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Community Publication

JAPAN

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MARCH 20 – MARCH 26, 2020

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FREE

To our readers:

Due to the coronavirus, many events have been canceled. Parks, museums, restaurants and other high-traffic areas may also be closed. As we monitor the conditions, Stripes Japan will continue to provide you culture and travel stories. However, please check for updates at Stripes.com, Stripesjapan.com and event websites. The purpose of Stripes Japan is to get you off base and explore. But in the current climate, your safety and that of your family's is our No. 1 concern. Please follow instructions from base leadership concerning off-base activities.

– Stripes Japan staff

Coronavirus:
Facts, prevention and care

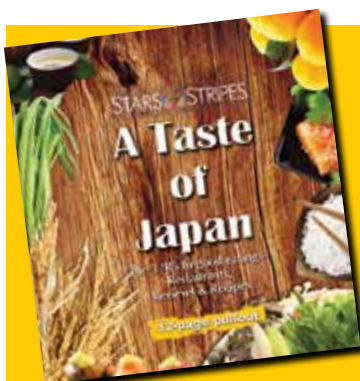


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STORES**
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**FINDING ZEN
AND HISTORY**
PAGE 18



**Special 12-page
pullout inside!**

**Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child**

I am from the fallen

By Tuana Turnbull,
4th Grade, Humphreys West Elementary School

I am from campsites,
From ranches and Disney World.
I am from the Gold Star under a hero's watchful eye,
It smelled like the Home of the Brave
I am from the fallen
The warfighter
Whose respect and sacrifice I remember
As my own.

I am from the white and black,
From Nesli and Lyle.
I am from the honorable families
And the gatherings of
remembrance,
From "Stay aware!" and "I love you."
I am from the past
With a piano future
And ten songs on those ebony and ivory keys
I can play myself.

I'm from the breeze and the pastel,
Bluebonnets and mountains.
From the memories lost to his courage.
To the jar used to keep my family.
Under my bed was a bugle spilling taps.
A star of gold
To drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments -
Flashed before my dreams.
I see a leaf falling from the family tree.

Note: We know it's not April yet, but this year you have started the **Month of the Military Child** with a bang!
We have so many submissions, we are publishing them early to get as many in as possible.
So, please join us as we celebrate the star members of our military community!

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Sullivans Elementary School

Mr. Cox

**1st
grade**

Editor's Note: Mr. Cox is extremely proud of
his group of talented 1st-graders.
Folks, take a look at their wonderful
drawings and words!



Aria



Luca



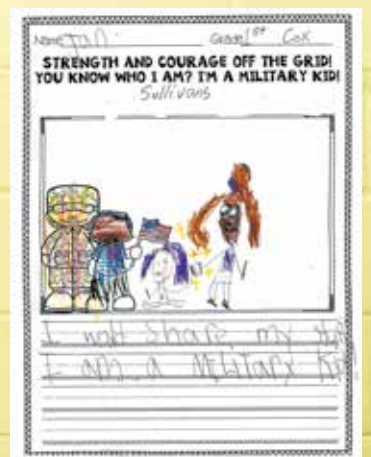
Juria



Dallas



Janden



Jan

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Japanese Wine, Beer and Whisky!
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APR 25 SAT
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Includes tour, lunch, education and exploration.
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The New Sanno Presents
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THE NEW SANNO




 Celebrating Month of the Military Child


 1st
grade

Sullivans Elementary School

Mrs. Kelly

Editor's Note: The students in Mrs. Kelly's class are proud of their parents and what they do. Kids, they are proud of you, too!



Hayden



Christian



Mason



Liam



Emily



Damen



Drake



Naomi



Zoe



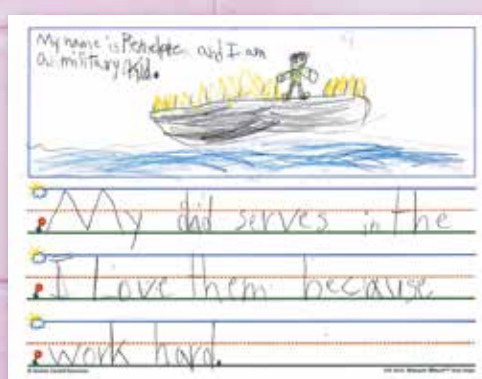
Sean



Bryce



Camaya



Penelope



Ahmyah

Send your Month of the Military
Child submission to
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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

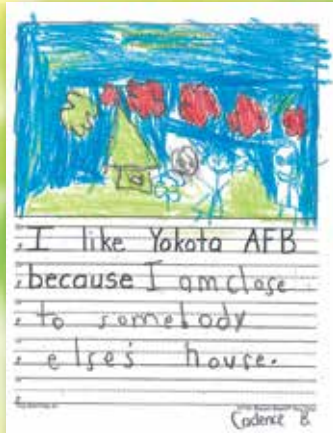
Yokota West Elementary School

Kindergarten Mrs. Bloom

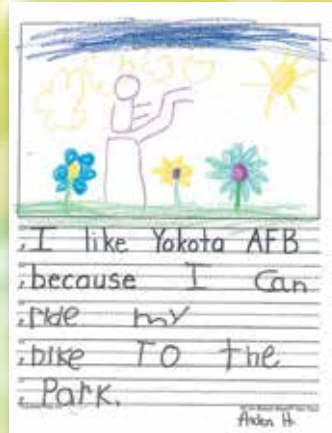
Editor's Note: The youngsters in Mrs. Bloom's class did an awesome job! Keep working hard, kids!



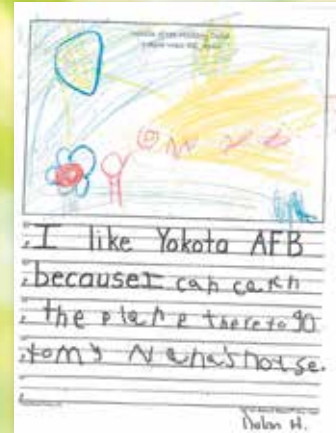
Abel H



Cadence B



Alden H



Dylan H



John W



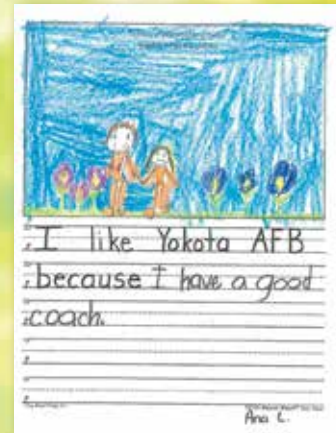
Matthew B



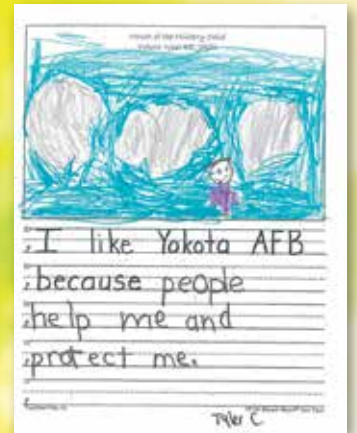
Holly H



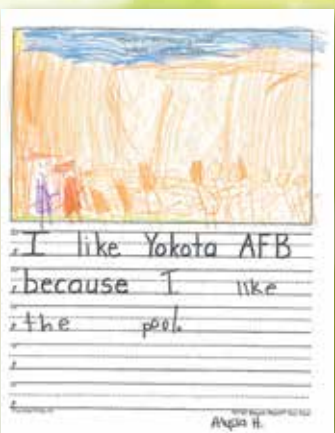
Avalise N



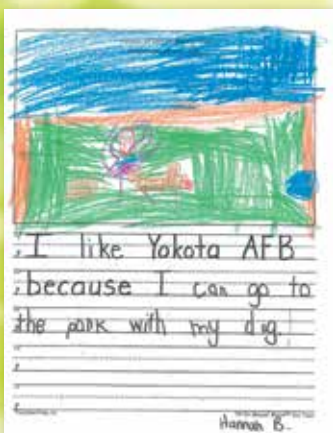
Ana L



Tyler C



Alyssa H



Hannah B



Brionne M



Kori W



Aveah H

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

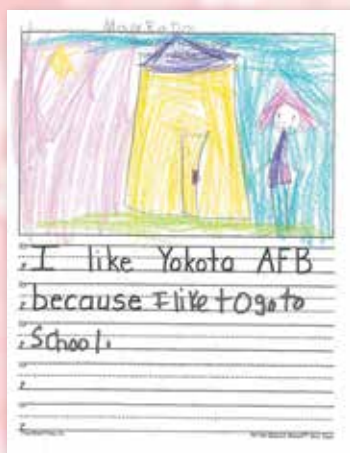
Yokota West Elementary School

Kindergarten Mrs. Moer

Editor's Note: Mrs. Moer's sharp students had a super time working on this special project. Great job, kids!



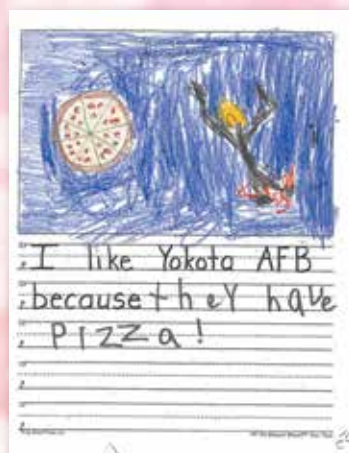
Venezia



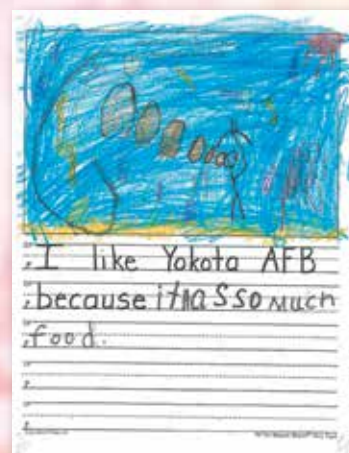
Macy



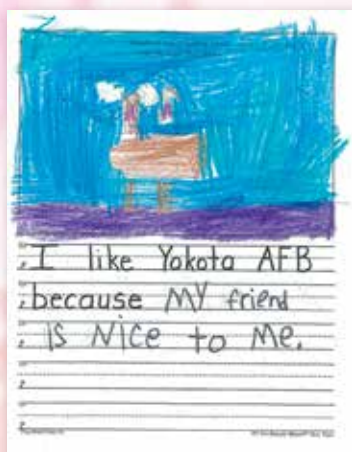
Gemma



Anthony



Brady



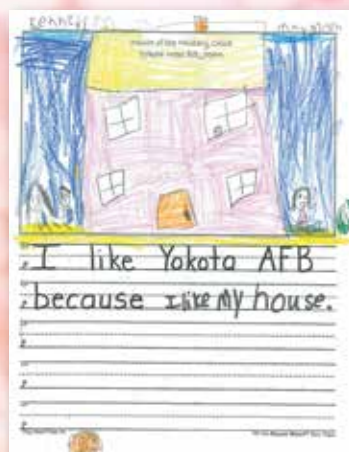
Elizabeth



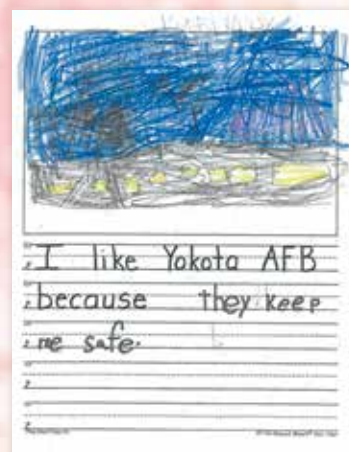
Jimmy



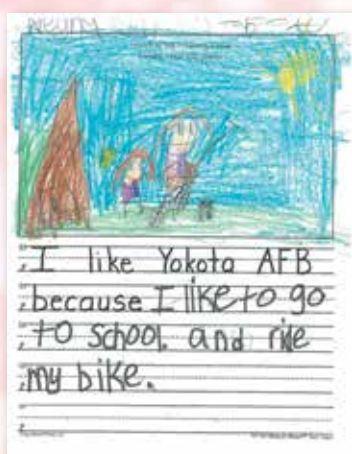
Malaya



Kennedy



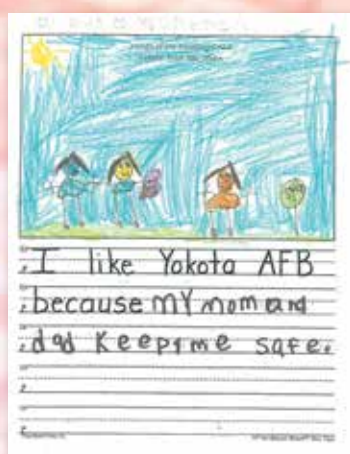
London



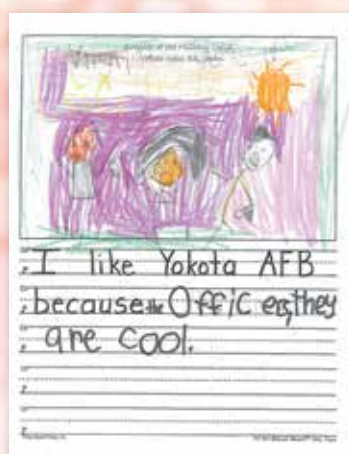
Aleyna



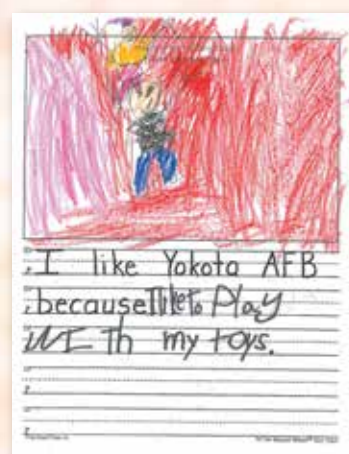
Matthew



Brooke



Valerie



Finnley

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Yokota Middle School

Mr. Whipple

7th Grade

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Editor's Note: Matt Whipple's students have a lot to say. So, sit down and give their short stories a read. Kids, thanks for sharing your thoughts!

“It is an honor to be a military child because I know that my parents who are in the U.S. ARMY are helping this country to help make this a better place,” Aneshka Malave says with pride. I also try to help this place by being respectful, asking how I can help, having a smile every day and saying good morning because that can make someone's day. There was this one time in Germany, K-town there was this teacher and she was tall with black hair and big glasses. She was always mad like a gorilla, but when I smile and said good morning, she would smile, and her smile was as bright as the sun. I'm also very grateful because I have a roof top under my head and great food, which many kids don't have so, I hope that those kids get the privilege to have and do the things I'm able to do. That's one reason why I'm so grateful to be a military child. I love going to places too like France, Germany and much more. I want to say thanks to all those soldiers who sacrifice their lives every day and in other ways. So, I'm proud to say and call myself a military child.

- Aneshka Malave

While back in time, I lived in a beautiful, big house in Belleville, Illinois. This house had everything! Its walls were a dark, deep gray and the front windows overlooked the lush garden in the front of the house. The backyard was large and bright green during the summer from soft grass. One day, in this house, my family and I were going to eat dinner, an assortment of Japanese food. We normally did not have Japanese food, but that was what my mom brought home that day. Mom, who was tall, loving, and had blondish - brown hair, started taking all the food in styrofoam boxes out. All my siblings' eyes as well as mine lit up. There were dumplings, noodles, sushi, and eggrolls galore. The thing was, all the chairs had their specified owners except one empty one who's owner was not there. Its owner was my dad. He was away on a trip soon to figure out where we were moving in the summer. Terra, my older sister with brown curly hair, dove into the food first, ignoring the empty chair. She has always been the one who craves the taste of Japanese culture right on her tongue. About halfway through the meal, our bellies about to explode from so much food, my mom called my dad so we could talk to him. The phone rang three times. Ring! Ring! Ring! Finally I heard the voice I had missed for so long. It was my dad's voice, calm, soothing, and kind. I was

listening intently when suddenly my ears picked up, “We're moving to Japan!” My jaw dropped. I felt like I was falling down a waterfall as fast as the speed of light, the cold water splashing my face, and my belly feeling filled with excitement. I knew that life had hit its excitement peak and there were going to be many adventures to come. Being a military child had never been better.

- Brisa Mills

It's sort of ok. My family and I have to move every 3 years, which is the exact time as soon as I get settled in. But then I get to travel to new places like California, Japan, Guam, and Germany. Also there are bonuses like free dental care, slightly reduced taxes and no hospital bills. And when you say, “Oh, no I can't pay for these overly expensive reading glasses!”. Guess what? Free eye wear, too! And also there are bonuses for living on a military base like free heating, no electric bills, free running water, free base housing, and every time something breaks, the base mechanics come and fix it (eventually). But then there are downsides to living on base such as, no airsoft, the base police are really “jumpy”, you have to bring your military ID everywhere to do anything, and the fruit is horrible overseas. Then again, we are totally safe (I think). That is my experience of a military lifestyle.

- Nate Frazee

For me, living in Hawaii was if living in a good dream. My parents, sister, and I equally loved Hawaii. From the food to the culture, it was if my family hit the jackpot. Hawaii was the best for me, and in the time there, we as a family made many good memories. But, in the military, as time goes by, you, too, must go. Like the seeds of a dandelion, we must plant ourselves somewhere new. As for me only being seven, I just thought it was an extended vacation. “Muscat, Oman” were the words the pilot said when we landed. We then went to our house, knowing that this was a new beginning. A new hello.

- Maui Marquez

My family and I lived in Japan, and being a military child isn't that bad. My name is Jai Fitzgerald Bailey and I was born in Yokosuka, Japan, and then 4 years later we moved to Yokota, Japan. When my family and I were packing, my sisters were sad because they had to leave their friends, but I wasn't sad because I didn't have any friends because I didn't care about making any friends because I had my dog. Then My parents said “we're not taking Sierra with us” and I was sad. I ask “why do we have to leave her I don't want to leave her” my

mom said “Because I don't think we can take dogs to Yokota” I said “WHY” my mom said “Because I said so” so then we left our dog in Yokosuka. The first day of my new school I made my one best friend named Kenzi. I would always ask my mom saying “Hey mom, can Kenzi come over to play” my mom would say yes or no. Then in 2nd grade Kenzi moved and I was very sad because there was nothing I could do and it felt like my heart was going to fall out of my body. Being a military child isn't bad but, when your friend is and had to leave it is sad.

- Jai Fitzgerald Bailey

When my mom told me that “We're going to move to Tokyo,” I was surprised. Back then, my family and I had been living in Aomori, Misawa for around four years. Misawa was WAY different from Tokyo. After all, it was not a large city. I don't even remember it having a mall. In winter, pure white snow would cover everything like a blanket, and it would be hard to get around places in Misawa. I had heard about Tokyo, and downtown Tokyo, about how there were LOTS of people there, and that there were tall buildings that looked like it reached the sky, that I have probably never seen before. I was excited. On the other hand, though, there were some tough changes for me. Until moving here, I had gone to Japanese speaking schools; Japanese kindergarten, and Elementary school up until around half of second grade. I was told that I would be going to an English speaking school after moving, so I started getting a bit anxious in the pit of my stomach. On my last day of school, I said goodbye to the friends and teachers that I met there, it was sad, and upsetting. It was also my first time moving, where I actually knew what was happening. That day was a good day with the sun shining into the windows of the car. I remember my mom, again, telling me about Yokota Air Base, she told me “The base that we're moving to is a place where there is a cross road, “ and that got me even more excited. The trip on the road took my family and I about 2 days, stopping at a hotel in between. As we got closer, there began to be more cars, and a little more buildings. Moving here, Yokota Air Base was a big change for me, but also really exciting!!

- Aoi Brinker

The first time I moved I was in El Paso, Texas. I was living in El Paso for my whole life, but I moved to Japan. My mom told my siblings and I that we were moving to Japan and when she did, I felt like my heart skip 3 beats. I've never thought that I'd move to Japan. But when I did it wasn't as bad as I'd thought it would be, but I've been to many other places like Guam, Germany and Hawaii, so I was used to going places out of state for my mom's job. I really

find it interesting being a military child. Living in a lot of places or going to a lot of places is pretty cool because I get to experience what it's like to travel a lot.

- Leanna Flores

I feel like being a military-connected child is hard. I remember my mom and dad picking my brother Paul and I up from school. My parents took all of us to a frozen yogurt shop called Yo-Tea-Go. My mother said “How would you guys feel about moving to Japan?” at first I thought she was joking. Then I realized she was serious, my heart stopped. I had never moved before let alone overseas. My brother and I both agreed that we would be fine with it. After we moved I was very sad I had lived my whole life in Clovis New Mexico, that's what I called home. I was also sad because I had left all my friends which were the people I grew up with. One hard thing about moving to Japan was the culture shock. Nobody in my family knew what to expect and no one spoke Japanese. After a while though we grew used to living here in Japan. I still miss my friends and New Mexico but I'm glad we moved to Japan.

- Jessica Franks

There was a time in 2017 when my dad had told me, “Hey, kiddo, I have to tell you something”. At this point I already knew something crazy was about to go down. We went outside and sat on the porch and he told me that we were moving to Japan. My mind was filled with so many thoughts, I didn't know whether to be sad, mad, happy, thrilled or scared. That day, I went into my room and thought to myself, “All the friends and places and people I've met are gonna be gone.” I felt like I could cry water bags. Two months later were packing up ready to leave. The day felt gloomy, the sun was gone, clouds filled the sky, no one outside, not even the kids that usually play in their lawn. It was a sad day. We went to the airport and got on the plane and all I can see is the place I felt welcomed, secure. But most of all, Loved. Being a military child isn't the best, but it prepares me in life to adapt to my changes and to always be ready.

- Antonio McCraven

Being a military-connected child is like being a leaf in the wind. With constant factors blowing you this way and that, you never stay in one place for long. Though it can be sad to have to leave friends and places that you have grown to call home, being a military-connected child is also a very unique and interesting experience. Living here in Japan has been an awesome experience for me. I've gotten to try new foods like Okonomiyaki and Udon, and visit cool places like Mt. Fuji and Kyoto. However, when I start to feel homesick, I can always go back to Yokota Air Base. The base isn't a

complete replica of the States with its plain brown roofs, bland peach walls, and a massive runway not even a mile from your house! But it's close enough so that you don't feel too sad every time you move. When my family and I first arrived I remember my surprise when I realized, “Mom, they're driving on the wrong side of the road!” We experienced much more culture shock in our first few weeks but after three and a half years here, I've gotten used enough to it to call it home. Being a military-connected child has been an amazing experience for me and I'm going to make the most of it before I move on.

- Frank Petty

I was at my friend Keke's house when my Mom and Dad said, “We're moving sometime in September 2020.” I was so sad, I felt like my life was ruined. My friend was devastated when she heard this. I didn't know what to do. “No you're not.” said Keke. “Keke, I am moving, I have been here since I was 5,” I said sadly. When you're a military connected child you move from place to place. Moving makes me sad, but I know I'll make new friends.

- Carrera Schmidt-Webb

To be a military-connected child is the best because I get to see all different places like Germany. In Germany they had a big pool with the best water slide. Also, the pool had two diving boards, one of them was tall and the other one was short. I would go on the tall diving board like a thousand times. And one time I went on the tall diving board one too many times and then my head started ringing close to my ear, but I kept go on the tall diving board until I had to go home. And in the car, I said, “Mommy, my ear hurts.” My mom said, “What did you do?” I said, “I think I hurt my head on wail on the diving board”. So, then we went to the doctor a week later and the doctor said “No more diving boards for six more weeks because my ear drum exploded. So, I was sad for six weeks because I didn't get to go on the diving boards. But at least I can still swim, so I could still go on the big yellow slide. So, I went on that a lot and nothing happened.

- Ethan Shields

Being a military-connected child is like swimming through a storm. In California 2016 we went to New Jersey to see our mom's friends for vacation. When we went to church, we were told we were moving to Japan. When Tahlia and I heard we were in shock. It felt like I was just swept right off my feet. We lived in California for 5 years. I was very sad that we had to leave our best friend, Laine, in two to five months from now. We have known Laine since the beginning of preschool, and we were in fourth grade. My response to this was, “I'm

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Yokota Middle School

Mr. Whipple

7th
Grade

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

really going to miss Laine and our house". When the day came I said my good-byes to my friends and neighbors. As you can see being in my shoes at least, the life of a military child is very difficult for me. When I moved to Japan everything changed. A rainbow came out and it was sunny once again. The food was better and sweeter. I got to visit more islands and countries, and I feel my first earthquake. The life of a military child can be ups and downs but in the end it will all turn out great.

- Tianna Smith

I was and still am a military child. So 4 years ago I was playing with my brother Aj outside of our family's log cabin in North Carolina (I didn't live near a lot of friends) when our mother told us to come inside. I was nervous because I thought I got a bad grade on my spelling test. Aj was hungry because he smelled Lil Caesars Pizza. When we went inside our mother told us to come inside into the kitchen, So went into the kitchen. Me and Aj grabbed a chair and sat down and our mom told us our dad had a surprise for us when he comes home. We were excited so I went to my room to read a book while my brother ran around the house yelling "WOO

HOO LIL CAESARS PIZZA!!!!!" Then five hours later our dad came home with (drumroll please) Lil Caesars Pizza and some news. I was surprised and about to say something but then my dad said something first. He said "Guess what? We're moving to Hawaii in 1 month!" I felt like I got shot by a firing squad with pillows because I was excited and sad. The pizza and breadsticks cheered me up, they tasted like cheesy heaven. So 1 month later after saying goodbye to my friends with my family and Zack (he was just born) we got on a plane and went to Hawaii. When we got there my mom was super excited because our house was near the beach, we had lots of friends, and there was spectacular food. But after a year we had to move again, the guys in the report office changed our report to one year in Hawaii instead of three like we were supposed to have. So we got on a plane again and we moved here to Japan and this place is amazing. But very soon my family will have to move again. That's the military connected child life, moving to extraordinary places and making friends. How is your experience?

- Steven Snow

Back in my little yellow house in Florida, I remember my dad sitting me and

my little brother down and telling us that we are moving to Japan. "Really?" I said excitedly happy to move to the place I've always wanted to go. "Yes we are moving in a few months." After that I went upstairs to my room and remembered I wouldn't be able to see all my friends.

- Emma Stamm

Before I moved to Japan, we had our list on where we could go. I wanted to go to Australia, my older sister wanted to go back to Germany, my younger sister wanted to go to Japan. All of these places were overseas, and they were in our top 10. We had a good chance of going to either of them.

We had been living in Colorado for three years, and I was bored of Falcon, Colorado. Our house, Ram Off-Road (a dirt bike track), Loveland (ski resort), our 2 acre yard, and the Elementary School were all getting old. Before we knew where we were going, we'd "bet" for fun on where we thought we were going. We all bet on the place we wanted to go, so I bet Australia. 2 months before we were going to move, Mom sat us down on the couch and said happily, "We're going to Japan!" I was happy. I would've rathered gone to Australia at the time, but now, I thought, I get to learn a new language (Which

I haven't gotten to doing), and experience a new culture! This news broke the weights that were holding me down. A new school, I thought, how exciting! Finally I'd get to go somewhere else. Before Colorado, the longest I'd lived in a place was a year and a half. So when I moved to the next grade, and didn't meet anybody new, I was sad. I wanted to meet somebody new! And so, after 2 months of waiting, I got my hope. We were moving tomorrow! The last day at Falcon Elementary School of Technology (FESot), I had to say goodbye to everyone. One of my best friends bought me sugar cookies, which were really good. When I was called down to the office, I hugged Ms. Douglas goodbye, and left. How'd I'd miss my friends, I thought, but I'd get to meet new people in Japan!

- Johnny Stull

The experiences you have when you go to new places are bad and sometimes good. The place I loved most was Turkey. I had the best time there, we had the best house. Our kitchen there was way bigger than the one we have right now. The Turkish

there were so friendly and trusting, they will even let you leave a restaurant without paying and just let you come back to pay. Living there was heaven for me and my family, when we moved there I was only five years old. Making friends was easy for me, I also learned how to speak Turkish and I felt like I really fit in. Everything was going so well, until my mom said to me and my brother "Kids this is not easy to tell you, but me and your dad are getting a divorce. We think it's for the best." My face dropped so far down that it was beneath the tile. Suddenly everything wasn't okay, everything seemed to not have color in it anymore. It has been one long year since the divorce, but the good thing was every other weekend me and my brother got to go with my dad. After I recovered from that tragic event thinking that all of this couldn't get any worse, our my sat us down what I hoped was the last time. I was shaking just trying to figure out what she was about to tell us. My mom's mouth opened wide and she said "I am truly sorry, but we are moving..... to Spain." She gave off a slight smile, hoping that

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Yokota Middle School

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we would do the same. The only thing going through my head at that very moment was "I have to leave it all behind and restart this process again." Those three words just made me have these mixed emotions. It even got me thinking that I have to leave my dad, my friends, and the life I made here. Here we go again!

- Gabriela Walton

Being a military connected child can be lots of fun sometimes. That's because when you are military connected you and your family get to travel and live in many different states and countries. You and your family will get to experience lots of different cultures, foods, and activities. But like always, there is a down side. When you move to a new town, city, state or country, you will have to move to a new school and will have to make new friends. It will always be hard to move away from a place that you love and leave your friends, but you could always stay in contact with them. Try to think of moving as a new chapter in your lifetime or a new and fresh start. Just like there is always a bad side to a good side, there will always be a good side to a bad side. Being a military connected child can be frustrating at times but it can also be an amazing and fun experience too.

- Natalie Myeong

Being a military-connected child can have its benefits and drawbacks. Sometimes it can be fun, and sometimes it can be frustrating. I, myself, am a military-connected child. Many of the military connected children get to move to places way more than normal American kids. That can be fun because you get to visit new places and have new experiences, but there would be downsides, too. Like having to leave your best friends. Most of my best friends that liked in Yokota with me either had to move to another part of Japan, or to America. Even though leaving your best friend(s) can hurt like a thousand bee stings, you can always make new friends. Being a military connected kid can also mean living on a military base. Living on a military base can be a good thing because you are protected from most potential dangers. People have many thoughts and opinions on a military-connected

child and if they like it or not. But like everyone always says, "always look on the bright side, and soon it will get better."

- Erica Haas

Two years ago when I was 10 and lived in Abilene, Texas my mom said, "Come here." When my mom said those words for some reason I knew it was going to be big. When I got to the living room she told me to sit down on the couch. Then she said, "We need to talk." When I sat down and looked at her face it scared me because her smile that was usually there was drawn to a frown. She then said, "Your dad is coming to take you over for the summer." When she said this I thought, "Why does she look so sad then." Then my mom followed with the words, "The only difference is that you are going to say their for the school year as well." When my mom said those words a flood of emotions hit me. However, 2 years later as a 12 year old I can look back on that day and say the move affected me in a very positive way. The main way it affected me was being able to spin time with my dad and siblings.

- Lonzo Martin

Once I was six years old and lived in Alabama. It was fun and I had a lot of friends, for a six year old. When I was coming down to eat dinner my mom said "We are moving." I felt like I was hit by a charging bull. My brother was there and I saw the blood drain from his face. I was very sad because we had only just moved there a year ago. When we got to Japan it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, but I wanted to go back.

- Ethan McClintic

Being a military child can be an adventure for the most part. When my parents said to me "We are moving to Japan over the summer" my smile was slowly drawn to a frown. It was a sunny day in Georgia, and I was outside with my best friend. I was not or ever looking forward to moving. I thought to myself, I'm going to be the one kid with no friends. I then realized that i was with the same type of people new to Japan and moving. This was not bad of a move I am trying new things and food.

- Cameron Meadows

When I was in 3rd grade, sometime in the Spring, my parents told me that we were moving from Germany to South Carolina. The news made my heart sink because I lived at Ramstein, Germany AFB ever since I was 1 1/2 years old. I remember saying to my friends at lunch one day, "I'll be moving to South Carolina when school is over." Their reply was, "Nooooo! You can't leave us." Then I told them I wish I didn't have to, but once I finished talking my best friend, Lillian, said, "Well, while we still have a few months of school left let's enjoy it while it lasts." Lillian was my best friend in the entire school because she was a person I could trust and wasn't like every basic blonde girl. Instead, she had short dirty blonde hair, crystal blue eyes and was like a tomboy. For the rest of the school year my friends made sure that my 3rd grade year was the best. We had so much fun that I wished 3rd would never end. Then, the school year came to an end and I had to say goodbye to all of my friends. Some of my hugged me to the point where I thought I was going to snap like a twig. Two weeks after school ended my mom, little brother and I were leaving on a plane back to the States. As we boarded I said goodbye to Germany, my home for many years. Then, in a few minutes we were off flying to the States.

- Arianna Medel

•• Do we really have to" is what I asked when my dad said "we're moving!!" I was as sad as a monkey without a banana. I have moved twice in my life and I'm only 12. I have lived in 3 places. I lived in beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii for eight years! After that I moved to the flat grasslands of North Dakota! I moved again and came to crowded Japan. I had to leave my friends and family. I get to travel all over the world and hey to see a lot of cool places. Even though moving is a pain it's still fun and cool. I like being a military connected child.

- Aaron Valiente

This is what it is like being a military child. When I lived in England on Lakenheath AFB it was great. The reason it was so great is because every weekend my family, and I went somewhere new. It was also great being able to try all the new things they had that we usually don't. In England I loved where I lived it was on the base, but my house was still a lot

nicer compared to the house I live in now. My friends were awesome too, and I got so close with them I would literally get up extra early just to walk about 10 mins to my bff's house to walk to school together. I had no idea I was going to move yet because I've only lived there for 2 years. SO once my mom told me I felt like I was gonna explode. At first I was like "I know your lying" and she was like "no we have to leave for an emergency" because my grandpa got sick. It was hard saying bye, but now I have great friends, and live in a great place!

- Angelina Varga

I still remember the day that I found out that I was moving to Japan. I was sitting in the kitchen of my old house in Arkansas. My dad came into the room and made us sit down. He then said something that would change my life forever, "Guys," he said, "We're moving to Japan!" While everyone was cheering, I sat there pondering. Well after we moved here, we kept getting assignments back here, and I've been here ever since. This is just one of the many things that a military child goes through. As a military child, I get to see lots of things in Japan. The whole country is colorful and vibrant. It is culturally innovating and enriching. The food and festivals are enough to make anyone fall in love with the country in a heartbeat. My brother and I moved here when I was in second grade and he was in Kindergarten. Over the years, my whole family has come to call Japan our home.

- Steven Waller

I was living in Okinawa, Japan. It was a blazing hot day. So hot I felt like I was melting! I was in my cold house eating until my dad walked in. He came in with this ominous presence. The first thing he said was "Guys we need to talk..." As I sat down next to him I felt like my heart was pounding out of my chest. He said "I took a job offer which is going to make us move to Tokyo, Japan for 3 years." I was exasperated. I was really hoping to be able to live with my family for the first time in years. But NO! Now I will be living in Japan for another 3 years! And that is what being a military-connected child is like.

- Valeria Avila

"Oooh, children!" my dad yelled excitedly. "Coming!" my sister and I yelled back. It

was a warm spring day at around 5:30. My parents were smiling happily. We sat down on the couch. My mom muted the T.V. and my dad sat down on the couch beside us. My parents in unison said "we're moving to Japan!" Taelyn (my sister) and I were flabbergasted. We ran around and said "really!" "Yep!" "awesome!" we made conversation. I was so excited I don't even know what i said "I'm as excited as a fox on a Friday!" "What?" my mom said in confusion. "I don't even know."

- Jayden Baker

Being a military child is hectic. My family was stationed in Florida for 7 years. We lived in Port Saint Lucie, but my dad was stationed in Patrick Air Force Base. My whole extended family lived in West Palm Beach so the drive wasn't too bad. On October 7th 2013 my dad told us over dinner we were moving to California I thought California was the next town over, but when I saw where California was on the map I started thinking about family. I saw California was all the way across the country. I began to get sad because I was always around my family and now I knew I was going to get separated from them. My family and I started packing up our house. My dad said we would end up there on March 2nd but we got there on March 3rd at 12:02am at Sacramento. I felt so weird being in a whole new place. My family stayed there for 4 and a half years. My family and I went to visit our new house and we all said "woah." Our first house was 2 stories with big windows and 4 rooms and three bathrooms.

- Christopher Chery

I was in Idaho, but to be more clear, in my room on the phone with my dad. My room was kinda messy and I hadn't cleaned yet. It was pretty cold outside so my window was open. I like the cold breeze. Me and my dad talked for a while until he said, "You will come live with me in Japan when you're done with your sixth-grade year." I felt like my heart pounded out of my chest. I wasn't ready for my dad to say that. I didn't know what to say or what to think so I just said "okay". I felt like my whole world just spit in two. On the two parts I had my mom and my sister and on the other world was my dad. I was in the middle of both of the two worlds. So now

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Yokota Middle School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

I have to move to a different school and leave all my friends and family that live here in Idaho. Do you know how hard it is to make new friends at a completely different school? Sure, it was easier for me when I was younger but the older I got, the harder it became and school wasn't getting any easier. Also lunch is super awkward when you have no friends. Sure the lunch would taste like not the most expensive ingredients or smell too good but what does that matter when you have no one to complain about it with. But when I get friends my life gets so much better. I was able to stay more focused on class because I didn't have to worry about lunch any more. So what is it like to be a military child? It's great and I wouldn't have it any other way.

- Jonathan Garcia

Being a military brat is weird. One day you're talking to your friends in Italy, the next, you're on a plane to Japan. Just another horrifyingly scorching day in Italy of me just talking to my friends. Ethan's there wearing the same pair of Jordan's straight out of his closet. Mariah's making fun of Julian for not matching his clothes properly, and I'm here laughing my head off. It was slow, but pleasing. Barely next week, I'm in a layover in Dubai waiting for the next plane to come by. While I was on the flight to Dubai, I bawled my eyes out. How will I talk to my friends? Will I see them again? These thoughts rushed through my head, and with each one, a river fell off of my eyes. When I got to Japan, the humid weather killed me. My mother met up with some old friends and we had fun. "Wow! You've grown so much!" or "Dang boy, you've lost some weight. I could've popped you when you were younger!" is what I constantly heard. It was annoying but I felt a little nice on the inside. It was hard for me to adapt to Japan. It smelled like wet dog, and the clothes I liked I couldn't wear as it would melt me from the inside. I hated it here until I had made some friends. My friends would make Japan a slightly better experience as it had distracted me from my old friends. While I still think about my old friends, I focus on what I have now and keep them close and enjoy the time I have left here.

- Angelo Griffin

My experiences as a military child is that I get to be overseas in Japan, So I'm very special. what is also very special is that I get to live on Yokota Air Base, Japan. I also go to a better school than in the US. I like the schools better than the schools in the States because I have more friends besides my family. I feel really happy when I get to be with my friends when I am with my friends I see you as much joy as seeing family for the first time in a long time. When we play outside and talk about what scooter tricks we plan to do. "Hey, Sam what trick should we do?" "Let's do a tail-whip, bro."

Since my family are mostly civilians that mostly stay in America, we don't move around as much. When I first found out we were moving, I was a waterworks. I was very worried about leaving my friends at first. A couple months later, we arrived at Yokota Air Base. After a month or so, I loved this place like a bird loves her chicks. Eventually, I moved on from my 5th grade friend Kinkade. At the base, there was a lot I could do. I could go shopping or take a swim at the pool. All within walking distance. Like I like to say; "This is the best place to find peace."

- Madison Kuhl

When you are a military child, it's honestly a little challenging. You can barely make friends without knowing you will end up moving away. One of the plus sides is probably that families are brought closer together because of how much they move and all of the new chapters and stories of our life we start. The trickiest thing about being in a military family is probably the moving part. You see, meeting people is tricky for me. I am really shy when I am new, so I end up being in the nerdy group of friends. They always have good personalities. Japan is okay. It's kind of boring, there isn't really anything exciting. My family and I found out we would move to Japan in Orlando, Florida. It was 2018. We were in a 3 1/2 star suite room at a spa and resort. The previous day we had gone to LegoLand. The next day, we went to Disney world. I was still really bummed that I would have to leave all of my friends after SO long!!! I remember my reaction exactly. The world had stopped moving! My heart felt like it was about to explode!! I soon accepted fate, and realized that moving to Japan would be cool. We came to Japan on Delta, and it was also 9/11/18. 9/11 is also my birthday. On the way over here, I remember stating, "I don't know what I feel. I guess happy and annoyed. I don't like the thought of leaving my best friends." I got a free sundae. In the end, I get to do stuff a lot kids can't even imagine! I mean, Who else can say they moved to Japan on their Birthday?!!

- Katherine Moore

One hot summer day, it felt like I was getting cooked alive. My friend was moving that day. I was really sad that she was moving. We were friends for a really long time. She was my best friend. I remember when we first met she was sitting alone at the lunch table so I went to sit next to her. I went next to her and asked "is this seat taken?" and she said "yeah, by you". We started talking and she said that she was from Texas. I will never forget that day. I was laying in my bed thinking of the memories we had. The times we laughed, and the times we spent. My friend was moving in a couple of hours my heart felt like someone literally just took it out of my body. I met up with my friend a couple of hours later when she was getting on the bus to go to

the airport. That was one of the saddest days of my life. We cried and gave each other hugs and she got on the bus to leave. As the bus was going, we waved to each other goodbye while tears were running down our faces.

- Amelia Pine

I'm used to it here because I've been here for about 6 or 7 years and still love it here. I only have one problem, when I was here the first time, there was a toy store just down the road next to the bowling alley, and I loved the place. But when i came back to japan, they had turned the place into some sort of truck place. The toy store also housed a pizza hut that is now in the food court which is a good thing because it was upgraded, but the toy store was downgraded to an area in the bx. When i found out about this i was so sad. But other than that, everything is amazing. The commissary is the same and Burger King got a revamp! Yokota is amazing and i will never forget this place. This place will remain in my brain until I die. I will say in the future, "Have you been to Yokota Air Base?" I can't even describe how great and beautiful this place is.

- River Pitre

•• One day I was hanging out with my family in my house in Belgium. Then my dad came and told us, "We are moving to Japan." This felt like there was an atomic bomb in my chest. In Belgium it was dark, gloomy, and depressing. My whole family was excited but me. I was furious with my dad, I hated him. Although, we then started throwing football. Then it was okay.

- Nick Prisco

I remember when I was in Okinawa, Japan and it was after school. My mom told me some big news. I lived off base in a big Japanese style house that was orange and some sort of white. The big news was that we were going to leave Okinawa. My Mom said "Landon, we are going to Mainland Japan in nine months". I was confused but I was speechless. I felt like I was going to cry. The fact of leaving my friends and school was overwhelming. It felt like all of my nightmares all rolled up into one. I was devastated. I remember my Mom said, "I'm sad for you". I was going to miss the beaches, the school I was going to called Ryukyu Middle School, and most of all my friends. I was a little bit revealed that we were still going to be in Japan. Only a few ounces of weight was lifted off of my chest. But that is what being a military-connected child is like. We move, we stay somewhere for a few years, then we move some more. I was still thinking about moving later on, but when dinner came I wasn't thinking about it as much. I was still very sad, but I knew I could deal with it.

- Landon Reyes

Moving can be hard sometimes. I was in Texas and it was like October or

something and my mom called us down and said we are moving in November. I started to cry a little because I thought to myself I'm going to lose my best friends. When i thought of that it felt like a million bees were stinging me. Then the next day I had to tell her I went up to her and said, "Bestie, I'm moving." My bestie said, "For real?" I started crying. When we got to Japan I started to cry because all I wanted to do was go back home. At that time I really missed my besties. After a week we started to explore off base and around the base. After all that I started to like it here in japan and started to have fun. I like how the food tasted and the curry here is amazing and I like the aeon mall here. Overall japan is good but bad in a way but i guess i like it.

- Isabella Sales

It's good and bad at the same time because I get to meet so many people and make a lot of friends. But, it's also bad because I have to leave the same people that I meet. But again i get to go to so many places and do lots of things. For example, I lived in Annapolis, Maryland (where I was born), Houston, west Palm, DC, Portland and Tokyo (where we are now.) My home would probably be Florida (specifically West Palm) because my mom was born in Puerto Rico She lived there until she was a 15. Than my mom and her family moved to Florida She said she felt like "I was on top of the world". She lived in Florida for a while then she met my dad and eventually got married. My dad was born in NY city and was living in Florida. Most of my family lives in the Florida/Georgia area. The ones that aren't live in NY or Puerto Rico .So, that's the reason Florida is like my home.

- Jace Tappan

My words for being a military child: Sad or Adventurous. It is sad for reasons like moving from friends and your favorite place. I moved from Hawaii to Japan. The adventure is nice I guess. Moving from family and isn't such a nice feeling. I know that my father (his exact words) "Guys shouldn't cry," but I cried anyway. Like father like son he cried a little, too.

- Ty Yoon

Being a military child is great because not a lot of kids in the States ever rode in a plane. I remember when my mom told me we were going to Japan. She called me upstairs while I was playing a game in the basement, and she said, "Louie come here" and I came and she said, "We are moving to Japan." I really didn't care what she said, this took place in Ohio. The day we moved it was my dad's birthday. We were at the airport, and our dad had to stay in Ohio to clean the house so we could sell it for rent.

Since he had to stay and leave him, I cried and so did my Mom. Once we got to Yokota, we were so tired. The good thing though was Christmas because the day after Christmas my dad came to Yokota. Now we are just living in a garden house and liking Japan. Our stay in Japan has been a mixed bag of nuts. Some of it sucked and some of it was good.

- Louie Avery

Being a military kid is lit. As in I'm very privileged to be in an American school in Japan. I mean it's kind of weird to take a truck load of misfits, movers, and military kids and squash them together, whether civilian or active duty parents. I don't like cheesy analogies or mushy stuff but it's like a roller coaster. It can drive you crazy or make you happy. It can be bees and butterflies or bullies and bombs. It's fun though, a safe environment, a shoppette, friends that live close by. In the end it's like a normal life on steroids. Oh, and the sadness. I remember when I had to say goodbye to my friends, my home, my life, in a way, because I was moving to Alaska. It always ends in "Goodbye, I'll give you my phone number." But by then, you already have a whole new life. I hate to exaggerate the point, but it's sad, and hilarious. At this moment. Japan is beautiful, peaceful, and crazy.

- Timothy Ayers

Before I came to Japan I lived in San Antonio, Texas. I went to Jefferson Middle School. It was the middle sixth grade. I was leaving Texas the next day. When I woke up that morning, I got dressed and I was ready to go like every other day. My mom drove me to my school. I didn't go to my classes or anything, because I was being checked out of the school. The office was telling me what I needed to do to be ready to go. They said I needed to get some textbooks from some of my classes. I also needed to clear my locker. I went down to my locker and cleared everything out. Then, I went to the two classes I needed to get the textbooks from. The classes were science and math. Each of the two teachers said goodbye. My science teacher asked me where I was going. I told her I was moving to Japan! "Wow, that's far!" she said. "Yes, it is!" I said. "It is as far as the sun!" I thought. I left the school after that, and I didn't get to say goodbye to my friends and other teachers. My mom and I were in a rush to get back home, which is why my goodbye was as short as it was.

- Aidan Delatorre

Being a military connected child is honestly, if you think about it, kind of thrilling. You are always on edge about when and where you are going to go next, for instance, when my family moved to Japan. It was a Saturday evening, and my dad had been called into

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work “for something very important” his boss had said. My mom and I were sitting on our couch in the living room, reading, then, all of a sudden we got a call from my dad. When she put the phone to her ear, my mom got so surprised I thought her head would pop off! After her expression calmed down a little bit, she talked on the phone with approval and assurance. After she got off the phone, she looked like she was going to explode with excitement! My mom turned to me with a giant smile and said, “How would you like to live in Japan?” When the words hit my ears it felt like I just got slapped in the face! My whole body rushed with fear, excitement, anger and joy. After I pulled myself together, I had so many questions running around in my head, like, “When do we leave? Will we be able to come back and visit?” and, “What is our new house going to look like?” The excitement only built up over the next couple of months and when we were boarding the plane, the voice in my head told me, “next stop, your new life!”

- Ethan Duncan

I was born on Yokota Air Base. I’m kind of used to being a military kid because it’s just normal to me now. When we moved, I was 5 when I got old enough, I asked my mom, “Why do we have to go back to Japan?” She didn’t answer but now I know there are lots of perks. Such as I get an ID card it lets store workers know my age. I can also get discounts in the States in certain stores with my ID. I can also do a lot of things I can’t do in the states here. I can ride the shuttle without my parents or even walk off base and go to the mall without only my kid friends. Which is amazing for me because I feel free by myself.

I wouldn’t be able to do that in the states because it’s either too dangerous or I would need an adult. Here in Japan, it’s like a dog without a leash It’s free. One important one though is that everyone knows everyone on base. If I ever need help then all I need to do is turn around and see someone I know such as a family friend and get help. It also makes it really easy to make a friend which is great when you are a new student. Those are some great reasons to me being a military child.

- Tahlia Harrison

Being a military child is a wonderful opportunity. I think that being a military child has good and bad things. Some good things are traveling, meeting wonderful people, and ect. I’m grateful to be a military brat because my dad has sacrificed so much. Freedom isn’t free and many soldiers have sacrificed everything including their lives for freedom. Traveling is awesome because I can learn about places and I could share what I learned. I love to meet new

people and help out. I love talking and teaching things to new people. I’m grateful to be a military brat because there are so many people who don’t have the opportunity to travel or do the things I can do. One thing that’s bad would be leaving friends, but there’s still an up to that because you can make new friends. Honestly, there’s not a lot of bad things in being a military brat. Being a military brat is really fun, especially when I can help poor people. I love to do many things and I think that we as military brats should help the poor; pick up the weak and fallen. A place that I loved traveling in was Germany. It was a fun and exciting thing to do. In Germany, I was able to see and do many different things. I smelled gingerbread cookies, saw the German flag everywhere, tasted donners, and felt many sticky lollipops. People need to be kind as a soldier but as strong as a lion. “I LOVE BEING A MILITARY BRAT. ALSO, I LOVE TO HELP SO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN.” I say with excitement.

- Elektra Malave

I feel special being a military child. I also think that I’m special since I’m living in Tokyo on an air base. I feel like a fish in the ocean because I’m a child of 1% in the world. It is good and bad being a military child though. The good part is you go to different countries and learn different cultures. However, that is the bad part because you don’t get to see your friends again. I want to say, “You’ve gotten taller from when I met you” but at the same time people might see my tear streaked face. So I say being a military child is colorful

- Jamil Morrow

I was about 9 or 10 living in Dayton, Ohio. I was at home with my mom while my dad was at work. “What do you want for lunch?” She asked me. “It doesn’t really matter.” I replied. My dad burst threw the door. He was on his lunch break. “Hey you’re back.” I said. “I’m just going to make sandwiches. Is that ok?” My mom asked. “Yeah that’s fine.” I said. “I got some news.” My dad said stern as ever. “Oh what is it?” My mom asked. “We’re most likely moving to Japan after I go to Korea.” He said. I didn’t know what to say. My mom looked at him like he had two heads. I couldn’t really read her. The room was silent for a god 10 seconds. We had never moved over seas so this was a shock to all of us. “Really?” I asked breaking the silence. “We’re not 100% sure but most likely.” I was so excited. Living in Japan is the best experience of my life.

- Monica Quijano Antonucci

Sitting in a small airport in the middle of Texas. Everyone I know is standing around me. There’s crying hugs and fake

smiles. Then on the loudspeakers, “Flight to Dallas boarding.” Then I waved goodbye and I went to Japan. When landing in Japan it felt like I was being pulled away from my home. On the drive to Yokota, Tokyo was beautiful. All the lights were like stars dancing through the night. After a time went on the pain weekend.

- Jeffery Scruggs

Hi! I’m Jacob Sojot and these are most of my reasons that being a Military Child has its goods and bads. My experience of being a Military Child is super-duper awesome because I’m living on Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, Japan. Being a Military Child is awesome because there’s so many things to do on base such as hanging out with friends and going to the BX to shop or get food. Also being a Military Child is cool because on base there’s parks and there’s a place you can play sports. The bad thing about being a Military Child is that you have to move away from friends and family. The other bad thing about being a Military Child is that you don’t know what the weather is going to be like. The first time I moved to Japan it was freezing cold I said “OMG it’s super cold” and my Mom said “I know right” then the next day it snowed. Finally these are most of the reasons being a Military Child has its goods and bads.

- Jacob Sojot

Being a military connected child gives you access to dodea schools, which is why military kids are more connected to each other than civilian kids. Also, you get to see military bases in action. I live on Yokota Air Base, where I get to watch giant planes take off and land, and when I went to Yokosuka, I gotta watch massive ships move around in the bay. When you are in the military, you get to go to many different places-sometimes in other countries. I got to go to Japan, which I really enjoy because they have an intresting culture and a balanced climater where it is hot and sticky in the summer but cold and dry in the winter. When your parents retire from the military, they get a lot of money to spend on their “dream home.” The only thing that I don’t like about being in the military is when one of your parents deploy.

- Braeden Speilman

On my last day as a sixth grader in Dunkirk, Maryland, it was a hot, sunny day, but in reality it felt more like a dreary, dreadful day. It was the day I had to say goodbye to my home and friends. When the final bell rang at Northern Middle School, the guys I considered friends for the past two years walked me to the truck to say their last goodbyes. My parents were in the truck, packed and ready, for our drive to Texas where we would also say goodbye to our family before moving to Japan. As we gave our handshakes and fist bumps, I realized that my best friend Joey wasn’t around. I climbed into the truck, still looking around for Joey.

Luckily, I spotted his black Ford Expedition pulling out close by. I unbuckled and hopped out. When I got closer, Joey did the same. We slowly walked up to each other and said our final heart wrenching goodbyes. Joey and I shook hands and he said, “It’s been nice being best friends and neighbors.” I walked back to the truck, looked out the window and reluctantly said so long to my past life.

- Sam Stowers

I remember the day that my dad told me we were moving to Japan. It was about four-o-clock and we had just gotten home from school. I went to the restroom and while I was washing my hands, I heard my sister scream in the living room. I ran out and saw that my dad had faceted my sister. I looked at him and asked him why they were screaming and he looked at me and said, “We’re moving to Japan.” In that moment it was like the whole world stopped. Everything was silent and I realized that I would be leaving all my friends and as well as my theatre community. In my mind, I thought back to when I had to say goodbye to my friends and how heartbreaking it was. I felt for all my friends that would have to say goodbye to me. I don’t like being a military child for all the basic and ordinary reasons. How you have to leave your friends, but you get to see new places and all of that. However, this particular memory is important to me because in those few minutes I felt all the emotions. I felt the excitement, the sadness, the overwhelming, the realization and even the full on mental breakdown. Military children should always feel grateful no matter what because even though it might be hard, it is still an experience. The whole point of this is you can feel sad, but you should take it in while it lasts because nothing lasts forever.

- Evangeline True

I live in Tokyo on YAB, being a military-connected child is fun at times and when it’s not it’s like a tornado affecting your whole life. One time I lived in Okinawa and I had to move here, I was devastated. I said my last goodbyes to my friends, and then we all started to cry. I hate moving because you have to start over your life in a different place. So Okinawa is very hot and humid, but when I moved here all it did was rain. On the good side it SNOWS!! Something you could never do in Okinawa is ski. I love skiing, it’s so calming. When you live on an airbase almost your whole life, it gets boring. There’s suddenly nothing to do. But it’s usually safe on a base. The first thing I thought when I moved to Tokyo was: “It’s so COLD.”

- Abbie Vernon

Being a military-connected child is sometimes very difficult. We have to move to new places my family had never known existed before. Being young really affects your emotions and reactions to this, you mainly feel confused

when you are younger. But when you’re older it’s just expected. The next thing you know, your parents are talking to you about leaving and saying goodbye to your friends, then you get on a plane and find yourself in a whole new place. I had lived in Las Vegas for 7 years and when we got word we were moving, I didn’t understand what was happening. But, when we started the process of saying goodbye to all of my friends and packing, I realized we weren’t coming back. When we first moved to Japan, we lived in Tokyo and in an apartment that I felt touched the sky, it was so tall! We lived on the 39th floor out of many more. It was a very fancy and nice place. My sister and I had to be homeschooled for a year. We had no friends, as no one nearby spoke English. The only people we could play with were each other. It got pretty boring. But, after a year of living there, my mom and dad sat us down and told us we were moving to Yokota Air Base. We were going to go to a public school and live near many other kids! We moved out and moved into a garden house where others lived, separately but in the same building. We got there and unpacked, but the next mission was to make friends! Luckily, there were two other 11 year olds on the North side. So, when we went to the school for a social and getting our schedules, my mom talked to some other moms and they were the parents of the 2 other girls. We became friends and hung out on our side to get to know each other. When my family finally settled at Yokota, we realized, maybe it isn’t so bad being a military child. Making new friends and going to new places is a great experience.

- Chloe Winterbottom

When My Family and I were living in Vandenberg Air Force Base in a ground floor house, we were there for about 2 years. I came home one day and my Mom said we were moving to Japan. I got pretty sad and so was my Brother. We had to stay there for 4 years. I got a little mad because of always moving. I said, “I hate moving all the time.” My Mom said back: “That’s what it’s like being a military child.” It was like a kick in the stomach or a punch to the mouth. It was hard being a military child. When it was moving day I was crying because I was leaving my family members. When we went on our trip, I said, “Mom, I miss grandma and grandpa and uncle and aunts.” She said, “Me, too, Xavier,” which made my frown turn upside down.

- Xavier Bush

A great representation of this is when my parents told me, “We’re moving to Japan!” They were probably expecting me to be super happy, but when my sister started to cry like a whale, my feelings became much more complicated. I was happy and sad. I knew this was a new opportunity, but I would also be leaving many opportunities behind in Hickam, Hawaii. So I went to comfort my sister instead.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Yokota Middle School 7th Grade Mr. Whipple

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

When I was saying my goodbyes, I realized things about my friends and the environment that I never noticed before. Like how some of my friends that I thought were as tough as bricks were really teddy bears. I also just only appreciated the view of the calm ocean from my window and the smell of mangoes outside from the mango tree in my backyard that I never really paid any attention to. When I got to Japan, although the streets were not as beautiful as Hawaii, some of the people I met helped me adjust to the new life in a Japan.

- Andrew Dozier

“That sucks,” my friend simply answers after I tell her I’m moving as we walked down the seawall, staring at the pitch black darkness that was once the ocean that same morning. I spaced out as she and our other friend began to start up another conversation, staring at the faint lights coming from the other side of the darkness. I think they were buildings. Maybe boats. I couldn’t quite tell. ‘She’s right,’ I thought. Honestly, it did suck. I’d be moving. Again. Leaving more people behind. And I couldn’t do anything about it. “I don’t wanna leave! Can we please stay?” I would beg my parents.

“It isn’t up to us.” They were right too. “It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity!” Sure. “It’ll be fun!” wrong. Sure, we would be somewhere not a lot of people in the states get to go but that doesn’t make it fun. The sight and weather doesn’t make the fact that I’m possibly never gonna see friends and family ever again go away. It’s an interesting experience, but that doesn’t make me happy. “You’ll see them again soon!” My mom tries to reassure me as we wait in the small, quiet airport. Would I? If ‘Soon’ means in 3 years, then yeah. ‘soon’. I’d say being a military-connected child? It kinda sucks.

- Juliana Garcia

One day in 2015 when I was in Avelino, Italy my Mom and Dad sat us down on the sofa in our living room. They told my sister and me, “we are moving to Hawaii!” They probably expected us to be happy but we sat there in utter shock ok. I was first to speak and said, “What about Ivan, my best friend?” As a tear came to my eye. They responded, “Oh sweetie, you will make new ones.” I got up and stuttered, “O-ok.” my tears soaked the carpeted floor as I walked away to my room. I sulked up the stairs of my bunk bed and cried into a pillow. I screamed, “It’s not fair! Why do I have to move!” I cried so loud

you could hear me in space. Now I realize that’s what it’s like to be a military child. It’s sad but also... fun. You get to meet new people and see new places. And frankly, I couldn’t have asked for a better life!

- Alex Jones

What its like to be a military-connected child is really life changing. I live off base now since my dad retired here. It started when I was living on Yokota Air Base in my kitchen making breakfast with my mom. When my dad called us in the living room he didn’t look to happy. He told us something like, “I’ve been in the military for 23 years now so I think it’s time for me to retire.” My mom was so happy it looked like she had just seen 1 million dollars in cash! She had a huge smile on her face. My mom is in LOVE with Tokyo, Japan ever since we’ve moved here. I, on the other hand, thought I would’ve had to move from my friends so I burst out in tears like a little crybaby I am. (I was only seven at this time) Then my dad had a talk with me and I calmed down. That’s how my journey of living off base started.

- Kiele Klaus

One day in Yokota Air Base I was at the Kanto lodge, with my mom, dad and brother. The bus pulled in and my dad was putting his luggage in the compartment. I was 8 and I had a letter in my hand for him. My mom was holding my brother and my dad was walking my way. My dad came to me crouched down and said to me, “Believe it or not I’m going to Korea for a while, and I need you to help your mother as much as you can for me.” I told him “Okay, but under some circumstances. You Skype me every day and you buy me something from Korea”. He said “okay, I promise”. I then gave my dad the letter and said “Good Bye”. My dad went on the bus with tears in his eyes and waved goodbye. I ran with tears in my eyes hoping my dad had a good trip and came back in one piece. The next day I was as busy as a bumble bee working all shifts. I was sad and proud, but in the end, I was Glad to be a military connected child on Yokota Air Base Japan.

- Sierra Light

Being a military-connected child can be fun, sad, and exciting, all in one. Like when one of your parents has to deploy to TDY, you might feel very sad or upset. I remember when my dad told me he had to deploy to Korea for a year. I was sitting on the couch reading one day after school. Since it was a very

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Send your Month of the Military Child submission
to MilitaryChild@stripes.com by April 15!

Yokota Middle School

Mr. Whipple

**7th
Grade**
Celebrating Month of the Military Child

cold winter that year, I didn't want to go outside. About 15 minutes later all of my other siblings pile onto the couch. My mom walks into the living room from the kitchen. The front door swings open, and my dad comes home from work. My dad said that he had an announcement. He told us that we were going to move to Yokota, which is a base in Tokyo. Everyone was excited, because my parents wanted to stay overseas. Then my dad said something else. "But I'll have to deploy to Korea for a year, since I basically got to pick where we move to." This was very sad to hear. It was like biting into a green apple. First it's sweet, then it's sour. That's kinda how being a military-connected child is. Bitter sweet.

- Zephaniah Martin

It feels normal to be a military-connected child. It's basically like living in a normal neighborhood except there's a fence around it and there's a runway right in the middle. Most people live in these rectangular houses unless you live in a tower. These houses and towers also have this unattractive paint. There's only one place where you can buy things that have well-known brand names and that's the Post Exchange. If you want to buy clothes, electronics, furniture, etc., you go to the PX, unless you like off brand clothing off base. There are 3 Express stores on base, one is close to the east side elementary school and the youth center, the second one is near the PX. The third one

is on the west side of the base. I like how this base has a Chili's because their Big Mouth Burger Bites are super delicious, along with their steaks. We also have a Burger King on base but I'm not a fan because the burgers don't taste so good. Burger King isn't as delicious as McDonalds. I'm not lovin' Burger King. I only like the Chicken Fries and Smoothies. The Express on the east side has a smoothie machine and I love it because you can pick your thickness. The Express near the PX is the largest but I don't care too much about it.

- Jimmi H. Olney

It was a sunny spring day and my family and I were at the top of the Eiffel tower. I was so excited, as soon as I found out we were moving to Germany I had insisted we go to Paris and now I was there. The sky was light blue and from up there you could see the whole city a mixture of old fashioned grand buildings and towering skyscrapers. I was pointing out locations to my little sister Sofia when my dad got a call from work. "Ugh I got to go take this" my dad said gesturing to his phone. "Seriously," my mom said.

My dad walked into the little shop and took the phone call because even on vacation work kept my dad as busy as a bee. I didn't mind though because if my dad wasn't in the military I would have never gotten to go to Paris. Though now every time my dad gets a work call while we are out one of us will make a Paris joke.



- Maura Rakowski

I was born in the Baltimore, MA area and shortly after moved to Savannah, GA to live my life through 1-8 years old. After that I moved to California where I had majorly grown up. I stayed in Cali until I was about 5th grade. Being a military child isn't being privileged but does provide lots of things. When my dad said "were moving to Japan" I was heartbroken that I had to leave the place I had lived for years. Being at this age I had never lived outside the country. Once I cooled down and realized this was going to be a great experience for me, I slowly got prepared for the big change. Living in Fuss, Japan is great. We are located super close to the city of the future, Tokyo, and I get to experience and learn Japanese Culture/Language. I also get to see the seasonal cherry blossoms, and experience the world but still feel

as if I'm in my home country. Currently I'm 13 years old, 7th grade living in Yokota Airbase, Japan.

- Corwyn Reilly

My experience as a military child has been pretty great. As of now my mother and I live in Tokyo, Japan, on Yokota Air Base. Before we moved here, my Mother's exact words were, "Jada, we have two choices, we can go to Germany or Japan, which one do you prefer". This took me about a good two days to think about before I could decide. Germany wasn't the place I was really looking for, I knew nothing about Germany, and besides my Mom and I really wanted Japanese food. So it was Monday night when I walked up to her and said, "Japan, Mom, I wanna go to Japan." I told her I could smell the fresh fish that very moment and hear the noise of Japanese trains. My Mother agreed and we went on our journey far away from Georgia. I was as ready as a doctor about to do a surgery. I couldn't wait!!

- Jada-Love Roper

What it's like to be a military-connected child is that you have to take responsibility for the base because having parents that work for the military isn't easy to handle because sometimes you have to move and meet new friends and go to new places. So it's hard to get over it. Having a parent that works for the military is good because they usually make a lot of money which is a good thing so it's easier to live life. For me being a military-connected child isn't going good for me because of the way I'm living but I'm still liking the way I'm living my life. So, if you a military-connected child or connected to the military in anyway then you're lucky.

- Mitchell Westlund

Being a military child means traveling tears, adventure, cultural experiences, and hard work. My life as a military child started on August 10, 2007. I was based in New Jersey along with my sister, father, mother and grandmother. My dad was the one who got into the military though. Before my sister and I were five, we moved to Vacaville California, not by plane but by car. Before we went to elementary school, we had already driven across the country! After five long years in Vacaville, we were headed for another adventure this time in Japan. Although this time it was different. This time we had friends, a great home and a good community. It was like living a dream. We were leaving it for an "Adventure" my parents called it leaving for a new "opportunity". We arrived at Yokota Airforce base on the 16th of December in 2016 at 1:00 pm on a plane called the rotator. With three backpacks and two giant suitcases. But just as I thought this change wasn't going to turn out good we made friends and tons of them in the middle of the school year, friends that I still cherish. Moving to Japan made me realize that I have a life many kids would want. Also, I should appreciate it because Life is called an adventure for a reason.

- Tahlia Smith

My military connected experience starts in Sumter, South Carolina. That was the first time I remember moving. Then it was summer of twenty fifteen and my family and I were moving to Grafenwoehr, Germany. When I was told where I was moving I had no idea Germany was even a place. At first I asked my mom "where is Germany," and she said "Europe," I still had no idea where that was but I didn't ask. All the sudden it seemed like time was flying and like that my stuff was packed, my house was empty, and I was in an airport at 11:00 at night boarding a plane to Ramstein, Germany. When my family and I got to Ramstein it was really sad because my dog died on the flight over. I was never really told what happened to him, but I didn't want to know. The car drive was sad but I was in a new country and it was awesome. This was only my first experience moving as a military child and even though it wasn't the greatest, I thought it was cool and enjoyed it.

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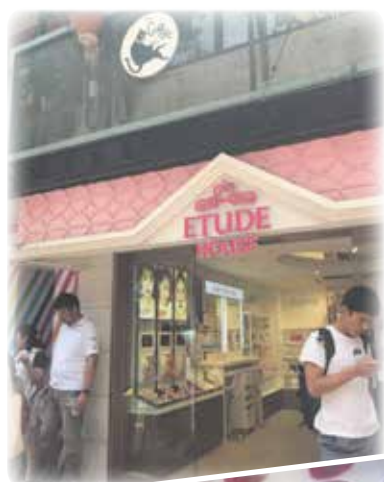
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1 ETUDE HOUSE



Etude House has a large selection of good quality makeup. What is most remarkable about this brand is their packaging. With lipstick bottles that look like sodas and eyeshadow cases that look like chocolate bars, in addition to being good, the cosmetics you buy will be cute. Not to mention, the foundations and concealers are very affordable and mostly full-coverage. What is probably the best to buy here are individual eyeshadows, lip stains, and foundations.

1 Chome-16-5 Jingumae, Shibuya



Top 10 J-Beauty Stores



BY VALENTINA SAAVEDRA,
JAPAN TRAVEL

Cosmetic and skincare stores around Tokyo

Famous for trends such as glass skin and under-eye blush, J-Beauty cosmetics and skincare have made a worldwide impact.

It's no secret that Japan has a wide range of makeup and skincare to choose from. But with Tokyo being so big, it can be hard to know where to start. Stock up on must-have items in these top ten J-Beauty stores in Tokyo!

2 Style Nanda

StyleNanda has beautiful, quality cosmetics. Their most famous products are their original-colored blushes and their liquid lipsticks. StyleNanda also stocks a lot of skincare products and specialty makeup brushes. However, it is a relatively expensive brand.

1 Chome-6-9 Jingumae, Shibuya



3 Ainz and Tulpe



Ainz and Tulpe is very similar to that of Ulta in the United States. In it, you can find some great deals and drugstore brands, while also being able to find some more high-end products. The specific store pictured has such a large selection that beauty and skincare products make up almost two entire floors. With a lot of options to choose from, everyone can find something they like here!

1 Chome-13-14 Jingumae, Shibuya
*Inside HARAJUKU QUEST



4 Matsumoto Kiyoshi

Matsumoto Kiyoshi is the definition of a drug-store brand. Found almost everywhere in Tokyo, it's hard to go somewhere where you won't find one of these stores. Like your local CVS or Walgreens, Matsumoto Kiyoshi stocks affordable makeup and skincare. It is especially good if you have run out of (or forgotten) something from your makeup bag at home.

22-3 Udagawacho, Shibuya



5 Botanist Tokyo

A little different from the rest, Botanist Tokyo is mostly a hair care store! Botanist Tokyo stocks shampoos, conditioners, hair oils, and more. However, they also stock skincare items like body and facial scrubs, in addition to lotions and perfumes. They do not stock cosmetic items.

6 Chome-29-2 Jingumae, Shibuya, 2F





6 PLAZA

Sony Plaza stocks items similar to that of Ainz and Tulpe. However, Sony Plaza also stocks many American brands like Revlon and Loreal. If you've been to Ainz and Tulp, it wouldn't be worth it to go to Sony Plaza—especially since they stock fewer items.

109 Building, 2-29-1, Dougenzaka, Shibuya, B2F



9 Innisfree

With an impressive number of face masks and sunscreens, Innisfree wants to make sure your skin looks the best it can look! What is even more special about this store is their inventory of cushion foundations. These cushions come in three different types of formulas for different skin types—you can even customize the case it comes in!

6 Chome-3-9 Jingumae, Shibuya



7 CosmeKitchen

Famous for being an organic brand, CosmeKitchen stocks environment-friendly makeup, skincare, and hair products. Though moderately priced, there are not a lot of choices or variety in product since it is a relatively small store.

19-4 Daikanyama, Shibuya
* In Daikanyama Station



8 The Body Shop

Though named the Body Shop, this store certainly has more than just body lotion and fragrance. With a good selection of foundations and concealers, and an even better selection of toners and moisturizers, shoppers are sure to find something they like. In addition, the Body Shop has very helpful workers ready to answer any questions you may have about their products.

25-8 Udagawacho, Shibuya



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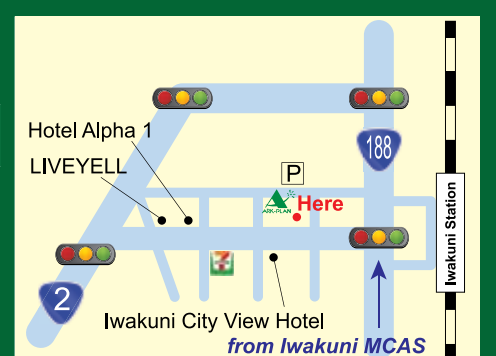
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I found out about this fire festival from NHK.

Japan: There's an app for that

Download these helpful eight

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JEMMA KING, JAPANTRAVEL

Japan is a very organized country. Everything happens for a reason and at a certain time. To help make sense of the public transport system, news, food, language and stay safe, there are a number of applications you can download. The following list are things that I have used during my time in Japan that have helped to make sense of this amazingly organized country.



I used Yomiwa to find out what this Matcha dessert was.

5. Line

The Japanese equivalent or WhatsApp or Messenger. It provides free video / voice calls and texts by using data so you do not need a Japanese phone number. If you stay at an Airbnb in Japan, the hosts will generally have this application to be able to communicate with you quickly. You can also add cute Japanese stickers to your messengers and photos.

6. QR Translator

Japanese information signs at railway stations, airports or museums on occasion have a QRT code. You can simply scan this with the application and provide you with the information in your designated language.

7. Yurekuru Call

Up-to-date information on early warning for earthquakes, tremors and tsunamis. You can update the application with you location and it will then send you warnings in real time.

8. NHK World

Up-to-date news and events from Japan and Asia in English. It is a great resource for general updates about the country as well as upcoming festivals or events in Japan.

1. Navitime

A comprehensive train transport directory for Japan with real time updates. I have found it to be slightly more reliable than Google Maps. If you have a Rail Pass you can also select to use JR line trains and buses included in the pass.

2. MapsWithMe

Offline version of Google maps. Fantastic when you do not have access to wi-fi or you have ran out of data. You can download maps of Japan before you leave home so will always know where you are.

3. Yomiwa

This is a translation application. It is fantastic for supermarket trips, road signs, menus or any time you need to read something in Japanese. It is an offline application so you simply need to take a photo of the writing and wait for the translation to come through.

4. GuruNavi

A database of food and drink locations across Japan. You can search by area or type of cuisine and has worked in some rather rural regions of Japan.

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The Garden of Solitary Sitting in the Zhuiho-in sub-temple at Daitoku-ji, Kyoto.

Visit Daitoku-ji temple in Kyoto to find tranquility, history

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY JOSEPH DITZLER,
STARS AND STRIPES
Published: January 16, 2020

Drop “Zen” into conversation, and thoughts of one hand clapping or a properly maintained motorcycle may come to mind.

Less popularly understood, however, are the main precepts of Zen Buddhism and the different sects within the practice. One of those branches, Rinza, is centered in the ancient, former Japanese capital, Kyoto, 2½-hours by bullet train from Tokyo, in a place called Daitoku-ji. It’s well worth a visit, even if you don’t know a koan from a kotsu.

Founded in the early 14th century, destroyed in the 16th century and subsequently rebuilt, the temple complex today encompasses 56 acres and nearly two dozen smaller sub-temples. One of them, the Koto-in, is considered an important site in the history of the Japanese tea ceremony. Many threads of Japan’s history in the 16th and 17th centuries are woven into the story of this world unto itself.

The entire walled complex is expansive, but only four of the sub-temples are open to the public. Many of the interior gardens of the lesser temples are visible from their gates. The main temple is not open to the public.

These smaller temples — despite their spare furnishings and simple, elegant construction — are intimate spaces. These buildings of wood, paper and tatami mats were meant for greeting guests, meditation and life’s everyday activities.

My first stop inside Daitoku-ji was the Ryogen-in temple, famous for its dry gardens and distinct architecture. The Hojo

Directions: Daitoku-ji is located at 53 Murasakino Daitokuji-cho, Kita-ku, Kyoto-shi, 603-8231.

Daitoku-ji is a 15-minute walk in northern Kyoto from Kita-oji Station on the Karasuma subway line. From the station, Katoji dori street brings you to the temple; the main gate is a bit north of the street. Google Maps took me in zigzag fashion through side streets right to the gate. The Karasuma line connects with Kyoto Station. Alternatively, take bus Nos. 205 or 206 from Kyoto Station and get off at the Daitokuji-mae bus stop.

Times: Varies, generally from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Costs: Admission to the complex is free; the cost to enter the open sub-temples is 400-500 yen (\$4-\$5).

Food: You’ll find a Starbucks not far from Kita-oji Station en route to the temple. Cafe Du Mon, facing the main temple gate, offers fresh, light and creative lunch specials starting at 1,000 yen (about \$10).

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— the meditation hall and the chief priest’s quarters — is the oldest of its kind in Japan, according to information at the site. There, wooden floorboards creak underfoot with an antique sound. As you might expect in a Zen precinct, the Hojo is spare, and the artwork on its paper walls is sublimely beautiful.

On one side of the Ryogen-in is the Ryogintai, a dry garden built entirely on a large bed of moss. It is the oldest garden in the complex, dating to the Muromachi era, which ended in 1573. Nearby is the Totekio, an enclosed rock garden considered the smallest of its kind in Japan.

Most intriguing for me was the Isshidan, a rock garden in the most traditional sense: a raked bed of stones with a teardrop-shaped bed of moss and large rocks positioned elsewhere.

The moss mound represents a tortoise island, a symbol of long life. It’s paired with rocks that represent a crane island, symbolic of happiness. Both are common installations in Zen gardens, and both also represent longevity.

In Isshidan, the central, tallest rock in the ensemble represents Mount Horai, a Japanese

national, natural monument considered a source of spiritual strength. The group is surrounded by raked gravel representing waves upon the ocean surface. Visitors are compelled to sit awhile on a wooden porch and take in the scene.

Nearby in the Ryogen-in is a room in which Ieyasu Tokugawa, founder of the 260-year-old shogunate that lasted until the imperial restoration in the mid-1800s, played Go, a Japanese board game, with Hideyoshi Toyotomi, a powerful samurai and feudal lord in his own right. The board on which the two played is on display, along with a firearm that belonged to Tokugawa. He later unseated Hideyoshi’s son to unify Japan and rule as shogun.

Leaving the Ryogen-in, I moved next to the Koto-in, which includes a tea house called the Shoko-ken built by 16th-century warlord Hosokawa Tadaoki, a student of Sen no Rikyu.

Rikyu, a merchant from Osaka prefecture, devoted himself to the tea ceremony and became a confidant of Hideyoshi’s, who eventually ordered Rikyu to commit ritual suicide at his patron’s home in Kyoto.

Rikyu taught the ceremony at Daitoku-ji and built tea rooms there. Basic movements that he incorporated into the tea ceremony are still practiced today.



A stone walkway leads inside the Koto-in sub-temple at Daitoku-ji, Kyoto.

This center of Zen Buddhism has within it two links to Christianity. Hosokawa’s wife, Gracia, was a Catholic convert. The two are buried on the grounds of Koto-in. And Otomo Sorin, a feudal lord and the founding patron of the nearby Zuiho-in sub-temple, converted to Catholicism in the 16th century.

Otomo became known as the “Christian daimyo.” (Daimyo means feudal lord.) The Zuiho-in today includes a rock garden created by 20th-century designer Mirei Shigemori and known as the Garden of the Cross. The garden rocks form an asymmetrical cross. A statue of the Virgin Mary is buried in the garden and

symbolizes the 200 years when Christianity was banned in Japan.

My Daitoku-ji visit lasted into the early afternoon. Several hours vanished while I paused to contemplate the gardens, inspect the austere but inviting building interiors and walk the grounds.

Afterwards, I was ready to meditate on lunch. Just across the street from the temple’s main gate is a small, French-influenced Japanese restaurant, Cafe Du Mon. Reviews on TripAdvisor add up to five stars, with good reason. If there is Zen in cuisine, you’ll find it there.

ditzler.joseph@stripes.com
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Stripes Sports Trivia

The Kentucky Derby is famous for the main attraction, big hats and more. A lasting tradition is that the winning horse is led to the winner's circle draped in a garland of what flowers?

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DID YOU KNOW?

For many Japanese, celebrating flower festivals in the spring is more important than Christmas.

On April 8, Buddhists celebrate the birthday of Sakyamuni, founder of Buddhism by commemorating the compassion and enlightenment of Buddha (literally, the Enlightened One). Buddhist temples in the nation place the statue of Baby Buddha in a small chapel decorated with flowers and visitors pour sweet tea over the statue with a ladle.

Kanji of the week

雨 ame (Rain)

Language Lesson

Have a nice weekend!

Yoi shuumatsu wo!

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:

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

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- Lasting impression
- Life partner
- Will Smith flick, "___ Earth"
- Cheer alternative
- Make, as money
- Words to live by
- All atwitter
- Order in the court
- Cuban "line" dance
- Nev. neighbor
- Like some questions
- Moscow landmark
- Puniest pup
- Bird feeder filler
- Skin salve
- Early hit for The Jackson 5
- Passed out cards
- Make last, maybe
- Peggy and Brenda
- Taxpayer's fear
- Pinocchio's low card
- Betrothal notice
- Natural rope fiber
- Get the picture
- Employ robots
- Campus military org.
- Bob of The Grateful Dead
- Conference site
- Van Gogh's "Sunflowers", e.g.
- Cloth for suits
- Permissible
- Marine growth
- ___ Beach, Fla.
- Do penance
- Without ice, at the bar

DOWN

- Pancake serving
- Stogie
- Teenager
- Group in power
- Kitten sound
- Hank who hit 755 home runs
- Field follower
- Intestinal inflammation
- Decorating details
- Bono, to U2
- Watch over
- Sharpness
- Map feature
- Hightailed it
- Wimple wearer
- "I had no ___!"
- Nostalgic number

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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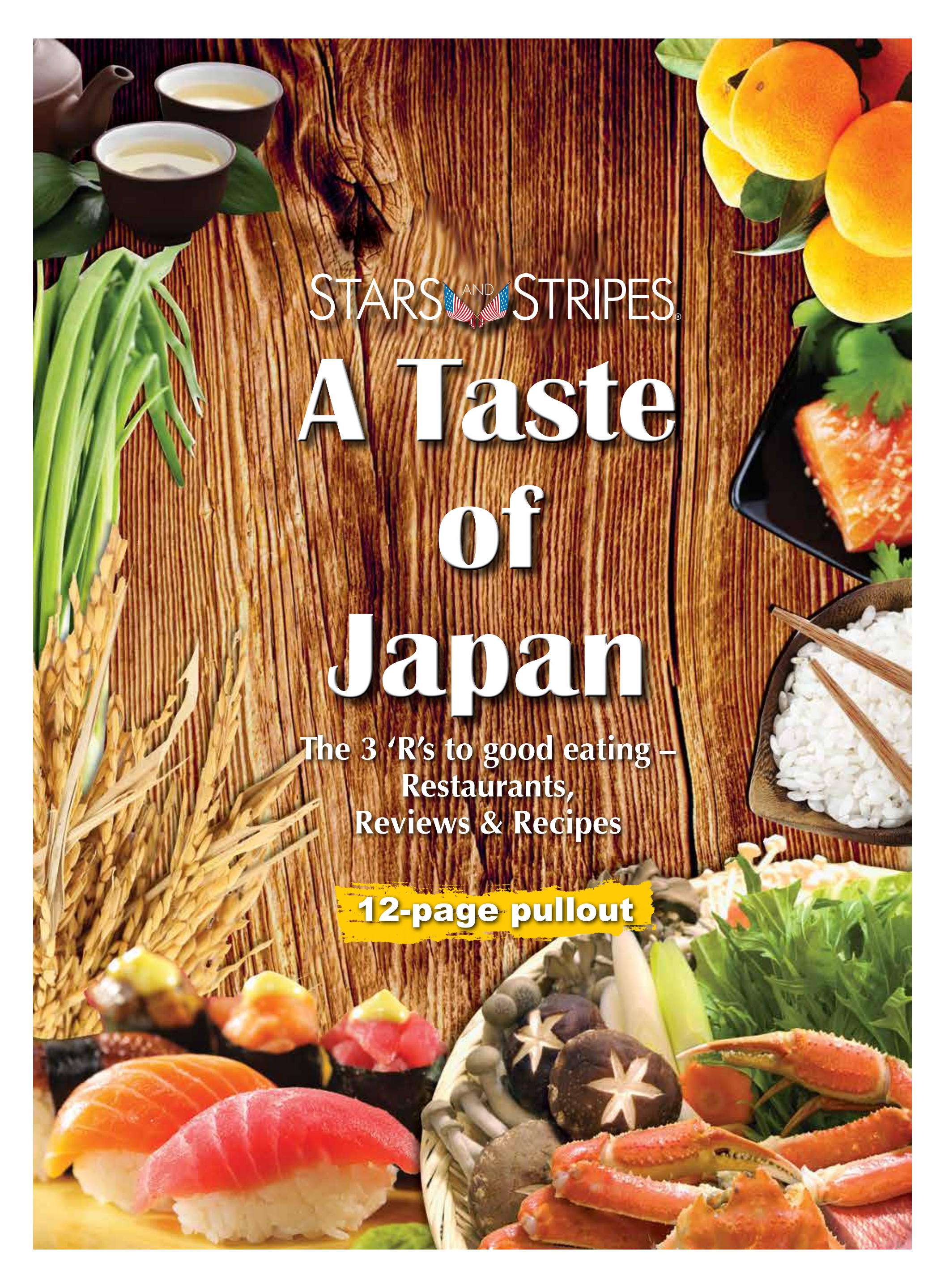



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Owned and run by the former sumo star, Kuto Kuroshio, the chanko nabe at Chanko Kuroshio is one of the truest



Photo courtesy of Chanko Kuroshio

sumo experiences available. Using white barley miso to make its broth, the soup at Kuroshio has a hint of sweetness that balances out the generous portions of savory fish and chicken that stack the pot here. Following the tradition that sumo wrestlers should only eat bipedal animals (which is thought to contribute to their balance and stability so won't get pushed over during their bouts), Kuroshio does not use any beef or pork in its chanko nabe, so if you happen to be a pollo-pescetarian then you're in luck. While you're here you might even get a chance to meet and greet Kuroshio himself, who has long since lost the body weight that won him his fame but is still reportedly an all-around great person who won't say no to a couple of photos.

Tomoegata

Tomoegata is one of the most well-known chanko nabe establishments in Ryogoku and is a must-try when visiting the heartland of sumo. Located just a few minutes by foot from the Sumo Museum and the famous sumo stadium, Ryogoku Kokugikan; Tomoegata is the perfect spot to try chanko nabe in Tokyo after watching a live sumo tournament. Able to serve up to 300 people at a time, you won't need to get a reservation here during the off hours, but if you're coming hot off a match then you'll want to call in advance to make sure you get a spot, as it tends to get packed with hungry sumo fans. Make sure to get their signature kunimiyama chanko nabe which is made of a chicken and sardine-based broth that is lightly salted.



Photo courtesy of Kappo Yoshiba

Kappo Yoshiba

Resting right along the Sumida River, the folks at Kappo Yoshiba pride themselves on giving their customers an all-out sumo experience. Working directly with wholesalers from Toyosu Fish Market, the ingredients that are used in the dishes at Yoshiba are guaranteed fresh. Yoshiba has five different types of chanko nabe available for you to enjoy, though if you are eating chanko nabe for the first time then you should go with the Yoshiba's specialty, which features Yoshiba's house-made swordfish balls that are made daily from Japanese yams, green onion, and fresh swordfish.

Best restaurants for chanko nabe in Tokyo

STORY AND PHOTOS BY FRANCISCO CARDOSO, BYFOOD

Beginning over 2,000 years ago, sumo wrestling is one of the oldest Japanese traditions to date. With larger than life athletes and a continuous stream of foreign visitors who are looking to get a glimpse of Japan's history, watching a sumo wrestling tournament is one of the most popular things to do in Tokyo. If you're looking to get a jolt of excitement seeing sumo wrestling in person, then make sure to go to Ryogoku, which is known as the center of the sumo wrestling world. While you're there, you'll also be able to dine on the staple dish of the sumo diet, chanko nabe. A hot pot dish filled with ingredients like chicken, tofu, fish, vegetables, and mushrooms, chanko nabe is a hearty and delicious dish that will leave

you stuffed. So, grab a group of friends and head on over to any of these restaurants offering chanko nabe in Tokyo, because chanko nabe is definitely a meal to be shared.



byFood is a platform for food events in Tokyo, with over 80 experiences to choose from and a fantastic resource for learning about Japan's thriving food culture! What's more, byFood runs a charitable outreach program, the Food for Happiness

Project, which donates 10 meals to children in Cambodia for each person who books a food event through our platform!

Kawasaki

Possibly one of the oldest buildings that line the streets of Ryogoku, Kawasaki is a great place to go get your cravings for chanko nabe in Tokyo satiated. Having been around since 1937, Kawasaki offers a limited menu in comparison to the other chanko nabe restaurants on this list, and though their chanko nabe recipe may be simple, it is some of the best you can get in Ryogoku. The chanko nabe here may not be as flashy as other places, but the ingredients used in their nabe (hot pot) are second to none. Made with free range chicken that is brought in from Kyushu, this dish will make your mouth water. Kawasaki is currently run by the founder's son, Tadashi Kawasaki, who prides himself on following the old methods of making chanko nabe. Come on by Kawasaki to get a taste of the original chanko nabe.

Saganobori

Found in the glamorous district of Ginza is Saganobori, where you'll find the freshest chanko nabe in Tokyo. Due to its prime location, only a couple of minutes away from the famous Tsukiji Market (which gets its fish supply from Toyosu Fish Market), you'll be able to receive some top-class fish in your chanko nabe. Also featuring a special lighter version of chanko nabe, consisting of only vegetables, which is perfect for those who are more health conscious, Saganobori will satisfy any customer craving chanko nabe in Tokyo.

Kirishima

Right in front of Ryogoku Station, Kirishima is one of the first stops you should make while visiting the land of sumo. Founded and run by Kirishima Kazuhiro, a former Ozeki (the second highest rank that one can achieve in the sumo world), you can rest assured that you will be eating authentic chanko nabe in Tokyo. With broth that is made from a mix of chicken and pork bone, the dish is exceptionally savory and hearty. Combined with your choice of four different types of chanko (soy sauce, salt, miso, and kimchi) you have ample options to satisfy a range of palates and appetites.



Photo courtesy of Kirishima



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RESTAURANT INFO

BREAKI

Traditional portable dish highlights lunch in the Land of Rising Sun

BY TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,
STRIPES JAPAN

During lunch, you may have witnessed a Japanese coworker eating out of a home-packed box. Or maybe during a stroll in the park, you noticed a salaryman sitting on a bench with a smartphone and a little wooden lunch box.

These colorful and artistically arranged dishes in pretty lacquer boxes are often eye-catching. Called “bento” or “obento,” the portable boxed lunch highlights the mid-day meal in Japan.

They are traditionally put together by the homemaker in the family for their spouse, children or themselves. In fact, my wife still prepares a bento for our 25-year-old daughter who, appreciates the convenience and cost, or lack thereof.

But, making these boxes isn’t like throwing a sandwich, crackers and juicebox in a bag. When making a bento, the key is paying close attention to the nutritional balance and an aesthetically pleasing arrangement.

According to my wife, these requirements often mean visiting several different supermarkets to buy various foods, including some pre-cooked foods and frozen products.

The tradition of bento goes back to the feudal era when soldiers carried dried rice in a small bag and ate them in between battles. In the Edo era (1603-1867), the tradition of bringing food in lacquered wooden boxes to go along with hanami, tea parties and various other celebrations outside the house was established, according to National Rice Association.

Although bento was meant to be a portable homemade meal, it has since become less and less homemade. Commercial boxed lunch franchise Hokka Hokka Tei began offering its take-out bento in disposable boxes in 1976. The freshly cooked, piping hot meal attracted salarymen and rapidly spread across the nation with nickname of “hokaben.”

Convenience store chains soon followed the trend and started offering their so-called “convini bento,” which helped lead to the mass production of prepared lunch boxes throughout the nation in the early 1980s.

While hokaben and convini bento have been gaining in popularity, homemade bento is still popular among those who want to keep the food expenses low, just like my daughter. But there are plenty of other reasons, as well.

“Homemade bento enables me to stay in the office, which helps me accomplish more work in my busy day,” says Ayako Kamio. “Preparing my bento by using three colors (red, green and yellow) of ingredients for good nutritional balance, helps me stay healthy and eat a well-balanced meal, too.”

Kunihiko Ishii, a Tokyo salaryman who works for a mobile phone company, always buys a bento at the convenience store to avoid waiting in line at the often-crowded restaurants around him.

“It is much better and less stressful to eat a bento in a park than waiting in a long line for a restaurant,” Ishii said.

A typical bento is made up of rice, karaage (fried chicken), fried or grilled fish, eggs or hamburger. These foods are packed into a tiny rectangle wooden, plastic or aluminum box. The rice is often wrapped with seaweed, or comes with pickled plum. In the box, partitions separate the rice and staple food from other small bits of accompanying ingredients, such as pickles, boiled or fried vegetables and fruits.

Among the various kinds of bento, one of the simplest and most popular forms is onigiri, or hand-shaped rice ball. Wrapped in seaweed, the salt-flavored rice contains various ingredients,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



ING BENTO

A CASE OF BENTO BOXES AND POP CULTURE IN JAPAN

BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES JAPAN

As someone who grew up on Okinawa, “Who’s got the coolest lunchbox?” was not a question I remember hearing during my school days. So, when I heard about the American nostalgia surrounding decades-old lunchboxes from a coworker in the U.S., I was certainly intrigued.

I wondered, where did such reverence and nostalgia over a lunchbox come from?

So, I did some digging and came across many interesting stories.

I found everything from an odd “Welcome Back Kotter” lunchbox, to how “Hopalong Cassidy” completely changed the U.S. lunchbox scene in 1950, and, of course, the Lunchbox Museum in Columbus, Georgia.

The stories provided insight into how people in the U.S. still enjoy talking about those old lunch boxes to this day. They are something people of a certain generation can relate to, and it made me envious of American culture.

In Japan, the bento box also can make for an interesting conversation.

These days, so called character bento, or “Kyaraben,” dominate the conversation in Japan’s lunch box scene. The ingenuity of mothers who arrange food in the form of animated characters or cute animals to impress their kids or other mothers are not only spotlighted on Instagram but also featured by the mainstream media home and abroad.

Japan even has the Bento Box Museum in Kyoto, where a variety of traditional bento boxes are on display.

But, it’s too early for the “Kyaraben” craze to be talked about in the past tense, as we are still in the middle of it. And movie or animation characters don’t belong in a showcase dedicated to classic bento boxes that date back hundreds of years.

It is hard for me to imagine bento boxes being worshiped as collectors’ items in Japan. But the combination of pop culture and lunchboxes in the U.S. still resonates with a certain part of me.

TOM AND JERRY

When I heard about the lunchbox madness in the U.S., I thought about a certain bento box I used to use. It was a metal “Tom and Jerry” box. I remember many kids having bento boxes like this in the 80s and early 90s. Most of them were thought to be made of aluminum or alumite, which is enhanced aluminum, and had drawings

of Japanese animation characters on them.

I didn’t witness kids competing for the coolest bento box, or at least I can’t recall any memorable episodes. But it is a certainly a memorable item associated with my childhood. And, clearly it wasn’t only my childhood as now there are bento boxes displayed at small museums and for sale at retro stores.

Still, when compared with how old lunchboxes are treated in the U.S., efforts to document bento box design history seems to be lacking. And with the way Kyaraben is taking the media by storm, attention to such aluminum bento boxes remain to be modest at best.

In order to fill in the blanks, or out of my envy of American culture, I started digging in hopes to piece together some of the bento’s history.

HOW IT STARTED

As far as the history of aluminum/alumite bento box is concerned, there is some information that is clear.

Writer Yuko Shibukawa explains that aluminum bento boxes were first manufactured in Japan around 1897. Later, alumite was introduced to solve the problem of oxidation caused by pickled plum topped on white rice, according to the author.

But regarding information as to when characters began appearing on bento boxes, information was not so easy to find.

The first thing I turned to was that “Tom and Jerry” bento box I had. I called Skater, a company based in Naha prefecture that produces bento boxes with characters such as “Hello Kitty” and “Snoopy.”

A representative at the company said they had been around 25-30 years ago, but that there were others who were making the printed bento boxes before them.

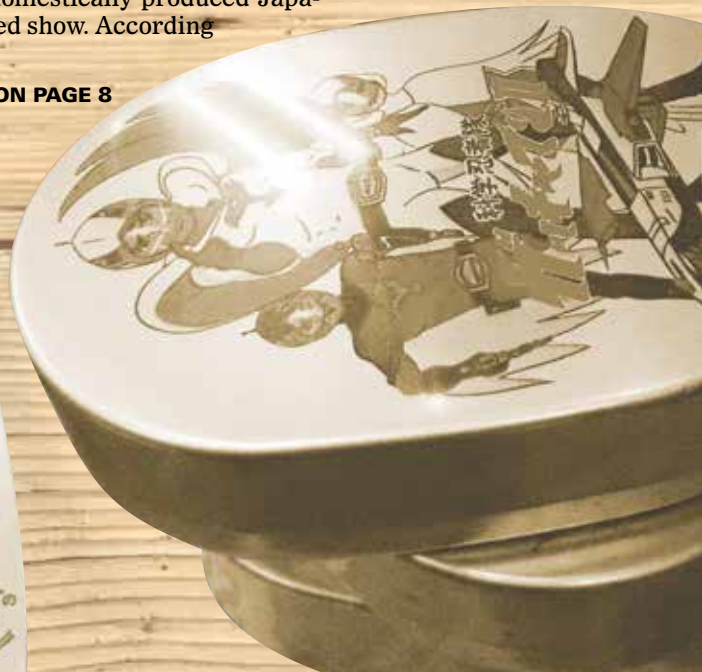
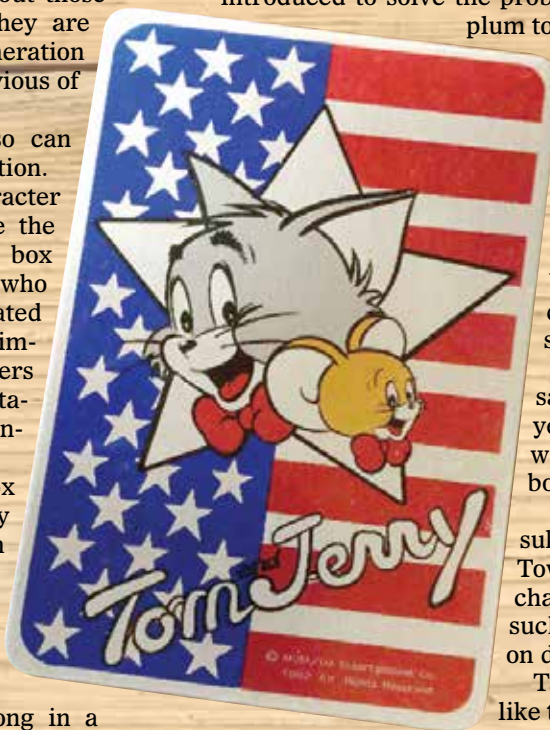
Next, I turned to “Showa Hakubutsukan” (Showa Museum) in Yonabaru Town. Aluminum bento boxes with characters were among the many items such as tin toys and vinyl dolls that were on display.

Taking a look at their bento boxes was like tracking the history of pop culture in Japan. Cartoon or animation characters such as “Magma Taishi” (Ambassador Mag-

ma) and “Gatchaman” (Science Ninja Team Gatchaman), or those from a televised puppet play called “Hyokkori Hyoutan Jima” made me smile. I learned from Mr. Tokumura, the owner of the museum, that many of those bento boxes can be traced as far back as the 60s and 70s.

When I went to the museum, I had a certain character in my mind. It was “Mighty Atom” a.k.a. “Astro Boy,” which was known as the first domestically produced Japanese animated show. According

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to Japanese Animation Historian Yasuo Yamaguchi, the merchandizing of the boxes started with “Astro Boy” when “Atom Marble Chocolate” was sold by Meiji, a major food company. Atom Marble Chocolate was sold in 1965 according to the company’s website. That led me to infer that the Atom bento box could exist as early as the 1960s. Or, the bento box could have come out in the 1950s because the robot boy first debuted in a cartoon in 1952, ahead of its animation adaptation.

The Showa Museum didn’t have an Atom box at the time. Tokumura said he had had one at one point, but it was sold to one of his customers.

So, I checked with Tezuka Productions, which owns the cartoon and the animation show, and tried to identify when Atom box debuted.

But, the company had no information on the box:

Eventually, I stumbled upon a character-themed bento box whose history goes further back.

The Japan Broadcasting Corporation, or NHK, a public broadcasting network in Japan, recently aired a TV drama titled “Beppinsan.” It was about a children’s apparel company that was launched in Kobe by four women shortly after the war, and developed to become a top brand in the country, and even a provider for the Imperial family in Japan.

In one episode, the company decides to sell 300 alumite bento boxes as special items at their branch in a department store. To make them more appealing to customers, the female entrepreneurs drew animals on each bento box, which was a hit.

The drama was modeled after

Showa Hakubutsukan

Address: 3115-5 Yonabaru, Yonabru town, Shimajiri-gun (40 mins from Camp Foster)
Admission fee: 500 yen (includes a drink)
Hours: 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. (Fri.)
10 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Sat. and Sun.)

Familiar, an actual apparel company based in Kobe.

So I checked with the company to see if this actually took place. Ms. Ooyama, a representative at Familiar, was kind enough to look into it.

“Our record shows that the company sold bento boxes with drawings in 1949,” Ms. Ooyama said. “But it is hard to confirm that those were alumite or aluminum bento boxes.”

Regarding what kind of drawings they were, no concrete information was found. But Ms. Ooyama and I agreed that the animal drawings were likely given the company’s mascots, which are bear cubs named “Fami” and “Lia.” The mascots became official in 1951, two years after the debut of the bento boxes with drawings.

1951 happens to be a year after the debut of that “Hopalong Cassidy” lunchbox. I could not find any information that directly ties Familiar’s bento boxes to pop culture-themed lunch boxes in the U.S. Nonetheless, the cute animal drawings still appearing on Familiar’s bento boxes today seemed to strike the same chord as the U.S. lunchboxes with characters from “The Green Hornet” or “Lost in Space.”

Sources: *Npr.org*, *Roadsideamerica.com*, *Gimletmedia.com*
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

such as flaked salmon, fish roe or pickled plum in the middle. Convenience stores often have stocked shelves of various types of onigiri.

Bento goes well with family trips, picnics and sporting events, as well. For a school field day, mothers will compete by preparing a gorgeous bento for their children to be proud of among their friends.

Bento is often found at gatherings like a funeral or town assemblies, as well.

At a train station, various ekiben (train station lunch box) cooked with local delicacies are available. Be sure to grab one at a station bento shop the next time you hop on the shinkansen.

Some of the top bento in Japan

These are popular forms of bento. Some of them are available in a local bento shop or convenience store. Try one and enjoy the taste of lunch in the Land of Rising Sun!

1. Onigiri (Omusubi) – A hand-shaped rice ball wrapped with seaweed and full of a variety of ingredients, such as pickled plum, flaked salmon or various other fish in the middle.

2. Hinomaru Bento – A boxed dish consisting of plain white rice with a pickled plum in the center. It is named after the Japanese flag which the dish resembles.

3. Kamameshi – Rice boiled with chicken, crab or other ingredients in a small clay pot.

4. Makunouchi Bento – Traditional Japanese-style box dish with rice, a pickled plum, a slice of broiled salmon and rolled egg.

5. Sakeben – Boxed rice with a slice of broiled salmon and pickles.

6. Noriben – Boxed rice wrapped with seaweed dipped in soy sauce and bonito flakes.

7. Karaage bento – Boxed rice with pieces of deep-fried chicken.

8. Norikamentai – Boxed rice with deep-fried chicken, salted cod roe spiced with red pepper and rice wrapped with flavored seaweed.

9. Yakiniku Bento – Boxed rice with barbecued meat.

10. Hanbaagu Bento – Boxed rice with a hamburger steak.

11. Katsudon – A Bowl of rice topped with a breaded deep-fried pork cutlet and egg.

12. Tonkatsu Bento – Boxed rice with a deep-fried breaded pork cutlet.

takiguchi.takahiro@stripes.com

Secret of my bento

Tips and recipes for a safe, tasty boxed lunch

Making bento myself greatly helps in saving money while enjoying my favorite dishes every lunch. Preparing a bento may be considered time-consuming and bothersome to prepare, especially in the busy morning, but the following tips can make it easier and more fun!

1. Tips for making the perfect bento box:

Tip 1: Minimize cooking time: I usually cook food and freeze it in advance.

Tip 2: Use foods and seasonings that won’t spoil easily: I usually include umeboshi (pickled plum), ginger and vinegar.

Tip 3: Drain moisture before packing: I always keep bento box open until steam and moisture evaporate.

Tip 4: Be sure to cook foods well, especially eggs (so foods will last longer)

Tip 5: When you don’t have time, use precooked frozen stuff to simplify your cooking process.

2. To arrange foods attractively in the box:

Divide the bento box into three parts - regular side dishes, entrée and a-la-carte dishes. Here are some of my dish samples for each:

Regular side dishes (Cook and preserve them in refrigerator when you have time).

- a** Burdock with deep-fried tofu
- b** Sautéed mushrooms and kidney beans with butter, garlic and soy sauce with batter, garlic and soy sauce
- c** Sautéed bell pepper and paprika with bonito flakes

Entrée (meat and fish)

- d** Grilled pork and asparagus with ginger sauce
- e** Sautéed salmon in soy sauce
- f** Hamburger steak with beefsteak plant leaves

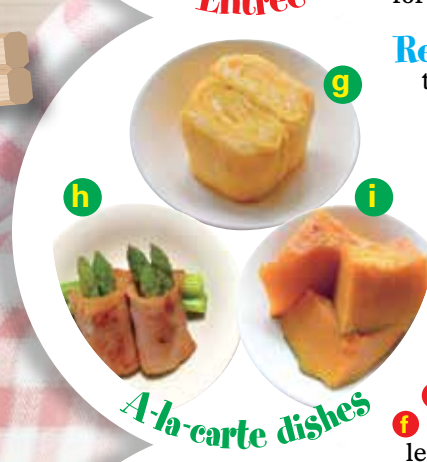
A-la-carte dishes

- g** Soy-flavored omelet
- h** Boiled pumpkin
- i** Asparagus wrapped with bacon

One last tip to simplify preparation: use plastic wrap.

Although it’s not as attractive, I usually lay plastic wrap inside my bento box to help prevent the smells of the different foods and sauces from clinging to the box. It also helps to keep it cleaner.

– Takahiro Takiguchi





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RESTAURANT INFO

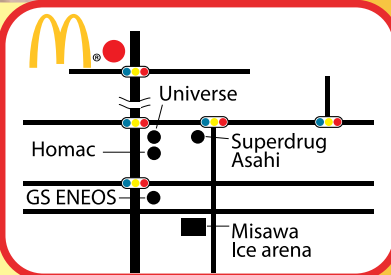
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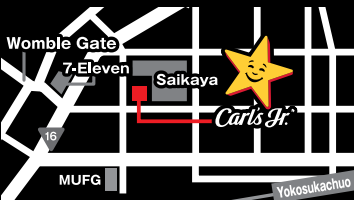
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RESTAURANT INFO

How to brew a fantastic cup of coffee

BYTESS BERCAN,
BUSAN HAPS MAGAZINE

When you wake up in the morning, what's the first thing on your mind? For many, the answer is simple. It's coffee.

It's a given that this intoxicating beverage is adored, but like the sought after yet elusive utopia of Atlantis, does the perfect brew actually exist? We checked out what a few professionals had to say on this topic, and came up with a some suggestions.

Tips for Getting the Perfect Cup:

Clean Your Equipment Often
You want your equipment clean and fresh, free of all

bacteria or other contaminants that add up with use.

Check the water's temperature

The Black Bear Micro Roastery – an authentic roastery that's dedicated to researched quality in beans — made an online guide that discusses the issue of water. It mentions that, ideally, you want your water to

be between 195-205°F (91-96°C). It's essential to get just the right temperature. Water that's even slightly too hot will burn the coffee, and water

that's a touch too cool cannot properly extract a bean's flavour.

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Use quality water

The Black Bear's Roastery guide also suggests that the water shouldn't add anything extra to your coffee's flavour. A lot of the times tap water can contain chlorine or other substances that affect the taste. Choose filtered or bottled water as an option.

Bean freshness matters

In his brew guide, Garret Oden, coffee expert at Yellow House Coffee in Texas, reminds us that as soon as beans are ground and exposed to oxygen, the freshness declines quickly. To ensure prime quality in your

sipping experience, buy coffee beans in smaller amounts and grind them day by day. This grind-as-you go routine keeps your coffee as true to quality taste as possible.

Use the pour-over method of brewing

The pour-over is a hand brew method of pouring warm water over the coffee grounds. Grounds are placed in a filter that is held in a cone, such as the Kalita Wave or Chemex. In an interview with Real Simple Living – a website that provides solutions for everyday life – barista champion Katie Carguilo explained that the pour-over is her favorite brew method. It offers a combination between an even saturation of grounds

and removing of sediment, leaving a strong yet clean brew.

How to use the pour-over method effectively? First choose your apparatus (such as the Hario V60, Kalita Wave, Chemex) or check out a local cafe for pour-over options. Be sure to rinse your cone and filter. After that, place the freshly ground beans in your filter. Pour the warm water over the grounds in an even manner. Give it time to soak in the water, and pause the pouring. Allow the liquid to drip through, then begin the pouring again. Basically, you want to repeat the steps of pouring and waiting until you have the amount of coffee you want.

Follow the tips above, and your patience will pay off with a divine cup of homemade joe.



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A little story about Jack & Betty hotdogs

Located in Sky Plaza Misawa, Jack & Betty Food Corner offers a variety of tasty hotdogs. Our eight original homemade hotdogs are popular with the military community and all lovers of hotdogs. Our large juicy "dogs" are served on local freshly baked buns, a combo that will leave your mouth watering and your stomach grumbling for more. And if you do have some room left, we recommend our homemade, naturally-flavored and additive-free gelato, the perfect dessert to any of our tasty hotdogs! So, stop by Jack & Betty. We'll make you feel at home while you chomp on our tasty dogs.

RESTAURANT INFO



Freshness is always better!

Located inside the Yujo Community Center, G&R's Pacific Pub is a convenient meal spot featuring pasta, fresh salads and a large variety of sandwiches with a side order. Some of G&R's specialty sandwiches include turkey, bacon and provolone served on a panini or the popular chicken & bacon avocado wrap. And don't miss our "Kids' Corner," featuring – Lil' Pasta, grilled cheese sandwich & side orders. For a scrumptious quick lunch or dinner, stop by the Yujo from 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. weekdays on Monday through Friday.



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Discount off
items \$4 or more.

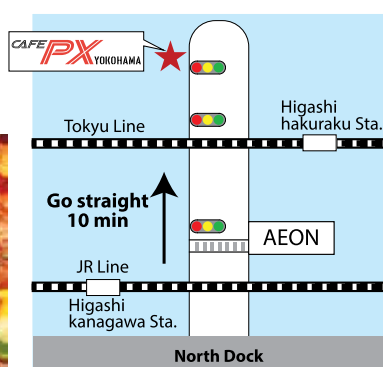
Members
First

A Taste of Japan



Show your Military ID. To get 20% discount.

CAFE PX YOKOHAMA
Tel: 080-2019-9164



Café offers a taste of American diner

TAK the owner of CAFE PX wants military members to have fun and remember their lifestyle in the United States, enjoy their lives and meals by coming to CAFE PX while they are stationed in Japan. He was also a cook at the old Negishi housing "All Hands Club" so he knows how to make great American-style food like B.L.T, omelets, pizza, burgers, hotdogs, milk shakes and more. He wants to create an American hometown neighborhood diner, style and feel so his customers can relax, eat and enjoy his hospitality.

RESTAURANT INFO



WingStreet



PIZZA HUT LOCATIONS:

Yokosuka 1000-2100

DELIVERY IS AVAILABLE

Offering: Pizza, Personal Pan Pizza, Wings
Pasta, Breadsticks, Dessert, and multiple drinks.

Atsugi 1030-2000

DELIVERY IS AVAILABLE

Offering: Pizza, Personal Pan Pizza, Wings
Pasta, Breadsticks, Dessert, and multiple drinks.

*We extended Pizza Hut Delivery hours on Friday and Saturday until 2200.



LIVE MÁS



TACO BELL LOCATIONS:

Yokosuka 1000-2100

DRIVE-UP WINDOW AVAILABLE

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

*We extended Yokosuka Taco Bells Drive thru hours on Friday and Saturday until 2200.

Atsugi 1000-2000

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

Sasebo 1030-2000

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