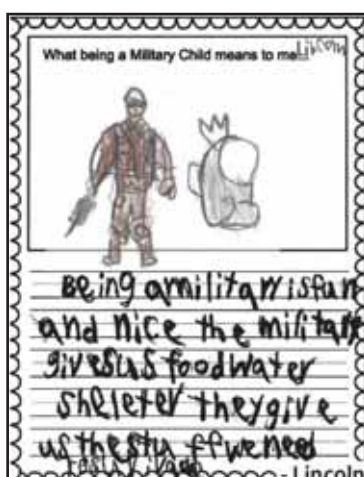
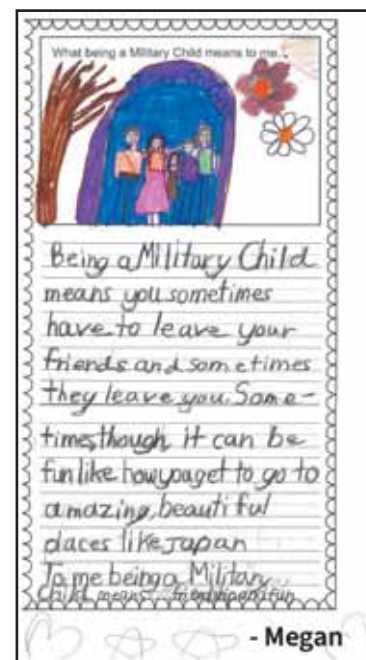
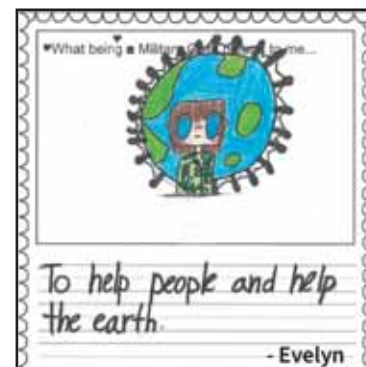
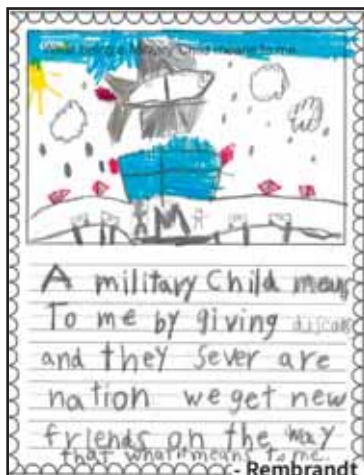
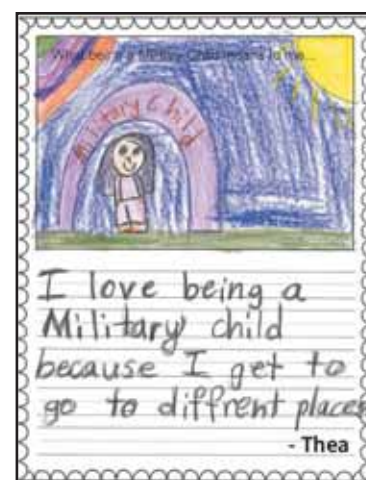
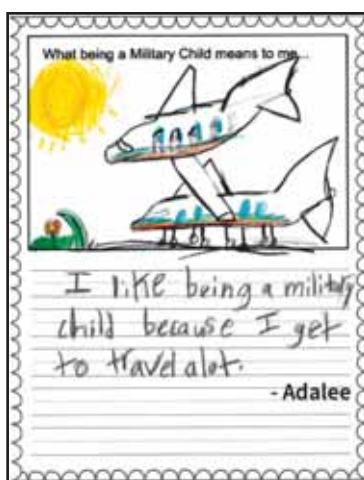
Iwakuni Intermediate School

**3rd Grade,
Ms. Chapman**

Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child



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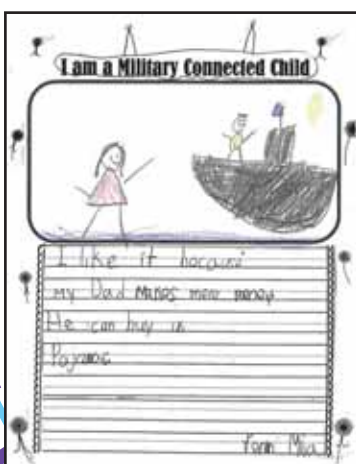
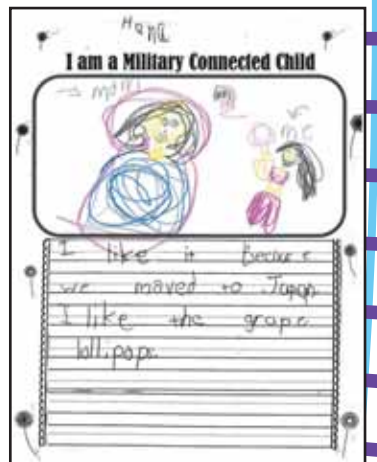
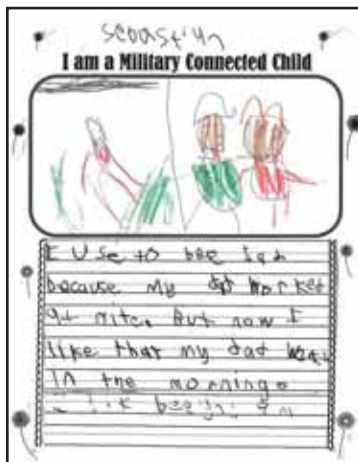
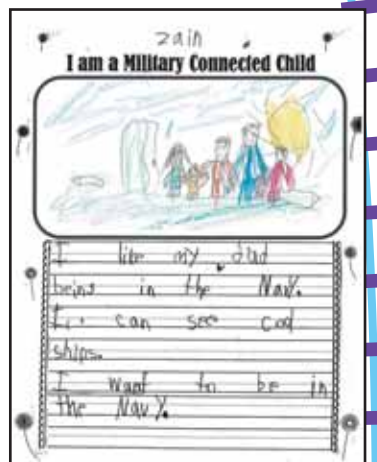
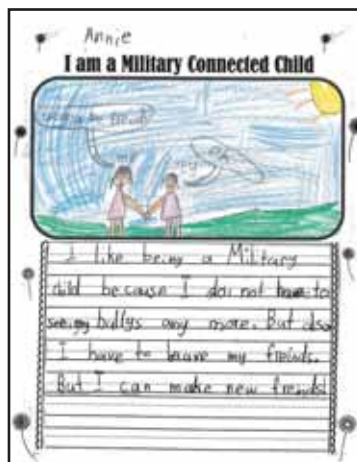
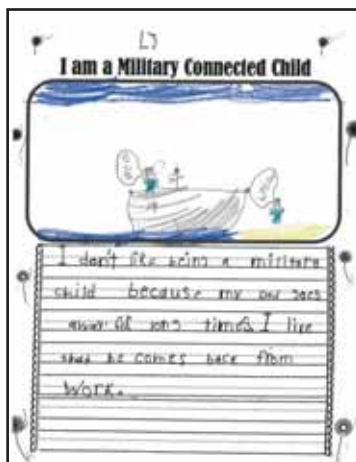
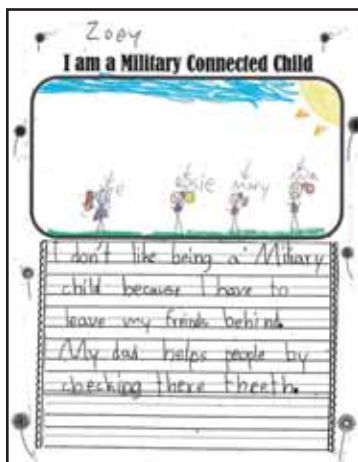
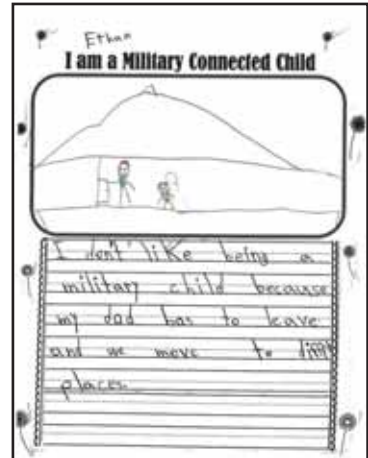
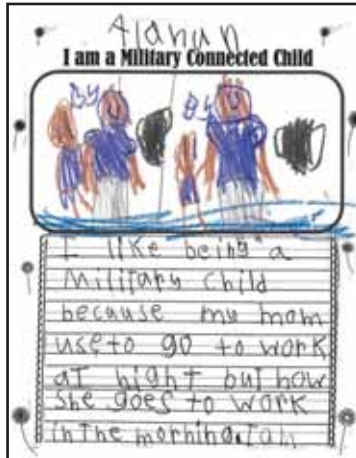


1st Grade

Mrs. Williams

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Yokosuka Primary School



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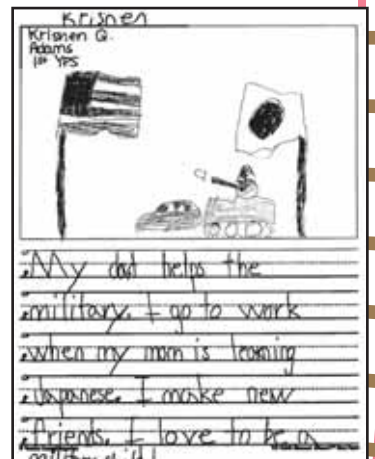
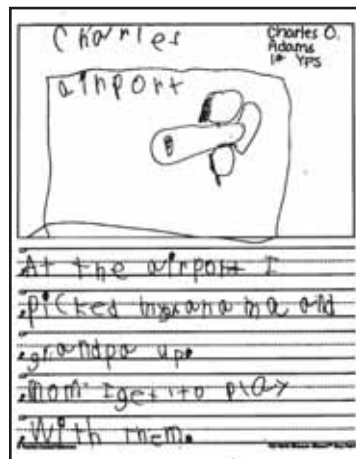
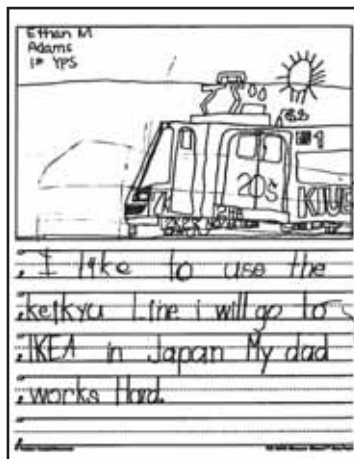
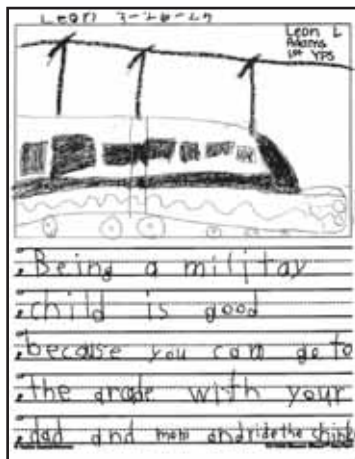
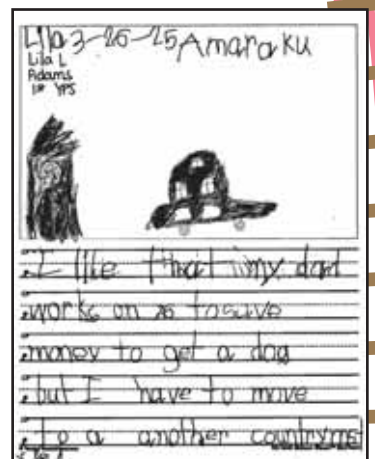
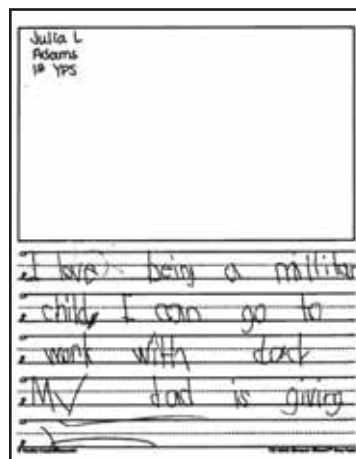
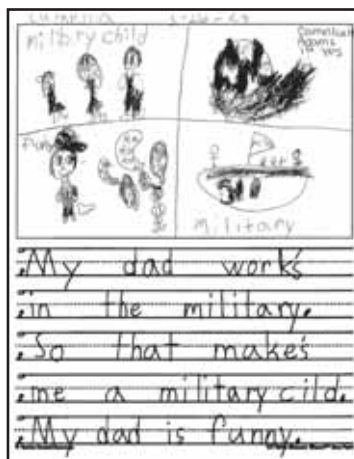
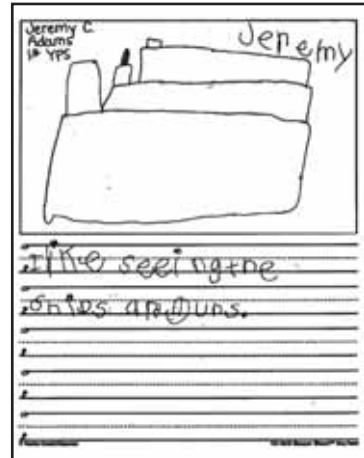
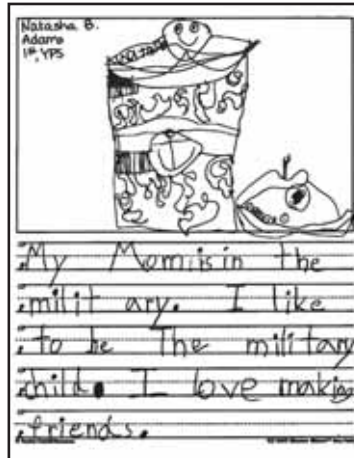


1st Grade

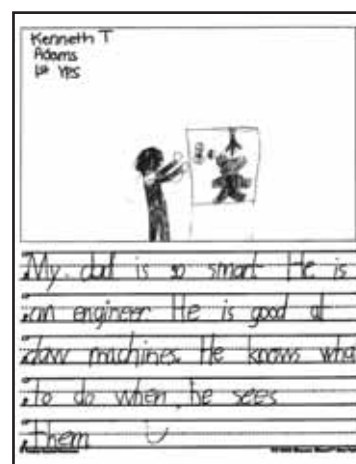
Mrs. Adams

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Yokosuka Primary School



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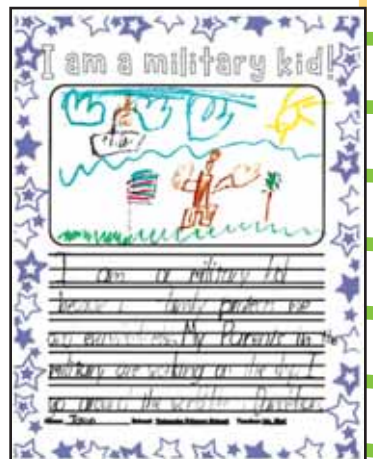
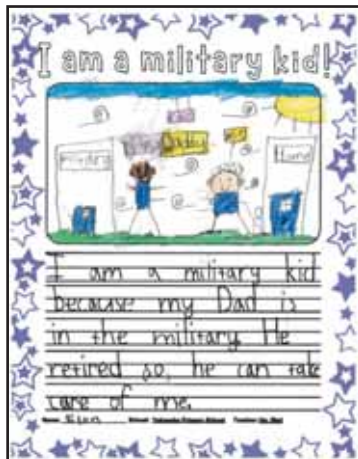


1st Grade

Ms. Bird

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Yokosuka Primary School



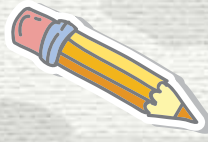
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Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

1st Grade
Mrs. Bailey



The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel confident. I get to try new things. We are a community. I get to make new friends. I get to learn new things. That's why I feel confident being a military child.
by Alana B.

The Military Child
It makes me feel happy being a military child. I feel happy going to school. I feel happy when I am with Mrs. Bailey. I feel happy when I am with my mom and dad. That is why I feel happy being a military child.
by Esani C.

I am a Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel kind. I will be kind to friends when they are sad. I will give them a smile. I will be kind to you. That is why I like being a military child.
by Christopher P.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel scared when I move. I feel scared on an airplane. When my mom and dad are going, I feel scared. That is why being a military child makes me feel scared.
by Emelie F.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel sad. I do not like getting a new friend. I don't like getting a new teacher. I don't like leaving my pet at home. I don't like planes. That is why being a military child makes me feel sad.
by Whitten F.



The Military Child
Being a military child makes me sad because I move away from my family, friends, and teachers. Being a military child makes me sad because when my dad goes on trips, that is why being a military child makes me sad.
by Brayden H.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel bad because my mom loves me. I feel loved when I travel. I feel loved because my mom is a military person. I also feel loved when I meet new people. That's why I love being a military child.
by Mason L.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel nervous. I feel nervous when I leave my friends. I feel nervous when I go to a new school. That's why I feel nervous being a military child.
by DeShawn M.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel happy. I get to make new friends. I get to try new things. I get to make new things and learn new things. That's why I feel happy being a military child.
by Jala O.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me happy because I will get to meet new friends. I am happy because I will get to play together. I am happy because I will get to meet new friends at a new school. I am happy being a military child.
by Beckett O.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me curious. I'm also curious of what all places eat. It makes me curious because I don't know what all places play. That's why I feel curious being a military child.
by Guillermo

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel safe. I feel safe because no one can hurt me or my family. I feel safe because hopefully no bad guys get onto the base. That is why I feel safe being a military child.
by Lily S.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel proud because my dad serves the country. I feel proud being a military child because I help my dad.
Sofia S.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel sad because I miss my dog. I feel sad because I don't want to leave my friends. I feel sad because I don't want to learn new things. That's why I feel sad being a military child.
by Jack S.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel happy. It makes me feel happy because I get new friends and new teachers. It makes me feel happy because I get to eat new food. That is why I feel happy being a military child.
by Ethan S.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel excited because I can make new friends. I feel excited when I try new foods. That is why I feel excited being a military child.
by Juna T.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel happy. I feel happy because I get to make new friends. I get to see new places. That's why being a military child makes me happy.
by Lira W.

The Military Child
Being a military child makes me feel sad because I love my friends. I feel sad because I go to a new school. I feel sad because I get new class mates. That is why I feel sad being a military child.
by Izaiab Z.

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Mrs. Wagner

Name: Zoe Grade: 1

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include some describing words and match your illustrations.



I like traveling around the world. I like living on a new base. I like making new friends. I eat a lot of new foods. I learn

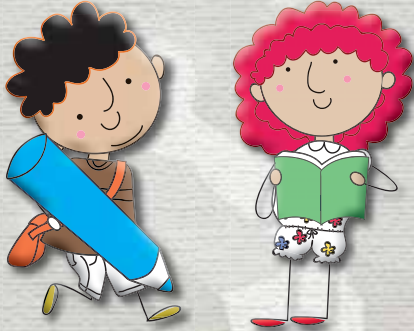
in a lot of new schools. I learn new cultures around the world. That's what I love about being a military child.

It's good because
there is so much
food in the world.
There are new
things to do, but it
is fun!

Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

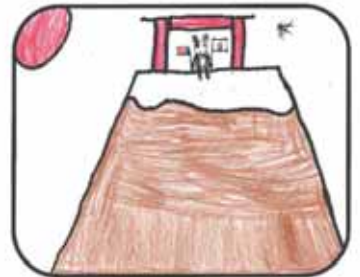
3rd Grade
Mrs. Bowles



Military
Batter far away!
Play with my friend Tavis
New fun things to do!
By Ronin



Military kids
New schools, friends, places.
We are safe where we are placed.
friendship never stops
By Bryleigh Macdonald



military Life
New schools and New homes
Try new things and try new
roads. old friends new friends
By Tevis 10



Military Kid
It's hard to say bye
New friends and a new fun higher
New country now school
By Charlie 11



Military change
It's hard to say bye.
I have family with me.
I miss home and friends
By Yung Frick



Moving to Japan
Cherry blossom trees.
Having fun with soccer friends.
A lot of pollen
By Zion Kumar



Military Kid
This is new to me,
I have a brand new school.
But I am happy.
By Nond



Military life
I live in Japan.
This country is super fun
This is hard for me.
By Aoriana



Military life
new languages come
fun new places to explore
life will change for me
By Alexis



Military kids
new voice, new life
Somebody we all get along
new home, new subjects
By Charlotte



Military kids
Meeting new people
seeing new things in Japan
We're courageous kids!
By Adam D



Military Power
Strength is on the way
you can visit any time
your still beautiful.
By Hailey



Home
It makes me feel safe.
It makes me feel happy.
It makes me feel calm.
By Peck



Military Poem
We're new to Japan.
I'm a military kid.
We're far from home.
By Lucas

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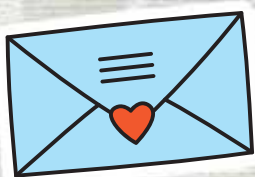
**Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child**

Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

3rd Grade
Mrs. Pittroff



3rd Grade
Mrs. Pittroff



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I will tell you what makes me special as a military child. For example, I like to make new friends. Next, I like to explore different places outside. Then I like when we go on family trips. I traveled to Japan from Austin. I like to visit our family. What makes me special as a child.




I will tell you about
being a military child.
First, I am a son.
Second, I got a broken arm.
I like planes. Third,
I have a great Japanese
family that has their own house.
My dad built the airplane hangar
that is all about
being an military child.



18 Military child makes me special because first, I get to eat lots of Japanese food, learn about fashion, and there's lots more to it. Next, there's lots more visiting or living Japan, so I can be friends with lots of cultures. Last, I love mental elementary school because it's fun, it's new, and it's different.




Name: Aina Smith



This is what makes me special as a military child. I have lived in 4 places like the states, England, Japan and Okinawa. I have heard so many different cultures. Currently I am learning Japanese. I've made some good friends.



Name: Liana



This is what makes me special as a military child. I have lived in 6 different houses and I'm only 9 years old. Another thing is that you get to eat many different food and learn many different history. Another thing is that I have friend all over the world.



Name: Brian Staggall



First, I've traveled to
7 places like Oklahoma,
Germany, Greenland,
America, and Tokyo.
Next, I went to school
and I learned a bout
math, E.L.D., reading,
and science. Finally, I
made friends and was
in my A.P.E. My friends
are Yuseum, Candace,
Marilyn, and Brian. This is
what makes me happy.

This is what makes me a military child. I have lived in a ton of different countries. I've lived in Colorado, New Jersey and Germany. Then I moved to Japan. Through all of the places I've lived I made lots of friends. My friends currently live all around the world. In the places I've been I've played in a ton of different parks. My favorite park in Germany is Eiffel Park. I liked to jump on the trampolines they had. In Japan, my favorite park is Round One. I like the tennis games they have.



Name: Leland



Name: Liberty Keller

This is how I am special as a Military child. First, I can travel. I have moved 3 times. Second, I get to go to school and learn how to read. Third, I can learn about Japan and eat Japanese food.



Name: William



I will tell you what makes me a multi-racial child. When my Dad comes back from a different country, he gives me something. When I go somewhere, I meet people and they're from a different country. We and my family have each other. That is all that makes me special.




Name: Aiden ^{Ka}man This is what
makes his special
as a military child.
First I can travel
to places like Tokyo
city, Yokohama
and many places. Next I
went to a new
school like Japanese
school and it was
a lot of fun with
new houses and better friends. Next to Japan



I'm special and military
child I like travel to my
aquarium because I like
looking at fishes like
shark, seal and little fish.
Also I like traveling
to S.O.D because I like
to see animals finally I
like my house because it
is near the school that is
where I am special as a
military child.



Name: Averi Perez



This is what makes me Special. First, I have been to Mexico, California, Italy and Paris. Second I made millions of friends in America and have five in Japan. Third I've had three houses. This is my 3rd house. This is what makes me Special.



Name: Stephyn



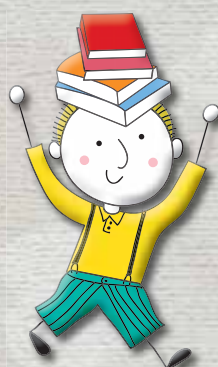
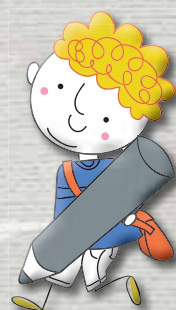
I will tell
you about being
military child. I
had friends but
I had to move
out so I have
new friends. I
have a new
teacher Mrs. Pittman
this is how I am
special.




Name: Cadence Brown I will tell you what makes me special about being a military child. First, I've been to a different countries, USA and Japan. Second, I've made new friends here like Rain, Bria, Hana and Akina. Last, is because I can learn new cultures. I can speak Japanese.



This is what makes me special as a military child. First, traveling I get to travel to Portland, End and Japan. Next I get make new friends like my friend Alana and Raia. Last I get to learn how others live in Japan. Slurping is a good thing but in American




Name: Rei Swilliams



I want tell you what
I like on a rainy day
First I got to travel
I got to eat new food that
and see new places, Next,
it would be cool because I can
always find when I want
play some and I always have
a good fit when I
play with my friend because
Finally I got to go to school
- learn so much new things and we get to have something



Name: Amelia Tsigirou
happy month of the
military child

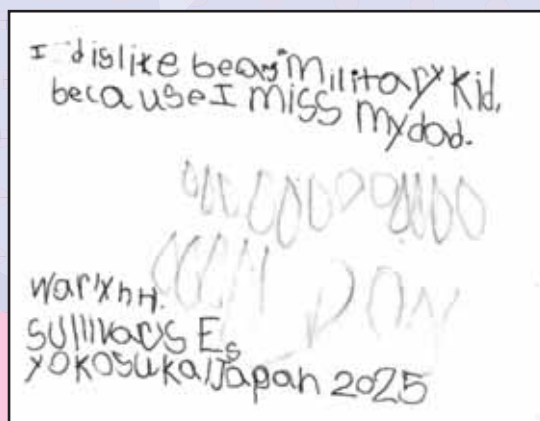
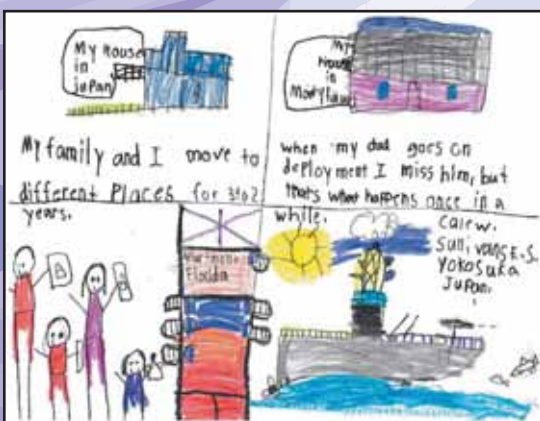
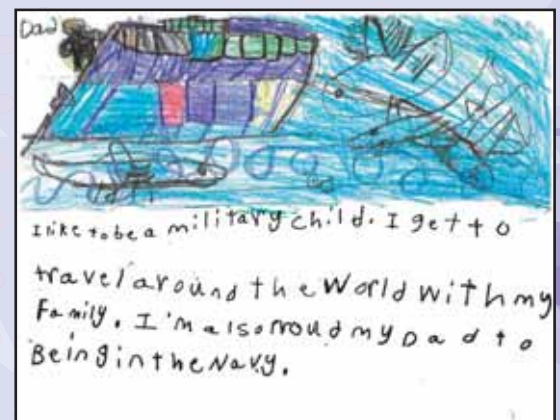
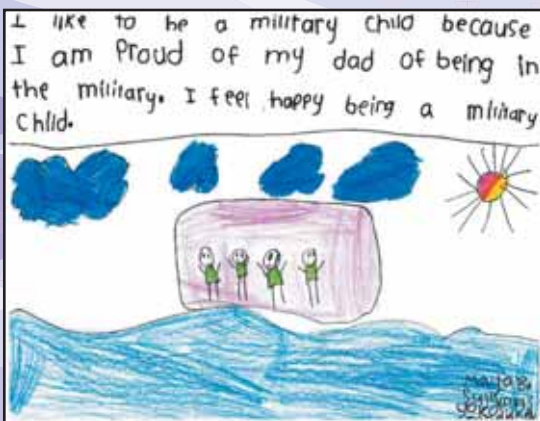
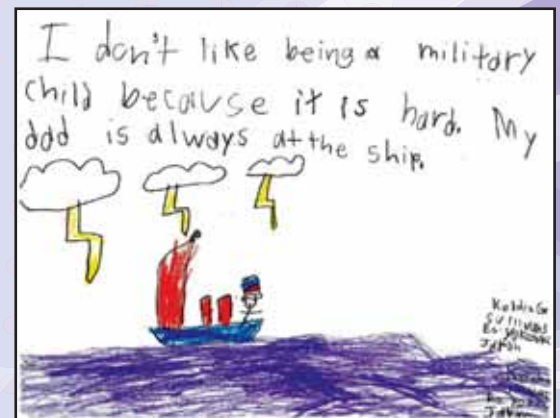


I will tell you
how I am a special
military child. First
I am special
because I have
three good friends.
Second, I like to
travel. I've been
to Japan, Carolina
Lakes and Korea.
Last, I like new house.
I got a free house in Japan and I am going
to get a new house in Colorado.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

2nd Grade / Mr. Hockman



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Celebrating Month of the Military Child



Sullivan's Elementary School

2nd Grade / Mrs. Arrant

Name: Benny Grade: 2D



**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**

My name is Benny. I am 8 years old. I am a military kid. I like to be a military kid because I get to travel to Japan. I don't like that I move away from friends. Love: Benny

Being a Military Child
By: Sophie, 2nd grade



My name is Sophie. I am 8 years old. I am a military kid. I like to make new friends. I like to move all the time to new houses. Now you know about me.

Name: Jay Grade: 2A

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**



Hi my name is Jay and I am 8 years old. I like being a military child because I like to go on trips. I do not like being a military child because I do not like when my parents have to move away. Now you know about me.

Name: Maria Dactolene Grade: 2nd



**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**

Hi my name is Maria. I am 7 years old. I am a military child. One thing I like about being a military child is every four days my dad needs to go duty. One thing I like being a military child is I can make new friends. That is why I like and hate about being a military child.

Being a Military Child
By: Isaac, 2nd grade

Hello my name is Isaac. I am a military child. One thing I don't like is that my dad stays overnight at the Washington aircraft carrier every 4 days or less. One thing I like about it is if someone breaks in the house, my dad is trained for it. Those are a few things about being a military child.

Being a Military Child
By Dayton, 2nd grade

Hi, my name is Dayton. I am a military child. I like that my dad worked on a submarine. My dad is a good cook. I like being a military child because I get to go on my mom's ship on holidays. That is what it is to be a military child.




Name: Savannah Grade: 2nd

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**



Hello my name is Savannah and I'm 7 years old. I am a military child and I like to go to places with my parents and I don't like that my mom and dad have to go away for a long time. Now you know about being a military child.




Being a Military Child
By: Ra'mier, 2nd grade

Hi, my name is Ra'mier and you are going to learn about me being a military child. The things I like about being a military child is moving to new homes. The things I don't like about being a military child is moving on a plane, and my dad has been gone for 5 months. Now you know about me.



The End!

Name: Sydney Grade: 2nd

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**



Hi my name is Sydney. I like being a military child because we can make new friends! This is why I like to be a military child.

Name: Isaiah Grade: 2

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**



Hello my name is Isaiah. I am 9 years old. I am a military kid. It is fun being a military kid. I love going on planes. It is fun. I like to meet new friends and families you have never met before. You get to go on planes to go to other places. That is all about me.

Name: Like Grade: 2nd

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**



My name is Like. I am 7 in a half years old. I am a military child. Sometimes you get to go to the hospital for fun. And you have a bunch of friends. You also make a bunch. You also get to see more fun places. There are some fun things about being a military child.

Name: Ekanor Grade: 2nd

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**



Hi my name is Ekanor. I am 8 years old. I am a military child. Some fun things about being a military child are you get to ride lots of seaplanes, and meet lots of new friends, and travel lots of cool places. Some bad things are I have to move away from my friends. It is fun and hard being a military child.

Name: A On I Grade: 2

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**

I like being a military child because I like to go on my dad's ship.

Being a Military Kid
By: Olivia, 2nd grade



Hi my name is Olivia. I am 7 years old. I am a military kid. Things I like about being a military kid is making new friends. Things that I don't like is moving away from friends. Another thing that I like is moving to new places. Now you know all about military kids.




Name: Ani Grade: 2

**STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!**

My name is Ani. I am a military child. These are things I like about being a military child: make new friends, move to new houses and on base I can go to move theaters. These are things I don't like about being a military child: I don't like when my dad has to go to different places and can't be at home a lot. Now know that I'm a military child.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivans Elementary School
3rd Grade / Mrs. Tovar

By Madison

Being a Military child is unique and amazing! The reason I think this is because when you're moving you get to go to a new school, and make new friends. You can also learn different things at your new school. It is also really exciting to go on airplane rides. It can be a little sad because you're saying bye to people you know and might have been there for a long time. When you move or travel, you get to try new and interesting food.

What is also unique and amazing about being a military child is that you get to meet new people! When you meet new people, they can teach you a new language. They can also help you if you're struggling with something that is very difficult to do. They can even become your friend! Being a military child means that I have friends that are in the Military or in the Military Community. Friends and family can keep in touch with you from all over the World. This is why being a Military child is unique and amazing!



By Julian R.

Being a military child is fun. It is fun because I get to travel to fun places, try new foods, and make new friends. Living in Japan I travel by train to go to fun places. I do fun stuff with my family like going to see the big Buddha in Kamakura, and going to Yokohama to eat. I like many foods in Japan. We ate at a restaurant called yakiniiku. They have mochi, steak, and ramen. Being a military child, I have to move to new places. When I get to new places I make new friends! I like to make new friends at school. I get to hangout with my friends on base. Sometimes my dad leaves on the ship and it makes me nervous and scared. When dad comes back it makes me happy! When dad comes back home we spend lots of time together. This is why I like being a military child!

By Monica K.

My life as a military child is very special to me. It is special to me for these reasons. My first reason is that I get to travel on cool airplane rides and watch TV on the airplane rides. Also, I get to see new communities and met new people. They can help me move in and be friends. Getting to meet new people is very exciting. It makes me very happy because me and my family can make new friends.

It will be super fun because I get a new home to live in. I can get a new room and live in a new military community. Being a military child can be very hard to feel when my dad was away at sea. I was sad for a little while, but when he came back I was so happy that he came back. We did a lot of fun things together.

In a new community It is so exciting. Everyone is so happy, and we have a good time. When I was younger, we moved. I had to say goodbye to my friends. I was sad and happy at the same time. I was sad because I was leaving my friends. I was happy because I would make new friends. Making friends is important to me because I don't want to be alone with no friends to play with.

Being a military child can be happy and joyful because seeing new people can be very scary and joyful. It is mostly very joyful. It can be scary because you can feel a little shy. It can be joyful because you meet new people and who might become your friends. If you are scared of talking to someone, then believe in yourself that you can do it. If you are so happy to meet new people, then ask them to be your new friends. This is why being a military child is special to me.

By Seth B.

Being a military child is cool! I like to go on the plane and visit new places. I also eat different foods like Japanese ramen and yummy sushi! I get to go to different places all over the world! I see my other family and make new friends everywhere.

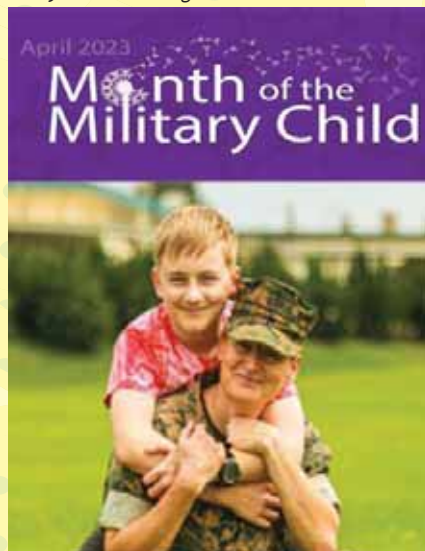
I go to different hotels when I travel to interesting places. I even shop for new stuff and cool toys! I can also see some really tall towers and houses where I live. I like to see cars, play at fun parks and attend events on base. This is why being a military child is cool!

By Ruby M.

My life as a military child is amazing because I get to have awesome experiences like eating yummy food! For example sushi, acai bowls and kalalan pork are soooooo oishi! Oishi means yummy or tasty in Japanese. When I first got to Japan the airport food was different and pretty good, the stores were cool and different too. If I wasn't a military child and hadn't had the experience to move to Japan I probably wouldn't know that.

Another thing that is great about being a military child is I get a lot of fun experiences like going to cool places like Hawaii and Japan. Sometimes it can be hard to leave your friends and move far away. Finally, I want to tell you one more fun experience about being a military child, for one the culture in Japan is different. For example, when I made soba noodles it was a lot different than making spaghetti. Did you know that in Japan you use chopsticks instead of spoons, forks, or sporks?

I didn't know until I moved to Japan that Oni or "Japanese Ogres" are very rude and the traditional way to get rid of them is to throw magical beans at them. But it's not all about all of the experiences. It's also about the joy of seeing one of your family members come home after a long deployment overseas! That is why I think being a military child is amazing!



By Alexander R.

Sometimes being in the military can be exciting, but scary at the same time. Here's why. First, when you move to another state or country it can be scary. When you get to school, it can be scary when you try to make new friends. You can get used to your new school and end up making friends who are honest and fun.

You can also try new foods and get cool toys. Being a military kid, you can go to different places. You can go to many different national parks but sometimes they can be scary if there are dangerous cliffs. At least you can explore many different states or countries. That is why being a military child is exciting, but scary at the same time.

By Adeline W.

Being a military child makes me happy because I get to travel a lot and go to new places. For example, I got to go to Virginia, Hawaii, Nebraska, Colorado and Japan. I get to meet new friends, but I am also sad because I am leaving a bunch of things that I love behind. I also get to eat interesting foods, for example dumplings, ramen, and miso soup. I get to try new things like skiing and bungee jumping. I get to visit my cousins, uncles, aunts and do a bunch of family reunions which are really, really fun.

Our family reunions are in Nebraska. At the family reunions I get to do a bunch of fun stuff like going to the pool, horseback riding, roast marshmallows and do archery. I love being a military child. It makes me sad when my mom or dad leaves and goes on a work trip or the ship. I love when my mom or my dad comes back from deployment. This is my life as a Military child.

Authors note: Even though being a Military child is sad, hurtful or maybe even disappointing, remember this, it always gets BETTER!



By Alyssa S.

Life as a military child is fun, hard and happy. Do you know why? Well I'm glad you asked. First I get to eat new food. It might be yummy, or not. Second, you get to travel with your family. You get to spend time with your family and friends. You also get to learn new things. At first I thought people would not like me because I was different. I felt lonely and left out. But I was brave and fearless. Now I feel more comfortable at this time.

I went to a new school which was the Sullivans School. I made new friends at the school. When I first came to the school it was hard. I had a hard time at my new school. Each day it was more difficult. I was scared that I would not be accepted. I was brave though. This year it got easier. Now in 3rd grade I feel more confident. I am moving soon so we have to get ready to leave. Lastly, being a military child you get to travel to a lot of places. You can also see your favorite places. I will be kind of sad when I leave my old home, but it will be very fun.

Did you know that military children are serving the military? Every day we children serve the military. Sometimes it's hard or sad or happy. Do you think being a military child is fun or not? Why and why not? I think that being a military child is fun, hard, and happy.



By Lindsay J.

Being a military child is awesome because you get to go to new places like me. I get to go to a lot of cool places! I also get to go to different countries. I love all the countries that I went to. For example, I got to go to Manila. It was my first time and it was so fun that I got to see new hotels. I'm not going to lie, it was so great there! Our hotel had a pool and a restaurant that I loved. We went to a restaurant where they had pizza that I liked. It was yummy and they had puzzles, games and chess. Manila had food that I had not tried before. I did not know that the food was amazing there at first glance. I thought the food would not be good in Manila, but when I tried it, it tasted awesome.

Whenever I travel as a military child, I get to try different snacks. The snacks are always so yummy that I almost finished them all. I give some to my sister and brother. They like snacks too. Something I do is when they are not looking I eat the rest of the snacks. It is funny, but when they ask where all their favorite snacks are I say I don't know so they go somewhere else. I am happy because it is so funny that after I burst out laughing I tell them the truth. My parents and siblings go shopping when we travel and we eat yummy food. We like to go to eat at Starbucks when we travel because it is yummy. That's why being a military child is awesome.

By Avenkyle G.

My life as a military child is interesting because I get to make new friends, travel to different places, and try new foods. We keep having to move to different places because of my dad's work. When I move to a new place I get to make new friends. I like to make new friends. I also still keep in touch with my old friends and we play games online together. Next, I get to travel a lot to different countries, states, and different places. We have lived in Las Vegas, Hawaii, and now Japan. My dad has to leave to serve the military sometimes and that makes me sad. It makes me happy when dad comes back! When I move to new places I get to eat new food like udon, sushi, and different snacks. This is why my life as a military child is interesting.

By Scott C.

I like being in the military community. I have a lot of friends around the World who are military kids. I live with my mom and brother. We have friends who visit our house and it is fun! Since a lot of my friends are military kids I know it's sad for them when their mom or dad deploy. Since I'm not a military child I don't really move to a lot of countries. A lot of my friends move countries or schools and it makes me sad because they have to move to places that I probably won't visit. This means I probably won't see them again. Being in a military community is also fun. I think it's fun because I can go to this school and go to special events with my friends and family. This is why I like being in my military community.

By Devin J.

It is unique to be a military child because it is cool to travel. I have seen the white house and the pentagon because I lived nearby. I have even moved to Italy, Virginia, Maine, Hawaii and Japan. Living in these places I get to travel to other states and countries. I also think the military is cool because you can visit family and friends all over the world. It is really fun. We like to talk about funny things and we have conversations when I visit them.

The military also helps me find interesting food. Sushi is a bunch of rice filled with fish in the middle and seaweed on the outside. I also eat Mochi. It is a sort of rice cake. I like to call this food a noodle dog because it is a bunch of noodles in a hot dog bun. I found all these things here in Japan and I moved here because of the military. This is why the military can be unique and cool.

By Vivian T.

My life as a military community member is happy. I am happy because I sometimes get to move and make new friends. I don't get to move that much. I have lived in Hawaii, and Japan. Sometimes moving is hard because I have to say bye to my friends, but we stay in touch and continue to be good friends. I have a best friend named Kenzley. Her dad is in the military so she is a military child. I get to still be with my best friend and my friends.

I also like to go to different places to try new and delicious foods, like ramen and sushi. My favorite food is strawberries. The Japanese strawberries are the best in my opinion. They are so juicy and so sweet. My mom makes the best miso soup. It is nice and warm, and tastes sweet and salty. I love eating noodles called udon. Some can be cold and it is so good. My mom is Japanese so I use chopsticks to eat my food. I still use a fork and spoons though. I also love eating sushi. Sushi was my favorite food but now ramen has taken over so ramen is my favorite.

I love going to different places like Hawaii where I was born, but in Japan there are a lot of amazing places to go like Universal Studios and Tokyo Disneyland. I love Japanese amusement parks. They are so fun and have a lot of scary rides. I don't need to move so much so I can stay in Japan and do fun things. Also my favorite place in Japan is Yamagata. I love visiting my grandparents and my cousins. This is why my life as a military community member is happy.

By Elaine C.

It is lucky for me to be in my military community for these three reasons. My first reason is that I have a lot of exciting things to do here. For example, I wouldn't have started a gymnastics class or piano class! I'm also on the swim team and I get to compete in competitions. I think it makes my life lots of fun! If I was not in my military community, it would be harder for me to experience these things on a military base.

My second reason that I am lucky to be in my military community is because I get to travel. I have been to amazing places and 5 different countries. I have been to the U.S.A., Thailand, Hawaii, Japan and Taiwan. All of those places are interesting and cool to visit. My last reason is that I have lots and lots of friends all around the World. For example, one of my friends is in Cuba, the U.S.A., Taiwan and Japan. They are everywhere in the World and even though me and my friends are apart we are still friends. This is why I am lucky to be in my military community.

By Isen H.

It is exciting to live as a military child. I get to go to cool places like Tokyo, Disneyland, Tokyo Disney Sea and Universal Studios in Osaka. I also get to go on cool airplanes and travel to many different places too. Second, I get to eat awesome foods like sushi, ramen and dumplings, but sometimes some countries have different foods than other countries. For example, I don't like it when other countries don't have snacks that I like. I like Taki's and some places don't have them in stores.

Last, I get to go to the movies with my mom and dad when he comes back from deployment. I love to hang out with my dad when he is back. We also get to play video games and go to the arcade. Finally, being a military child, I get to make new friends and meet new people. I like to see cool stuff and have fun with my friends. My family in America gets to talk to me on the phone while I am in Japan. Isn't that cool? That is why I think being a military child is exciting.

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

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivan's Elementary School

3rd Grade / Mrs. Hunt

By Isabel

Being a military connected child is fantastic because of these 3 reasons. First, I get to travel to a bunch of places in airplanes like Texas, Germany and France, (I get to travel a lot). Another reason why being a military connected child is fantastic is because of all the yummy, delicious and scrumptious food I get to eat like yakitori and shabu shabu. The final reason is all the super awesome and fun activities I get to do. For example, kimono try-ons and seeing snow for the first time. These are all the great things about my life as a military connected child!

*Just know that life can be tough sometimes but whatever happens always look at the bright side every day because it will always bring you a smile! Trust me.

By Alastair

Did you know life as a military child is fun? Here are my reasons why I think it is fun. First, I get to travel a lot. I have been to lots of places that are fun like Texas, Japan, Italy, and Washington.. I also love going on airplanes. You get to look out the window and you get to see clouds. I moved to Japan because my dad is in the military. Next, I love to be a military child because I get to eat interesting food like gyoza and sushi. I also get to eat ramen and I love all these foods too. I like being a military child because I get to move to different places like Italy, Texas, and Japan. I like Japan because it has lots of places like Shibuya scramble! It is so fun there. Italy has some delicious foods that are so good. Texas was fun because I got to go to HEB. It is a store that is really cool and Texas has WhataBurger. That is why my life as a military child is so much fun.

By Kyler

My life as a military child is fun. It is fun because we can travel to fun countries. We can go to cool places. We can do more activities in different countries. My favorite place I traveled to was Okinawa. It is also fun because we eat cool food. For example, I eat sushi, gyoza and udon. These are my favorite foods.

Finally, I get to make new friends. My friends are fun. We also make promises to stay friends and some are in different countries. To sum it up, that is why my life as a military child is fun.

By Jewel

Being a military child is fun because I get to travel to different places like the Philippines. Another reason why it is fun to be a military child is that I get to meet new people and make new friends. After moving to Japan, I now have 2 very close friends! If my dad had never signed up I would not have had the opportunity to live in Japan. I would have never met my amazing friends.

I think it is fun to be a military child because I get to go to a new country and experience a different culture. I enjoy being able to learn new things about Japan. I like learning the Japanese language. There are many amusement parks like Sanrio World and Miffy World. I have been to Sanrio World but not Miffy World. I am planning to go there soon.

Finally, I think it is fun to be a military child because I get to try different foods. Some of my favorite foods I have tried are miso soup, tempura shrimp, and ramen. My dad has long shifts so I do not get to see him a lot, but when I do we get to play games together and get to try new food places. This is what I like about being a military child.

By Kadence

My life as a military child is awesome, but sometimes hard. Here are some amazing reasons why it is awesome and hard. First, I have over 20 besties which is really cool. My besties live in America, Japan and Thailand. The best part about being a military child is I GET TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS!!! Also, I get to eat fun food like udon, curry and my favorite - cup of noodles plus many others. I'm just saying being a military child means you never get bored. Also, I get to go to many exciting places like Thailand, Japan, Disneyland, Legoland, San Francisco, Mexico, and more.

Sometimes it's hard being a military child because my dad leaves and doesn't come back for a long time. When he is gone I miss him a lot. Also, I get really sad because he can't call me when he's on the ship. Sometimes he misses our birthdays and holidays, but when he comes back we have a really cool dinner together and sometimes we get to go on a family vacation. This is why my life as a military child is awesome!

By Oliver

My life as a military child is fun because I get to travel with my family. We get to see friends and family that live in the states and get to go to cool places. Traveling I get to try weird food and different types of noodles and fish like sushi and eel. One weird food I tried is durian. I have friends all over the world and I can go to cool places with them. When we move to a new country I have to learn a different language. It can be hard learning a new language. To sum it up, this is why my life as a military child is fun.

By Sam

My life as a military child is fun because I get to try new food and meet new friends. I also get a new house too. I get to make new friends and talk with my old friends. My dad is retired now, but we still move. I get to travel to cool places in Japan like Yokohama, Osaka to go to Universal Studios, and Tokyo to go to Disneyland! Some of my favorite foods I have tried are sushi, ramen, and dumplings. It is so fun to be a military connected child!

By Celina

My life as a military child is an ADVENTURE because of these three reasons. First, I get to travel A LOT! This means I see new sights. For example, my family loves to go to Tokyo! My favorite thing to do is go to Disney Sea! Second, people find friends and family being in the military! I always make new friends wherever I live! Finally the adventure, I get to go to many different places because my family likes doing stuff and having fun.

I'm grateful for being a military kid because it is fun, but it is not always great. Sometimes a parent can go on deployment or stay with the ship while you and a parent PCS and then meet them there. That could be hard but guess what, it will get better and your mom or dad will come back throughout your life. When they are back you'll have an even better adventure!

By Lucas

My life as a military connected child is fun. It is fun because I get to travel. When I travel I get to try new foods. My favorite food to eat is onigiri. I also get to make new friends in different places. This is why I like to be a military connected child.

By Sofia

It can be sometimes hard, sometimes nice in my life. The nice part is when I can find cool stuff like stores, restaurants and malls and make new friends! It can also be hard sometimes though because when my dad has to leave for the ship it could get a bit emotional. Saying goodbye to close friends it could also get sad but on the bright side you could make a bunch more friends! There's so many cool places to go like Popmart, Coaska, Tokyo, and more.

There is also very tasty food here in Japan like ramen, sushi, cup noodles, and yakisoba. My favorite food is from the Philippines though. Sometimes it can be hard socializing in public since most workers here in Japan only speak Japanese. For example, if I am ordering from a waiter it could be hard communicating, or if I'm buying something and I'm trying to read what it says it could be hard because it's all in Japanese.

Here in Japan it is also very fun because here there are a bunch of things that other countries don't usually have like free wifi in stores, cultured food, free slippers in buildings, shrines, lucky bags, guides for blind people, and more. When my dad leaves for the ship I get sad when he leaves but when he comes back he brings back a lot of stuff from different countries around the world. I am also very happy when he comes back and sometimes we go out together once he's back. It's fun being a military child because when my dad comes back he brings back souvenirs from cool places like Thailand, Vietnam, and a bunch more.

Even though we don't travel a lot my dad does, we still have a bunch of fun here.

Next year I will be moving to the states for my dad's work. Since I've lived in Japan my whole entire life it will be kinda scary moving somewhere else. That's what it feels like being a military child.

By Zoey

My life as a military community member is fun and exciting. I get to go to fun places and see cool stuff. Some of my favorite places are New Sanno in Tokyo, and I love to walk around in Tokyo. Sometimes I feel puzzled and confused when my parents make me move. It is cool but also sad because I have to say good-bye to friends and family. Sometimes I even get to go eat yummy and good food. I get to eat dumplings, meat, udon and more healthy and delicious food.

My mom and dad work to support the military. My mom works as a lunch monitor in my school, and my dad works as a contractor for the military boats. My mom goes around the lunch tables and if a kid raises their hand she has to help them. I am happy I get to see my parents after school every day. My grandparents get to come and my grandparents that live here in Japan can come visit me too. I have friends from different places. Some of my friends speak different languages like me. I speak English, Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese. I live in the military community too. I like that I get to make new friends that have similarities like me and come from all over the world. I make new friends at school. I get to learn different cultures too. My mom knows most of the cultures. My life as a military connected child is very interesting and thank you for reading my story!

By Bryson

My life as a Military Child is fun because I get to travel to many places, even places overseas. I get to travel to countries and I get to go on so many plane rides. One of my favorite places is California, because I was born there and they have many cool aquariums. I get to eat so many different kinds of food that are very interesting. My favorite kinds of food are Ramen and can taste delicious because you get to eat the noodles and the broth which is the liquid in ramen. Another kind of food I like is sushi. Sushi is famous in Japan. Sushi has rice and seaweed wrapped around it. Udon is from Japan. Udon is big ramen noodles. They help when you are sick. Being a military child means I have friends around the world, even overseas. It is also hard being a Military Child because you say goodbye to your friends. When you move you can move to another country where you meet new people from all around the world. New friends are fun to play with especially from a new country. Friends from all around the world are nice. This is why I enjoy being a military child.

By Chyla

My life in a Military Community is fun! For these reasons I can make lots of friends or besties!! But sometimes it's sad because they have to move away. Another reason it is fun is because I can go to a school with other kids who can speak English like me since I don't know how to speak Japanese. Another reason I like being in a military community in Japan is that I can eat AMAZING foods!!! I like ramen, rice balls, and sushi, including the sushi that has shrimp. My next reason is that even though I don't live in the base I can still see my friends, classmates, teachers or kids and people I know anywhere on the base. My fourth reason is that almost all of the people on base are super kind and sweet. These are the reasons why my life in a military community is fun!

By Stephen

My life as a military child is fun because I could travel the world and go on adventures. I get to try cool foods like sushi, ramen and udon. I get to make new friends everywhere I go. I have friends from different countries. This is why it is fun for me.

By Everett

My life as a military child is awesome! Being a military child is awesome because, first I get to go travel! I go to the snow, the zoo, the aquarium, and go hiking. I go on cool trips too! My favorite trip was seeing the snow monkeys. I also get to live in many different places. I was born in Florida, then I went to California, and lastly I moved to Japan. We live in these places for 3 whole years. I always have fun in all the different places I go. It can be sad moving because I miss my friends, but it's awesome making new friends! This is why my life as a military child is awesome!



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

3rd Grade / Ms. Calace

Ikego Elementary School

"What it Means to be a Military Child"



By: Adan R.

Moving is very hard.
It is very sad because you must say goodbye to friends.
Loss of friends when they move.
Improve your mindset.
There is a lot of people to be friend with.
Appreciate that you are in a new place.
Remember the good memories with friends.
You need to be calm.

Celebrate when parents come home.
Hugs when your family member leaves.
Increase your happiness.
Learn a new language.
Discover the amazing things in Japan.



By: Aubrey McCould

Moving every few years.
Including new people.
Learning new things, like languages, culture, and food.
Inspiring people to be open-minded.
Traveling everywhere.
Adapting to new places.
Respecting different ways of doing things.
Yearning for friends who moved away.

Coming up new beginnings.
Honoring the military.
Improving every thing I see.
Longing into new opportunities.
Discovering new activities like watching cherry blossoms and origami.



By: Kailani V.

M-Move many times.
I-Inspire other people to be happy.
L-Love new foods.
I-Imagine your new friends.
T-Travel everywhere.
A-Adapt to your new school.
R-Remember old memories.
Y-Yearn for old friends.

C-care for people.
H-Handle sadness when friends move.
I-include people in activities.
L-Learn new and different cultures.
D-Decide to be happy, no matter what!



By: Claire

Making lots of origami.
Investigating new things everywhere.
Leading by example.
Inspire others to be kind.
Traveling to a new school.
Asking new things to learn new words.
Respecting others in our school.
Yelling I miss you when my dad comes back from the ship.

Choosing new activities to try.
Helping other kids and people.
Improving my skills on tests.
Loving my dad and mom.
Deciding new food to try.



By: Nathan

Being a military child means moving away from friends.

It means trying new food.
It means changing schools.
It means living in a new house.
It means meeting new friends.
It means saying goodbye to old friends.

Being a military child is fun, even though it is sometimes hard.



By: Ariana

Remember all the good times.
Event anything you want.
Lead by example.
Travel anywhere you want.
Ask anyone for help.
Respect the rules when my dad is away.
Yell "Welcome home!" when he gets back.

Celebrate all the good times.
Help around the house.
Imagine good times.
Learn new languages.
Defend the U.S. is what my dad does!



By: Aida P.

Make lots of friends.
Imagine who will be in my new school.
Laugh with friends.
Investigate in science.
Try to learn new things.
Ask lots of questions.
Respectfully play with others.
You can do it!

Create my art.
Helping my friends who have deployed parents with friends.
I'm special because my dad is in the military.
Learn so many things.
Dream about my friends who left.



By: Eli E.

Military children...
Imagine being in the military one day.
Learn how to speak Japanese.
Begin people to help others.
Travel back to visit their families, some are in Florida.
Adapt to using chopsticks.
Relax at the moment.
Train on long plane rides.

Celebrate my page who was in the army.
Handle my sadness when friends leave.
Include people new to my school.
Lead by example.
Decide to make good choices.



By: Lily H.

Move every few years.
Increase your friendships.
Lift your family's spirit when things are tough.
Inspire people that are hopeless.
Travel the world.
Adapt to new food.
Reflect on the places you've been.
Yell, "Welcome home!" to people on the ship.

Conquer all the difficult mountains.
Honor being a military child.
Identify what is cool about this life.
Learn new languages.
Decide with your family where to live.



By: Christian

Being a military child means moving to new houses every few years.

It means to move to new continents and countries you've never been to.
It means to meet new friends and go to new schools.
It means that either your mom or dad is on the ship or helps people on the ship.

Being a military child is difficult but fun!



By: Nina

Moving to new countries.
Illustrating my personality.
Learning new languages.
I am inspired by different cultures.
Teaching myself new things.
Adapting to new places.
Remembering my friends.
Yearning to move back.

Caring about my past.
Handling my emotions.
Including others who are new to my school.
Longing into a new world.
Discovering new activities in different places.



By: Suki G.

Military children...
Learn Japanese.
Include new students at recess.
Teach others how things are done.
Appreciate help by others.
Respect their parents.
Yearn for my family in the U.S.A.

Celebrate our parents getting promoted.
Hug their parents when they get home.
Love seeing their parents in a uniform.
Increase their grades.
Dream of being the best child of U.S.A.



By: Cameron Howard

Military children...
I improve my Japanese.
I learn about new countries.
I inspire people to follow rules.
I travel to different places.
I share good grades for their hard work.
I respect our parents.
I swim on long plane rides.

C-care for adults in the military.
I help people who are struggling.
I increase our learning.
I lead by example.
I mean about when they're taking rest.



By: Andol

Improve myself in Japanese crafts.
Learn a new language.
Help people new to Japan.
Knowledge Japanese Foods.
Learn Karate.
Design my own origami.
Complete Japanese lessons.
Help people new to Japan.
Knowledge Japanese Foods.
Learn Karate.
Design my own origami.

C-care for adults in the military.
I help people who are struggling.
I increase our learning.
I lead by example.
I mean about when they're taking rest.



By: Lana M.

Make new friends.
Introducing myself to new people.
Listen to my mom when my dad is away.
I am sad when he is gone.
Take my little brother to do new things.
Ask lots of questions.
Read books in English and Japanese.
You can do it!

Class friends are special.
Hug dad when he comes home.
Investigate things everywhere.
Lead by example for my brother.
Dance with my friends when I see them again.



By: Ellison

Moving to new countries.
Investigating in amazing activities.
Learning new languages.
Using amazing places.
Telling local stories.
Amazing sights are seen.
Respecting our friends who moved.
Yearning for forever friends.

Chopsticks and cherry blossoms.
Helping other people.
Inspiring others to be brave.
Learning in activities.
Being there to help when my dad is gone.



By: Eli T.

Being a military child means I lived in Florida and Japan.
It means I eat hot pot.
It means I go on airplanes a lot.
It means I learn Japanese.

Being a military child is great!



By: Dawson

Military children...
Motivate each other to change the world.
Imagine where they will live next.
Light up the world.
Inspire others to do what they can't.
Try their best.
Assist to people in need.
Respect their country.
Yell to their parents I miss you.

Care for people.
Help their parent when ones away.
Includes every one.
Lends with kindness.
Discover new things.



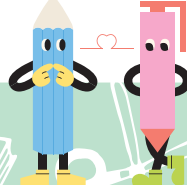
By: Everly

Military children...
Imagine their future.
Learn Japanese words.
Invest ways to have fun when our toys are shipped away.
Travel on airplanes and trains.
Appreciate having good friends.
Remember my old house.
Yell, "Goodbye!" to my friends moving away.

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Help new students.
Investigate the country.
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The U.S. has done its fair share of winning in the Winter Olympics, but which event has it never medaled in?

Answer
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Kanji of the week



Kei/hotaru [firefly]

Language Lesson

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BEST OF PACIFIC 2024

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Scenic outlook

6 Hoover and others

10 Palindromic title

14 Playwright Chekhov

15 Pronto

16 Central European river

17 Graphic symbols

18 Strangles

20 Generosity

22 Halloween items

23 Breaks down

25 ___ Baba

27 Sun follower?

28 Wolfish look

29 Frida's husband

31 Most contrite

35 Not to mention

36 Broods

38 Scramble piece

39 Dave ___ Band

41 Sponsorship

42 Scale deduction

43 Hymn homophone

45 Initials at sea

46 Copyright violation

50 Metric volume units

51 Just too cute

54 Giving in abundance

56 To no ___

57 Protected, at sea

58 Advantage

59 Letter before epsilon

60 WV senator from 1959 to 2010

61 Insolence

62 Ethan or Woody

4 Neighbor of Fiji

5 Marin County's San ___

6 Nissan, way back when

7 White-faced

8 Calendar abbr.

9 Some gym helpers

10 Rock from outer space

11 Poe's middle name

12 Helps a hood

13 Something to clean up

19 A judge, e.g.

21 Airport near OAK

24 Blood flow blockage

25 "Bonanza" bro

26 Country singer McCann

30 Former voice of Aflac's mascot

31 Pension starter?

32 Bad thing to be behind

33 Like some pickings

34 Dick Tracy's gal

36 Passes away

37 Julia's "Wonder" co-star

40 Rabbits' relatives

41 Oil company that merged with Hess, once

43 Yard borders

44 "As I see it," online

46 Europe's "boot"

47 Defiant response

48 Turf claimers

49 Belly button

50 Meat loaf serving

52 ___-Brite (rhyming toy)

53 Zest

55 Wyo. neighbor

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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The background is a rich, textured collage of Japanese culinary elements. At the top left, there are two small dark bowls filled with a light-colored liquid, possibly soy sauce or miso, next to a small dark teapot. Below them are fresh green scallions and a bundle of dried, golden-brown rice stalks. On the right side, there are several bright orange citrus fruits, likely daidai (citrus), and a black plate with a piece of salmon topped with green herbs. In the lower right, a wooden bowl is filled with white rice, with a pair of wooden chopsticks resting on top. The bottom of the image features a variety of fresh seafood, including several pieces of nigiri sushi with salmon and tuna, a whole cooked crab, and a platter of assorted sashimi including salmon, tuna, and white fish, garnished with green herbs and mushrooms.

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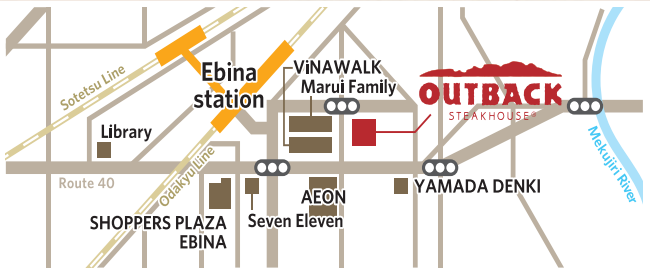


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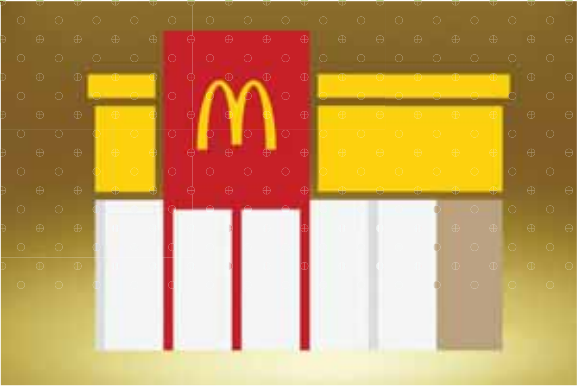
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RESTAURANT INFO

Natto beans

All about Japan’s weird fermented soy superfood!

LIVE JAPAN

Japanese natto beans have garnered a bit more of the spotlight in recent years for their superfood and probiotic appeal. Made of soybeans fermented with a special variety of the *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria, natto is one of the healthiest soy products you can find.

Natto is a polarizing food as well, thanks to its unique smell and sticky, gooey texture. “Do you actually eat this?!” is a common reaction of people who are first presented with a bowl of natto.

Don’t dismiss the smelly beans so quickly, though! This traditional Japanese superfood has high nutritional value, said to protect against strokes and cardiac infarcts, and is known for helping with both diets and stress relief. It goes great with rice and is incredibly cheap, two reasons why so many Japanese are utterly in love with natto.

But where does it come from, and how to eat natto? Join us on a smelly, sticky adventure to discover all about Japan’s most mysterious soul food!

What is Natto? A brief history

There are various theories as to how and where Natto first saw light. The general idea usually is about cooked soybeans wrapped in straw fermenting naturally. People gave it a try, enjoyed it, and ended up fermenting beans on purpose.

One such story is linked to Mito City in Ibaraki Prefecture. In 1083, the military commander Minamoto no Yoshiie and his army stayed in the northeastern part of the prefecture. They boiled soybeans as fodder for their horses, wrapping the leftovers in straw for easy keeping and transportation.

However, the next time they opened these straw containers, they found that the beans had fermented and now were all sticky and stringy. The soldiers got curious and gave the beans a try – and enjoyed them! When they gave them to their general, Minamoto no Yoshiie was equally delighted! It is said that the word natto (納豆) comes from the Japanese phrase of “beans for the general” (将軍に納めた豆).

Natto beans and Japanese culture

How much natto Japanese eat per day depends, but every morning, millions of people in Japan eat a bowl of rice topped with natto for breakfast – it’s a staple.

The fermented beans can easily be bought at every convenience store and supermarket in the country. In Japan, the price of natto tends to be around 100 yen for 3 to 4 packs.

The traditionally most popular varieties are kotsubu natto, “small beans” often used for sushi, as well as hikiwari natto, which features ground soybeans.

Natto really comes in various shapes and forms, such as kuromame natto black soybeans with a relatively mild taste and rich in anthocyanin, a type of flavonoid that boasts antioxidant properties.

Usually, they all come with sauce and karashi, Japanese mustard. Plain white rice topped with natto makes for a delicious meal on its own and is a great, viable option when you’ve got no other ingredients at hand.



Kuromame natto



Hikiwari natto



How much natto do Japanese eat?

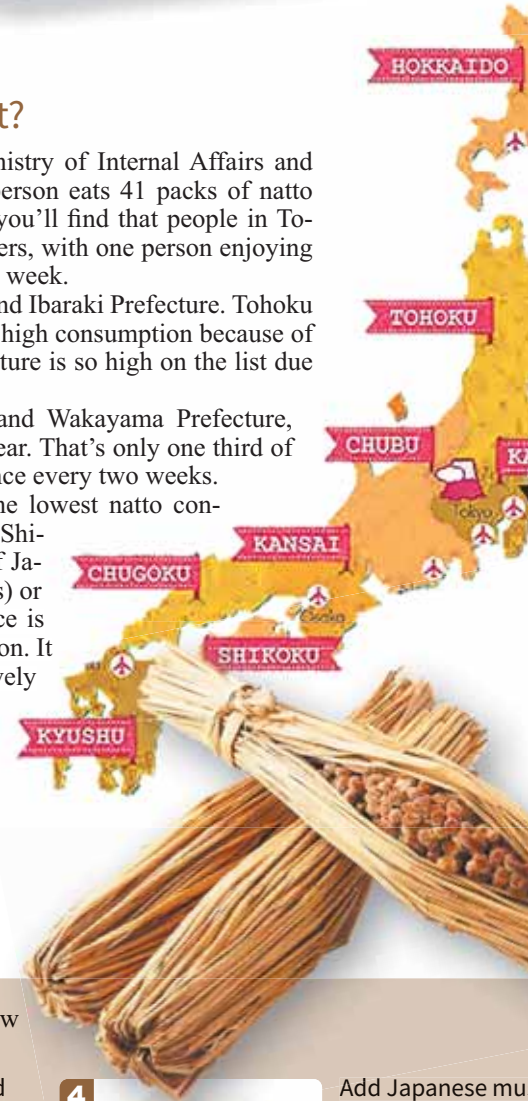
According to the statistics released by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in 2016, the average Japanese person eats 41 packs of natto every year. If you look at individual prefectures, you’ll find that people in Tohoku’s Aomori Prefecture are the biggest natto lovers, with one person enjoying 68 packs annually. That’s about 1.5 natto packs per week.

Close contenders are Miyagi, Niigata, Gunma, and Ibaraki Prefecture. Tohoku (Northeast Japan) and Niigata seem to have such a high consumption because of their abundance of rice fields, while Ibaraki Prefecture is so high on the list due to its rumored status as the birthplace of natto.

The opposite trend can be seen in Okinawa and Wakayama Prefecture, where the average person only eats 22 packs per year. That’s only one third of Aomori’s consumption, but still is an average of once every two weeks.

There are local trends. The prefectures with the lowest natto consumption are all concentrated in the Chugoku and Shikoku region, as well as in Kansai. In these parts of Japan, dishes such as wheat flour udon (thick noodles) or okonomiyaki are particularly popular, so white rice is eaten a lot less than in the natto-loving Tohoku region. It can be said that the local food culture has a relatively big impact on people’s natto habits.

If we now zoom in on cities, the clear winner is Ibaraki Prefecture’s Mito City, the alleged birthplace of natto.



How to eat natto

Enough with the theories, let’s take a look at how to enjoy natto properly!



Open the package and take out the sauce and Japanese mustard.



Mix the beans well.

Natto Note: the more you mix, the stickier and stringier it gets. The flavor also gets stronger.



Add the sauce.

Natto Note: If you need more flavor, feel free to add extra soy sauce according to your own taste.



Add Japanese mustard as desired.

Natto Note: Adding a bit of mustard will make the beans richer and deeper in taste.



Mix once more and ready to eat!

Top a bowl of rice and enjoy natto like Japanese!



Watch Video!

Why is natto so gooey and sticky?

Natto is fermented by adding a culture of *Bacillus subtilis* var. natto to steamed soybeans. The iconic stickiness and gooeyness of the dish is the result of the natto bacteria breaking down proteins into components such as glutamic acid. This glutamic acid forms long, folded chains, which is exactly why natto is so unbelievably stringy. This acid can also be found in kelp and the secret to natto's taste – it's a major umami component.

Natto nutrition

Natto boasts its very own enzyme called nattokinase. It is known for its positive influence on the circulatory system, countering high blood pressure as well as lowering the risk of a heart attack or cerebral stroke.

In general, the Japanese superfood has a high nutritional value, promising benefits for both health and beauty. So what exactly are those nutrients?

Natto Nutrition information (per pack of 45g), compared with other foods.

- Protein = beef, about 45g
 - Vitamin B2 = pork, about 100g
 - Vitamin B6 = ginkgo powder, about 80g
 - Vitamin E = half a tomato
- Potassium = tomato juice, 3/5 cans
 - Magnesium = 3 oysters
 - Iron = beef liver, about 40g

Components and health benefits of *Bacillus subtilis* var. natto

	Component	Benefit
Produced by fermentation	Vitamin K	Prevents fractures
	Polyglutamic acid	Lowers blood sugar
Increased by fermentation	Nattokinase	Lowers thrombose risk
	Isoflavone	Balances female hormones
	Polyamine	Anti-aging

Photo courtesy of Takano Foods

Where to buy natto? It's so cheap!

Natto fits into every budget easily! It's sold at all supermarkets and convenience stores in Japan for the little price of about 100 yen for 3 to 4 entire packs.

Since it goes so well with rice, that is a lot of nutritional value in a cheap meal. Various toppings can be added to spice it up in all sorts of different ways! That also makes natto a great side dish. Whenever your pantry or your wallet is empty, natto is your best friend.



How to eat natto? 3 easy natto recipes!

You don't always have to eat natto by itself or with just plain white rice. Many other ingredients go well with the fermented beans, so there's plenty of flavor combinations to discover. In theory, you could eat natto every single day with a different topping and it'd never taste the same! Which one's your favorite?



Classic natto recipe: natto and green onion.



This natto recipe might seem weird but natto and raw egg is a great combination. Put the raw egg on a bowl of rice, add soy sauce and a pack of natto and you're good to go!



Dried seaweed will keep the stickiness in check and makes it easier to eat!



And in a simple natto recipe, add leftover beans to an instant miso soup!

There really is no limit when it comes to natto toppings. Other great examples are kimchi, okra, ginger, bonito, squid, mayonnaise, ume (Japanese apricot), or perilla leaf. Some people even eat natto with sugar! Be adventurous and try various combinations!

Types of natto beans

You'll find various different kinds of natto in a Japanese supermarket. The size of the beans, the sauces – one brand will offer multiple different varieties.

Recently, natto with a milder smell or natto with less (or more!) stickiness have debuted on the market, answering to people's unique preferences. Also keep an eye out for local varieties, only available in a certain supermarket, city, or area!

Bean size: The natto beans can be divided into various different sizes: hikiwari (crushed), gokuko tsubu (ultra-small), kotsubu (small), nakatsubu (medium), otsubu (large), and so on.



The "crushed" size is exactly that, fermented beans that have been crushed coarsely. It works well in sushi. Ultra-small and small are often enjoyed with rice as they're easy to mix and have a chewy texture. Large beans boast a particularly strong smell.

Natto maki rolls with the crushed variety



Sauce variety: Generally, natto is eaten with soy sauce, but each brand has its own sauce, such as seaweed or bonito flavors. You'll even find uncommon varieties that feature collagen or lactic acid bacteria, as well as flavors such as perilla leaf, ume (Japanese apricot), black vinegar, salt, and so on.

Local natto: Every year, the National Natto Contest is held to search for Japan's very best natto specialty. The beans are evaluated in regard to the three criteria of aroma, taste, and texture in categories that are mainly about bean size, including crushed, small, ultra-small, medium, and so on.

The 2018 contest saw products from Hokkaido to Kagoshima, drawing natto brands and manufacturers from all over the country, including many small, local companies.

The title of 2018's very best natto in all of Japan went to a medium-sized variety with domestically produced soybeans by Takamaru Food from Aichi Prefecture. It's a local specialty that is mainly found in supermarkets around the prefecture, as well as at six sales vans that tour the streets every day.

If you want to get a taste of the locally loved natto, a specific variety can be ordered!



The award-winning natto variety by Takamaru Food

Natto sold internationally

With its reputation as a healthy superfood, natto is sold outside of Japan at specialty stores or Asian supermarkets. It's no longer just available at Japanese restaurants, but more and more people start to take note of the stinky, sticky bean for its many health benefits. Especially in cities with a large Japanese population, you'll find a surprisingly large natto selection! No matter where in the world Japanese people live, they seem to not want to go without their fermented soybean specialty!



Using natto as an ingredient in recipes

Natto doesn't always have to be the star of the show, it also works great as an ingredient for all sorts of dishes. Let's look at some examples.



Natto spaghetti



Natto toast



Fried rice with natto

Natto can't only be found as packs in supermarkets in convenience stores, but major restaurant chains such as Ootoya or Sukiya offer the fermented specialty in their menu as well. Sometimes, you'll even find it as a part of a hotel's breakfast buffet!

By now, you've surely worked up the courage to try natto for yourself and there's not much left to say other than itadakimasu! What will you think about Japan's smelly, sticky, gooey superfood?



Kanten Japanese jelly a sweet, healthy alternative

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES OKINAWA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why don't you try kanten and find what this unique Japanese food tastes like?

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com

 CHECK OUT THE VIDEO



DIRECTIONS

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



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



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



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

INGREDIENTS

Recipe adapted from Cookpad

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

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



5 Add in the strained canned fruit.

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



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



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



Lots of tasty options at Sky Plaza Misawa

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

RESTAURANT INFO



2-8-34 Chuo-cho, Misawa, Aomori
Open 10:00-
0176-51-1712



(Open Hour)
Open weekdays
11:00 - 19:00
(Closed)
Every Wednesday

(Open Hour)
Open weekdays & Sundays
11:00 - 19:30
Fridays & Saturdays
11:00 - 20:00
(Closed)
Every Tuesday





(Open Hour)
Weekday 11:00 - 16:00
Sat, Sun & Holiday 11:00-16:30
158 Kitayama, Misawa-shi,
Aomori-ken, 033-0022



Festival Food Truck
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RESTAURANT INFO



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WingStreet

Yokosuka

Main Street Food Court

1000-2100 (No Delivery)

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☎ DSN: 243-FOOD/Commercial: (046)816-3663
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1000-2100 (Drive thru and Dine in)
Offering: Tacos, Burritos, Quesadillas, Salads,
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Atsugi

1000-1900

Offering: Tacos, Burritos, Quesadillas, Salads,
Desserts, Tostadas and many other TB promotional items

Sasebo

1000-1900

Offering: Tacos, Burritos, Quesadillas, Salads,
Desserts, Tostadas and many other TB promotional items

