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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

How I met my stepmom

NICOLAS ORTEGA
4TH GRADE,
JOAN K. MENDEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Do you want to know how I got my stepmom? If so, it is pretty funny; well here it is...

The day was the 4th of July 2010, in Mountain Home Idaho and it was just me and my dad because he just had a divorce with my real mom, when I was two years old. So we were at a store food court and we were with my dad's friend, Tiff, my soon to be new mom, because my dad and her were kind of friends a little already but still barely knew each other very well. She was talking to one of her friends she had at work. My dad was in a daze because he was staring at Tiff, because she is a beautiful woman. Tiff had already ordered her food, which was two cinnamon sticks, two big ones. That was the moment my soon to be new mom fell in love with me.

I went over to Tiff and took one of her cinnamon sticks


in my mouth sneakily. Once my dad saw I had something in my mouth my dad looked at Tiff's food tray and didn't see any crumbs so he said, "Nic give it back."

So, I gave him a look that meant, "Not today. I'm not going to give it back."

Then Tiff said, "No, it's okay."

So, I took that answer as a free for all and took the last cinnamon stick and ate it. Then Tiff gave me a look that said are you kidding me! And that's how I met my stepmom for the first time. Then, my mom invited me and my dad to the firework show on the Fourth July in Mountain Home.

Now, to this day, my mom tells me this story and she says she didn't fall in love with my dad that day, she fell in love with me. That is how I met my stepmom. I hope everyone who reads this will remember a happy time of their lives.



Annie

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

Sender's name

Congratulate a 2019 grad!

Our annual Grad Tab highlighting Pacific DODEA high schools and their graduating classes will appear in the May 31 edition of Stripes Japan.

For just \$19, customize your own message that will appear in this keepsake edition.

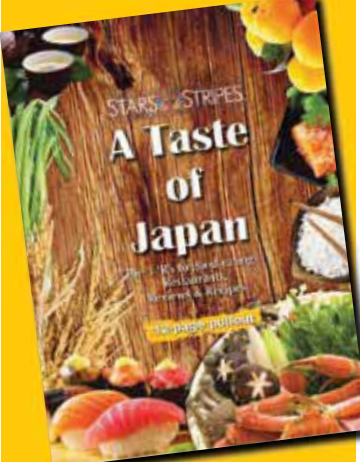
What you need:

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

Send info by May 20, 5 p.m. to PacificGrad@stripes.com and a Stripes representative will follow-up with you right away.



GOLDEN WEEK GOES PLATINUM THIS YEAR
PAGE 24



Special 8-page pullout inside!



Why I like being a military child

Ilike being a Military child because I am under protection. I am under protection with the fences around the base, so I feel very safe. I think having a lot of people around the base helps people. Every person on base is very nice and they will help you.

I think that it fun to travel to different places. I get to learn what other countries do. Lastly, I get to make new friends and my mom gets her dream job. I am happy moving here for my mom because it is her dream job and wouldn't you want to do your dream job? I like making new friends because it is fun to have a change. I am not that type of person to change but I kinda like it here and I got use to it. I think living in a new place like Japan is different. I like the Japanese culture because they are really respectful and they bow when you see them.

Those are all of the reasons I like being a Military child.

Story and drawing by Gabriella,
3rd Grade, Iwakuni Elementary

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Month of the
Military Child

Editor's Note: Just like last year, almost every student at Shirley Lanham submitted work for Month of the Military Child. They sure have a knack for great drawings and writings. Check out their super work on Pages 2-11.

Shirley Lanham
Elementary School1st
grade

Mrs. Hayden



NEW SANNO PRESENTS

Mother's Day
BRUNCH

MAY 12, SUN

10:00 - 15:00
ADULT \$29.95
CHILD \$14.95 (6-12)

The Classical Ensemble
entertainment

11:00-11:30
11:50-12:20
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Father's Day
DINNER
AT KIKUYA

JUNE 15, SAT

First Seating at 17:00
Second Seating at 19:30

Set Course Menu
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Father's Day
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JUNE 16, SUN

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THE NEW SANNO

1st grade

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I loved being Military Kid because I can go different places and meet a lot of friends I missed my house in the states in Florida and my friends.

First Name: Mikkel Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

When I'm with my dad we get to have ice cream when I have to move I'm sad because my friends want me to stay but about my dad a lot when he is not here some time I have to stay in a room with my friend instead of my dad.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

Being a Military Kid is hard because my dad likes to work TV with me. When we move I'll miss my friends and going to a new school is scary.

First Name: Cassidy Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

Being a military kid is fun because I get to see different places and I get to go on my dad's ship. My dad and I get to play together with him. It is not as a ship. Dad not flying helicopters. When my dad is gone I'm really sad.

First Name: Clayton Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

Being a military kid is hard because my dad is a soldier and he is away from me. I miss him and I don't know how to play when he is not here. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: ATSYA Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like being a military kid because I can go to different places and meet new friends. I miss my dad when he is not here. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

My best friend left me. I hurt and I don't know what to do. I think I'll go to my dad. I feel sad and happy. In the end, I feel happy because I have a new friend. I got to be in the military with my family.

First Name: Wade Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

Being a military kid is hard because I miss my dad. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

Being a military kid is hard because I miss my dad. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like being a military kid because I can go to different places and meet new friends. I miss my dad when he is not here. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I live being a military child because my dad works for the Navy and my mom takes pictures for everyone. I am a military child because I make new friends.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am a military child because my dad works for the Navy and my mom takes pictures for everyone. I am a military child because I make new friends.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

My dad is a soldier and he is away from me. I miss him and I don't know how to play when he is not here. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like being a military kid because I can go to different places and meet new friends. I miss my dad when he is not here. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like being a military kid because I can go to different places and meet new friends. I miss my dad when he is not here. I miss him because he always came back.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I need to report something. I am a military child because my dad works for the Navy and my mom takes pictures for everyone. I am a military child because I make new friends.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like being a military kid because my dad works in the Navy. Also my dad works in the military.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am a military kid because my dad helps people when something goes wrong on a helicopter and my dad is an F-16 pilot and my mom is a substitute teacher.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like to be a military kid. I got to go to school. My dad flies helicopters and fly them. I see my mom will get a job. I don't always see my dad but I'm always happy when he comes home.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am sad when I have to leave my dad. When I go to school I feel better and hope he will be safe. I am strong when my dad is gone.

First Name: William Teacher: Hayden Grade: 1

Mrs. Hayden
Mrs. Johnson

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

See more
Shirley Lanham
students' stories
on Page 4

Mrs. Johnson
Mrs. Lin

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

See more
Shirley Lanham
students' stories
on Page 6

1st grade

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like being a military kid because I help people and be nice to people my dad works for the helicopter. I miss my dad when I'm at school.

First Name: Ethaniel Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I love being a military child. I am a military child because my mom is in the Navy. I miss my mom when she is on the ship.

First Name: Alison Teacher: Lin Grade: 1st

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I like being a military kid. I am military brave and strong and speak up. I help kids when there are rules. Sometimes I feel sad when my dad goes to the boat but I feel awesome when my friends help me.

First Name: Theresa Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I love being a military kid because I am strong and I can move and I can speak up but my dad is not here but I am happy because my dad is coming back today.

First Name: Isabella Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I'm military kid strong. Physically because I go to karate and judo. I'm mentally strong because I go to karate. I feel happy when I watch TV with my dad.

First Name: Yuto Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am a Strong military kid because I have a positive attitude and I never give up.

First Name: Tashan Teacher: Lin Grade: 1st

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am mentally strong because when I first went in to the water I thought I couldn't swim in the water. But I did it so I am strong.

First Name: Chanelle Teacher: Lin Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am physically strong because I work out three times a week. I want to be like my dad. I am strong because I can lift.

First Name: Logan Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am strong because I work out three times a week. I want to be like my dad. I am strong because I can lift.

First Name: Logan Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am physically strong because swim weekly. I am mentally strong because when I had trouble with swimming I didn't give up. I am a military kid and I am strong.

First Name: Colton Teacher: Lin Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am emotionally strong because my dad is in the Navy and he is a strong man. I am strong because I can lift.

First Name: Logan Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am strong because my dad taught me to ride the bike. I kept trying until I can ride my bike well.

First Name: Aiden Teacher: Lin Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am physically strong because I eat healthy foods and fruits like apples, bananas, grapes, and oranges. I am strong because I can lift.

First Name: Arturo Teacher: Johnson Grade: 1st

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am emotionally strong because I eat a lot of vegetables to make me grow. I am emotionally strong because I am always happy even when I have to move.

First Name: Isabella Teacher: Lin Grade: 1st

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am mentally strong because when I was in swimming lesson I have to do a backstroke. I was scared doing a backstroke at first but my teacher let go and I did it so I was mentally strong.

First Name: Apple Teacher: Mrs. Lin Grade: 1st

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am physically strong because I do push ups every day. I am emotionally strong because when I moved here I was sad but I made new friends. I am mentally strong because when I was in swimming lesson I was scared but I started to swim well after I practiced.

First Name: Anna Teacher: Lin Grade: 1st

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am physically strong because I help my dad with his work. I am strong because I can lift.

First Name: Rylee Teacher: Lin Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am mentally strong because I don't get upset when I have to move. I am strong because I can lift.

First Name: Ava Teacher: Lin Grade: 1

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am physically strong because I do push ups every day. I am emotionally strong because when I moved here I was sad but I made new friends. I am mentally strong because when I was in swimming lesson I was scared but I started to swim well after I practiced.

First Name: Anna Teacher: Lin Grade: 1st

Military Kid Strong
Emotionally Mentally Physically

I am physically strong because I do push ups every day. I am emotionally strong because when I moved here I was sad but I made new friends. I am mentally strong because when I was in swimming lesson I was scared but I started to swim well after I practiced.

First Name: Anna Teacher: Lin Grade: 1st



TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE IN JAPAN AND TWO YEARS IN THE U.S.

RECOGNIZED BY THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION IN THE US AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN JAPAN

DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

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**Celebrating
Month of the Military Child!**



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Tyeis Kemp

Kinnick High School Alumna
and a LUJ Graduate

"Lakeland University Japan Campus (LUJ) is a school that provides an environment with students from all around the world, which was perfect for me after graduating from high school at an American military base. There are a variety of classes from which to choose from. These classes help guide me to seek my future major.

Being an LUJ student changed my perspective significantly. It certainly has shown me a diverse environment as the campus is located in the city of Tokyo and many opportunities are filled within this college. For example, there are temples and shrines to visit not too far from school. Also, the size of each class is quite small, which makes it easier to get individual help from the professors. There is nothing comparable with studying in a delightful locale in a beautiful country."



Quinn Borders

Lakeland
University Japan
Academic Program

My name is Quinn and growing up I lived mostly in America. I was thankful to not have to move very often because my dad was already close to serving 20 years in the military, at which point he retired. When I was 16 we moved to Australia, but I had always been really interested in going to Japan. It started with meeting our neighbors, whose father was also in the military. They had just moved back from Japan and I became really good friends with their son, a half Japanese-American. Eventually, I went to Japan by myself when I was 18 because I really wanted to learn the language. I started at a language school and then was having trouble finding a university that even knew what the GI Bill was. That was when I found Lakeland University and talked with the Dean and was interviewed by staff. Once I was accepted after the interview, the school was very quick with starting me on the GI Bill from my father's service. I really do appreciate my father giving the GI Bill to his two kids. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't be able to attend this great school.



2nd grade



First Name: T. Smith Teacher: Archie Grade: 2

First Name: Jaden Teacher: Bachwin Grade: 3

First Name: Kenzo Teacher: Bob Grade: 2nd

First Name: Lara Teacher: Beth Grade: 2

First Name: Sonik Teacher: Bodhi Grade: 2

First Name: Khloe Teacher: Mrs. Redman Grade: 1

First Name: Michal Teacher: B. Dwin Grade: 2

First Name: Eva Teacher: Bodwin Grade: 2

First Name: W. A. P. Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

First Name: Chloe Teacher: Pradip's Grade

First Name: Nicholas Teacher: Robert Grade: 2

First Name: EG Teacher: Mr. Bob

First Name: Kyle Surname: Edwards Gender: Male

First Name: Wendy Last Name: Bishop

First Name: William Last Name: McDonald

Send your Month of the Military Child submission to MilitaryChild@stripes.com by April 30!

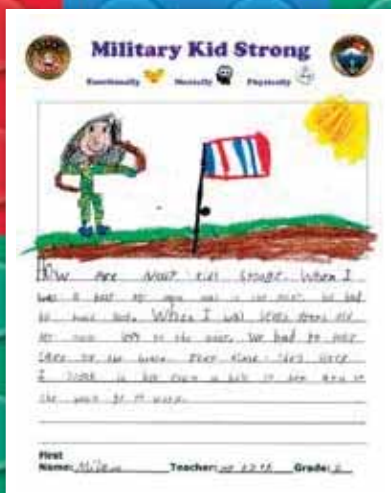
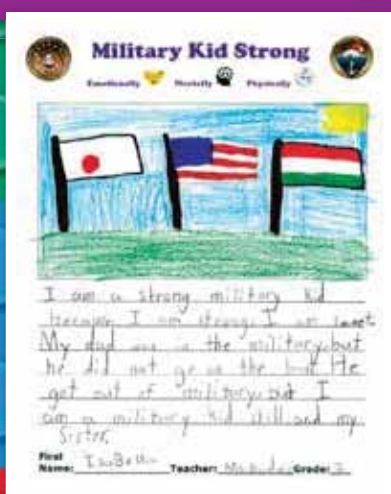
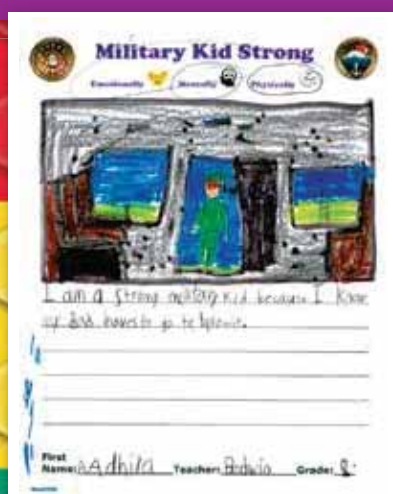


Mrs. Bodwin
Mr. Rioux

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

**See more
Shirley Lanham
students' stories
on Page 9**



HAYAMA
international school

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2nd grade

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



Military kids are strong because they are brave and they need to be brave when your dad or your mom is far away or if you have a little brother or sister when you need to help your mom or dad. When I go to new school I feel alone because make people is you make fun of me.

First Name: Sakura Teacher: McRae Grade: 2

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



Military kids are strong because when my dad went away I helped my mom with the house.

First Name: Ethan Teacher: McRae Grade: 2

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



Military kids are strong because they help their mom and dad when they are away. When you feel it's okay you should let your mom and dad know.

First Name: Alexandra Teacher: McRae Grade: 2

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



Military kids are strong because they help their mom and dad when they are away. When you feel it's okay you should let your mom and dad know.

First Name: Isabella Teacher: McRae Grade: 2

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think military kids are strong because they do help out when their mom or dad is away. Military kids are strong because they help their mom and dad when they are away.

First Name: Adriana Teacher: McRae Grade: 2

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



Military kids are strong because we have to learn to be helpful. If your dad is gone you should help your mom and dad. When your mom is gone you should help your dad. When your dad is gone you should help your mom.

First Name: Nemo Teacher: McRae Grade: 2

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



It was when my dad went away. I was alone. I had to learn to be strong. I had to learn to be brave. I had to learn to be helpful. I had to learn to be kind. I had to learn to be smart.

First Name: Isabella Teacher: McRae Grade: 2

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I can speak different languages and I can do different things and I can be a good person. I can be a good person and I can be a good person.

First Name: William Teacher: McRae Grade: 2



Send your Month of the Military Child submission to MilitaryChild@stripes.com by April 30!

3rd grade



Mrs. Colar

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think Military kids are strong because they have to learn to be brave. They have to learn to be strong. They have to learn to be helpful. They have to learn to be kind. They have to learn to be smart.

First Name: Ellie Teacher: Colar Grade: 3

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think Military kids are strong because they have to learn to be brave. They have to learn to be strong. They have to learn to be helpful. They have to learn to be kind. They have to learn to be smart.

First Name: Ada Teacher: Colar Grade: 3

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think Military kids are strong because they have to learn to be brave. They have to learn to be strong. They have to learn to be helpful. They have to learn to be kind. They have to learn to be smart.

First Name: Isabella Teacher: Colar Grade: 3

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think military kids are strong because they have to learn to be brave. They have to learn to be strong. They have to learn to be helpful. They have to learn to be kind. They have to learn to be smart.

First Name: Sean Teacher: McRae Grade: 3

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think military kids are strong because they have to learn to be brave. They have to learn to be strong. They have to learn to be helpful. They have to learn to be kind. They have to learn to be smart.

First Name: Isabella Teacher: McRae Grade: 3

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think military kids are strong because they have to learn to be brave. They have to learn to be strong. They have to learn to be helpful. They have to learn to be kind. They have to learn to be smart.

First Name: Isabella Teacher: McRae Grade: 3

Military Kid Strong

Endurance Strength Flexibility



I think Military kids are strong because they have to learn to be brave. They have to learn to be strong. They have to learn to be helpful. They have to learn to be kind. They have to learn to be smart.

First Name: Owen Teacher: Colar Grade: 3

Mr. Rioux
Mrs. Colar

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

See more
Shirley Lanham
students' stories
on Page 10

Mrs. Colar
Mrs. Thomas

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

3rd grade

Write Stories
Military Kid Strong

Emotionally Healthy Physically



Military kids are strong they super, brave and they fight
if something need help they know what to do if something
need help if something is bad military kids always make you
feel happy if something bad is after they military kids super
if something is bad they make it feel better

First Name: Austin Surname: Thompson Teacher: Ms. Sabor Grade: 3

[illegible][illegible]



Military Kid Strong

Emotionally
Healthy
Academically
Physically





I think military kids are mostly strong because they stand up for our country and have the military which makes the world stronger. I respect my dad and all the in "Operation Enduring Freedom" he was in and was in the military when he joined. I love my mom and dad when they send me to the military school where I went to high school for the military. I am really strong so I can help my dad and my mom and be a soldier when they find jobs.

First Name: Austin B.
 Teacher: Colin
 Grade: 3rd

 **Military Kid Strong** 

Emotionally  Mentally  Physically 



I think Military Kid are Strong
because they help others where they
need it. I am a Military Kid because
my dad loves the army
help me men probably I am a
Military Kid also because I help my
men physically with the help and
the treat I am Military Kid also because
when my dad goes somewhere
I don't cry when my dad goes
and when my brother cry I help them
stop crying.

First Name: Benjamin Teacher: Mrs. Miller Grade: 3rd



Military Kid Strong



Respectfully  Graciously  Flexibly 





I am proudly sharing this mask with you. I want
 to tell you about my military service. My dad is a Marine
 and he is in the Marine Corps. He is in the
Marine Corps. I will be a Marine when I grow up.
 That's why he is a military child.

First Name: Grace Teacher: Ms. [unclear] Grade: 2nd



Military Kid Strong

Emotionally 
Intellectually 
Physically 





I think that I, as a young Military child, before when my dad was in military, he helped me when I was in school, he was happy that when he was back.

When my dad was in, I help him when he was in the hospital, during war, and when they got out of war, and they were happy to be back, and he was happy to be back, and he was happy to be back, and he was happy to be back, and he was happy to be back.

First Name: Amelia Teacher: Ms. [unclear] Grade: 5

Military Kid Strong

Community Diversity Family

I like being a military kid because I can travel and see new places. I like being a military kid because I can be a pilot and fly. I like being a military kid because I can be a soldier and fight. I like being a military kid because I can be a doctor and help people. I like being a military kid because I can be a teacher and teach. I like being a military kid because I can be a scientist and discover. I like being a military kid because I can be an artist and create. I like being a military kid because I can be a musician and play. I like being a military kid because I can be a dancer and dance. I like being a military kid because I can be a writer and write. I like being a military kid because I can be a speaker and speak. I like being a military kid because I can be a leader and lead. I like being a military kid because I can be a hero and save the world.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

[illegible]

Military Kid Strong

Kindness Creativity Positivity

I think I am strong because I can be brave and I can be kind. I can be a good friend and I can be a good student. I can be a good person and I can be a good citizen. I can be a good person and I can be a good citizen. I can be a good person and I can be a good citizen. I can be a good person and I can be a good citizen.

First Name: Leahelle Teacher: Mrs. [unclear] Grade: 4th

[illegible]

Military Kid Strong

Kindness  Honesty  Responsibility 



I think Military Kids are strong because there must be a lot more to it than when their parents are on deployment but you have to be strong and try your best when it's the hardest when you have to go into the land of your mom and your dad but you stay strong, like if you feel sad let your parents or your dad know if your dad can help like for you, I think you can help your dad know of our feelings.

First Name: Adam Teacher: Mrs. Colar Grade: 3rd

Military Kid Strong


Read Aloudly  Write Aloudly  Think Aloudly 




I think what makes a Military kid strong is the support from their family and friends. Also, another thing that makes a Military child strong is by believing in their selves.

First Name: Lawrence Teacher: Solar Grade: 3rd

Military Kid Strong

Kindergarten       



It's only had for me but I like doing cultural things.
My dad always goes at and only only in the morning.
It's really to see him in the morning. It's only
but but you 2 and I'm strong and you can be too.

First Name: Stephanie Teacher: Theresa Grade: 2



Military Kid Strong



Emotionally 
Steadily 
Physically 



We are strong. We are strong in our heart. We are got through things
 things. We have been in help each other. We have an one another and
 we stand up for our friends. Right we can and we think we
 come up with ways to play when first we have our
 parents. We are smart of what more and don't be us
 strong.

First Name: Teacher: Grade:

Military Kid Strong

Steadfastly  Respectfully  Fearlessly 

How calm you are HAAAA *like you*
Calm down Man *Yeah same as him*

How can you be military kid strong? I will show you. You can help people out of protect people. You can tell people calm down. That is how to be a military kid.

First Name: Rendrick Teacher: MS. Thomas Grade: 3




Military Kid Strong

Exclusively  Monthly  Physically 

Fortnight
is STRONG




I am a military kid and I like to read
 all the books on airplanes and cars and
 how to get out of the house with
 a flashlight and a map for navigation and
 STRONG

First Name: Stage Teacher: Ms. Thorne Grade: 4th

[illegible]

Military Kid Strong


 Proudly 
 Sincerely 
 Respectfully 



I feel strong as before on the front. I have to be only
 my own light - I wish that I could be my own light
 and of my body. I'll be 3000 miles from my home!

First Name: Cara Teacher: Mr. Thomas Grade: 2nd

Mrs. Thomas

Celebrating Month of the Military Child Yokota West Elementary School

Editor's Note: Patrea Threatt's students have a lot to say. And they say it well. Great writing, kids!

5th grade

I am a military child, not a regular one, but a lucky one. I've lived in Japan for Eight years. That's pretty rare for a military child. I've seen people come and go, even some of my closest friends, but I keep pushing, because we have ways to stay in contact. My parents made sacrifices just so we could stay here. Just like how my dad went to Korea so we could stay here. I'm making sure to call him in every night. My mom made a sacrifice by quitting her job when I was born. My family has a complicated story. We've seen our fair share of ups and downs. I've gained friends, I've lost friends, all of it. Still, I keep making new friends. I do it because I know if I remember them, they might remember me, which means we could still be friends. One poem I know convinces me to keep doing this. "Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver, and the others gold." Catchy, right? In all seriousness, this poem can teach you a lot, especially about your friends, and how if their good people, you shouldn't just replace them. I say this because you'll move a lot as a military child. You'll go new places, meet new people, and many cool things like that. See, if you think about it, that's not that bad. That's just my perspective of life as a military child.

- Marcos Gueits

There are a lot of pros and cons about being a military child. Life as a Military Child is hard. But I am the one being told by my friend or my best friend that they are moving. It is very hard when you're best friend tells you that they are moving. There is a kid in my class named Marcos. His dad has been TDY in Korea for a long time. I have known Marcos since Kindergarten. He is moving in three months. It is hard since I have known him for such a long time. Marcos always makes me laugh and have a good time. My best friend's name is Rylee. I have barely known her for a year. She just came to Japan. A few months ago, she told me that she is moving next year. We play together almost everyday after school. I am going to be very sad when she moves. Why does she have to move? Why is the life of a friend as a military child so hard?

- Akira Harris

Life as a military child is great. I like how I get to go places that are cool with my family and I get to visit other bases. I get to go to a school that is on base. The more I am usually on base the more I feel safer than being off base. What I do not like about being a military child is that I always have to move to a different state or country, and I miss my friends. While my parents are working and I am in school learning about math and other subjects, I sometimes learn about military children.

- Micah Porter

Life as a military child is exciting. It's fun being a military child because we get to do fun activities off base, and we get to travel. Some other good things are, that you can get a cheap plane ride to other countries. We were able to go to Hawaii. It's fun to travel off base. I like it here in Japan because there's two pools on base. I like it because it's cool how at parties you can rent bouncy castles. On Saturday, March 23, we had a party with a bouncy castle. When we have barbeques, we get to stay out late and play hide and seek. Next year, we might go on a month long trip. I love being a military child though because we travel to new places and we eat at amazing places with good food. We are lucky that there are American Air Bases in Japan. Sometimes being a military child is hard because you don't know if you're going make friends with the neighbors. The only thing I don't like is moving often because I don't have friends when I first move and go to a new school. I am shy because I don't know what it's going to be like. Being a military child is fun, hard, and annoying because of moving. So that's being a military child.

- Ethan Asher

I am not a military child, but I know the sadness of being one. I am probably staying in Japan until college, but there is bad news. I'm going to lose all my friends. But I will always make new friends. My dad said to welcome every single new kid more than anybody else because you know it is hard coming from somewhere else and leaving friends or family. I have had 12 of my best friends move because they are military children. I will have two other friends that are moving this summer. I have been in Japan for so long that my dad lets me go anywhere I want to go by myself. A good point for living in Japan is that it is one of the world's safest countries and most of Japan's produce is fresh. But in Japan money can be very confusing. Ten dollars is one thousand yen in Japan. A sad thing about Japan is that there are no lightning bugs or squirrels. When new kids come to Yokota air force base they talk all about their old homes and how they miss them and sometimes I get jealous because I never had that experience. That is how I feel to not be a military child.

- Emily Kitts

My name is Dale Bonney. I am a Fifth Grader from Yokota West Emeanlementary. My life as a military child is good and bad.

One good thing about being a military child is that you go everywhere. I mean, I've been to three continents. I've been from Belgium to Mississippi. Mississippi to North Carolina. Finally, from North Carolina to Japan. Being born and stationed in Belgium was lovely. I visit every year. I am going to live there after Japan. Mississippi was my first taste of the states. It was also my first smell of cigarettes, disgusting! Mississippi is one hour away from New Orleans. I really love that city. North Carolina was great. Even though I practically lived in suburbia, Raleigh was one hour and fifteen minutes away. It had great museums. I now live in Japan. The capital of Japan is a giant, bustling, metropolitan city.

There are also bad things about being a military child. You lose a lot of friends. You move from base to base and you end up having to start all over when it comes to friends. Another bad thing about being a military child is deployments. Your parents go to dangerous places and run the risk of not coming back. Before I was born my dad deployed to Afghanistan. He had to get into a bunker because the base he was at was bombed by the Taliban several times. My late Grandmother must have been terrified about what might have happened. Several times, my dad deployed to Kuwait. I was scared for him. Another bad thing about being a military child is being away from your extended family. I have family in Virginia and Belgium that I rarely see.

I have told you about the good and bad of being a military child. Although for me, it is soon going to end. My dad is retiring soon and we are going to move back to Belgium. I am very excited to soon no longer be a military child. Also to be close to many interesting European countries!

- Dale Bonney

The life of being a friend of a military child is difficult, but also is kind of awesome! When friends leave sometimes you feel like you don't have any friends anymore. The good things about being a military child is that it makes you way more confident and more curious. I think it's the coolest thing that I get to drive across a flight line every day!!! I also get to experience all these different cultures and I think Japan has the most fascinating culture. I think our class goes on the best field trips. Once I got to explore a C-30!! If you don't know what that is, it's a cargo plane. I love to study planes and old combat tools also known as guns. I'm so lucky to live on an air base. I used to live in Sicily, a place in Italy. It's nothing like Japan. It's almost funny. I had a friend named Calvin and he moved to Hawaii. Just think of how jealous I was. I knew him from second grade. We played soccer every day together. We still talk till this day on hangouts. I think it's awesome being a military connected child!

- Adrien Ekiert

Being a friend of a military child is everything from excitement, to opportunity and to challenges. First of all, it is always exciting to meet new friends. Meeting friends from all over the United States is very interesting and fun. I can learn so much from them by just asking, where did you come from last? They usually have a lot to say about past living space within the United States and sometimes overseas. No matter where they came from, I usually get to know the military child a little more at the Youth Center.

Playing video games and Ping Pong usually makes us closer together. Sharing food and snacks also makes us bond even more and brings down the nervousness we have inside of us. Secondly, learning different cultures and languages from a military child is a great learning opportunity. With sharing some of their pasts cultures, the military child also brings the popular trends, gadgets, and gaming information with them from the U.S. to us. This really excites us and creates an opportunity to quickly bond and become very close friends with one another. Lastly, the challenging part about making a good friend, especially when you are older is when it is time to PCS, it's hard to let go of the friendship that was built. When I was few years younger, having to say goodbye to friends was easier because I would forget them. However, now that I'm older, I'm beginning to remember a lot of fun memories with friends that will be hard to let go of.

- Takumi

My name is Naethan Manaloto and I am a military child. My dad served in the military for 17 years. Being in the military is pretty hard sometimes especially when I have to move to different bases. I say that it's hard because I have to leave my friends and people I know in that base. But I make new friends and make new memories with them. I was born here in Japan and lived at Yokota but I never knew I lived here before when I was small. Then we moved to the Philippines where my parents were born at. Then when I was 4 we moved to Hawaii but my dad was deployed. I really liked their culture and people. Then my dad came back and we went to this base in the UK called Lakenheath. I stayed there for 3 years and that was my first place I went to in Europe. After that I went back to Philippines again for 1 year then I moved here. This is my first year here in Japan and I already love it. I still have 3 more years here. There's also opportunities to see different places. My dad will retire in a few more years and my parents are thinking of going to Florida. When I grow up I want to be in the navy it's pretty hard but I will do whatever it takes. But for now I will just live my life as a military child. Everywhere I have been on base has really nice places and really nice people. When I leave I'm really gonna miss this base.

- Naethan Manaloto

I am a friend of a military child. That means that my friend's mom or dad serves in the military. They move very often so a friendship may not last very long. Imagine losing a very best friend you have known for since first grade. That feeling can hurt you for a long time when they move away. The parents are deployed to somewhere around the world for a few years and then they get deployed somewhere else or they come back.

Although it might be a difficult when your friend I away, but you can always be in touch with them by emailing them. They can tell you about the food and culture they have in the new place they are living in. It can be a very good time listening to all the things your friend had gone through and be with them.

When you are in a base, it is different from living outside of base for a few reasons. One is that the foods are different, like in the base, there are more American foods than Japanese foods. Two, is that they speak more in English than Japanese on base.

When you move very often, you meet many people and make many friends, but when you move away again, it can be very hard to say goodbye. Also, if you move to a different country, you will have to learn their language and sometimes, it will take months to learn that language, like how I first went to America, I only knew how to speak Japanese so I had to learn English. I also had to adapt to the new culture, traditions, and a lot more. I compare it like starting a new life. When you start a new school, there will be new friends, teachers, and rules to follow. But when you be patient and quickly adapt to the new changes, that difficult time will eventually pass and you will start liking your friends and teachers.

Many kids of a military family will feel proud of being a military child because their parents are keeping our nation safe.

- Taylor Zhang

Hi my name is Logan and my dad works in the Navy. He has worked in the Navy twenty-eight years. And I have lived in three different places. I was born and lived in Hawaii for seven years and I loved it. I loved Hawaii because of the weather and the people. Then I lived in California and had a good time at the school and had fun at sports. Now I live in Japan and the food is weird, but good. And it is very different here. The culture is way different to the culture I am used to. Though I have a lot of good friends here. My favorite thing to do in Japan is to sight see. One of the worst things when you move to a different country is jet lag. When I first moved to Japan, I went to bed at 5:00 pm and woke up at 3:00 am. You get used to it after a few months. I have lived in Japan for about a year and a half. When I first got to Japan I was nervous but happy to be in a different country. The flight was fourteen hours. Though as soon as I landed I was excited. The first thing I wanted to do was explore. I was shocked when I got into my house because it is so small! One of the best things that has happened to me in Japan is meeting all my friends. This Japanese house is small but I have always lived in small houses. So life as a military child is difficult sometimes. However, you get to explore so much, so it is also fun.

- Logan Cheramie

Life as a military child. This is an interesting topic to write about. This is interesting because you can't hear just one person's story to really understand it. Life as a military child means different things for different people. Now, it's time for my story. I was born in Oklahoma; the youngest in my family, with two other siblings. Later in life I learned that shortly before my birth, another sibling, Samuel, had died three hours after birth.

Lauren is oldest in our family. She is eighteen and in College now. My brother, Stephen, is fifteen and in High School. I am eleven years old and in fifth grade. My mom is a long-term substitute. My dad is a Colonel in the Air Force. Since my dad is in the Air Force, I have lived in seven different places, and have basically traveled the world. I was born in Oklahoma, then I moved to Alabama. From Alabama I moved to Germany. After Germany, I moved to Hawaii. Then, I moved from there to Korea. Next, to Illinois. Finally, I live now in Japan. Everytime I move I say goodbye to a lot of people. Although, it is not all that bad. You get new experiences wherever you go. You get perks, too! You get an ID/Privilege card. You also get access to almost everything on base. You get free food from places like Chick-Fil-A. When you live overseas then you get free heating in your house. Although, You don't always live on base. In Germany, I didn't live on base. Instead, I learned German and got by just fine. Germany is my favorite place I lived. In Germany, I went to a German school. I was the only kid who spoke English. My teacher would pull me out of class and teach me some German. After awhile I could speak pretty fluent German. That is pretty cool. Being a military child taught me German. I like all the places I have lived, too. I just don't like them as much as Germany. Being a military child is fun, F-U-N FUN.

- Logan Berck

I have many friends that are military children. I also know how they feel because I used to be a military child. This essay

is about how the life of a military child, and being a friend of multiple military children is hard. I was born on an Air Force base in Japan, then moved on an Air Force base in Louisiana. After my dad retired, I had to move away from all my friends. I moved to Georgia and I had to make new friends and that was hard because people didn't know me. I made new friends right away, but I still missed my old ones. Since I was living off base, most of my friends did not move. I stayed in Georgia for about three years and then I had to move again! This time, I was moving back to Japan! My dad had just been hired for a new job working on the same base where I was born. I had a lot of emotions. I was glad, sad, worried, excited, anticipated, etc. I really wanted to meet my family in Japan, but I also didn't want to leave my friends. When I arrived in Japan, I met my grandma, grandpa, uncle, and two cousins.

They picked my family up from the airport. I was very glad to see them. On the first day of school, I was very shy and didn't want to talk to anyone, but everyone was very nice so I got used to talking with them. In the end, moving is a good thing because you will always make new friends.

- Eian Flowers

Being a military child is fun. You get to travel to new places and best of all, meet new friends! Sometimes you have to move away from your friends or sometimes your friends move away from you, but you get to ride a plane, which is very fun, well to me it is. Being a military child is a lot of work because you have to travel, then go to a new school. When you go to a new school you don't have many friends. The worst part is that your parent in the military has to go to a new base. Of course they come back, but it could be a long time. I am proud to be a military child! Being a military child is a lot of fun! I hope you liked my essay on being a military child!

- Naylene Bonura

Hi, My name is Rylee Choate and today I will tell you why I don't really like being a military child. Well, I don't hate it. I just don't particularly like it. You see I just don't like moving every three years, or saying goodbye to friends. Here are some more reasons with stronger details. I will say some reasons that are really cool and some that are not. Here are some reasons why it is good. You get to go to some cool places. I might not like moving, but you can go to awesome places, such as Germany. When I was in Germany, and my dad said that we were moving again, I thought we would move to Kansas, but we were lucky enough to move here to Japan. Sure, I was sad but I would make new friends. Reason two: You can make brand new friends, though. you might be sad for a few weeks. When I first moved here I was so scared. My first day of school here was a disaster. I was all alone then someone came up to me and we became really good friends. We hang out almost everyday after school. And number three: the adventure.

When you move you get to go to new places. I am so glad I moved here. There are so many cool places in Tokyo. Like the Tokyo Tower and the New Sanno. And I'm glad I lived in Germany. There are so many great places in Germany. There are a lot of ruined castles there. Also in Europe there are cool countries you can go to like Italy, France, and England. Now here are some bad reasons about being a military child. Number one. Saying goodbye. I remember the day I left my friends. It was on my birthday June 13. You might think oh lucky her birthday is on the last day of school. Well if you think that, then you are so wrong. Imagine saying goodbye to all of your friends on your birthday. Talk about worst birthday present ever. Number two. Going to a new environment. Sometimes you have been somewhere for so long that you have adapted to that place and your like I'm never leaving. Let me just say, that's wrong. The moment you start to adapt, your parents call you down and they say "we are moving". They say that with excitement like it's the best thing ever. The next day I tell my one friend and she starts bawling out crying. Then we both started to cry. We have known each other ever since first grade!! So we spent every single second that we could together. Good thing our brothers played baseball together. We went everywhere together. And the day she left I felt a part that was taken away from me like a piece of my heart just left me. We still talk on the phone. When I have something bad happening I would tell her. And last but certainly not least the sadness. Well in conclusion, I'm ok with being a military child.

- Rylee Choate

Hello, I am Howard. I'm a military child. You may think everything about being a military kid is great, but not everything is great about it. When you move place to place you move away from good friends and family. Also moving away from awesome houses. I also don't like that my dad, who works in the military, is always so busy and I don't have much time to spend time with him. The good things are that I move to awesome places. The awesome places have new friends. Another awesome thing is that I am spoiled. I have bunch of toys and legos, Transformers, and a ps3 and ps4. I have 4 people in my family. My Mom, sister, Dad and Me. I was born in Germany at Ramstein. After Germany I lived in California for 2 years, then Georgia for 3 years, then Virginia for 2 years, and now here in Japan for about 3 years. I am moving back to Virginia in June I moved to many places, and I have had many cool experiences. I go on many vacations and visit family often. I will tell you one of the best experiences: playing on a Japanese soccer team. We play a crazy amount of hours. 4 to 8 on Saturdays and many Sundays too. I made many friends on that team. I also have many extra curricular activities, like Soccer, Jiu Jitsu, boy scouts, after school clubs, and guitar. I am truly thankful of being a military child.

- Howard Abel

Life as a military child is exciting. It's fun being a military child because we get to do fun activities off base, and we get to travel. Some other good things are, that you can get a cheap plane ride to other countries. We were able to go to Hawaii. It's fun to travel off base. I like it here in Japan because there's two pools on base. I like it because it's cool how at parties you can rent bouncy castles. On Saturday, March 23, we had a party with a bouncy castle. When we have barbeques, we get to stay out late and play hide and seek. Next year, we might go on a month long trip. I love being a military child though because we travel to new places and we eat at amazing places with good food. We are lucky that there are American Air Bases in Japan. Sometimes being a military child is hard because you don't know if you're going make friends with the neighbors. The only thing I don't like is moving often because I don't have friends when I first move and go to a new school. I am shy because I don't know what it's going to be like. Being a military child is fun, hard, and annoying because of moving. So that's being a military child.

- Timothy Mahoney

Send your Month of the Military Child submission to MilitaryChild@stripes.com by April 30!

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Yokota West Elementary School

2nd grade

Julian Z.
I love being a military kid because its awesome!!! Even my dad is in the military too! He's a MSgt he does hard work. And that's why I love being a military kid!!

Brian W.
I love being a military kid because my dad is in the military. He loves to work for the military. He works every day really hard. My dad works for hours. I like for him to work hard and harder. He likes to get more money. He likes to take me to the park.

Amari H.
I love being a military kid because my Mom and Dad are in the military. so that means im a military child and last week my Mom went to Yokosuka because she can check the stuff if it works or not.

Gabriel V.
I love being a military kid because I feel special about being a military child. I like being a military child because I get to travel to Thailand.

Chastidy L.
I love being a military kid because my dad gets paid and he can fix our car without having to call a mechanic because he is a mechanic and I can travel.

Callum S.
I love being a military kid because my dad is in the Coast Guard and it is fun. Because we get to travel a lot because my dad gets paid. And I Love living on Yokota.

Aubriella W.
I love being a military kid because when my dad comes back from TDY he brings us a present. One day, my daddy had been gone for 6 months and we painted a poster on our door and when my dad came in, I jumped up!

Genesis C.
I love living on Yokota AFB because I love the food here because it is so good and the stores because I can buy my own clothes. And I love living with my Mommy because she is the best girlfriend ever. I love you Mommy!

Editor's Note: Take a look at the awesome writing by Kimberly Logue's talented youngsters! Keep working hard, guys!

Vladimir U.
I love being a military kid because I can travel a lot and taste a lot of food like gyoza. When I was in the states there were no gyoza now I can eat gyoza.

Jordan B.
I love being a military kid because I get to travel a lot and I love the friends at this school and it just makes me feel special and it has been fun living here in Japan.

Kalina H.
I love being a military kid because my dad was in the Marines and I was born in Virginia but I don't want to work in the Marines because I don't want to go to war. I'm going to the Air Force!

Naomi E.
I love living on Yokota AFB because you can buy sushi in a couple of minutes at the commissary. I also like living here because you can make friends really easily.

Alicia D.
I love being a military kid because I get to try good food and I like to try on new clothes. The sad thing is when my dad is gone. My dad was not here when I got \$50 on my birthday.

STARS AND STRIPES

Community Publication

Home Business Directory

Yokosuka		Yokota		Guam Navall Station
PARTY ENTERTAINER Planning a party? Let Mrs. Cooper join and make it more fun and memorable! Face painting, glitter tattoo, and balloon spark service available anywhere in Kanto area. Service fee is from \$80 for 2 hrs. (Transportation fee will apply outside of Yokosuka) For more information visit http://www.kirakiraart.com	SHOPPING Independent consultant Find that perfect bag, gift, or organization option that will not only be functional but fashionable too! Leigh Anne Schouest Independent Consultant FashionMeetsFunction.com facebook.com/schouestla	BEAUTY Facebook @bodybynng Eyebrow Microblading Eyebrow shading Eyeliner tattoo Lip color Eyelashes extensions full set Eyelashes perm and tint Microneedling hair growth Microneedling skin rejuvenation Massage www.sisaketbodyrejuvenation.com	PERSONAL ASSISTANT LITTLE BLESSINGS PERSONAL ASSISTANT Spread Joy Through Acts of Kindness Services include: home cleaning, home organizing, grocery shopping, pick up & delivery, errands, and local travel planning For more information and appointments, please email: ashleyphilipslittleblessings@gmail.com *Base Approved	COSMETICS Available for your "cheat" LipSense by SeneGence Long lasting lip colors for up to 18 hours. Smudge proof, Water proof & Kiss proof. Rated #1 over top selling cosmetics. Celebrity Endorsed. Made in USA Select your colors from our web site and send me a message. Guam's Colorful Beauty Distributors Wanted



Editor's Note: Here's some more work from Kimberly Smith's hardworking students. One of her student's drawings and writing are also featured on the front page of this edition. Pretty cool drawing!

Iwakuni Elementary School

3rd grade

The reason why I like to be a military child is because I am responsible, and I get to tell military time and help my friends at school. I also learn more things around the world. I even get to try new food!!! The best thing about being a military kid is you get to make more friends. Lastly, I get to listen to new music, learn more languages, and learn more games. Being a military kid is awesome!

By Ra'Jon Goolsby

I love being a military because I make new friends and new people. And I like being a military child because I get new toys and other stuff. I like being a military child because this country could be amazing. I love being a military child because I can go to different states and see your friends there and make new friends there and meet new people there at that state. Third Reason why I love being a military child I can go to a state and visit them like my cousin from very far away and so we can say hi and stay there for a couple of days. Now you know why I like being a military child. Good bye :D

By Victor Majano

I get to go to new places I would have never seen. Like Japan! I would have never seen Japan if I wasn't a Military Child! Next, I get to make brand new friends! Also, I also get a brand new school! I even get to eat new foods (yum!!!). I get to learn new cultures too! I also get to see awesome cool places. Such as Kentai bridge, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Bunny Island, and many more! I also get to learn new languages. This is why I like being a Military Child.

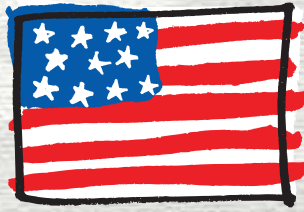
By Anthony Romero

I like being a military kid because . . . You get to go places that many kids can't go, but the sad thing is you have to move from friends. There are so many things you can do like learn new languages, meet new kids, and eat new foods.

You can also go to New Zealand and many other places and explore.

This is why I like being a military kid.

By Norah Sehnert



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Being a military child is the best since I can learn all about new countries.

When I move a lot I can share facts about places if my friend is going to move there.

Also, I can meet friends from around the world, so I won't have to be lonely.

And I want to learn new languages when I move to new countries.

That is why I like being a military child!

By Alana Jones

I like being a military child because I get to learn about why people join the military. I like to be a military child because I get to go on special vehicles like a C130 and It was Really Loud. I like being a military child because I get to move to new places like New York, New Jersey, and Japan. The best part about being a military child is you get to meet new friends like my friends Rajon, Caleb, Victor, and Cj. I love being a military child!

By Nathan Poston

I like being a military child because I can move to new places like Japan, America, Hawaii, and China. I can eat new foods that I have never tried, like sushi, coco curry, indian curry, and steak. I can learn new things while I am moving to new countries. Also, I can make new friends and meet my new teacher, when I go to a new school. I can also learn different languages in different countries like Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Spanish. That is why I like being a military child.

By Nga Hong

I like being a military child because I get to travel around the world and try new foods. First, I make new friends and also go to new schools, and we chose go to Japan. Next, I have lived in over 5 places like Japan, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, and South Carolina. Then, when you move to new places you meet new people and have lots of fun. Lastly, you can also learn new stuff. "That is why I Like being a military child". When your mom or dad are gone remember to call them.

By Sheldon Landrum

The first reason is that I get to travel the world, and see so many different places like washington D.C.. I move sometimes at unfortunate times like on Christmas Eve. Sometimes I don't like moving because I miss my friends, but I get make new friends. I also don't like moving because I don't get to keep some of my stuff. I don't get to stay in my normal house I also sometimes stay in hotels for a little bit also I have to get use to the smell and the heat during the summer.

By parker bilderback



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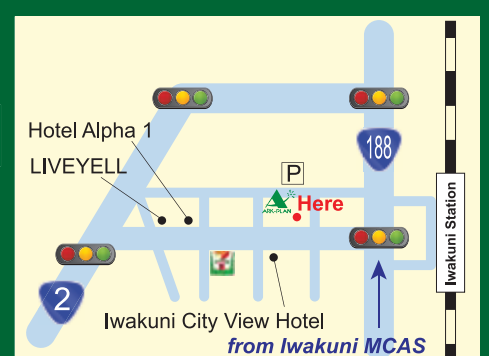
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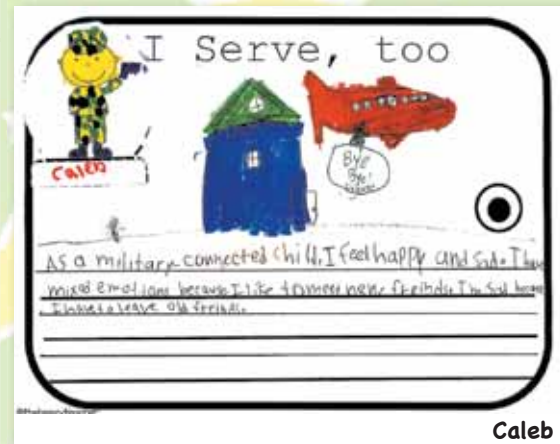


CELEBRATING MONTH OF John O. Arnn Elementary

Editor's Note: Look at the great work by Suzanne Venn's students. She's so proud of them, and so are we!



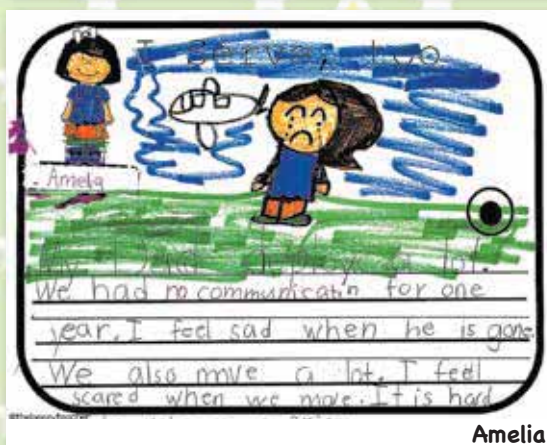
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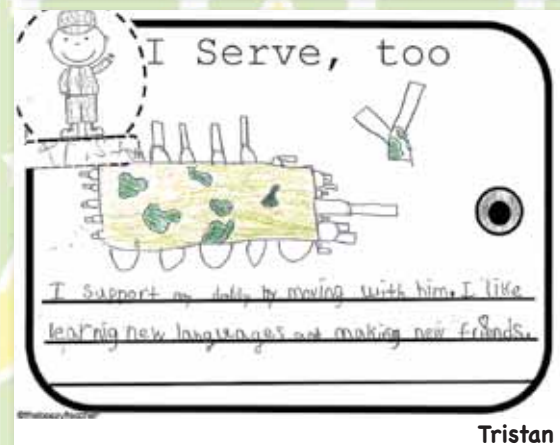
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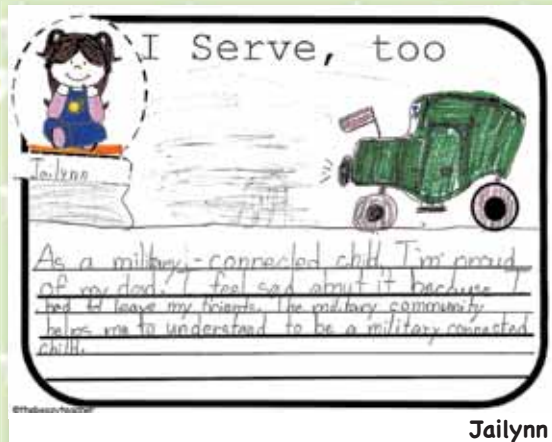
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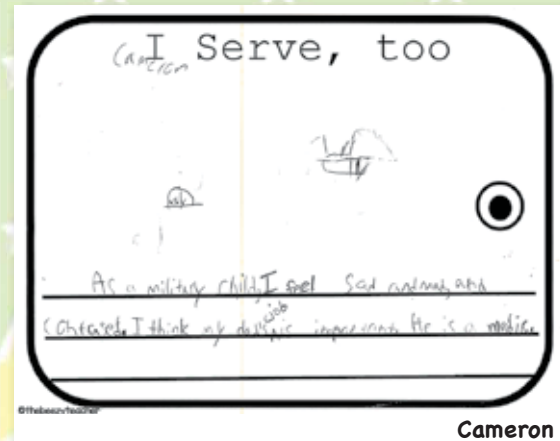
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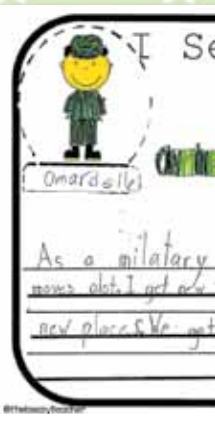
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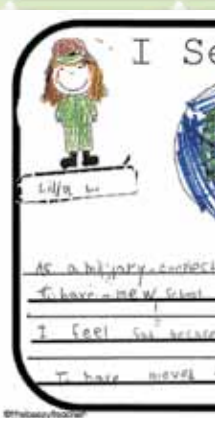
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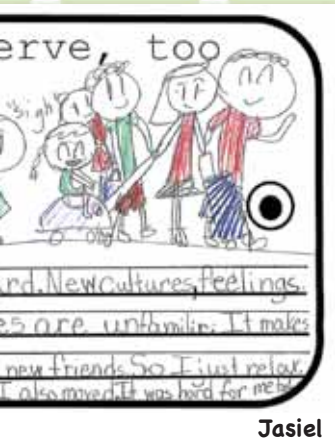
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THE MILITARY CHILD Elementary School 2nd grade



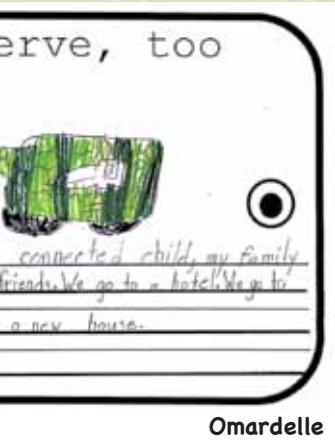
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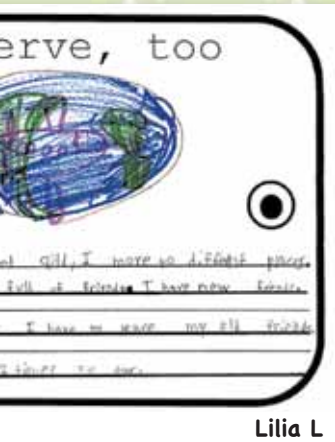
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Living on Base
The base is safe, because there is a fence to protect us. The base is fun, because there are a lot of children to play with. We can play together at the park. There are lots of parks on the base. I like to play with all of my friends on the base.
By Thomas George

Playing with Friends
I know lots of kids. Most of my friends live on the base. I play with my friends at school. We learn together and have lunch and recess together. I also play with my friends at Dewey Park. We play in the bamboo forest and make zip lines. The base has so many places for kids to play.
By Josiff Miner

The Good Things about Base
The base is safe. We have guards and fences at our base. There are a lot of kids that live on a base. We like to play at the park. There is a park that is close to my house. I like the area by my house. It is peaceful. There isn't that much noise.
By Taying Thao-Vangsoua

A Military Child Life
I am here to tell you about being a military child. It sounds hard, but listen. The first thing is that you move around a lot. It sounds sad to move around a lot, but you can see new places. It is an adventure. Use your imagination. The second thing is that you will move from friends, but you will make new friends. You won't be lonely, because there are many other military children to play with. You could even learn new games. The last thing is that moving places means going to a new school. I can be difficult starting a new school, but I know you can do it! This is Harvey signing off!
By Harvey Pruitt

My Life as a Military Child
I am going to tell you what it's like being a military child. As a military child, you have to move a lot. It can be hard. You lose your friends, but you can make new friends at your new base. Moving also means you have to go to a new school. It can be scary. You will meet new classmates that can help you. Last, you can explore new places when you move. That is my military life.
By Kenya Warner

Living On-Base
I like to live on-base. The base is small enough to walk to a lot of places. I can walk to the commissary, shoppette, movie theater, library, the pool, and even to the school. I also live close to most of my friends. We like to play at the park. I love my family and I am happy that we are part of the military community.
By Jessa Bolin

Living in Japan
My family moved to Japan. I like living in Japan. My family gets to explore a new country. My school and friends are on a military base. We like to play at the parks. The parks have a lot of equipment to play on. There is also a lot of room on-base to practice riding rip-sticks and to drive my remote controlled car.
By Tristan Deliazaard

Being a Military Child
Being a military child can be hard. You have to move a lot...It's tiring. You have to lose friends and you have to make sacrifices...It's sad. Your mom and dad have to go to war...They have to. Being a military child can also be good. Moving can let you explore a new place and meet new people. If you live on-base you always have a lot of parks to play at and friends to play with. Living on-base is also safe. I am happy that my family is part of the military.
By Gabe King

Military Child
As a military child, we move a lot. I like being a military child, because I get to go on-base and go to American military schools. I meet a lot of friends this way. My school is on the base I live on. It is a small base and I can walk all around it. I don't know why we wear purple or celebrate in April, but I am so happy to celebrate the military child. I am also proud that my dad is in the military. He has an important job. Sometimes my dad has to go away to the states or different countries. It is sad when he goes away, but I know he'll always come back. I love my life as a military child!
By Alexis Kendzie

Moving and Traveling to Many Places
As a part of the military community, you will move and travel to many places. You get to ride in a plane. You can see so many clouds when you are on the plane. When we move, we can try new food to eat like Sushi. We also get to live in a new house and explore. Finally, we get to shop for new clothes to wear.
By Karen Allen

My Life as a Military Child
Being a military can be difficult and good at the same time. One bad thing might be moving a lot. Maybe you will miss your old house or best friend. Another bad thing will be changing schools a lot. Everything is not bad. If you move to a new place, you can make new friends. There might be a lot of places to explore at your new home. The last good thing is that you can live on a safe base.
By Karen Rios

Being a Military Child
I like being a military child. You get to move a lot. I live on a base. The base and school are small. That means that I know everybody. New kids move here all the time. I can always make new friends. I am happy that my dad is in the military. He gets to wear a uniform every day to work.
By AJ Leclerc

Military Community
Being part of a military community is fun because you can live on a base. The base has fun things to do. Of course, you can play with your friends at the park. You can meet new friends playing at the park. The base and school are small, so you know a lot of kids. Another part of being in a military community is moving. You can move to a new house. You can have fun exploring and playing in your new house. You might even move to a new country. You can learn about new cultures and new foods.
By Justin Trujillo

Living in a Military Community
You can see a lot of things living in a military community. Seeing planes in the sky is a cool sight. You can smell the gas running out of the engine. The sound of the boosters running is really satisfying. Now we are moving on to helicopters. The wind makes the grass blow. When it blows, it feels like 1,000 tiny particles hitting you. The wind was so intense that it blew me backwards. It was so cool seeing the helicopter take off next to the school. I also like living on a base. Everything on the base is walking distance. You can walk to Taco Bell, the commissary, the library, and the school. You can get to these places even faster if you ride your bike. Living in a military community does have ups and downs. Sometimes you have to move to different places. You might miss your old place and friends, but you see new places and meet new friends.
By Josiah Fuller

Editor's Note: Now here's a good-looking group of kids who also happened to be pretty talented writers. Your teacher, Wayne Knutson, is very proud of you!

Being a Military Child
It's cool to be a military child, because you get to meet new friends. There are so many kids in a military community. You can also see a lot of new places. It is fun to explore. I like the Army, because they have weapons and can protect us. The Army can also jump out of planes. I like being in a group of military children.
By Hughie Knight

My Life as a Military Child
I will be telling you about what it's like to be a military child. It can be good and hard. If you are a military child, you will have to move a lot. You might lose friends, but you will be making a lot of friends. If you lose your best friend, you will make a new one at your new base. You will miss your old home, but will have fun exploring your new home. You might even move to a different country. How many people can say that they have lived in a different country?
By Roslyn Unzueta

I Like the Base
I like the base, because it is safe. It has guards to protect us. The base has lots of playgrounds. I have a playground close to my house. We like to play there. The homes are good, too. They are very strong and stand up in an earthquake. I like living on the base.
By Derin Bageant

Being a Military Child
Being a military child can be lots of fun. Moving to other places might be cool. You get to ride on an airplane. They even have movies on the plane. You can see different states and even different countries. In Japan, I get to eat with chopsticks and meet new BFF's.
By Saniyah Chavis



Send your Month of the Military Child submission to
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Marlee has been best friends with my sister and I for about eight months. I We will never forget her. We met on 4th of July. The first time we met, my mom asked her to sit with us and talk. When I asked her, her face lit up with joy! It wasn't too much later we became good friends. We wish she would never move away. My greatest challenge as a military child is about my friends moving away, and the day Marlee leaves might be the toughest day in my life.

How I will get over my greatest challenge? I will call Marlee over the phone every day when we can after she moves. Also, by remembering the fun things we did. My sister and I will miss Marlee one hundred percent but we will not forget her. When she moves my sister and I will be heartbroken. For now, we try to have so much fun before she moves. My mom said the more we hang out with Marlee the more we will miss her; but this will also help us to never forget her because we are making so many memories together. We also like to watch and read Harry Potter. I'm almost done with the first book of Harry Potter which will be the longest book I have ever finished, and my sister Kennedy is on the third, and it is all because of Marlee. She is on the fourth book and got us interested in reading the series. So, even after Marlee leaves any time I read or watch Harry, I will think about and remember Marlee, helping me get over my greatest challenge so far as a military child. I hope Marlee does not worry to much about us after she moves. I know we will never forget the memories we made.

- Kaylee Craft

South Carolina, Chloe and Jonah running lemonade stands in their front yard, they come to my house for jumping on trampolines and swimming. These are some of my best memories. It makes me sad but I still miss them. To me the greatest challenge of being a military child is losing and getting new friends, like Chloe and Jonah.

I do not like having to lose and get new friends. I had a lot of friends when I lived in South Carolina, then I lost them when I moved to Japan. This made me sad. There are things I have done with my old friends that I can not do with my new friends, which is hard. The people I used to live with were best friends forever for seven years. That was a long time, a lot of memories!

But I have hope! I know the way to overcome losing friends is I know I am going to get new friends. For example, my friend Chloe and I would make slime and bracelets but now I do that with my new friends. Then, I move and lose my friends but do the same thing all over again. There are other good things about being a Military child that make losing friends easier to deal with. Kids that are military children have most likely moved more than regular kids. This is good because we can have more adventures in our life. This positive helps make moving away from friends easier. I like traveling with my family to new countries such as Japan, Indonesia, and more. I will never forget about Chloe and Jonah, we still talk sometimes by phone, but I will always make new friends and new memories.

- Ryleigh Kropog

A young turtle was crossing the road about to be crushed by a car. A man saw this, pulled over and saved the turtle. Then, the man lets his family keep the turtle for a few days to see if the turtle was okay. Later, because it was the right thing to do, he released the turtle back into the wild to the turtle's own family. The man was ... my DAD! This is just one story why I think my dad is amazing, kind, thoughtful, and caring and this is one of the many reasons why my greatest challenge as a military child is when my dad leaves for work with the Air Force.

My dad doesn't usually leave a lot but recently he just left for a week. This was upsetting to our family because usually whenever he is around the house we have a lot of fun. He is leaving again soon and will be gone for five months. I am upset because he will miss most of our family birthdays. I am also upset because he will miss time with our grandparents when we visit them in the states.

Even though this will be tough on me this will probably be even tougher on my little brother and sister; and I can't forget about my mom, because as siblings we drive my mom crazy. So, as the oldest child, me, I will take responsibility and try to help out in any way no matter how difficult it is and no matter what happens. I will do this to help out my mom for my dad because I feel that will make him happy. I want to make him happy because he will be away from us and missing us, too.

- Bailey Boling

I was the new kid and he said I was weird. He said I was not like them. He was in my class. He was the oldest kid in my class. The other boys looked up to him and also made fun of me. I just wanted to punch him so bad, but I knew that would not help, and only get me in trouble. Easily, my greatest challenge as a military child is making new friends because sometimes I meet bullies who are not nice.

I have moved five times in my short life. Each time I move it is hard making friends. The first time I moved from Alabama to Georgia I was too little and don't remember. However, when I was six or seven and moved from Georgia to Florida I remember meeting a bully on the first day of school who said I was weird and made me so angry I wanted to punch him. Instead, I ignored him and later when I got home I talked to my Mom and she said don't worry about what they say, just be yourself. Then, I talked to my Dad and he said just ignore them, too. If they keep on doing it talk to the teacher. The next day I followed my parents' advice and they stopped bullying me. One of them even apologized and he became my friend.

So, that was my greatest challenge as a military child. I overcame that experience because I have great parents that gave me great advice!

- Jeremiah Jordan

My greatest challenge as a military child is moving away from family. I like moving to new places it's just that when I move from family it makes me sad. All of my family lives in Georgia. So it was hard when I moved. Also I've seen a lot of movies and when people go on planes they crash. So I'm anxious when I take off.

Sometimes when we take off I get a ticklish-feeling in my stomach. But it's harder moving away from family because I know I'm not gonna see them for another six to seven years. My cousin Leo lives in Georgia and we like the same things. It's nice to have someone like that because my brother is only four. So he's not really fun to play with.

However, my greatest challenge is getting used to the new place. Like now, with Japan. I thought Japan was gonna have the same things as Georgia, like Chick -fla, Chipotle, (I forgot how these are spelled) and Game -Stop. But, instead, there was curry, chop-sticks, and sushi. That was probably the hardest part.

Japan isn't the same as Georgia, but it's nice, with Mt.Fuji, Yokota Air Base, and the new culture. I like the food here, especially the curry. To conclude, my greatest challenge is moving away from family, but I know I will come through the experience.

- Kaden Salcedo

We had sleepovers together and we played "Just Dance 2014" together. We watched funny videos and went to each other's house to play, and walked and talked on the playground. She was easy to talk to, because we both loved piano and watching funny videos and playing "Just Dance 2014". We had a lot in common. Her name is Isabel and she was, no, she is still, my best friend since I was five.

First, moving from Georgia was hard to adjust for me because I lived next to Isabel, my best friend forever. Now, she lives on the other side of the world, because I live Japan. We Facetimed each other five months ago, but that was a kind of an awkward conversation because we haven't talked in four years. Nevertheless, seeing each other's face was like in Texas when it is a hot summer day but then a cold breeze comes and one knows everything will be okay. In other words, seeing each other's face was like nothing in the world mattered but the conversation we had.

Trying to replace awesome friends like Isabel really is hard for me and this feels like my brain is going to explode into a thousand trillion pieces! However, when I moved from Georgia to Japan I had to overcome this challenge. I overcame my challenge of missing Isabel a few different ways. First, by telling myself I will see her again soon. I have said that for four years. This may seem like a long time but the memories of her are still so strong. Second, I think of the good points of where I live now. Some pros on living on Yokota Air Base and living in Japan where I am now is I can try new foods and see new friends, and travel to exotic places. Lastly, I am learning new cultures because Japanese thoughts are different from American thoughts. All these things help me ease and balance my pain of missing Isabel. My only con is missing Isabel.

In conclusion, missing Isabel is my greatest challenge as a military child. However, this challenge can become a strength by not letting the challenge get in the way of my future if I move again because I will focus on the positives of wherever new place my family moves.

- Joshua Hermann

When the movers come they'll take everything - the furniture, my clothes, my stuffed animals - all of them! Everything, the movers take everything! The empty house is my sadness, or even my enemy. I feel so alone. The quiet in my house is loud and I am sad. The tears will never stop rolling down my face. My greatest challenge as a military child has been moving away and making new friends. Like right now, I'm moving in about five months to Virginia from Japan.

Why is this my greatest challenge as a military child? Because when I get used to one country and make new friends, it's like I'm attached to that, they are apart of my body, my soul. However, when I move away it's like my heart shattered into a billion pieces because I was attached to that place, a lot. I want to stop that from happening, but I can't because I can't control that. I have to move where my family goes.

I'm trying to overcome my problems by trying to be strong, thinking everything's going to be alright. However, sometimes the problem I face never works out. My family has moved many times. The one thing that keeps me from fighting back my problem is getting comfortable with the new place we live and feeling great about the friendships I have made. Yes, I have gotten use to where I live now in Japan and feeling happy, but knowing I am soon going to have to move again, I sometimes instead feel like I'm a lonely can that will never be opened. I've never been to Virginia before so for me I feel like I'll never get use to that place. I hope anyone else out there in the world who has the same problem as me, I would just tell them, always think there's always a good side to a new place no matter how bad it looks. That is what I will do.

- Liko Warden

There are some goods and bads to being a military child but I would not change a thing. However, if I had to write about my greatest challenge, I would say moving to Japan has been the most difficult. The reason moving to Japan is the greatest challenge is because of the huge language barrier. I am not good at spelling and writing Japanese. Whenever I move to a new grade level my classmates seem to be ahead of me at learning Japanese, and that makes me feel sad. I would rather be happy by learning Japanese quickly.

Even though moving to Japan is hard, I am proud to be a military child. Why? Because I get to travel around the world. I am glad that I am a military child because I can see amazing things like temples and agriculture; but most all, I am proud of my parents, my mom is retired from the Air Force and helps me with different languages like German, English, and Japanese. My dad is not retired and works hard every day working for the Air Force. I hope my family here in Japan can move closer to my brother, Colton in Illinois because then I would not need to learn a new language in the states and I could get to spend more time with Colton.

- Tanner Sheffield

I remember the day like it was yesterday. A lot of people were waiting to get on the plane. The airport was as crowded as a flock of birds. As soon as my mom got on the plane my face was covered with tears. It was like a waterfall running down my face. My greatest challenge as a military child was when my mom left for work to Korea on November 5, 2015.

This was my greatest challenge because my mom missed a lot. For one example, she missed my birthday and my little sister's birthday. Life is hard when the person you love is all the way across the sea. It's like two ends of a magnet... that won't connect.

Even though my mom left, I know she didn't want to leave; however, she couldn't control it because she is in the military. So, I turned my sadness into happiness. I knew my mom was in Korea to help people in need. I was proud of her for going, even though she didn't want to leave. So, what's the point of being sad when I could be happy. We started to send each other boxes. My mom would send things from Korea and we would send things from the United States.

My dad tricked us. He said his brother was coming to see us; but guess what, my mom was coming home. I was sad that my uncle wasn't coming but I was over excited because my mom came back! For those people that are going through this just know, no matter how far away your mom or dad might be, they are always going to be in your heart, and nobody can take away your love from them, but you.

- Leilany Ware

I had two best friends where I used to live. They were super nice to me. Their names are Connor and Kenza. We played tag and other games after school. I went to Connor's house and Kenza came one time so we ran on a slanted wall. It was fun. I played with LEGOs at Connor's house. These are a few great memories. Easily, my greatest challenge as a military child is moving from friends.

I have a hard time moving from best friends. I don't like moving for other reasons. I don't like moving on airplanes. I am scared of heights. I kind of feel like the plane will crash. Also, when we move our stuff can take weeks to arrive which means I cannot play with my favorite stuff. However, my fear of flying and waiting for my stuff is a small challenge compared to losing friends. My stuff will come back and planes will land but my friends cannot move to new places with me.

I solve this by thinking of the good stuff. I try not think of how high I am on the plane. Sometimes time can go by fast so then my stuff comes. And last, I try to think about how I can make new friends. Friends like before, like Connor and Kenza. After that, I feel fine. I still think about my old friends, but I try not to think about sad stuff. This is how I solve my greatest challenge as a military child.

- Hunter Carlson

He went to war. He is brave! He is nice. He is kind to everyone. He loves his family. Also, he lets us do crazy stuff like skiing, ice climbing, and rock climbing. He is my dad! He is in the army, and I am a Military child. I like being a Military child; however, if I had to choose my greatest challenge I would say it was when my dad was in Afghanistan and he was in a war.

When my dad went to Afghanistan I was worried because I did not want him to get hurt. I was little when my dad went to war. I was scared. My dad is amazing. I love my dad! He is the best dad in the world because he is brave and funny, and the most important reason, he loves all of us!

Even though my worry was as big as the ocean is deep when my dad was at war, I remind myself some things I could do to not worry. Thinking happy thoughts, thinking positive and wishing my dad good luck, these thoughts help me not worry about my dad.

In conclusion, I like being a military child because I can make new friends, and because we can explore, and go to cool places like Japan, where I live now. However, when my dad went to Afghanistan I was worried and scared. It was one of the greatest challenges of my life. I hope my dad never gets hurt in war if he ever goes back to Afghanistan.

- Ellie Stull

My greatest challenge as a military child is moving because when I was moving from Arizona to Japan I had to leave on the last day of second grade. I had to leave my best friends, two people in particular that are still the best of my best friends, Matty and Matt.

On the last day of second grade I had to say goodbye to Matty and Matt. One may be asking why was I so sad? Well, I was so sad about this goodbye because we use to play this game called Roblox for hours. Also, when we were at school we would play games like soccer, tag, and other random games.

I wish I was home in Arizona to see my friends Matty and Matt again; however, I can overcome this wish by making new friends here in Japan which I have done. I will never forget Matty and Matt. In fact we still talk, online when we play Roblox. Well not so much Matty. I wish matty did not stop playing Roblox with me and Matt online.

- Jonas Thorne

In Ohio I remember Aiden and I playing games and his mini portable pool. In second grade, while living in Okinawa, I made good friends; for example, Gavin, Jackson, and Cooper. Gavin and I played tag at recess. Jackson and I played video games, went to the Camp Foster pool together, and we liked Taco Bell. Cooper and I also played video games, and we went to the beach. I lived right next to the beach and Cooper was about five minutes away. We also went to the trampoline park together like five times. Man, I miss Oki, I remember the beaches and we were able to touch sea cucumber's. Awesome right? When will I ever have that chance again? I mean, I miss stuff like that. These are all awesome memories! However, eventually I had to move from Ohio and later, from Okinawa. Now I am in Japan, and when I first moved here I felt like I had lost everything, all my friends. Without a doubt, moving is my greatest challenge as a military kid.

After the first time when I moved I was too young to know how painful because I was a baby and had no friends, but my second time I moved I was older and it made me want to cry so much that I felt like it was a bad dream. Unfortunately, it wasn't a dream, it was real. I didn't want to go away. Even if I complained it was no use, I had to move with my family. The third time I moved I realized there are seven billion people in the world. Even if moving is hard, I will never give up. Because I know there are so many people in the world, I can always make awesome friends with the similar personalities. Moving and saying goodbye to friends is my greatest challenge as a military kid, but writing this essay I realized an end can be a new beginning, a chance to find new friends.

- Asher Kellum

My greatest challenge as a military child is making new friends. I'm not really that good at making friends. The reason is they don't take me seriously. They think I'm not as smart as them. They also think I'm just playing or joking around. The good half about being a military child is that I get to travel and move to different places. I was born in Italy because my parents got stationed there for a little while. I've also been to Canada, USA, Japan, South Korea, and last but not least, Sapporo. In conclusion, I hope people do not mistreat others or judge someone before they get to know people; and trust me, I know how it feels.

- Azzana Bottani

My greatest challenge as a military child is moving away from friends. I think moving away from friends is hard because I make really good friends. Then, I have to leave them and that is very sad for me and my friends. For example, almost one year ago, I said goodbye to my friend Jacob that I just left when coming to Yokota from Misawa.

I was in Misawa for five years and I made many good friends, but Jacob was the best one I have ever met. I had known him for a long time - four years - and we always played basketball together, we always talked about cars and how much we loved them. We were both very sad when I had to move and I wish that I did not ever move away. When I left, the last time I said bye to him, we cried.

Even though saying goodbye to new friends is a tough challenge, I will persevere through it. I will persevere through this challenge because I learned from my teacher that I will have more success when moving out of my parents' house in the future when I head for college. Why? Well, I already know what life is like in a new place because I already moved so much as a kid from state to state, even different countries, where I did not know everyone. So, I am getting good at meeting new people in new places. Some people are scared to meet new people when they are older, but I won't be.

In conclusion, moving away from friends like Jacob is my greatest challenge as a military child. However, this challenge can also be a gift because I will persevere through it. Even though I am sad when I move, I am still very lucky to be a military child. I know I cannot control where the military sends my family, so I will use this challenge as a strength.

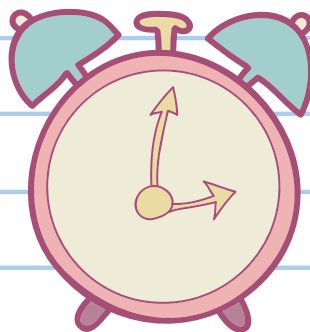
- Malik Martin

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

JOAN K. MENDEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Editor's Note: Trent Andersen's students, including one that is featured on Page 1 of this paper, know how to tell a good story. Take a look at what they have to say. Good stuff, kids!

4TH GRADE



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Sasebo Elementary School

6th grade

Editor's Note: Kathy Palmer has a class full of awesome writers, take a look at what they have to say. You might remember Micah's story from last week's front page of Stripes Japan. We're running it again this week so the entire class can be published together.

Today is March 13, 2019. This year some of my greatest friends will be leaving Sasebo, which is going to be hard for me. In a few years I'll be leaving which I know will be hard for my newest and oldest friends too. Sometime the new kids would share where their home is with me. I don't know where my home is because I have been to four places in only one or two years! We are constantly juggling from house to house. Before my mom met my dad, I and my mom lived in Hawaii with my grandma, my aunt with her kids and husband, and my older siblings. When my mom met my dad, we had to move away from all of my memories, friends, and family. Since my siblings are many years older than me, they all live with their own families. To me many positives for my dad working in the military is that he serves for our country. My parents and get to travel all over the world and see new things. Also, the three of us has more time to spend together. Sometimes my parents are doing work so, I am either upstairs watching TV or I am outside playing with my friends. So far, all the place my parents and I have been to include Hawaii, Guam, California, and where I am right now which is Japan. All the places that I have been to have been amazing. I hope that my adventures will continue to be great! I know that my new adventure will start in two years so, I am excited for that too.

A'Maya

A few days ago I learned that instead of staying for two more years I will be moving again. This is the second time that my time in a place has been cut short. The last place I was in, I learned that someone did not pass their medical exam so my dad had to take his place and that meant we had to move sooner. In fact other than California which I have lived in for four years, I have only lived in one place for two years. It is important as a military child to remember nothing is for sure and that everything is susceptible to change. A lot of military children do not know where to say they are from. For example I was born in Texas, but I have never been there for more than a month at a time and if you add up all the times I've been there it would not be more than half a year. Luckily, I have the answer embroidered on a pillow and it says "Home is where the anchor drops." But as a Military child I get to travel around the world. Being a military child is hard, but the experiences you get pay it back threefold.

Micah

Granted I have lived here for almost 7 years I might not know how it feels to move a lot but my friends do. I have only had two best friends. One left before we went into third grade and the second I am going to move away from and most likely either stop keeping in touch with or forget. I have had friends leave while I stayed here and watched them go. I would cry every night for almost a week until I remembered it's just another friend that left and that I would make new friends that would just leave anyway. I have seen people come and go almost my entire life. So far I have only left one friend that I can remember. From what I can recall we were at a playground. My friend was wearing pink and I was wearing an orange shirt. We were under the slide and scare kids that were running that way. They got mad when we scared them but were too busy laughing.

I might not know how it feels to move around a lot but I know how it feels when parents are deployed for a long time. My dad doesn't work on a ship anymore (he still has a military job) but before he stopped working on a ship he was gone for a long time. Almost every year when he was on a ship he was deployed starting before my sister's birthday in February and wouldn't come back until after my birthday in March. When he came back though he would always make up for missing our birthdays. There are good parts for parents being deployed too. They get to go to places you might not be able to go to in all your life. They can bring you back souvenirs from where they went. And they're going there for a reason.

One time my dad left for work and I'm going to tell you that I was in second grade maybe. Anyway he always gave me a hug before work even if I was still asleep, but this time I was hiding in my parents bed and he didn't see me so he left before he gave me a hug. I cried very badly when we got into the car. My mom said that he would be back. I will talk to you tomorrow.

Tyna

Being a military child is hard. You always have to move and you are always the new kid. It is also cool because you get to visit and experience new places. It is also hard because people don't really know what you're going through. Being a military child you are mostly secured because you are always surrounded by security guards and barbed wire fences. It is also sad when my dad has to leave. My dad always brings me back gifts from other countries that I may not go and visit for a long time or not go to at all. More than 50 percent of the time I will go to a DOD's school. Another good thing is school is always close to my house. You also meet, learn, and experience more things out of your culture. You also can try new foods and see how they live. It is hard because you don't know what is going to happen next or go somewhere. Some people may see being a military child is easy but it really is hard if you're new. It is also hard if you have a little sibling and when you're traveling they always cry. So it is also stressful, or hard to get used to it. This is what it is like to be a military child.

Rudy

Being a military child is very difficult especially when you have to leave your friends and family. I was 10 years old when it happened. It was my last day school. The bell for dismissal was about to ring. My friends and I had had so much fun that day. We had lunch together and took pictures. The bell rang. I was saying goodbye to my teacher, when one of my best friends walked in. She was crying. I told her not to cry or else I would start crying. All she did was run up to me and hug me. Then I started to cry. Then the rest of my best friends walked in. They were crying too. We all stood there hugging and crying. I was so sad I had to leave all my friends. Today, we still keep in touch. We send each other packages and letters. I miss them so much. Ever since I left, they haven't been hanging out with each other. That makes me really sad. Abby, Isabella, Ava, Mia and Ruby thank you guys so much for being there for me. I love and miss you guys. In conclusion being a military child is difficult at times but you make the best of friends.

Braylee

Hi I'm Elizabeth, and my story is that I am a military child, but before I tell you that story, you'll want to hear my story before I was a military child. I used to go to a Mexican school, I had English class there so I knew English, but for some reason my mom made me move away, from Mexico and California. I'm pretty nervous when I'm the new kid, but I got the hang of it. After two years in California, we moved to Japan, but the only thing I love about Japan is the food, they have weird, delicious food that I would like to try. I remember being sad knowing I'll have to leave my family, but they still tried to make me happy and make me think that they are still here with me, and that makes me happy that they still love me no matter how far I am. Also, I am now twelve, and my birthday came along, and they bought a cake for me, even though I'm not there with them. So today, I'm thinking of maybe moving back to California or Spain. But let me give you some advice, if you're a military child, hear this, no matter how different you are, you will still fit in.

Elizabeth

Being a military child is very difficult yet fun. It is difficult being a military child because most of the time I don't see my dad. I only see him in the morning and when he comes home from work which is about two hours and forty-five minutes. It is also fun being a military child because I get to travel all over the world. For example, my family and I have moved from Hawaii to Guam to California and now Japan. I get to learn about the history and cultures of all these places. It is just amazing I get to do that. Most kids in the world don't get that experience that military children do.

Being a military child means you have to leave your close friends and that's tough especially when you have lots of close friends. I get to travel everywhere in Japan, Hawaii, and other places so being a military brat is the best but leaving people you are close to is like family is extremely hard especially when your dad has to go on a ship and leave you for a while. I know what it feels like because I had to leave my whole family when we moved to San Diego. It is very complicated and confusing to be a military child because there are many sad and fun parts like I just explained. If you are military child I can relate to your dad leaving and or your mom but just know that they will be right back before you know it.

Sophia

What It's Like To Move

I just realized how tough my life my life is. I am leaving Japan. I am leaving my home. It's hard having my home. Why do I even call it home when I know in a few years I'm just going to have to leave again? I mean why do I even make friends when I'm going to have to leave them, like I did today? Why do I do these things? I guess it's because I'm just scared about going somewhere with no one to talk to, no one to rely on. Even when I have to leave them it's weird because I can say I have friends all around the world. Even though I'll probably never see them again. It still is nice to have a bunch of friends. I guess it's not that bad being a military child. No it still really stinks because when you do leave you feel like you only have yourself, you have no one to talk to, no one to play with, and you're just invisible. That is until you get there and act like everything is the same when it's not. You have a new house, you need to make new friends, and you have to. Oh got to go now. Time to board the plane. Going to go see how my new life turns out.

Melanie

Germany

6/14/19

A few days ago my family and I moved to Germany. I have no friends and we haven't seen our house yet. Most of our stuff is not here and it is making my mom stressed. My old school was different so, I've never been in middle school though I was in 6th grade. We are currently living in the lodge but it is small and uncomfortable. At the airport we were almost late for our flight because we almost lost our dog. We were hoping to move in to our house soon because we wanted to see all the cool places in the area.

6/21/19

We got our stuff and are moving in to our new home. It is very roomy and beautiful. Unlike my old house this house has a decent sized backyard, a basement, and an attic. The backyard is so big my mom is letting me buy a pool from Amazon. A new house means a new house to decorate with my mess. I'm thinking Harry Potter style. My friend recommended the series and now I can't stop reading. Speaking of friends I just made some while getting a tour of my new school. It is very nice and I can't wait to start.

8/17/19

Yay! School started and all my classes are great. Even though it was tough at first I am glad we moved to Germany.

Alicia

Being a military child is difficult because one of your parents is in a branch of the Armed Forces. You may have one of your parents on deployment or move a lot with them. Sometimes it is difficult for a military child to move from place to place. Then a parent goes on deployment for a long time. It can also be amazing being a military child if a parent is in the navy and works on a ship you can go there sometimes to have dinner or lunch with your parent. My father is the aircraft maintenance officer of a ship that is in port right now. When my father comes back sometimes he gets me stuff from other places. When he was in Brazil he got me a scarf with the statue of Jesus on it. Being the child of a parent who is in the Armed Forces is hard and fun.

This weekend my father is going back out to the sea. My family and I are also going to move to Virginia in the summer and it will be hard to move again but since we're always moving I'm okay with change even though it is quite hard. We are also excited about going to the States because we haven't lived there in six years. And I will be with my grandmother for two weeks. My mother and father are looking for a house. And then we will go to the new house and get settled in and get done with this move.

Cole

Being a military child has its ups and downs. Some good things are being able to see so many different places all over the world and going to different fun places like round one, LEGOLAND, Disneyland, and universal studios. I also like meeting so many new people and making new friends. Some bad things that I don't like are moving so often because I always have to leave all of friends and my home. Another thing that I don't like is whenever my dad has to go on deployment for about three to seven months and he misses birthdays and holidays like Christmas and my birthday.

Bryan

We had sleepovers and we always had fun. We drew each other's faces. The next day we had a playdate and we made up stories and we would play fight. We had lots of fun and I mean lots of fun. These are a few of many great memories with my friends Sophia and her sister Jo-Jo. My greatest challenge as a military child is moving away from friends, like Sophia and her sister.

Moving away from my friends is tough because I cry when I know I may not see them again. Also, I will ask my mom, "Mom, do you have this friend's phone number?" and my Mom will say, "No hun, I'm sorry." And, that makes me sad because I can't call my old friends on the phone. I miss so many friends like Tyler and Logan. I had a lot of fun with them because they made me laugh. Tyler does weird noises and Logan is funny because I always win when we wrestle.

Moving away from friends is tough and my greatest challenge as a military child but I still find things I like about moving and that helps me overcome my challenge. What I like about moving is that I get to meet more new people. I also like moving because I learn more about where I move. For example, we moved from the states to Japan where I am living now. Also, sometimes we go back to the states to visit old friends, like this year I am going to Tucson to visit. I will see Logan and I am hoping Tyler who lives far away from Logan may come and visit. I hope this happens because I know we would all have fun together. I hope too, I can see Sophia and Jo-Jo.

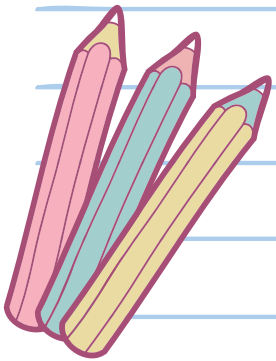
- Addison Brewer

My greatest challenge being a military child is being the new kid. I have many challenges being new. One reason is losing good friends, and a good friend is a person who is patient, understands me, and does not tell me to do rude things.

I had a good friend before I moved to Japan from New Mexico. His name was Max. My friend Max always waited for me to get ready for school, he always listened to what I was saying, and never did rude things.

I sometimes think it is hard to make friends because they can literally be a rude person, or be a really nice person. When I do find someone who is really nice to me like my friend Max I might one day have to say good-bye because I am a military child. This is sad. In conclusion, being the new kid and finding good friends are my greatest challenges of being a military child.

- Joseph Finegan



He helped me and I helped him. We played tag at recess and with other friends. We were both into Minecraft. These are a few of many memories I have of Demoni. He was my best friend for two years when we were living in Germany. My greatest challenge as a military child was when my friend Demoni moved.

My friend moving was hard because after he left I did not have a best friend anymore. I felt lonely and had a hard time with partner activities. Once he left we could not play together, like infection tag. Also, I started to have trouble with science and math because we used to help each other in school. Like a rainy day with nobody to play with. I missed Demoni.

Even though life was hard without Demoni, I eventually found a way to lift myself back up. First, my mom kept in touch with Demoni's mom. Demoni and I couldn't see each other but we could still email. Next, I found new best friends. Also, I got better in science and math. Lastly, I started making new memories and found new games to play, and my brother is now old enough to play Minecraft with me. I realize now that Demoni made my life stronger because challenges can become gifts.

- Bret Shaw

Send your Month of the Military Child submission to MilitaryChild@stripes.com by April 30!

Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child

Editor's Note: Here's some more submissions from
our talented students at Sullivans. Great work, kids!

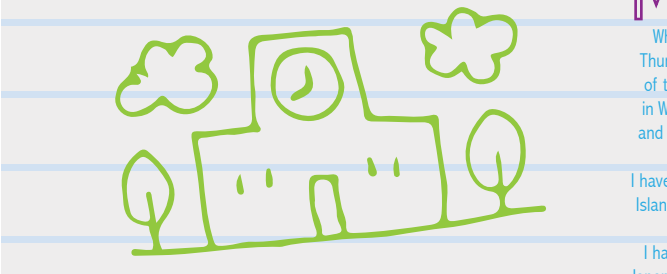
Sullivans
Elementary School

My name is Hailey, I am 10 years old and in 5th grade. My family has been connected to the military for a long time. But don't really get the full navy child experience. I was born in California, then shortly moved to Arizona for 1-2 years before even starting school. Luckily I moved to a nice neighborhood back in California with nice neighbors and kids my age. I will discuss moving schools, traveling and moving. First I didn't move schools until I had to move to Japan. I only moved schools once because the first time I was too young to go to school. When I moved to Japan it was so different. I thought I would to a Japanese school. Soon as I was told I was going to an American base school I felt confused, happy, sad and excited. When I was in the USA I traveled to 14 different states. My family loved to travel and learn about the culture. When we moved to Japan we went around Japan, we went to Hokkaido, Yokohama and around the Tokyo area. We also went to China, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Thailand and of course Japan. In all I have been to 14 states and 6 countries and around the Tokyo area. We found out that we were moving to either Italy or Japan. I wanted to go to Italy but instead we went to Japan. I didn't mind going to Japan. I later found out how safe Japan is and how young kids ride the train by themselves. I liked to go to many of the temples in Japan. In conclusion my life has been different than other kids, but still didn't get the full military child experience. I enjoy seeing and going around Asia. I have been to many different places. And I look forward to the next adventure, and were I will go next. Even if moving schools, my home and my friends being a military child isn't the worst.

By: Hailey

Hi. My name is Danielle Hamilton and I'm 9 years old. Sometimes the life military child can be hard, but you can get through it just as I have. As a military family, we travel often and experience an opportunity to meet many new people. I have friends in many places in the U.S. because of it. We lived in Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Maine, and now Japan due to my family's service to our country. Recently, I traveled with my family to Hawaii for vacation. I really enjoyed the Hard Rock Café, and hiking up a mountain. We met with friends from Wisconsin who were stationed in Hawaii to swim with the sea turtles and paddle board in the bay. I love Japan because it is a very safe and friendly place. I was involved with other kids cheerleading, and playing basketball, soccer, and swimming. These activities kept me busy and my mind off missing my dad. Maybe this will help you too. My dad is happy here because he is home almost every night. Previously, he was always deployed or standing duty many times each month. Always remember that our parents are serving the country and the world to spread freedom as safety. Love them and encourage them as the time away from family is difficult for them too. Behave and do well in school so that they will be proud of you as a student. Is all goes as planned, they will be back soon will a big smile on their face to greet you. Thanks for reading!

By: Danielle Hamilton



Hello, my name is Daniel and I am a military child. I was born in Japan because of my parent's deployment. My life had faced some obstacles and it was hard to face these challenges. So in this essay, I will tell you about my life as a military child. When I was very young, my Dad had to go to the Navy. It was sad to see him go. It hurt me when I was young and I had overcome this obstacle and carry on. I had to move off base because of my dad is retiring from the Navy. It was kinda sad because we left, but that's ok. So I now live in a house off base. I have been exposed by two cultures. My cultures are Filipino and Japanese because my family is Filipino and we live in Japan. My culture's foods are sinigang, yaki soba, and chicken adobo. I speak Tagalog like "opu" which means yes and "salamat po" which means thank you. I like to play basketball with my cousins when we visit them every summer or special occasions. My religion is the Seven Advantees and I go to church. I have a Japanese Koinobori flag that celebrates Children's Day. Because I live in Japan, I've been to movie theaters, Cosmo World, bowling, Yokohama, Mores City Mall, and Sushi Go Round. In conclusion, my life as a military child has had many obstacles that I had to overcome. So this is my life as military child.

By: Daniel Jacob

My name is Kenta. I am in the 5th grade. I live in Japan. In this essay I will talk about why I came here, how the experience was and the things I like about life as a military connected child. I came to Japan because my dad got a job at the Yokosuka base. When we first came we stayed at the navy log. Then we moved in to a home of base. I went to the Sullivan's School for first grade then I went to a Japanese school. After 4 years of Japanese school I went back to Sullivan's for 5th grade and now I ride the bus to school every day. I was very nervous at first because I did not know if I was going to do well in school. After the first few days I started to make friend then I felt not that nervous at school. But at the second quarter I started to do bad and I missed a lot of assignments and my grades went down. Then I started to do my assignments right when it got assigned. At the third quarter my grades started to get better and better. The things I like about life as a military connected child is that I get to go to a nice school and that there is lots of nice kids at the school. I also think the point that a American base is in Japan is super cool. The most interesting thing about the base is that every thing about the base is from America. The last thing I like about the base is that there is not that much bullying at the Sullivan's school. In conclusion, I think that being a military connected child is not that bad and I like almost every thing about the Yokosuka base. I think that as a military connected child I have experienced a lot of things and most of those things are good things.

By: Kenta Thung

Hi, my name is Kendell and I am a military child. During my life I had to face some challenges. This essay will inform you about my life and what challenges I had to overcome. I hope this will help other kids as well, to learn what it is to be a military kid. When I first got to school the first day, I felt scared. I thought that I would never make many friends or that I would not fit in. But staying apart from everyone is not the best idea, and by the end of the day I had many friends and much more to come. Trust is key; giving trust to new people feels weird. But having trust in other people is better than having no one. If your parents need a babysitter knowing more parents or adults is better than knowing no one. When you have parents in the military that have to leave on a ship, it can be very sad. But don't worry, here are some things that I think are best for this situation. Try to think of something else, watch a movie, or read a book. In my opinion, these are some of the best things I would do. Thank you for reading this essay. I hope that it was helpful for most military children in the world. Remember to love and care about your parents and never forget how much your parents love you.

By: Kendell Stlouis

My name is Lucas and I am 10 years old. I live in Japan and am in Mrs. Tyes 5th grade class. My dad is in the U.S. Navy. I like moving and traveling, and I do not like when my dad is deployed. While being in Japan, I have traveled to Tokyo Disneyland. My favorite ride at Disneyland is Big Thunder Mountain Railroad because the turns at that speed are fun. I have also gone on a couple of tours including Mt. Takao Fire-Walking Ceremony and Gotemba Winter Illumination. When I was in Washington, I traveled to Canada. In Canada, I went to Canadian Tire, which sells ketchup chips and hockey sticks, Tim Horton's, a donut store, Dollarama, the biggest dollar store in Canada, and Nandos, a restaurant the sells spicy food. I have lived in three places. I was born in England and lived there for a year. Then I moved to Whibey Island, Washington, and lived there for nine years. Then I moved to Japan when I was 10. Moving is hard because you have to leave your friends, and sometimes, your family. I have lived in 3 places, England, Washington, and Japan. I have enjoyed living in Washington and Japan. This is my military child life. Mountain Railroad because the turns at that speed are fun. I have also gone on a couple of tours including Mt. Takao Fire-Walking Ceremony and Gotemba Winter Illumination. In Washington, I traveled to Canada. In Canada, I went to Canadian Tire, which had ketchup chips and hockey sticks, Tim Horton's, a donut store, Dollarama, the biggest dollar store in Canada, and Nandos, a restaurant that sells spicy food. I have lived in three places. I was born in England and lived there for a year. Then I moved to Whidbey Island, Washington and lived there for nine years. Then I moved to Japan when I was 10. Moving is hard because you have to leave your friends, and sometimes, your family. When my dad is deployed, sometimes it is hard. The longer he's away, the harder it is for me. The upside of my dad being deployed is that I am really excited when he comes home. I have lived in 3 places, England, Washington, and Japan. I have enjoyed living in Washington and Japan. This is my military child life!

By: By: Lucas Lee

Hi my name is Noelle, 5th grade 11 years old. I am part of the military family, I travel a lots and lots now I am in japan. In this essay I will talk about moving, how i am in part of the military family, and good thing about being part of the military child. In this paragraph I will talk about moving. If you are part of a military child then you can be moving often. And it's hard for kids, maybe our parents doesn't know but it's hard for kids. The most biggest thing is a going to the new school. An some people may go to the new school in middle of the school year that even makes it harder to make a friends. Some people do not need friends but a lot of us do it makes us harder to make a new friend at the new school. Next thing I will talk about is how I am in the part of a military family. I was born in japan Kagoshima in 2007 Aug 5. When I turned about like 5 we went to united states for kinder. When I finish kinder we come back to japan and I went to the Japanese school for about 2 years then I came to this school. I become military family when I wasn't even born. My dad is in the navy and that is how I become military family, he still work at the navy working active duty. In conclusion, I think I appreciate that I was a military family because I can learn 2 languages at the same time and I also enjoy it. It might take long time learning 2 languages at the same time but I still like to try.

By: Noelle Morinville

Konnichiwa, my name is Elizabeth. I am 10 years old. I am a military child. Before I moved to Japan, I lived in Hawaii. If you have a military parent, you will know that you travel a lot. But it is fun to travel all around the world and learn about different cultures. But, there are some negative things about being a military child. Here are some of them. Moving can be hard when you are military child because when you move and get a new house, it doesn't feel like home. When I do get a new house, I don't feel like home because I know I am going to move eventually. Another struggle is that you need to leave your friends and your school, too. Also, moving is a challenge because you need to organise your house and know where things are. Sometimes you lose things during a move. Once, the movers almost packed my Mom's passport! Being a military child is hard because your parents have to go on deployments. Of course, it is hard for me, but is hard for my parents, too. My Dad needs take care of his ship. Also, my Mom needs to take care of me and my sisters when my Dad is gone. He can be gone for many months. The last struggle is going to a new school because you need to get used to where things are. Also, you need to get use to new people at the school like teachers and students in your class. But, for me it is fun to get to know people and some of the sports they play. I think being a military child is fun. I am thankful that I get to travel all over the world and explore. Of course I miss my friends but I always remember I am going to make new friends. This is my life as a military child. Sayonara!

By: Elizabeth Howell

Konichiwa, I am Ayla and I am a military kid. I will tell you about good things and bad things about my military life. I have three topics about my life: deployment, culture, and moving. I hope you enjoy!!! My dad got deployed when I was a baby. He was deployed for a long time. When he came back, it was a short time until he had to leave again. When he came back I had no clue who he was. My dad quit the navy for me. Now it is not a big deal because in his new job he doesn't get deployed as long. I have amazing friends. I live off base and have Japanese friends and learn so much from them. My Japanese friends are Saki and Juna. Juna is in kindergarten and is funny and caring. If someone gets a scratch she gets a band aid. Saki is kind, nice, and funny. She gives us candy. The food here is good. I like rice, white bread, and mochi. I don't like to eat sushi but I had to try raw sushi. I like to go to shrines. Tokyo is fun, too. Did you know that Tokyo has one of the largest populations? I went to Disneyland and Disney Sea. I am a very lucky person. Moving is hard. I was born in Virginia and made lots of friends like Seiri, Bella, Isabella, Mikayla. My best friend Seiri and I met up when I was two. Then we moved when I was six. I moved to Texas and made lots of friends. I went to two schools for no reason!!! Seiri and I are still in contact. Mikayla, I forgot about. Then I moved here! One day my mom said that Mikayla is moving here. So she is here right now. So you see, being a military child is fun and hard. Like friends. And moving.

By: Ayla LaFlamme

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

Continued from PAGE 21

Sullivans
Elementary
School



When I move it is mostly me, my mom, and my brother. My dad would be either on the ship or sometimes he'd be traveling with us. It's fun to move somewhere new and meet new people. It can be sad too. I have moved a lot and I know these feelings. I'm glad I'm a military child. I get to see new things and meet all different people! If your a military child you should be a little proud or a lot proud of being a military child. Sometimes it's hard, but it will get better! You get to see new things and learn new things too like languages, and how to read different types of things. If you move somewhere new and your scared or worried it's okay to feel those feelings. Caution or cautious is another feeling. When you move and one of your family members is away it's okay to feel sad or lonely. Just know that your not the only military child and the only one who is feeling sad. Family can be split in part too. One family member could be on the ship or overseas and the other could be watching you and your family. When my dad's away, my mom is sad and so are we. But when he comes back we try to spend as much time with him as we can. And I have the right to say, I'm proud to be a military child!

By: Callie Martin

I like being a military child because I get to move around the world. Because of this, I get to live in Japan. I think being in Japan is great because I get to experience a new culture. I get to try new food and I get to ride the train. I also get to learn a small part of a new language. I know how to say "Hello" in Japanese. Konnichiwa! I have lived in 2 other places. I get to live in Mexico and Virginia. I also like being a military child because it is nice to know that my dad is serving our country. He works a lot. Sometimes he leaves for a whole day. I am proud of my dad and he is my hero. He is keeping our country safe from invaders.

By: Carlos Cervantes

Hello, my name is Christian and I am 9 years old. There are advantages and obstacles to being a military kid. My father's ship is the Blue Ridge. He deployed a few weeks ago. Sometimes, he has to go to war zones and I sometimes worry about him.

My family has moved five times in my life while my father has been deployed. I have gone to five schools in my life, and I'm only 9. Everything is different when you go to a new school. To me, the bathrooms and the cafeteria are different but the good thing is you meet new people.

When I move I get to learn new languages from all around the world. I can say hi in German, gu-tin-tog. I know more languages like Chormmor, German, and Spanish. I've learned Japan is the oldest culture. So these are examples of the cultures and languages I know from around the world. Now about my military life, the advantages. You get your I.D. card at the age 10. I like living on the base where it's safe. Sometimes I go to the base bowling alley or movie theater. You can be what you want, but of course, not a thief or a robber or murder...

Don't be sad, it is a good thing to be a military kid. You won't stay in the same country or state, you can explore the world!

By: Christian Butler

こんにちは (konnichiwa), my name is Colt and I'm 9 years old. I am going to tell you about my life as a military child. It might be tough sometimes but gives me great experiences too. I have a family of 4: my mom, dad and a little sister. Since I was born, I've lived in three different places. When I was first born, we lived in Okinawa, Japan for two years then we moved to Yokosuka, Japan for three years. When I was five my dad got new orders to Edwards, California which is in the desert, then we moved back to Yokosuka, Japan again two years later.

My dad has to leave a lot on deployments. Most of the time he goes somewhere in the middle of the ocean by ship, but when I was little he went on land to Afghanistan for a year. I know my dad is doing his job protecting our country; however, we miss him a lot when he is gone and we wish he could come home. I wish I could say I am use to this life as a military child, but I am never use to it because we love him so much and want to spend time with him all the time. I know that my dad miss us, too, so we try our best to keep ourselves busy every day. That means we feel that time flies fast. For example, going to school, playing sports, going to trips with my grandparents and cousins, and so on.

There are some good things about being a military child, like meeting a lot of new people. I have friends all over the world, some here in Japan and some in America. My dad told me I have seen more at the age of nine than most people have their entire life. I have seen thirteen states in America, lived in two places in Japan and visited South Korea. My life as a military child might be tough sometimes but it gives me great experiences, too.

Thank you very much for reading my life as a military child.

By: Colt Crossin

Konnichiwa! I am Angelina. I am going to talk about my life as a military kid. "Hola" means "hello" or "hi" in Spanish. My culture is Dominican and American. My family and I eat Hispanic food. My Dad makes this rice with beans and it is really good!

I went to this school in Virginia called Shelton Park Elementary. I am now at Sullivans. It is great here. First, I lived in Florida, then Virginia. Now I live in Japan. Moving is hard but you get to see new places like Japan. Not many people get to see new places. Japan is really great. I have sushi here. They celebrate Children's Day in Japan. I hope you get to meet the nice people in Japan.

By: Angelina Urena

I, being a military child, have to go through hard things but I am also glad I am a military child. Some of the hard things I go through are having friends move away, having my dad go on a boat, and having to move around. On the other side, I am usually proud that I am a military child. I am proud because I am going through hard things to help protect my country! I am so glad that I am helping my country protect itself.

There are many hard things that come with being a military child. Often I have to say goodbye to my friends or classmates. Sometimes my dad goes out on a boat. But, since I am a military child, I never let them stop me because that will not help me. I also have to move many different places and try to find new friends and sometimes it is very hard to make as good friends as I had in the previous location but I have always figured out how to make very, very good friends. There are very many separate challenges that we go through. On the opposite hand, there is lots of pride and joy we feel as we are in the military. One thing is I love being in Japan because the Japanese welcome us into their country very well and there is many different cultures and religions to explore. It is also very different than the United States because of the many different plants and wildlife. Japan also lets me try to learn a new language that I would not of tried to learn if I was not a military child. I am so glad that I am a military child and that they sent me to Japan.

By: Madsen Whittier

The lifestyle of a military child is hard but fun. It is hard leaving your friends and in some cases a parent that comes home late or that you hardly see at all. The bright side is that you can daily see, and do things that a normal child only does on vacation. Even though the traveling is fun it hurts to have to watch your friends wave you goodbye. Having to say goodbye is one of the hardest things to do, believe me cause I'm a military child. Another thing that makes it harder is not getting to see your family as much but you can make new friends that become like family.

Going to new places opens up new opportunity for example when I got to Japan I felt welcomed and happy when I went to the navy lodge playground and got opportunity to make new friends and I took it. I got cultured when had to live off base the japanese welcomed us. The term live laugh love is exactly the thing you should do that way happiness is bound to come your way. Then when you go to school it includes the history and culture of the country you are in.

The deployments may be long and hard but it is necessary because we need protection. The life of a military member is hard as rocks but in the end it's worth the time, effort, and dedication. In time you will settle and be happy. Every time the military child takes a hit they will get back up.

We are amazing in our own ways. The amazing thing is that most of us don't know we are special we're just trying to fit in. Those of us military children that don't realize it just need to be told. Although we look normal, we talk normal and we act normal but we aren't. The reason we are special is we move from place to place starting over and make it a normal thing to us. The military child is a special breed and this lifestyle is the thing that sets us apart from regular kids. For we are the military children.

By: Connor Davis

Life as a military child is not as normal kids life and these are reasons why. First I go to school on base which means all the kids there are military kids also so I'm not alone. There is also lots of thing to do like going to the movies. There is also lot of parks on the base. I sometimes also like going to Purdy gym to go to the pool. That is what I like do on base.

I do a lot traveling as a military child and I have lived in many houses. For the first 5 years of my life I live Norfolk that is in the state of Virginia. But when I turned 6 I was going to move to Hampton and I was so happy that I was going to move. Until I went to school there because I did not have any friends so I would hate going to school. Until I became friends with someone named Torell and me and him were best friends. But then my mom told me that we were moving to japan so that made me sad. When we got to Japan the next day I would start my first at a new school and after a week I had lots of friends. This spring break I will also be traveling to Taiwan and I'm sure I will travel more. That is what traveling is like.

With all the good stuff there stuff I don't like that I am very far away from base so it takes very long to get to school. Also I don't like that my friends leave all the time. But the worst thing is having my mom leave like when she had to leave for 8 months.

Those are the reasons I don't like being military child over being a normal kid

By: Jon King



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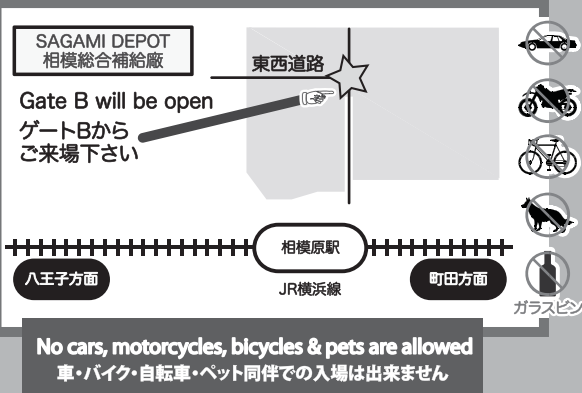
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‘Platinum Week’ is around the corner

Get ready for 10 days of traffic, closures and crowds

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN

If you’ve spent time in Japan, you know cities clear out and airports, train stations and tourist traps are all abuzz from late April to early May. It’s a time of year that presents “golden” opportunities to travel Japan – or to stick close to home and bask in an empty city free from the crowds and mayhem.

Usually, “Golden Week” is held from the last week of April to the first week of May during a string of four consecutive holidays: Showa Day (April 29), Constitution Memorial Day (May 3), Greenery Day (May 4) and Children’s Day (May 5 – celebrated May 6). These national holidays along with the regular weekend make up of one of the longest holiday periods of the year.

This year will be a little different, however, as Japan will celebrate Crown Prince Naruhito’s enthronement on May 1, marking the occasion as a national holiday. Under Japan’s holiday act, April 30 and May 2 will also become holidays. This means Japanese workers and students will get 10 days off consecutively from April 27 to May 6, forming the longest Golden Week ever in the country’s history.

Consequently, due to the extra days, the holiday will be “platinum” instead of “gold” this year.

With such a long public holiday, there are bound to be problems as almost all government buildings and facilities will be closed.

Expect post offices, city halls and other public services, along with daycare facilities for preschoolers and the elderly, to be closed. Most large hospitals will offer emergency services, but outpatient services will be closed. Garbage collection will continue according to normal schedule but check your ward calendar if you live off base.

ATMs will continue to dispense

money but plan ahead as there will be an after-hour charge for the entire holiday. The Japanese media is already predicting confusion at banks and trading on the stock market before and after the holiday shutdown.

As for the crowds, business districts in Tokyo and other large cities are expected to be ghost towns during this period, but tourist attractions will be beyond busy. I would rather stay at home and watch TV, than get exhausted at extremely crowded attractions.

Where are the locals headed in the holidays?

According to Rakuten Travel website, the popular domestic tourist destinations for the coming holiday include Aichi, Tottori, Niigata, Okinawa and Hokkaido Prefectures.

The top three most popular overseas destinations are Hawaii, Taiwan and Vietnam, the site said.

Don’t expect to book a room anywhere either; hotels are often fully booked throughout this time, even at the premium rates set for the holiday.

If you’re looking for some festival action, some of the more famous festivals for the season are Hamamatsu-Matsuri in Shizuoka; Kurayami-Matsuri in Tokyo; Naha Hari in Okinawa; Hakata Dontaku in Fukuoka;



Ceremony of succeeding symbols of imperial authority. Source: Wikipedia

Hirosaki Sakura Matsuri in Aomori; and Odawara Hojo Godai Matsuri in Kanagawa.

Road travelers, beware!

Since Golden Week is one of the most crowded and expensive times to travel, staying within the city may be the best bet. But for those determined to take a road trip – beware!

Heavy traffic is common, both on expressways and general roads, as a result of people traveling to their hometowns or tourist attractions.

According to Japan Traffic Information Center, heavy traffic is expected to peak on various expressways around big cities April 27 and May 4 (outbound) and May 4 and 5 (inbound). For general roads, heavy traffic is expected to peak throughout the weekend.

The heaviest traffic for a general road will be Chita Road in Aichi Prefecture; Route 135 and Manazuru Road in Shizuoka

Prefecture, which accesses the Izu Peninsula. These roads are known to have traffic jams that stretch more than 6 miles long every Golden Week.

So, if you are planning to travel during Golden Week, you better reserve accommodations and transportation before the beginning of period and check traffic information as frequently as possible.

Road Bureau traffic updates are available online.

Why is the holiday so long?

The abdication of Emperor Akihito on April 30 marks the end of the “Heisei” period. The following day, May 1, the new imperial period of “Reiwa” begins with Emperor Naruhito’s enthronement. So, 2019 will be associated as both “Heisei 31” and “Reiwa 1” in the Japanese calendar.

The outgoing Emperor Akihito will receive the title of “Joko,” or

Emperor Emeritus, upon his abdication, and his wife, Empress Michiko will become “Jokogo,” or Empress Emerita.

The new emperor will promulgate his throne domestically and internationally by inviting heads of countries and distinguished guests during a ceremony of “Sokuirei Seiden-no-gi,” or ceremony of enthronement, on Oct. 22, which is also designated as a holiday. On the day, a parade featuring the new emperor and empress, along with a reception with heads of countries and distinguished guests will be conducted.

Abdication and enthronement - Rare opportunity

The series of abdication and enthronement ceremonies, reception and parade are usually broadcast live. These are rare opportunities to take a glimpse at traditional imperial events of the Land of the Rising Sun. Check out what’s in store:

1. Taiirei Seiden-no-gi (Ceremony of Abdication by ongoing Emperor)

Emperor Akihito declares his abdication

TIME: April 30, 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Matsu-no-ma Hall in the imperial palace

PARTICIPANTS: Prime Minister, heads of three branches, local representatives and others (a total of 338 participants)

2. Kenjito Shokei-no-gi (Ceremony of succeeding symbols of imperial authority)

New Emperor will receive “three Sacred Treasures” (the sword, the crescent jewel and the mirror) and imperial stamp seal as symbol of imperial authority.

TIME: May 1, 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Matsu-no-ma Hall in the imperial palace

PARTICIPANTS: Prime Minister, heads of three branches, Diet Members and others (a total of 26 participants)

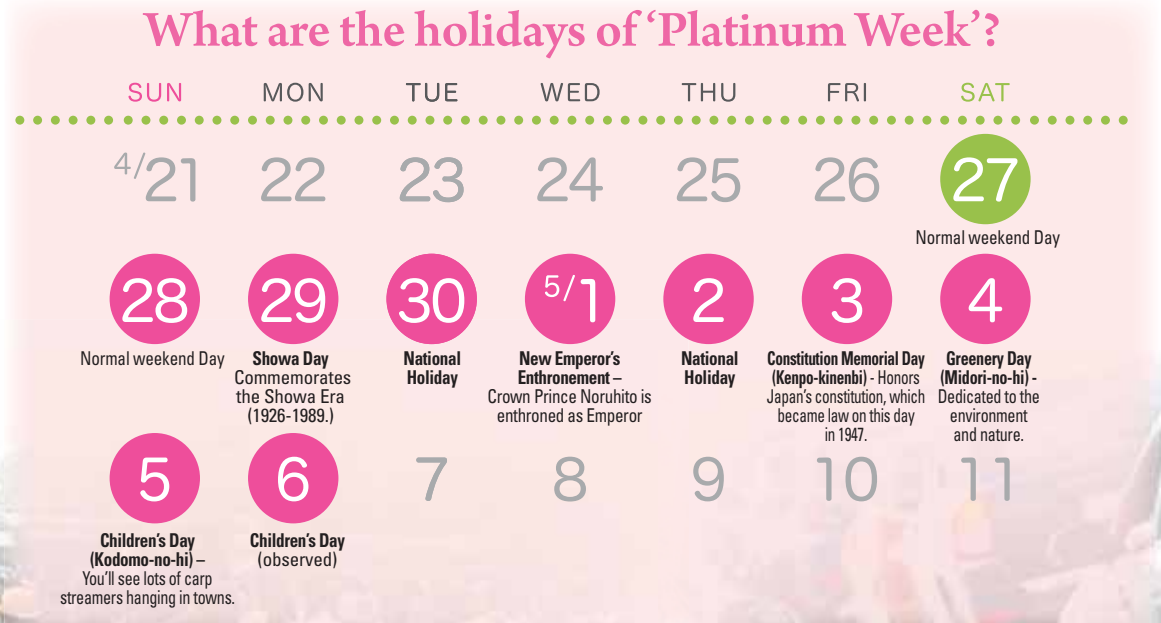
3. Sokuigo Choken-no-gi (Ceremony of new emperor’s first statement)

New Emperor gives his first imperial statement to the people.

TIME: May 1, 11:10 a.m.
LOCATION: Matsu-no-ma Hall in the imperial palace

PARTICIPANTS: Prime Minister, heads of three branches, local representatives and others (a total of 338 participants)

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com



Speakin' Japanese

Golden words

In Japan, a string of four consecutive national holidays sandwiched between two weekends (Apr. 27 to May 6) is simply called Golden Week. If you are out and about during this travel crazy week, here's some ways to strike up a conversation.

"Gooruden uiiku wa dokoka ni dekakemasu ka?" = Are you going anywhere during Golden Week?
("gooruden uiiku" = golden week, "dokoka ni" = for/to anywhere, "dekakemasu" = will go out)

"Hakone ni ikimasu." = I / we will go to Hakone.
("ni ikimasu" = will go to)

"Doobutsuen ni ikimasu." = I / we will go to a zoo.
("doobutsuen" = zoo, "yuuenchi" = amusement park, "umi" = beach, "yama" = mountain)

"Nannichikan yasumemasu ka?" = How many days can you take off?
("nannichikan" = how many days, "yasumemasu" = can take day off)

"Dooyatte sugoshimasu ka?" = How will you spend the period?
("dooyatte" = how, "sugoshimasu" = will spend)

"Ie de terebi wo mimasu." = I will watch TV at home.
("ie de" = at home, "terebi" = TV, "wo mimasu" = will watch)

"Dokomo kondeiru node, ie ni itahooga iidesu yo."
= Since it is crowded everywhere, you had better stay home.
("dokomo" = everywhere, "konde" = is/are crowded, "node" = as, "hooga iidesu" = had better)

"Hidoi juutai desu." = Roads are awfully jammed.
("hidoi" = awfully, "juutai" = heavy traffic)

"Ginkoo ga shimatte imasu." = Banks are closed.
("ginkoo" = bank, "shimatte imasu" = is/are closed)

"Yoyaku de ippai desu." = Rooms are fully booked.
("yoyaku" = reservation, "ippai" = full)

"Ii otenki desu ne?" = It is a beautiful day, isn't it?
("ii otenki" = good weather, "desu ne?" = isn't it?)

"Minasan tanoshisoo desu." = Everyone looks happy.
("minasan" = every one, "tanoshisoo" = looks happy)

"Yoi kyuuajitsu wo." = Have a good holiday.
("yoi" = good, "kyuuajitsu" = holiday(s))

"Mata raishuu." = I will see you again next week.
("mata" = again, "raishuu" = next week)

When on OKINAWA, you can also say it in "Uchinaanguchi" (island dialect) like this:

"Golden Week Ya Nuugana Suru kutoo Ami?" = Do you have plans for Golden Week?

"Wannee Hawaii Nkai Ichibusaa Souibiin." = I want to go to Hawaii.

"Tokyo Sky Tree Nkai Icha biin Dee." = I'm going to go to Tokyo Sky Tree.

"Chaa Yataga, Disney Sea?" = How did you like Disney Sea?

"Wannee Kunu Mise Ippee Shichi." = I like this store very much.

- Shoji Kudaka and Takahiro Takiguchi,
Stripes Japan

Pronunciation key: "A" is short (like "ah"); "E" is short (like "get"); "I" is short (like "it"); "O" is long (like "old"); "U" is long (like "tube"); and "AI" is a long "I" (like "hike"). Most words are pronounced with equal emphasis on each syllable, but "OU" is a long "O" with emphasis on that syllable.

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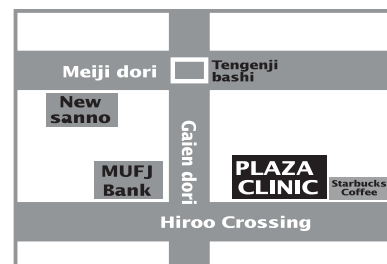
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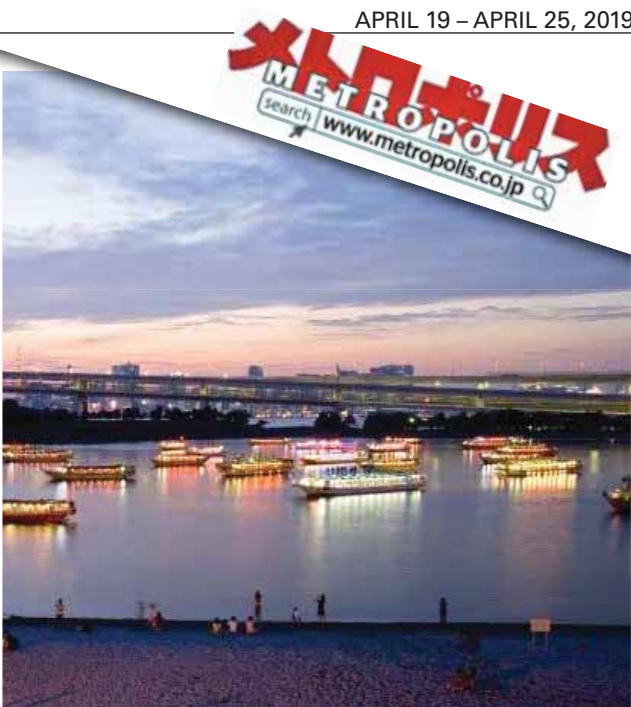
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Best spots for a creative Tokyo date

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JAMES WONG
METROPOLIS MAGAZINE

Romantic moments are completely achievable in the capital with a bit of investigation and a splash of creativity. As we reach optimum temperatures, night falls with glistening stars that set perfect scenes for memorable dates. We uncover some of Tokyo’s best spots after dark, along with date ideas to impress your sweetheart.



Snuggle up with a hot drink on a hidden rooftop



A-Bridge is one of the most adorable hidden gems in the city. Close to Sangenjaya Station, the spot is tucked away in a little alley where a rather scary-looking elevator brings you up to a quaint top-floor café-bar with recycled furniture, stacks of CDs and random art. The roof terrace is decked with wooden benches and the views tower over one of the trendiest parts of West Tokyo. Order a hot chocolate with marshmallows and cosy up with your date while live music echoes from the lounge behind you.



Feast on a night picnic

We’ve all had picnics on sunny days, but have you ever tried one at night? Although Yoyogi Park is packed with tourists during the day, dark skies filter them out at night, making it a perfect spot for a nocturnal picnic. The colorfully-lit fountain area provides a scenic view, so bring a blanket, pack a surprise picnic, and let your date try and guess what they’re eating. There are convenience stores close to most of the park entrances, so don’t forget those beers.

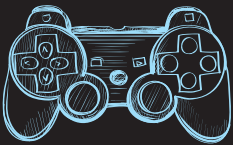


Have an affordable fancy dinner

A stunning rooftop restaurant with amazing food and drinks doesn’t have to cost a week’s salary, even in uber-cool Daikanyama. Hacienda del Cielo is a popular Mexican restaurant on the 9th floor of the Mansard Daikanyama building. This place gets busy, so it’s best to make a reservation, although it may be possible to get a table out on the heated terrace late at night on a weekday without one. The view is fantastic, including a distantly-lit Tokyo Tower. Food options include Mexican classics such as tacos, fajitas and quesadillas, with delicious cocktails and frozen margaritas. A glass of sangria comes in at a very reasonable ¥500 and small ‘Platillos’ dishes range between ¥300 and ¥500 each.

Bike ride through lights

Nakano is often left out of Tokyo travel guides, meaning this neighbourhood is generally backpack- and selfie-stick-free. But that’s not to say that it doesn’t carry an abundance of attractions: biking through Nakano, whizzing through its wide streets under neon lights, and stopping at some of its delicious eateries and dessert vendors, all makes for a perfect date. In Nakano you’ll find Daily Chico, famous for their eight-layer soft-serve ice cream that’s perfect for sharing. The shop can be found in Nakano Broadway, a 13-level complex of commercial fun (imagine a cooler Akihabara). At night you can take your lover on a tour of the local area, including the enchanting Nakano 3-chome area lined with fairy lights and cute little restaurants and bars, before releasing a bit of steam in one of the many karaoke joints.



Play games all night

Gamer geek or not, a night of retro Super Nintendo is pretty good fun for anyone, and a way to break the ice on a first date. The 8bit Café is concealed on the fifth floor of a shabby building by Shinjuku-sanchome Station, and inside it’s video game heaven. The walls are covered floor-to-ceiling in ‘80s and ‘90s gaming memorabilia with a giant Game Boy centerpiece. Battle out over Mario Kart with your competitive partner, fuelled by highballs, and afterwards skip through the lights of buzzing Shinjuku downstairs. Menchie’s Frozen Yogurt is a nice pit stop during your explorations and is open until 11pm.



Watch the sunset surrounded by art

The Mori Art Museum is open until 10pm every evening except Tuesdays, and there is a quiet café in the City View Observation Deck area to watch the sun go down. After exploring this fascinating museum of modern art, take a stroll over to the Mori Garden — a quiet hideaway between the buildings of Roppongi Hills. Around Christmas time, the garden and surrounding areas are illuminated with twinkling lights.



Admire a nighttime rainbow

They don’t make bridges much prettier at night than the Odaiba Rainbow Bridge. The 798-meter suspension bridge runs from Shibaura Pier to the Odaiba waterfront, and you can actually walk along it during the day. From sunset to midnight, the bridge lights up in a series of rainbow colors using energy-saving non-electrode lamps, and boats pass underneath. Enjoy these scenes from the seaside park, or, if you’re feeling brave, take a dip together in the cold water.



Shop 'til you drop at Tokyo Midtown Hibiya

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
IGNATIUS KOH,
JAPAN TRAVEL

GETTING THERE

Take the Tokyo Metro to Hibiya, Yurakucho, or Ginza stations, or the JR Yamanote Line to Yurakucho station.

At 35 floors high, the complex has shops located from the first basement floor to the seventh floor, while corporate offices occupy the remaining floors. Inside, the mall gives off a glamorous air with its pristine white walls and spacious lobby. Designed to give an air of elegance to the place, Tokyo Midtown Hibiya exudes comfort to shoppers.

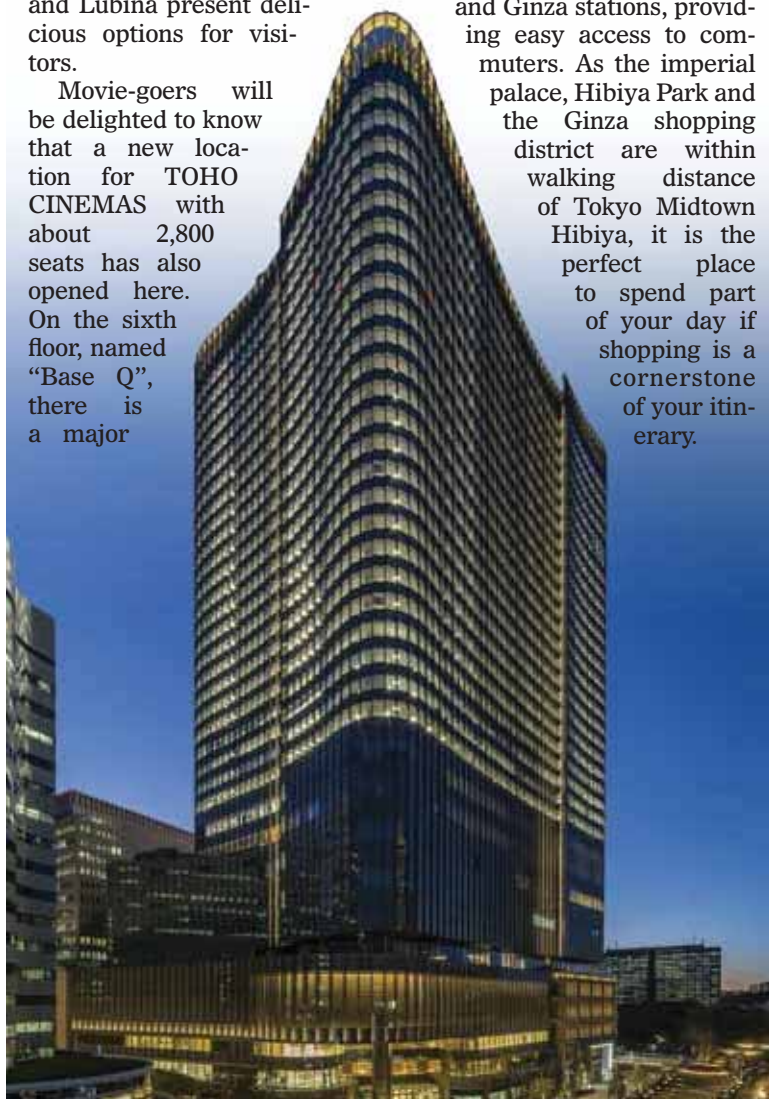
Premium brands such as Ishida Watch Galleria, The North Face, and Quorinest are part of the bespoke line-up that Tokyo Midtown Hibiya offers, making it a choice stop for many. Not to be outdone by retail outlets, restaurants in the complex serve Japanese, Chinese, Italian, and French cuisine, among others. Established dining places like Sushi Namba, Kikuya Tokyo, and Lubina present delicious options for visitors.

Movie-goers will be delighted to know that a new location for TOHO CINEMAS with about 2,800 seats has also opened here. On the sixth floor, named "Base Q", there is a major

conference hall, a lounge and a cafe that serve as meeting points for businessmen. Outside, there is a garden terrace to bask in the sunshine.

Tokyo Midtown Hibiya's architecture was inspired by the Rokumeikan, a now-demolished building that once symbolized Tokyo's Westernization. The building stands out with its curved faces among the surrounding straight-edged skyscrapers, and is surely to become the newest landmark in Hibiya.

Visitors will find it a convenient place to stroll about as the complex is directly linked to the Hibiya, Yurakucho, and Ginza stations, providing easy access to commuters. As the imperial palace, Hibiya Park and the Ginza shopping district are within walking distance of Tokyo Midtown Hibiya, it is the perfect place to spend part of your day if shopping is a cornerstone of your itinerary.



MISAWA YOKOSUKA ATSUGI ZAMA YOKOTA FUJI IWAKUNI SASEBO OKINAWA MISAWA YOKOSUKA

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- 5nights stay at Royal On the Park Brisbane
- Breakfast x4
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A peaceful stroll in Sainokawara Park

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PETRA,
DEEPLYJAPAN.ORG

Kusatsu Onsen is a small town tucked away in the mountains. Within a few blocks of downtown, you can end up surrounded by nature. This is best on display at Sainokawara Park, home to one of Kusatsu's most popular open-air baths.

This picturesque park, which showcases the best blossoms and foliage of each season, is just a short walk from the Yubatake – simply follow the signs along Sainokawara Street and you'll journey along a cobblestone road lined with shops selling crafts and sweets

as well as restaurants until you end up at the park.

Admission to the grounds

is free and upon entering, you're greeted

by the sounds of the rushing water. Feel free to bend down and dip your fingers into the turquoise water and feel its natural warmth. As you make your way up the hill on the winding path, pass a shrine and then the foot bath comes into view. Taking a break here is a welcome respite for tired feet, surrounded by beautiful scenery. I could only imagine how tranquil it must be in the colder months, the steam rising from the water as snow blankets the trees and ground.

The open-air bath at Sainokawara Park is 500 square meters in size and provides panoramic views of the landscape as you enjoy a soak. For 600 yen, adults can enjoy a dip in the onsen and for 300, children may enter.

There is one thing to keep in mind about this beautiful place during your visit – a legend, in fact. It's said a demon resides within Sainokawara Park, which is why guests should remain quiet while enjoying its grounds, to avoid stirring it. Perhaps that was why it was so peaceful . . .



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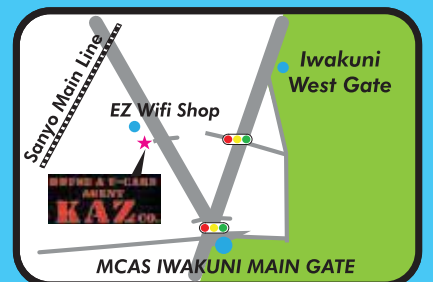
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JAPAN TRAVEL

Visitors to Iwakuni's famous Kintai Bridge should consider traveling just a bit farther south to Yanai. The city of Yanai is famous for its small, picturesque district filled with historic white-walled merchant homes, all of which are decorated in red paper goldfish lanterns. It is a perfect destination for those who want a quiet 'time-slip' into Japan's past.

After a short five minute walk from Yanai Station down Retro-dori and across the Yanai River, visitors soon find themselves at the Shirakabe-no-machinami, a 200 meter-long street reminiscent of the Edo Era. Walking to the left, the recommended first stop is a tour of the residence of the Kunimori Family. Eighth generation Kunimori-san still lives in the back of the home. His lovely wife leads visitors around in a combination of English and Japanese - her explanations are some of the best I've ever encountered in a historic home in Japan.

Detour off the main street and walk up to the Sagawa Shoyu-gura where soy sauce has been made the old-fashioned way for almost 200 years. Take a close look at the giant vats where shoyu is being made, try some samples, and be sure to take

some home with you!

Across from Sagawa is the Yanai Nishigura, a giant warehouse-turned cultural space. In addition to free, ever-changing art exhibits, visitors can try their hand at a variety of traditional workshops - making paper goldfish lanterns, weaving cloth coasters, or dyeing handkerchiefs.

Stop for cake & coffee at Namban, a cafe hidden down a narrow alley in another traditional warehouse; or visit Hiramoto for a tasty bowl of ramen or their specialty, chanpon - noodle soup filled with vegetables and a touch of pork & seafood.

Back to the right and just across Retro-dori is Muroya-no-sono, which was once the residence of the wealthy Oda family. This property is now a huge folklore museum filled with treasures. Although there are no English explanations, most items are self-explanatory and the compound itself is really impressive.

Shopping is something to save for the end of your visit. Stop in Kijiyaya to purchase some popular Japanese & Western-style cakes and sweets. The shop also has a wide selection of souvenirs,

including pottery. Also be sure to pick up some nure sembei (hand-baked rice crackers) at Murakami Shoten before checking out Kisaka Showbundo's collection of wonderful goldfish-themed souvenirs and Tsutsumiya's handmade paper goods.

If at all possible, stay in Yanai into the evening. Everything closes, the street goes completely quiet, and the red goldfish lanterns light up. If you are ready for dinner, be sure to eat at the 'Dining & Bar Kiraku'. Yoshimi-san, the proprietor, is very friendly, speaks great English, and is an excellent cook. The menu offers a variety of choices including seafood, pasta, and some tasty chicken dishes.

Yanai is about 35 minutes from both Iwakuni and Tokuyama Stations on a scenic, seaside train line.



Be sure to stay until dark to see the lighting of the goldfish.



Vats of soy sauce brewing in the Sagawa Shoyu-gura



Take your time and explore the historic buildings within Muroya-no-sono. Photos courtesy of Sandra Isaka



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GUU, PAA, CHOKI!

Janken is Japan's rock, paper, scissors

BY HASHI
TOFUGU.COM

If you've ever needed help making a small decision like who gets the last piece of pizza or who gets to ride shotgun, you're probably more than familiar with the game of rock, paper, scissors.

But you might not know how big rock, paper, scissors is in Japan. Turns out that rock, paper, scissors – or as it's known in Japan, janken – was big in Japan before anybody in the West had ever even heard of it.

Like kanji, fireworks, and General Tsao's chicken, rock, paper, scissors was actually created in China. The game was created around the time of Christ, but stayed in China for hundreds of years. It wasn't until the 1700s that it made its way over to Japan.

The rest, as they say, is history. Janken, in the ensuing years, became incredibly popular in Japan and today, pretty much everybody in Japan knows how to play. You could walk up to any child in Japan and he/she would be immediately ready to throw down in a game of janken.

Make no mistake though: janken isn't just used for schoolyard disputes. Virtually everybody in Japan plays janken to solve disputes or make decisions.

Pop group AKB48 has held janken tournaments to determine which of the young ladies appear on the group's next single. Competition is fierce, and the tournaments can run for several hours.

Janken was once even used in an international, multimillion dollar art deal.

The most expensive game of rock, paper, scissors

Janken isn't just used by the Japanese to see who pays for the beer or whose turn it is to clean the dishes; it can also be

used for expensive, high-stakes decisions.

In 2005, a Japanese businessman decided to auction off his art collection which included masterpieces from renowned European artists like Cézanne, Picasso, and van Gogh.

But he ran into a bit of a snag when it came time to decide which of the world's two most famous auction houses, Christie's and Sotheby's, would get the rights to auction off his magnificent collection.

So how did this businessman make his decision? He made the two auction houses compete in a game of janken.

The two auction houses spent a week-end strategizing, planning their one, critical move; and on Monday, the competition

took place. The New York Times paints a picture of the scene:

Instead of the usual method of playing the game with the hands, the teams were given a form explaining the rules. They were then asked to write one word in Japanese – rock, paper or scissors – on the paper.

After each house had entered its decision, a Maspro manager looked at the choices. Christie's was the winner: scissors beat paper.

"We were told immediately and then asked to go downstairs to another room and wait, while the forms went off to headquarters to be approved," Mr. Rendell said. He described the atmosphere in the room as "difficult," saying both sides were forced to "make small talk."

HOW TO PLAY

Janken is played pretty similarly to the way most people play rock, paper, scissors in the US: you use one of three moves to beat your opponent. Rock breaks scissors, scissors cuts paper, and paper covers rock.

Obviously in Japan though, they use different terminology. Here's a handy table:

English	Romaji	Japanese
Rock	Guu	guu
Paper	Paa	paa
Scissors	Choki	choki

The differences don't stop there. There's a whole special ritual to janken that's a little different than what I'm used to in the US.

1. Both players start by saying "Saisho wa guu" (saishohagu 最初(さいしょ)はぐう) or "Starting with rock," and holding out a closed fist.
2. Each says "janken pon!" and throw out their move, whether it's rock, paper, or scissors.
3. If there's a tie (both players choose the same move), both players say "Aiko desho!" (aiko 相子(あいこ)相子), or "It seems like a tie!" and keep going in rapid-fire succession until somebody finally wins. But it doesn't stop there. There are tons of variants to janken, some more violent than others.

But while janken has served as a cornerstone of the decision-making process for centuries, that era may soon be coming to an end.

Has japan solved rock, paper, scissors?

A Japanese university has recently invented a robot that beats humans every time in rock, paper, scissors. That's right, it has a 100% winrate. Say what?

How does it do it? It's pretty simple: the robot uses a camera to quickly read what its opponent's move is going to be, and reacts at the last possible second.

What happens when two of these robots play against each other? An infinite tie? Would the universe implode? Nobody can know for sure.

But I can say this: until somebody makes a portable janken robot available to the masses, janken will remain a cultural staple in Japan.

Just remember, the next time that you're challenged to a game of janken to decide who buys the next round, don't pick rock.



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Stripes Sports Trivia

Who was the first player, after a record-breaking season in which he led his team to an NBA-record 73 wins and set an individual record of 402 three-pointers (smashing his own previous league record of 286 set the year before), in NBA history to be elected league MVP by a unanimous vote?

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DID YOU KNOW?

The three most important holidays in Japan are o-shogatsu (Jan. 1-3), o-bon (Aug. 13-15) and Golden Week (Apr. 27 – May 6 this year). Traditionally, during these weeks, Japanese go back to their hometowns to spend some time with their relatives. This means even more people on the roads. So, consider this your warning, as traffic will be worse than usual during this time.

Kanji of the week 休

kyu or yasu (Rest/day off)

Language Lesson

Feel free.

Okigaru ni.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- Iron follower
- On a trip, maybe
- "Ghostbusters" goo
- One of 24
- Learned one
- Pavarotti, e.g.
- Make aware
- Finish with
- Visibly embarrassed
- Protests
- Title derived from Caesar
- Gin's partner
- Painful sound
- "When pigs fly!"
- Hang in there
- Duo quadrupled
- Like many stadiums
- Roof stuff
- Falling-out
- Party staple
- Without warmth
- Bud holder?
- Like some milk
- Windchime spot, often
- Break in half
- Tony or Hugo
- Raven's haven
- Rustic abode
- Camera setting
- Cloth shred
- Asphyxiate
- Upper crust
- Aristocrat
- Romantic one
- Yours and mine
- Dead against
- Bad looks
- Seemingly forever
- Adam of "Batman" fame

DOWN

- "Moonstruck" star
- Kind of wolf
- Word sung on 12/31
- Floating fish catcher
- Depth charge, slangily
- Like some drinks
- Got mellow
- Asian capital?
- Ale holder
- Soup legume
- Signifying, with "of"
- Phobos, to Mars
- Coastal raptors
- Tank filler
- Miffed
- It's measured in degrees
- Painting
- Grandma
- Indian, for one
- Good-looking
- "Behold!"
- Red tag events
- Secret rendezvous
- AAA service
- Bite the dust
- Vatican dogma
- It'll grow on you
- Pitter-_____
- Coercion
- Bar orders
- Caps Lock neighbor
- Come clean
- Natural soother
- Slimy garden pest
- Auctioneer's last word
- A whole bunch
- Trim to fit, maybe
- Feathered stole

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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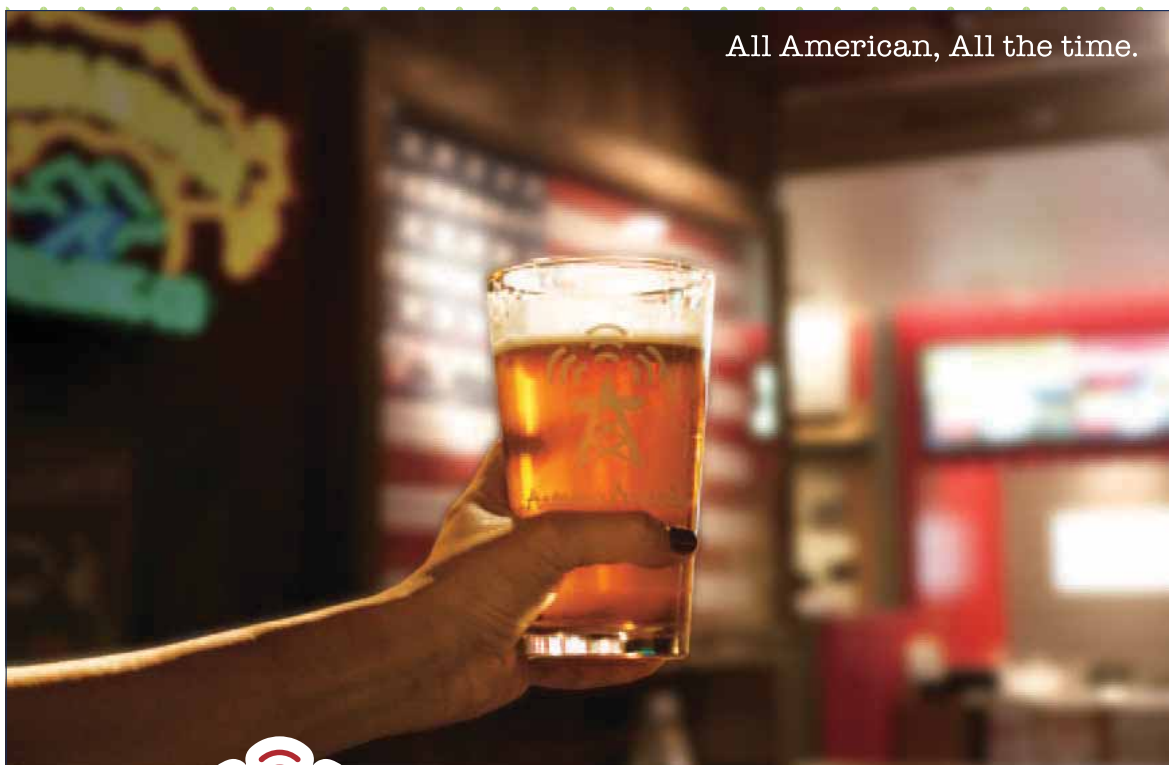


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A SHORT HISTORY OF JAPANESE CHEESECAKE

From ancient Olympic superfood to fuwa-fuwa fandom

BY JESSICA THOMPSON,
METROPOLIS MAGAZINE

The top of a mountain is generally not the place you expect to eat some of best cheesecake of your life, particularly not the top of a mountain in Japan. Yet this was exactly what happened on a day trip to Mount Takao just outside of Tokyo, when I stumbled on cheesecake shop Tenguya, conveniently nestled by the cable car back to ground level. Tenguya sells crispy pastry tarts filled with a creamy, light and fluffy cheesecake centre akin to taking a bite out of the mountain's surrounding clouds.

This light and fluffy mousse-like form (affectionately known as “fuwa-fuwa” in Japanese onomatopoeia) is typical of the cheesecake varieties native to Japan. While nothing about cheesecake may seem typically Japanese — dairy, cake — it's a modern staple in cafes, bakeries, patisseries, specialty shops, convenience stores and dessert menus across Japan. Several cheesecake tart chains, like BAKE and PABLO, are renowned for attracting around-the-block queues for their stores, both nationally and internationally.

There are two main types of Japanese cheesecake, both the result of a slight re-modelling to fit local tastes — lighter, less sweet and delightfully lower in calories. The Japanese “souffle” cheesecake is a baked variety, but differs from a traditional New York-style baked cheesecake

by incorporating a meringue egg white batter to the cream cheese mixture, which is cooked in a bain-marie to produce a soft, chiffon-like consistency. It may or may not have a molten center, depending on the cooking time, and is also sometimes topped with a smear of apricot jam. Japan also has its own take on the Western unbaked cheesecake, known as “rare” cheesecake. This version uses a setting agent, like agar-agar or gelatin, and a base of cream cheese and yogurt rather than cream, giving it a sour tang.

To reach this point of distinction and global following, Japanese cheesecake traversed the globe, went through many iterations, and overcame challenges in culinary predispositions. Its history is therefore relatively brief — around 40 years — considering the cheesecake's history of over 2000 years. The oldest record of cheesecake is credited to the writer Athenaeus in 230 AD, but records from as far back as 776 BC note it being fed to players of the Olympic Games to provide stamina for tired bodies.

Archaeological findings show this version as cheesecake made from flour, wheat, honey and cheese, and was more of a pudding-style number. Romans spread the Greek cheesecake across Europe, with the modern baked-style cheesecake thought to have its origins in medieval



Poland, and was a mixture of cottage cheese, creme patissiere, lightly fermented raw milk and fresh cheeses. Polish immigrants took this cake with them to the US, then after the invention of cream cheese in New York in 1872, cheesecake recipes featuring cream cheese began to appear.

Meanwhile in Japan, the recently-established Meiji government was encouraging the adoption of foreign foods, with a recipe book published in 1873 making the first mention of cheesecake — albeit a mixture of cheese and rice rather than a Western-regarded “cake.” But as traditional Japanese palates of the time found cheese particularly noisome, the cake was not readily adopted. It wasn't until the postwar period, when American forces stationed in Japan had brought with them American-baked cheesecake, along with other foreign flavors and foods, that tastes started to evolve. During the early Showa Period, soft cottage cheese and cream cheeses were introduced to Japan, and began appearing as a novel ingredient in traditional confectionary, which grew in consumption with the introduction of electric refrigerators in the home during the

the cake's popularity across the country. In the late 1980s, more desserts featuring cheese-like tiramisu and cheese-filled steamed buns began to appear and solidify the place of cheese in Japanese cuisine. Since the 1990s, the appetite for, and availability of, cheesecake has been widespread across Japan.

If climbing a mountain for cheesecake isn't your thing, PABLO has its largest store in Harajuku, also serving up flavors like matcha with red beans in addition to a traditional plain cheesecake, and letting customers decide whether they want their cheese tarts taken out of the oven a little earlier, for an oozy centre, or baked a little longer for a mousse-like centre. BAKE, which uses three different cheeses in their cheesecake tarts — one from Hakodate in Hokkaido — can be found in various parts of Tokyo. Otherwise, there are many other chains, cheesecake-selling cafes, and even regular old konbinis where you can sample the soft and fuwa-fuwa delight of Japanese cheesecake.





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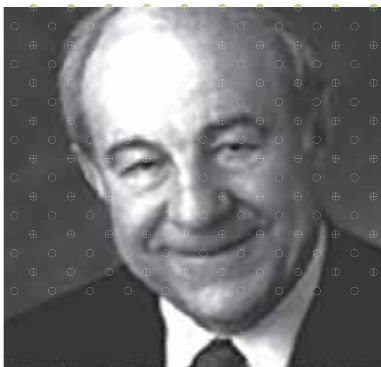
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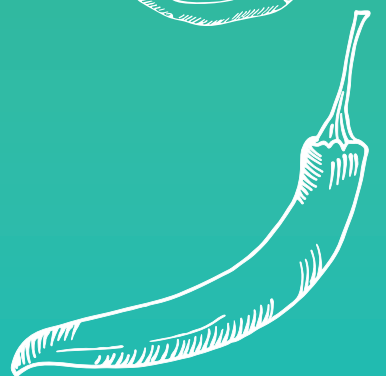


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