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# STARS AND STRIPES®

Community Publication

# JAPAN

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**FREE**

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## CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

### A journey

**W**ith each move, a piece of my heart stays,  
New friends, new skies, the constant of change.  
Goodbyes are hard, promises made in the haze,  
Yet in every new land, a story, beautifully strange.

Under the same stars, we find our ways,  
Miles apart but together in dreams and days.  
Every hello and goodbye, a new path lays,  
Memories weave us together, in the sun's rays

– Josef Brown,  
Yokota High School

### The Military Child

**I**n the month of the military child  
We honor those young hearts so wild  
With parents serving far and near  
Their bravery and strength shines clear

They endure long separations and change  
Yet they never falter or feel estranged  
Their resilience astounds us all  
As they stand so proud and tall

– Ryan Michael Zoellers,  
Yokota High School

### I am From

**I** am from red dirt roads  
Tire marks and grass fields all around  
I am from Earth song at Beatrice's place  
The smell of warm honey fills my nose  
I am from tatami rooms  
where the sun rises before their moon  
I am from Doraemon after school with disappearing kumon in my bag  
I am from cousins and family all around  
"In or out" spoken from afar  
I am from running behind bikes  
Racing down the road  
Feeling the summer evening breeze  
I sit and reminisce on thing I have done  
How things could be so different  
I am from memories of fun  
Seemingly two different lives made into one

– Aminata Sylla,  
Yokota High School

## Congratulate a 2024 grad!

Our annual Grad Tab highlighting Pacific DODEA high schools and their graduating classes will appear in the May 24 edition of Stripes Japan.

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

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

#### What you need:

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

SEE MORE  
MILITARY CHILD  
STORIES INSIDE!

– Drawing by Aidan Ealey,  
9th grade, Matthew G. Perry High School

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## Celebrating Month of the Military Child



- Jazlynn Lorenzo,  
11th grade, Robert D. Edgren Middle High School

I love being a military child, because I get to have friends from all around the world. I get to see new things in new places, and I get to try new foods. I have lived in three countries. My favorite thing about Germany is that it has many fun activities for kids, like parks and festivals. My favorite thing about Japan is the food and culture. My favorite thing about the United States is that I get to see my family. The best part about being a military child is learning new cultures and languages.

- Serenity,  
United School of Tokyo

Check out more  
military children stories at:  
[militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)

Being a military child undoubtedly shaped me into who I am today. Had I remained at my school in the states with 2000+ kids, there is no way I would have ever considered running for student council. But the unified communities of similar kids (ones who move all the time) made me feel comfortable enough and motivated to take higher leadership positions, as I had never been surrounded by so many kids who've all gone through similar experiences I've gone through.

- Chase H.,  
12th grade, Nile C. Kinnick High School



- Zachariah David, 8th grade,  
Robert D. Edgren Middle High School



### What does it mean to be a military child?

I feel good because it is a good force. And my dad and my mom foute. And it feels exciting. And i feel like im safe. I like there suits. And i like there suluts. And if they show there pawn that means they lost the battle. But if they do not show there pawn that means they did not lose the battle.

- Asher,  
2nd grade, Sollars Elementary School



- Gavin Giles,  
11th grade, Robert D. Edgren Middle High School



# LIVE MÁS

## TACO BELL LOCATIONS:

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

1st grade • Ms. Bailey

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love being a military child. I get to live in Japan. I go to new schools and make new friends. I travel to new Air Force bases. Being a military child makes me happy.  
 by Harper B.

- Harper B.

**I am a Military Child**  
 Being a military child makes me kind. I can help people and the Earth too. I can teach kids even if I am not a teacher. We all work together. We all love Japan. I love being a military child.  
 by Anais B.

- Anais B.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love being a Military Child because I get to live in Japan. I also get to meet new friends. I love to be a Military Child.  
 by Eve D.

- Eve D.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I feel happy because I am a military child. I can stay in touch with my friends when I move. I will go to a new school. I will make new friends. I feel happy because I am a military child.  
 I serve too!

- Seren D.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I like to be a military child. It is fun moving around. It is scary meeting friends on our first day. We get to a new number all the time. It is fun being a military child.  
 by Katherine D.

- Katherine D.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love to be a military child. I get to meet new people and I go to hotels. I feel so happy because I love to be a military child.  
 by Levi F.

- Levi F.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love being a military child. I live in Japan. I go to a new school. I move to a new country. Being a military child makes me happy.  
 by Skylar F.

- Skylar F.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love being a military child. We make new friends. We go to a new school. I'll try new food. We will live in a new home. I love being a military child.  
 by William H.

- William H.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I like to be a military child. I make a lot of friends. I am happy to be a military child.  
 by Gemma H.

- Gemma H.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I like to be a military child because we get to visit new places. I go to a new home. I get new friends. I get to go to a hotel. I like to be a military child.  
 by Lucas H.

- Lucas H.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love being a military child because my dad works in the Air Force. When I move I make new friends. I live in Japan. Being a military child is happy and fun.  
 by Uriah I.

- Uriah I.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love being a military child. I can have new friends. I will meet my friends. I can meet new people in Japan. I was in Okinawa. Being a military child is fun.  
 by Liliana G.

- Liliana G.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I love being a military child. I can be in a hotel. My dad is in the Air Force. I can make new friends. I get to move around. Being a military child is fun.  
 by Hope O.

- Hope O.

**I am a Military Child**  
 I like to be a Military child. My dad works in the Air Force. I see some new places in Japan. I like to be a Military child in Japan.  
 by Olivia M.

- Olivia M.

**I am a Military Child**  
 Hi I am a military child. I can do a lot. Like sometimes we travel and see new people and then we go to a new school. I get to have new friends. I like being a military child.  
 I serve too!

- Major P.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child


# Joan K. Mendel Elementary School

2nd grade • Ms. Wagner

Name: Maison B. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!




All I have to say is being a military child is what you draw you can be people all it will be fun!

- Maison B.

Name: Evangelyn H. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!



I like being a military child because my family helps the world and the country when it ever goes on a hot the air to fly air plane.

- Evangelyn H.

Name: Harrison S. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!




It's so fun to meet my new friends I also like going to school places seeing cool cars.

- Harrison S.

Name: Brianna S. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!




I like to be a Military child so my parents keep trying their stuff I like to go to new place

- Brianna S.

Name: Dakota J. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!



As a military child I get to travel to new places and countries, I get to experience new cultures.

- Dakota J.

Name: Garianna W. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!

What is special about being a military child is that you get to move to a lot of cool places and make a lot of friends but you have to leave your friends if I tell my friends a lot if you are a military child you will know your friends from that is just the way it is.



- Garianna W.

Name: Langley F. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!




It's special because I can see the world in black because I make some people stay in one place I love the

- Langley F.

Name: Lucas M. Grade: W-2

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!



Being a military kid is special because the way you feel some times you feel so good.

- Lucas M.

Name: Robin B. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!



A military kid is special by the way strong being and what's smart and don't forget you! That's how military kid is special

- Robin B.

Name: Ronin S. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!

I'm special because my dad is in the military and works but my dad plays and is happy.



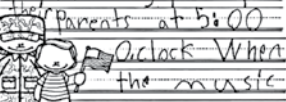
- Ronin S.

Name: Weston D. Grade: second

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!

A military child is special they are in the military. They respect the military. Their parents or mom or dad are in the military. Everyone in Japan respect the parents at 5:00 o'clock when the music comes on.




- Weston D.

Name: Emory W. Grade: W2

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!



What is so special about being a military kid is you can get to experience a lot of places and get to make new friends and experience more!


- Emory W.

Name: Oya R. Grade: 2nd grade

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!

Today The next day



It is fun being a military kid. You get more new friends!

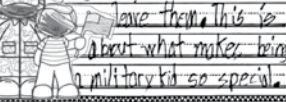
- Oya R.

Name: Xavier O. Grade: 2nd

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

Write about what makes being a military kid so special. Be sure to include strong describing words and watch your conventions!

What makes me special is that I'm a military child! I'm a military child what makes me special is travel lots of places. But when I leave friends I feel sad to say good bye. It's hard to say good bye to friends and love them. This is about what makes being a military kid so special.



- Xavier O.

Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)



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Celebrating Month of the Military Child


# Yokota West Elementary School

1st, 2nd grades • Mrs. Bogdan




Something that is good about being a military child is that I can make a lot of friends. A bad thing about being a military child is that we have to move away. A good thing about being a military child is I get to go to a new school.

- Finn I.

Being a part of a military community makes me happy because I can make new friends or meet old friends. I can learn different things like what they build and eat. I can go on trips with my family to explore the community.

- Evelyn R.



Being a part of the military means no because good and bad things are different. Friends can be moving away or I might be moving to my best friend's house.

- Connor C.



I can make new friends. I see airplanes. I see birds!

- Elena S.




In a military community you can make a new friend. I can go to the gym with them. I can go to the park.

- Emy G.




Being a military child means making friends. I see friends and I know what they like to do.

- Roran C.



When friends move away and new friends come they might be playful and they might be shy. That is why I like being a military child.

- Bella G.



I feel safe being in a military community because the military protects us. It's sad for people to move away like when the dance.

- Khoi F.



I miss my family and it hurts but because I don't get to see them but I can call them.

- Kinley D.



I feel safe because of the military. I can make friends. I miss my family from going away.

- Nick G.



Friends move and go they can come back to see you. You can move away too and you can come back. You can make new friends where you are at.

- Gloria F.

Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)



I am a military child. People can feel sad. You can meet your family when they come back. We can't forget our ID or you can't come back to the house.

- Robyn O.



I will make new friends because some friends move so if you miss your friends you can make new friends.

- Valentina H.



It is fun. We can go to the park. I can go to the park. You can go to the park.

- Liam D.

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Sid Frazier

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Pasta, Breadsticks, Dessert, and multiple drinks.



**LIVE MÁS**

## TACO BELL LOCATIONS:

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Offering: Tacos, Burritos, Quesadillas, Salads, Desserts,  
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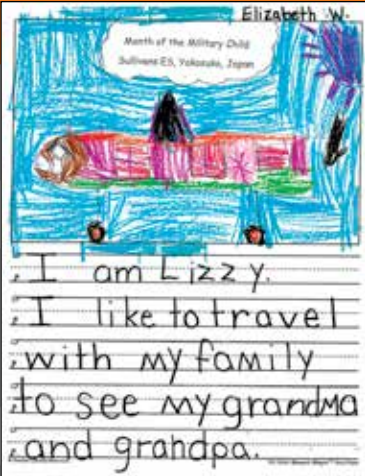
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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Sullivans Elementary School Kindergarten, Ms. Logue



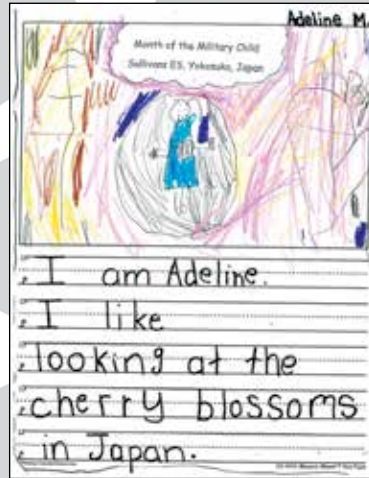
- Elizabeth W.



- Lugene J.



- Gavin B.



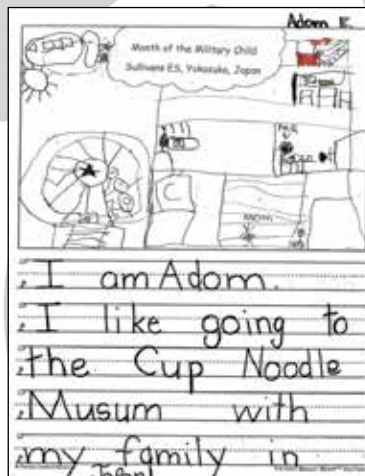
- Adeline M.



- Ian S.



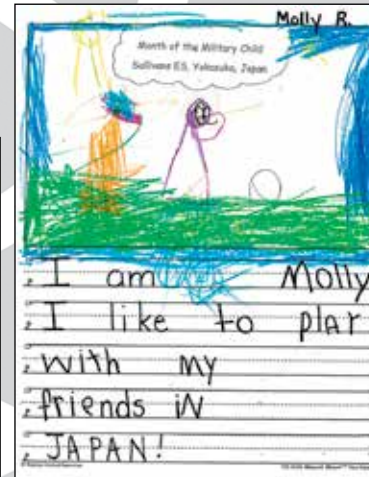
- Tru C.



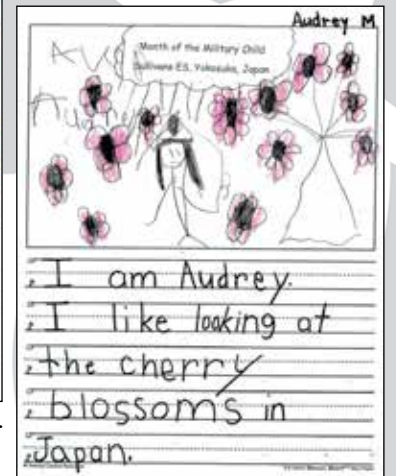
- Adom E.



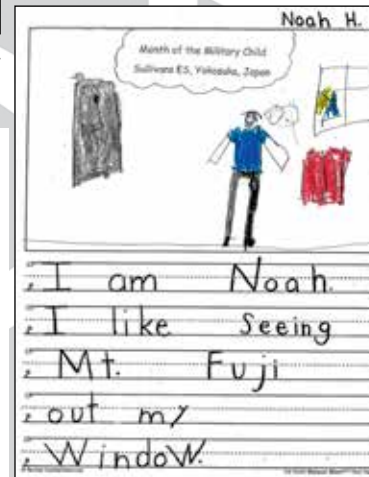
- Natalie S.



- Molly R.



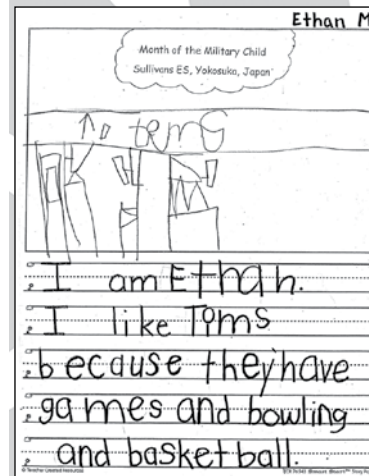
- Audrey M.



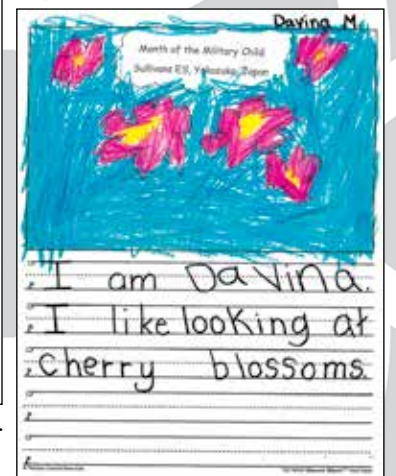
- Noah H.



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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Sullivans Elementary School 2nd grade, Mrs. Penberthy

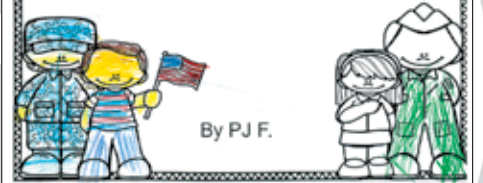


Being a military child is fun. I get to travel the world with my family. We travel because of my dad's job in the military. I have seen the Golden Gate Bridge, the Silkworm Museum, and the Gundam robot in Japan. I learned to speak Japanese and Spanish. I get to meet new friends every time we move. Sometimes this makes me happy at first, but sad at the end because I might have to move and leave friends. Being a military child is great but has some challenges. It teaches me to be thankful for every moment I experience.



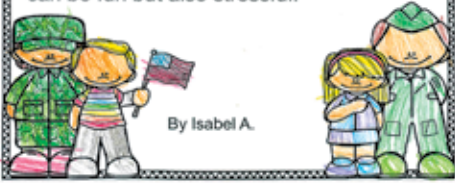
By Mackenzel R.

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



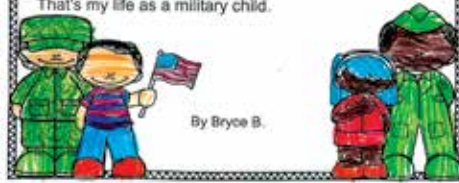
By PJ F.

Being a military connected child is very fun. Getting to go to cool places with my sisters is one reason. I love being a military connected child because of the awesome people I get to meet. Trying new foods is another reason why it's fun being military connected. It can also be stressful because I don't get to see my family for very long. Being a military connected child can be fun but also stressful.



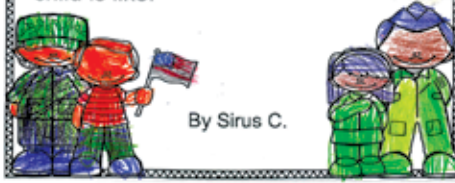
By Isabel A.

Being a military child is hard because when my dad and Kevin are deployed I get sad and I call both of them to see if they are ok. We had to move to lots of places. I had to go to Florida, Ikego, and Hayma. There was a lot of traveling to those places. We tried new food when we got here. The foods that I tried were sushi, seaweed, and rice balls with tuna. When I move to places, I meet new friends everywhere we go. I love meeting new friends but it's hard. I help my mom when my dad is deployed. I had to leave my three dogs in Florida. This country would not allow pets, so I had to leave them there. It was so sad. That's my life as a military child.



By Bryce B.

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



By Sirus C.

Being a military child is fun and weird. I hate being a military child because my dad is always at work. Being a military child is scary because he could die. I wish that my dad could do work at home, but he can't. I like being a military child.



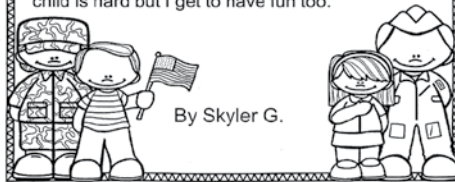
By Aiden A.

Being a military child can be sad or fun. For example, when my dad was deployed, that made me sad until he was coming back soon. Traveling is fun especially when my dad is with us, and sometimes we can go to new places. When we PCS I sometimes try new foods, like sushi when we moved to Japan. That's what being a military child means to me.



By Kazuki G.

Being a military child has some unique challenges. My mom deploys a lot because she is in the Navy. It is hard because my dad always has to go to work and I am by myself. I went to Hawaii, Washington D.C., and Japan because my mom always has to go to different places because of her job and we have to move. Because we have to move, I get to try new foods. I have tried tocino spam and rice cakes. We get to travel to neat places like Universal Studio (USJ), DisneyLand Tokyo, and Fuji-Q. Being a military child is hard but I get to have fun too.



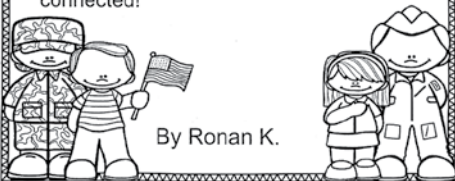
By Skyler G.

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



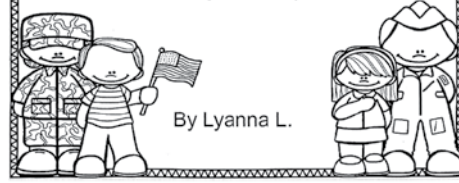
By Owen R.

Being military connected is boring but could be fun. I think there are more responsibilities because I'm not in the States, so I need to do more chores. I can live in a rural or urban community. Sometimes I might live in military housing. I'm different than my classmates because I'm military connected, vs our military. My parents support the military community. That is what it means to me to be military connected!



By Ronan K.

My dad works on the ships. He works for the Navy. He keeps going underway for long periods of time but when he comes back we surprise him but sometimes he surprises us. He might miss my birthday, but I still have fun. When my dad leaves we always celebrate other stuff while he is with us, before he goes. There are some challenges, but that is what it is like being a military child.



By Lyanna L.

Being a military child has some unique challenges others do not experience. For example my dad deployed to many places like Newport, Sapporo, and now a tropical island. I moved to Spain, Virginia, and Japan. I made a lot of friends but I miss some of my old friends and I think they miss me. In two and a half years I'm moving back to Virginia. As a military child, I tried new foods like dragon fruit. Being a military kid is different for some kids compared to others.



By Avery M.

I have parents in the military and it is sad, but it is also good. I move a lot but it is fun because I like to fly in planes. Sometimes when I move it is sad because I have to leave my friends, but I get to visit San Diego, California, and Washington. I also get to try new foods. It is great that I got to try sushi while I was living in Japan. I met new people and played with them. I do not see my dad too much because he is on deployment, but at least I know he is saving the world. Being a military child is sad, but it can be fun too.



By Kady H.

Being a military kid has some challenges. For example, my dad gets deployed to many places for long times. My dad travels a lot. My dad makes me happy and he is good and it, but it is sad not having him with me because I like when he spends time with me. I move a lot, like to California, San Diego, Florida, and now Japan. That is what being military connected is like for me.



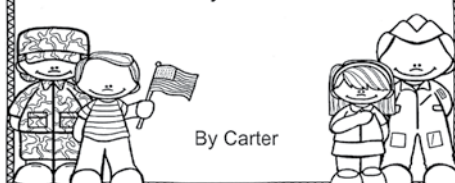
By Challen S.

Are you a military child? Well I am. It is really hard because my dad is always deployed. It can be kind of fun because when he comes back, my family and I always go out to eat together. When we moved to Japan, I got to try new foods like ramen and sushi. It is fun and when he is gone because I have more freedom with one parent. It is because my dad is really strict. That is what it is like to be a military kid for me.



By Jenae T.

Being a military connected child is hard because my dad is gone for a long time. He helps the Navy with training. He doesn't play with me. I left Hawaii and moved to Japan and I can try new foods and meet new friends too. I miss my old friends and the food in Hawaii so much. That is what it is like to be a military connected child.



By Carter

Being a military kid has some unique challenges. When my dad is deployed, I get worried when he is gone. Changing countries is sad but fun. I've lived in California, Washington D.C., and Japan. When we travel to places, I could try new foods, for example sushi and ramen. Those are really good foods. I'm more responsible if my dad leaves because I have to do more chores. That is what being a military kid is like.



By Andrew M.

Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Sullivans Elementary School 2nd grade, Mrs. Woodson



**Trevail Harris**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military child. I feel safe because he keeps the countries safe. I miss everyone that does not.

- Trevail Harris

**Olympia Powell**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military kid. My dad is in the military. He works on a ship.

- Olympia Powell

**Anjyu Aguilar**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military kid. I am proud of my family. I feel sad when they are away because I can't sleep with them. I miss my grandma and grandpa. I cannot hug them. I feel safe when my family is with me. I feel disappointed when I can't tell what I did at school.

- Anjyu Aguilar

**Lindsay Castillo**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

being a military child is fun. You get to hug your family. I am lucky to have a family. I feel safe with my family because my family bond me with love. I am very proud of my dad. working hard. When my family is around. I'm happy to see them. I hold their hand and smile at their face. When I'm sad, my mom cheers me up. I feel so happy when my mom cheers me up. I love my family so much. I will be right by their side when they are home. While they are there, we are my best friends. They will always stay by my side and when my dad is gone at work, I hug him and my mom.

- Lindsay Castillo

**Dayana Watanabe**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

To be a military kid is sad because I don't get to see my family. I guess I can talk to my family but I can't see my family house all the time.

- Dayana Watanabe

**Jacob Del Puerto**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military kid. I feel sad when my dad goes away. I feel sad because my dad works on the ship. Dad has money but he is a military child. If he stays at work, we will be happy. If he doesn't work, we will not have money. I'm lucky because I am a military kid.

- Jacob Del Puerto

**Jaime Lara**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I feel proud of my dad. I feel safe because of the Navy. I'm lucky because of my dad. I get sad when my dad has work. I miss my friends, I miss my papa and my mama. I get sad when I can't see my aunt and cat.

- Jaime Lara

**Sofia Gulick**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I'm a military child. One time my dad had to go on a work trip. When he left, I felt sad because I could not give snuggles at night. I was happy some times too. I could still have fun. I can still talk to him on the phone. I'm so proud of my dad for protecting us.

- Sofia Gulick

**Elise Heimann**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military kid. I am sad when my dad is gone, but thankfully I could still text him. I'm proud of my dad. He spent 20 years in the military. I am very very happy when he comes back.

- Elise Heimann

**Walter Baucom**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I'm a military child when my dad goes to work. I'm sad when my dad can't be home. When my mom gives me food and hugs, I'm happy. When my grandpa and grandma visit, I'm happy. I love to go to the PTX.

- Walter Baucom

**Jabin Garcia**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I'm a military child. I feel happy when my dad protects and come back. I will feel sad when my dad did not come back and give me no hug. I feel disappointed when I can't watch him play, he dives, and can't post a video of him in tik tok.

- Jabin Garcia

**Nayali Lee**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military child and I am sad when my dad is gone, but when he comes home, I am happy. I love my dad. He is the best. I like playing with my friends. It makes me happy. I love my Nana, Papi, Grandpa, and Grandma. I feel safe at home and at school.

- Nayali Lee

**Luke Scott**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military kid. I am happy that my dad is a soldier and I feel that the world is a better place. I love to go to school and I like to see my friends. I love to go to school and I like to see my friends. I love to go to school and I like to see my friends.

- Luke Scott

**Deanna Leary**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military child, and being a military child is hard for me. I always think about my mom and when I see her at home, it makes her want her at home. When I was practicing my presentation, my mom wasn't here to see it. So I was sad and mad at the same time. I feel sad at home with my mom and I'm proud when she is working hard in the military. When she is in the military, I will support her. Finally, she moved to my presentation and we were both happy.

- Deanna Leary

Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)

**Joey Barton**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I'm a military kid. I feel sad because I can't get hugs sometimes. I feel safe because the military protects us. I miss my dad because he can't play board games, sing songs, and talk to him every day.

- Joey Barton

**Samauria Gardner**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military child and I'm proud to be one. I'm glad that my dad protects and serves the military. Sometimes I'm disappointed he can't be there, but I'm happy for him. I want to thank my family for being there for me when I need them. I love my Mom, Dad, sisters, and dog. I hope the military people continue to serve.

- Samauria Gardner

**Abigail Showalter**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military kid. I feel safe when my dad comes home. I feel lucky when my dad is happy. I miss my grandparents in the states, but I visit them in the summer. I like being a military child. I never ever give up. My dad has retired from the military. I love my family. I also miss my cousins.

- Abigail Showalter

**Kai Kress**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military child. I feel sad and happy when my dad is gone because he fixes stuff. He is an officer in the Navy. I am going to be sad cause my dad will leave in thirteen days. I like being a military child and I feel like a lucky child for being a military child. I am going to be really happy because my dad will retire.

- Kai Kress

**Christopher Lantron**  
Mrs. Woodson's 2nd The Sullivans School

I am a military kid. I feel safe, proud, and glad for my dad going out to sea. I get excited when my dad comes home. I get sad when I can't hug him. I got surprised that he has worked on two different ships. I am proud of my dad.

- Christopher Lantron

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Sullivans Elementary School

## 2nd grade, Ms. Maggio



**Noah Steadman**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Earth is the place to be to make friends and people to support to the world too.

- Noah Steadman

**Olivia Thornton**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

My family is special because my dad is in the military. He goes on ships for 5 days or 1 week. He also comes home late.

- Olivia Thornton

**Kenzley Forward**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Something that is special about being a military child is you get to meet people from all over the world. You can go on the ship when their not deployed. Also sometimes you can meet important people. Something that is hard about being a military child is you might have to see your brother and sister. My brother and sister are in. Custer Indiana. So I don't get to see them a lot in real life but only because now you know what its like to be a military child.

- Kenzley Forward

**Vivian Tam**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Something special about being a military child is that my dad helps the military. Also he does fixing the ship. So he is a engineer. Also sometimes he goes on ships for 5 day or 1 week. He also comes home late.

- Vivian Tam

**Connor Martin**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a military child is if you don't or mommy save some bus tickets in a travel that is helping. I've been to Hawaii and to Japan and I don't know everywhere I've been.

- Connor Martin

**Mia Kostelac**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a military child is special because I can go to Washington, Ohio or Japan. And I can make new friends.

- Mia Kostelac

**Grey Seiders**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

What is special about being a military child is that you can go on the ship when your dad is not deployed. Also sometimes you can meet important people. Something that is hard about being a military child is you might have to see your brother and sister. My brother and sister are in. Custer Indiana. So I don't get to see them a lot in real life but only because now you know what its like to be a military child.

- Grey Seiders

**Rene Santosvalerio**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

We and my dad are sailing the ship. On Sunday me and my mom and my dad went to my dad's ship of 76. And I love you and I hope you have great work. And I hope you have a good deployment.

- Rene Santosvalerio

**Apollo Morris**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a military child is special because you can go on the ship when your dad is not deployed. Also sometimes you can meet important people. Something that is hard about being a military child is you might have to see your brother and sister. My brother and sister are in. Custer Indiana. So I don't get to see them a lot in real life but only because now you know what its like to be a military child.

- Apollo Morris

**Maverick Hernandez**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a military child is special because you can meet new people. You can go on the ship. go to your dad's work. and you can move around the world. Or if you lucky you might get a toy or a coin. If your lucky!!! And you might want to see the military when you grown up. That is how it feels to be a military child.

- Maverick Hernandez

**Robert Winters**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

It is special to be a military child because you can go on the big ships. You can meet important people. On the ships you can get to meet a lot of new people. And you can go to a lot of new places. And you can see your dad or mom come back from deployment. And you can bring you a gift from your dad.

- Robert Winters

**Amorette LeBlanc**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a military child is special because you get gifts from around the world. Also you can see the world. You can go on the ship when your dad is not deployed. Also sometimes you can meet important people. Something that is hard about being a military child is you might have to see your brother and sister. My brother and sister are in. Custer Indiana. So I don't get to see them a lot in real life but only because now you know what its like to be a military child.

- Amorette LeBlanc

**Dawn Ventura**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a military child is not so hard. The reason is because sometimes when you make lots of good and happy memories at like with a certain person or place or even a activity. Sometimes you have to give up things that you really love. Just like getting a dog. And I had to do that once. I had to give away my first pet because I was moving. It was really sad. It was a cat and a dog. I really miss them both.

- Dawn Ventura

**Maverick Doctolero**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Something special about being a military child is you can get to get gifts from all around the world. You can even get to meeting a lot of people on the ship. You could move a lot and I like to go on the plane. You could see what they are at sea. You can even cry because they are a sea. Now you know what is special about being a military child.

- Maverick Doctolero

**Tripp Lattus**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a military child is very special. And you know you can get cool gifts. One time my dad bought me a watch. But what is really important is you get to meet important people. And you get to see your friends when you travel to places. It is very sad when you will meet your friends. That is why it is important to be a military child.

- Tripp Lattus

**Kendra Donovan**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Being a Military child is fun because when you are a Military child you get to move to a different country or state. And it is fun to move because you get to make new friends. And also get gifts maybe when they come back. And you will maybe miss them when they are on the boat.

- Kendra Donovan

**Mackenzie Iaconelli**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Something so special about being a military child is you can meet new people. You can meet important people. You can go on the ship. You can also meet a lot of new people. You might want to join the navy when you grow up. You live away from your family. Sometimes it is hard being a military child. But it is kind of fun. Being a military child.

- Mackenzie Iaconelli

**Zoey Boyd**  
Ms. Maggio's 2nd The Sullivans School

Hi I am a military kid. Can I tell you about being a military kid? Then you're in the right place! My dad goes on the military ship. It's okay. When my dad is in the military I'm a good girl. And when he comes back I'll be very happy and I can be his good friend. On I forget and when he's on the ship and he's not going I go on the ship and have fun. And there is all about being a military kid.

- Zoey Boyd

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Sullivans Elementary School

## 3rd grade



Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)

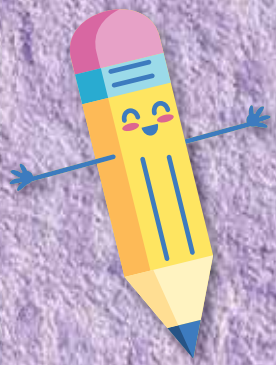
Military Child

When my dad goes away it makes me sad. My friends understand when I'm sad they help me through what's going on. But sometimes it can be fun because you can call your dad or text him. It is fun and hard at the same time.

I like being a Military Child

By Madyson Rognlie

- Madyson Rognlie



# Iwakuni Intermediate School

## 5th grade • Ms. Neidich

**Goods and Bads thing**

Good  
Fun, Awesome  
Participation, Traveling, Coloring  
New friends... Activity...  
Sad, Annoying  
Moving, Packing, Flying  
Goodbyes, leave  
Bad



- Brooklyn A.

**(: The new towns the new beginnings :) the new dogs to :(**

Small town  
Cold, small  
Play less, warm up, explorer  
Play, make friends, fun school, fun events  
Play more, discover, outside seeing  
Warm, regsize  
Big town



The new beginning

- Harper B.

**Friends and House**

Friends  
Old, New  
Playing, Texting, Calling  
Football, Glenwood Elementary  
Iwakuni Intermediate, Soccer  
Sleeping, Decorating, Packing  
Big, Small  
House



- Shaun B.

**Coming and Going**

Moving to places  
Always leaving friends behind  
Mabeey make new friends



- Melody C.

**New places Family of five!**

Traveling the world.  
Meeting new friends everywhere.  
Seeing new cultures.



- Kenna W.

**Old things and new things**

Iwakuni  
new house, safe  
boring, buying, walking  
new friends, youth center...  
...target, chick-fil-a  
shopping, eating, decorating  
old house, old friends  
Oceanside



- Victoria D.

**Good-Bye**

Friends and family  
In time, gone and gone again  
Moving, never end



- Juan

**Here and There**

Going away from friends  
Moving to new places  
Making new friends  
Here and There



- Piper H.

**My life as being a military child**

A military child is clean resilient and trusting and reverent



- Luke H.

**😊 Goodbye & Hello 😊**

Goodbye  
Leave, and  
Going, traveling, ending  
Old friends, old places... New friends, new places  
Adventure, meeting, ending  
Well, happy  
Hello



- Andrew H.

**My Old life and new life**

California  
Sunny, warm  
Burning, cooling, exploring  
Fires, sun... rain, blossoms  
Relaxing, raining, planting  
windy, cool  
Iwakuni



- Arisa J.

**My MOMC poem**

Old home  
Big, colorful  
lighting, meaning, welcoming  
Red, pets... shelter, housing  
Meaning, lifting, comforting  
Small, beige  
New home



- Austyn K.

**Moving from your loved ones**

Moving constantly  
Wishing your relatives was there  
In the bad times



- Dalila L.

**The Military Feelings**

Life is exciting  
Life is very enjoyable  
Life is sometimes sad




- Braiden N.



**Being a Military child (in my life)**

When the sun is bright,  
and when the night is a sight,  
You will shine very bright.



- Yushiei O.



**Friendship Time and Family Time**  
Time quickly goes by,  
Friends depart to new places,  
Family remains

**Old and New things**  
New place  
Challenging, scary  
New blends, new blends, new school  
Fun, cool, nice, same  
Old blends, old home, old school  
Old place

**SAD and happy things**  
Moving in new places  
Meeting new people in school  
Moving away from friends

**Military Child**  
I am glad to live  
I am happy to have friends  
I am very glad

**Life as a military child**  
Life is sometimes hard  
As a military child  
I make and lose friends

**Earth and Pluto**  
Earth is big and small  
But when we look at pluto  
It is small but huge  
When we move we think about the small things in life, but once we forget about them we think about the big things.

**The \*silly Haiku of the Dandelion**  
Though it would be fun  
Being part the **MILITARY**  
It's quite difficult

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

# Jack N. Darby Elementary School

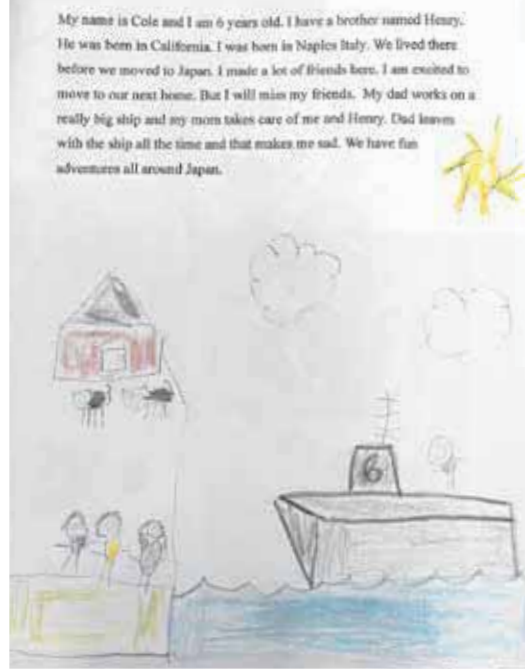
Kindergarten Ms. Goto & Mrs. Maxwell



**Yuilani Lauren-jo Vuong**  
Born: 8/8/2018 in San Diego, California.  
First duty station I was a part of was San Diego, CA from 2018-2020. We then moved across the world to Sigonella, Italy from 2020-2023 where I started Pre-K at DoDEA Sigonella Elementary. We were able to visit 8 other countries to include: France, UK, Malta, Poland, Netherlands, Germany, Spain, and multiple cities within Italy. From there we had traveled to the other side of Asia where we now reside in Sasebo, Japan for the next three years. I am excited to explore Asia with my parents and 2 sisters!



- Yuilani Vuong



My name is Cole and I am 6 years old. I have a brother named Henry. He was born in California. I was born in Naples Italy. We lived there before we moved to Japan. I made a lot of friends here. I am excited to move to our next home. But I will miss my friends. My dad works on a really big ship and my mom takes care of me and Henry. Dad leaves with the ship all the time and that makes me sad. We have fun adventures all around Japan.

- Cole Schaumburg



My name is Marion Rie Flores Morrison. I am 10 years old. My daddy joined the US Navy in 2003. Interesting fact, my dad was also a military kid! My grandfather was in the navy, stationed in Subic Bay, Philippines. In 2013, my parents got married and were stationed in Sasebo, Japan. After 2 years, my sister, Esmeralda was born, then in 2017, I was born! Thereafter, in 2018, daddy received orders for Brooks City, Louisiana to recruit applicants for the navy. We lived at Berkshire Air Force base and Esmeralda attended pre-kindergarten at T.L. Rhodes Elementary School. Finally, in 2022, dad got orders back to Japan. Esmeralda and I enrolled at Jack N. Darby Elementary School for first grade and Sure Start, respectively. I am happy and proud to be a military kid!

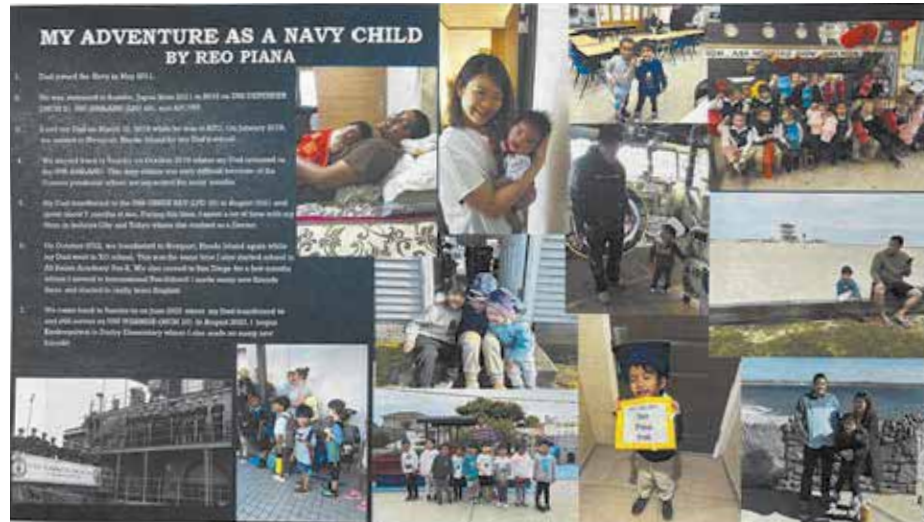
- Marion Rie Flores Morrison

Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)

## My Life As A Military Child

My name is Antwan Turner, and I am 5 years old. I was born in Shreveport, Louisiana during the process of my dad joining the military. Our very first duty station was Jacksonville, Florida and we were there for about 2 and a half years. Now My Family and I are currently stationed in Sasebo, Japan. Seeing so many new places and different sceneries, trying different foods, traveling to different places and going to school are some of the best things that come with this life and experience. My very first time going to school has been while I am here in Japan. My first year was going to school was last year when I went to Sure Start at the same school, I am still attending now I am in kindergarten and I had learned so much going to school, I've made so many new friends that I will forever cherish forever. My teachers have been so kind and amazing as well, teaching me all they have and always being so nice to me. Life as a military child has its challenges, also the hardest is when my dad has to leave for long periods of time to go and serve the country. It really affects our family. Everyone is usually sad for a little while, but we get up every day and keep on going knowing my dad is doing this for a good cause and he will be home very soon. I am so very proud of my dad for all of the hard work he does for our country and all of his accomplishments he has earned over the years. Life as a military child can be hard but I'm so grateful for this life I have as well and will always be thankful for the life as a military child.

- Antwan Turner



- Reo Piana



My name is Emery I am a military kid My Dad works in the United States Navy I was born in Memphis in 2017 I had three siblings I was 4 My Dad had to leave to work on a ship in Vietnam My Mom said I was 4 years old when my Dad left

- Emery Cousins

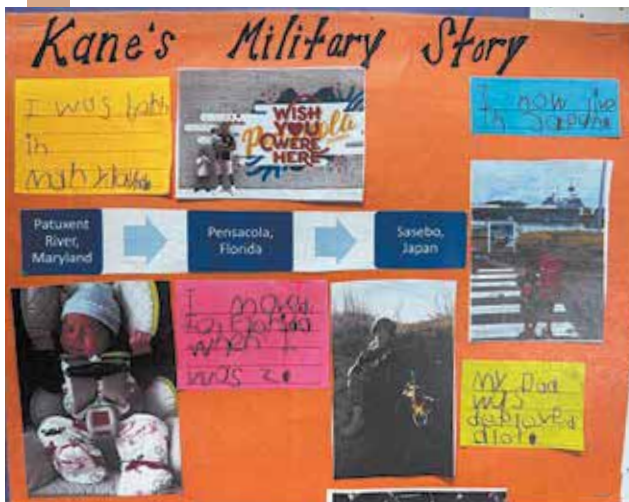


Hi my name is Jaylee I come from a long line of heroes

- Jaylee Keshwar



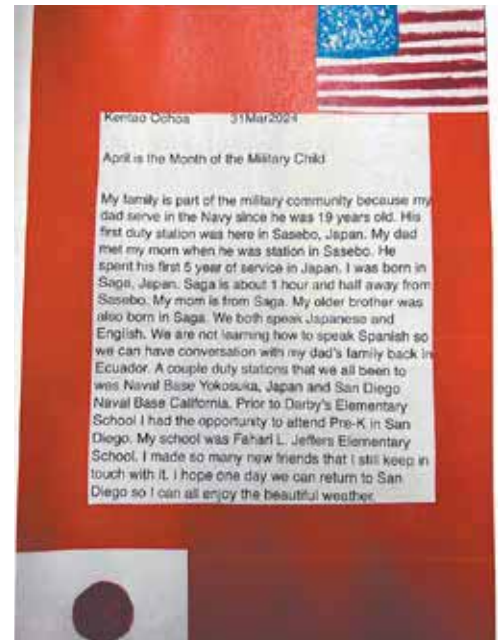
- Kai Moy



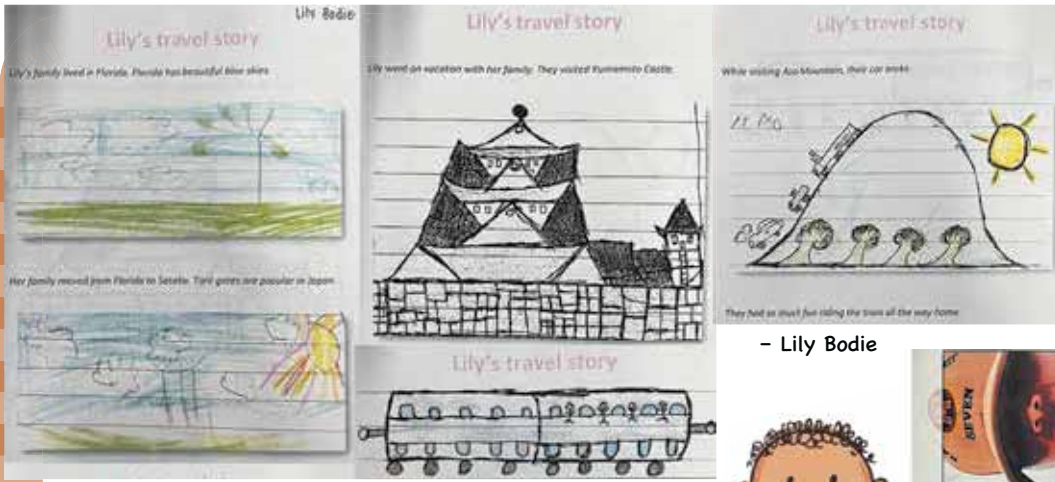
- Kane Melendez



- Bryson Stewart



- Kentao Ochoa



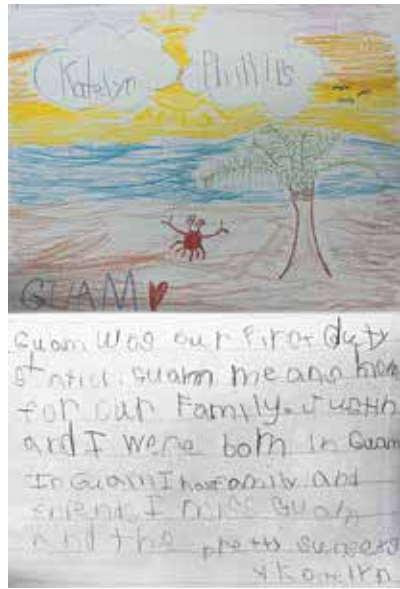
- Lily Bodie



- Mariah Johnstone



- Jarrai Jobe



- Katelyn Phillips

My name is Alicia Chelita Renteria and I was born in Bahrain, my father's third duty station. He joined the Navy out of Houston Texas, he's been stationed overseas since 2015. While stationed on a MCM for three years, he met my mom, got married and was lucky enough to watch my birth while his ship went out to sea. 9 months later we transferred to Sasebo Japan. I have traveled to more places in my five years than my father at the age of 20. Unlike Bahrain, Sasebo had all four seasons. I have spent most of my life here. My first year was hard, my dad was stationed on an LSD and went out to sea almost all year long. Even missing my first three birthdays, each time he would go out to sea he would ask me what new animal (Plush toy) did I want and he would bring it back as promised. This began my love for plushies and gave me something to look forward to upon his return. We would also take many road trips and fly across Japan to see many zoos and aquariums. Being a child of a Military parent is hard but without his service we would've never gotten a chance to see Japan or the many friends we have met in the last 5 years. As a family we have endured and have become even stronger, we look forward to what comes next, either stateside or overseas.

- Alicia Chelita Renteria

### CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# Shirley Lanham Elementary School

Kindergarten • Ms. Spencer



- Keenan B.



- Annalise S.



- Lauren J.



- Avery L.



- Owen D.



- Devin E.



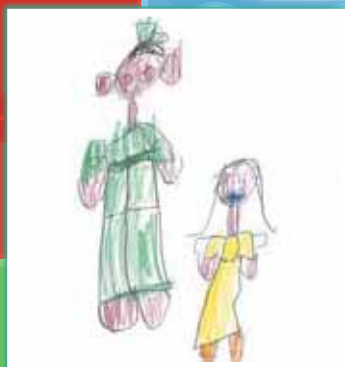
- Jack J.



- Carter R.



- Jade T.



- Bryleigh M.



- Marceline M.



- Layla M.



- Elena S.



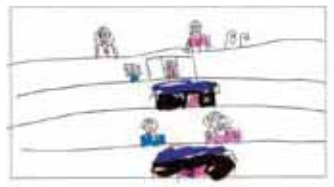


OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# Lanham Elementary School



## 2nd grade • Ms. McGee



Being a military child means your parents have to move a lot. You can't stay in one place for a long time. You have to go to a new house every time your parents are deployed. You can't see your friends and you can't go to a new school.

- Nicole E.



Being a military kid means I see my family all the time. My dad is deployed a lot. I miss him a lot. That is what it is like being a military kid.

- Georgia B.



Being a military kid means moving a lot. Making new friends and saying goodbye to old friends. You can't play with them all the time. You have to say goodbye to each other. I hope to see them again.

- Kaito M.



Being a military kid means your mom and dad might go on a ship for a little bit. You might move a lot. You will make new friends one time. You will see them on the ship for two years. I was happy when he came back home.

- Adelynn H.



What it's like being a military child. You get to try new foods that you don't know. You need to have a lot of patience because parents are deployed a lot. When I move I will move on a boat. I can go to my grandma's when I move.

- Jin T.



Being a military kid means moving every few years. Sometimes your parents have to go away when you move. Some good and bad things happen. You have to leave your friends but you will make new ones. When you move to a different place there will be different foods. They will have different activities. This is what it means to be a military kid.

- Reyna B.



Being a military kid means you have to leave your friends behind. You make new friends. You see your friends a lot. Your parents are deployed. You can't learn new languages. You can't see new places. You can't play with your friends outside of school.

- Desmond B.



Being a military kid means making new friends and saying goodbye. Sometimes you have to leave. Sometimes it's your forever home. Sometimes you have to try new food. You might see your friends but you might not recognize them. Being a military kid is cool!

- Bailey L.



Being a military kid means parents are deployed for a long time. You get to travel a lot. You might see your family around base. If you miss your family, you can call them. You can be their first. You can go all over the world like China, India, and India. You are a military child but it is okay because you are safe.

- Luna B.



Being a military kid means I say goodbye to my old friends. You see friends all the time. Parents are deployed for a long time. I feel happy being a military kid when my daddy comes home.

- Lillian S.



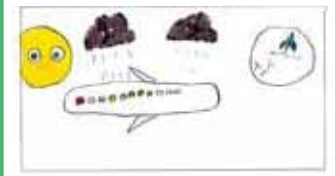
Being a military kid means you move a lot. You have to say goodbye to your old friends. You make new friends. You get to taste new foods. I'm happy because you get to go to a new place. That you never get to go to before. One time I went to the coast and I ate a taco.

- Genevieve K.



Being a military kid means having to move a lot. This means leaving my old friends behind. This makes me sad but I make new friends where I move.

- Vincente T.



Being a military kid means moving a lot. Making new friends. You have to say goodbye. It makes me sad but I might see them again. But I have to say goodbye again.

- Juan Carlos P.



Being a military kid means being kind and a good student. You are super smart like you get to live in cool places.

- Rhydian A.



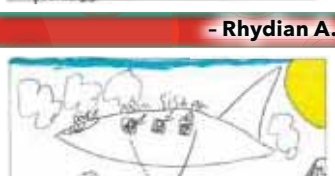
Being a military kid means your parents might deploy for a long time. You can't make new friends when you move. You have to wait for a helicopter or a plane to get you to a new place. You can travel around the world to new friends. You can see your friends whenever and you can have my children. This is what it feels like to be a military child.

- Eloise S.



What it's like to be a military kid. You will have to leave old friends and make new friends. Parents are deployed for a long time. I get to try new food. I see my daddy and has to go to work.

- Gavin M.



Being a military kid means moving a lot. You make new friends. When you make new friends you can all be together. You can talk to them.

- Sean T.



Being a military kid means I can go to the park and on a field trip. You can make new friends. You can find new pets. You can go to new places. Your parents might leave you. You might be sad but they will come back.

- Eagen N.

## Mr. Armstrong



I am happy about being a military child because I travel. Traveling is fun and I don't get sad.

- Kendrick O.



I'm glad that in a military I can travel a lot and I can be here in Japan. I can have lots of meals to eat with them. In base and to make memories.

- Aliza M.



I am proud to be a military child because I get to go to different places like Spain and Rome. I was born in Guam and now I'm in Japan.

- Liam P.



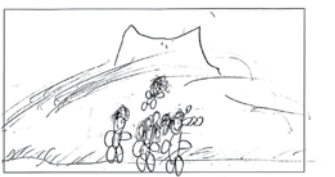
I think being a military child is super fun. It is fun because I get to travel and work and go to places like Disneyland! And every time I get to come to Japan and I did, my favorite part about Tokyo Disneyland was going on rides.

- Sebastian P.



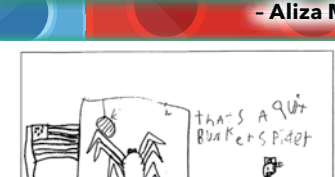
My name is Adalynn Sleaz and I have a little sister named Mia and my dad and my two dogs and I will tell you about being a military child. I sometimes miss home and I like to be a military child but I don't live when my dad goes on missions to the base.

- Adalynn S.



Being a military child is good. We have a good mom and dad. It's exciting to move to different places. Military people are good. They fight for us and pay for some of our stuff. Thank you military!

- Josiah R.



I am proud of my dad because he protects me and my friends.

- Elijah S.

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I love being a military child. But I don't like when my dad has to go to his job. But it is okay. But I go to my day camp. I like being a military child and I think my daddy loves me.

- Annie-tately D.



As a Military Kid it's not easy for us especially when you stay in other countries. But it's also fun to make new friends. Experience different cultures.

- Nicole T.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

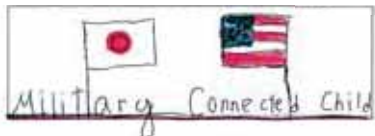


5th grade • Ms. Sosa



The hardest part of being military child is the challenge of saying good bye to friends...

- Royce C.



I love being a Military Connected Child because if I wasn't connected I would not have met my great friends...

- Lily H.



Being a military child means I've lived in five places: Texas, Virginia, Japan, California, and Rhode Island...

- Winter R.

Being a military child is very fun and sometimes it can be hard because you have to say goodbye to your friends...

One thing that is hard is saying goodbye to your friends...

Saying goodbye is hard because you have to say goodbye to your friends...



- Peighton S.



Life of a military child can have pros and cons. For starters, my family moves a lot so I lose my friends, but I get to meet new people once I move...

- Daniel V.



Being military connected child I get to live in Japan. I have many Japanese friends. I also like making American friends...

- Ka'onohi J.

Being a military child I have experienced a lot of things. I have been to a lot of places, California, Nevada, Japan, and Virginia...

Being a military child it can be hard because you have to say goodbye to your friends...

Being a military child is hard but it is also fun. I have lived in five places: Texas, Virginia, Japan, California, and Rhode Island...

- Chloe J.



Being a military child is affiliated with many pros and cons. Some of the pros are that as a military child I get to enjoy being allowed to experience different cultures...

However, I believe there are more cons than pros. Such as, leaving all friends, being the new kid again, and having a parent leave for deployment...

Being social can help, too! It can help you make friends wherever you go.

- Annalise S.



Hi I am Ryleigh, I am 10 years old. I am a military child, I travel a lot, and learn different cultures. Being a military child means to me is traveling and learning...

It is amazing to be a military child

- Ryleigh W.

Being a military child is hard but it is also fun. I have lived in five places: Texas, Virginia, Japan, California, and Rhode Island...

- Elijah F.

Being a military connected child is changing schools often and to get used to saying goodbye, but you can find some close people again that you had not seen in so long...

However, it's also hard and sad that every military child has to leave their hometowns or parents have to leave the country for months...

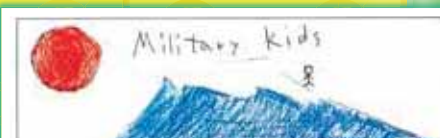
Always be positive and kind. Wherever you go keep going and rock this Crusaders!

- Caelyn D.



Being a Military Child can be difficult but also interesting. Let me tell you why I am honored to be around why these times can be difficult...

- Avery P.

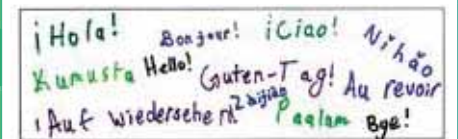


Being a military child is very hard. You carry lots of responsibility on your shoulders. When you just start to make friends, you have to watch them leave and start over...

It's hard even if you stay because you have to watch your friends leave. This is good for making friends because you have a lot of practice making friends...

In conclusion, although being a military child is tough, it offers many opportunities to be more social.

- Arthur P.



Being a military kid is hard but it is also fun. I know it's hard to move away from who you know like friends, family, and your life...

- Ellie T.



Being a military kid is hard but it is also fun. I know it's hard to move away from who you know like friends, family, and your life...

- Micaiah G.



My dad works at a Naval hospital in Atsugi, Japan. He used to be in the Marines. Although my dad is a civilian, he still helps out the government...

- Yoshihito S.



Being a military child is hard because I have to say goodbye to all my friends in one place and then move to another place and make new ones...

- Mekhi H.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# Shirley Lanham Elementary School

## 5th grade • Ms. Sonnet



Being a military child is normal for me because I've been in a base school for years, and I'm used to it now. Being a military child can be different for other kids who have never been to a base school.

Being a military child is normal for me because I am used to my class mates leaving and new class mates coming.

- Amelia A.



Being a military child is awesome because you can travel all over the world and see different cultures. You get to go to a different school and make new friends.

Being a military child is awesome because you can travel all over the world and see different cultures. You get to go to a different school and make new friends.

- Dashiell A.



Being a military child is amazing because you get to see a lot of new things and people. You get to go to a different school and make new friends.

- Semira N.



Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)



Us military kids are rockstars! We are always moving and being to make new friends. Sometimes our parents have to leave. Military kids are constantly moving. Every time we do we have to say goodbye and start a new life. It's not easy but we have to do it. We have to deal with our parents deploying. They have to leave for months at a time and we miss them. They are so far away. We miss their experiences. We have to move places often. Sometimes going to get to know different cultures. Our parents protect our country. We go through the good and bad, and that's why we're rockstars!

- Haylie S.



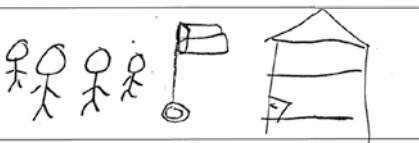
Being a military connected kid means moving around, making new friends, and starting a new life. But the good thing is learning new things, meeting new people, and making new friends. My dad used to be in the military until he started working for the military. He was deployed a lot of times when I was young. Sometimes my family would move with my dad and stay there for a year. That is why being connected to the military is sometimes good or bad!

- Nicholai H.



Being a military child is awesome. You may move a lot and say goodbye to friends but it's not bad because wherever you go it's a whole other world waiting to be explored. And whenever you go it's a whole other experience and adventure.

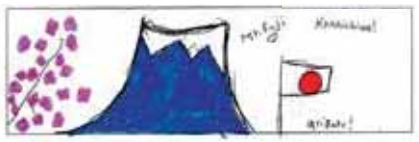
- Ethan A.



Being a military connected child has its benefits by meeting new people and exploring different cultures.

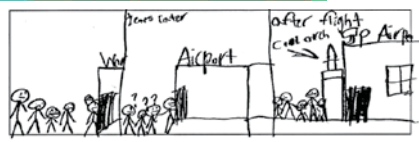
I like Japan because you get to experience different places, people. As a Filipino, even though I don't speak Japanese, I still respect Japanese culture. You get to go to a different school, make new friends, and start a new life.

- Jonathan T.



A military connected kid means a lot to me. I know it's sad to see my dad (and maybe your parent) deploy, but it's important to let them go, because they go to protect the country. I know it's hard but it's to protect not just me but the whole country. Even though it's sad it's fun too. You get to travel to different countries.

- Kloe D.



Military Kids are ROCKSTARS! They're awesome for some reason or reason is that they move to other places with their military parents. Because we go with our military parents, we get to go to new countries and states with our military parent. We are the COOL!

- Ryan S.



Being a military kid is not too different but it is cool to move. For me I can adapt quickly. I got to go all across America and I am in Japan. Even if there are challenges I love my life and I am happy.

- John S.



Being a military child can be good and bad. You can travel and experience new things, but you also have to make new friends and start all over again.

Being a military child can be good and bad because you can travel around the world. You can visit more cultures and people. It could be bad because you have to go to see schools every few years. You also have to meet new people and become friends with new people. So it could be hard for you. One of your parents has to go on deployment. That is why being a military child can be good and bad.

- Aiyla B.



Being a military kid is never easy. You have to get comfy at your current home, then have to go through the pain of moving and starting a new life inside your new home. Just to get comfy again. The good thing is that every 2 years you make new friends. Being a military kid doesn't mean that we are all hard on the ground. The world is a big place and it's full of adventures.

- Evalyse N.



Being a military connected kid means a lot to me. It means a lot since I'm a military kid. I know what it's like to move a lot and leave your friends and family behind. Also, living on base and seeing the same people everyday (not including school). And having one or both of your parents go on a trip for a very long time.

To be honest, I don't really like being a military kid (depends what happens). We always have to move and leave our friends. On the plus side, we can see visit new places like Japan. It's nice to see new places, travel, and make new friends. That's why military kids are ROCKSTARS!!!

- Amaya T.



What I think being a military child means a few different things to me. Being a military child means that you have to see the world, leave friends behind, see cool cars, see different cultures, have different traditional foods, and learn different languages. There are pros and cons to being a military child. The pros for me are, eating new foods, seeing cool cars, seeing different cultures, and making new friends. That's why I like being a military child!

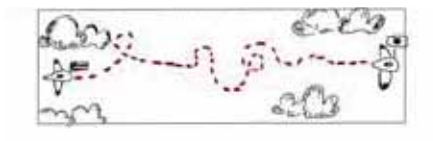
- Jaylon J.



Being a military child of a retired parent feels a little bit different. Not like my parents that are in the military. Some have parents that are retired too. My dad works at Camp Fuji. He was in the military for 20 years.

In a base school sometimes my classmates move to a different place. I enjoy going to a different school because there is less kids than a public school.

- Mia E.



To be a military child means that you are connected to a military base or the Navy. Whether it's your mom or dad that's in the military, Navy, or any one of your parents are in the military. Every year your parents have to be involved in the military. The way I feel about being a military child is bittersweet because we leave them, make new friends, but it's lonely because my mom is not too far away. Being a military child is fun because I get to go to a place and explore.

- Cydney R.



Military kids are rock stars because we get to travel to new or sometimes old areas. Most of the time, we live on base in some of the most beautiful things that happen off base. Even if we get to move to a new area, friends move with you, so when you move to a new area, you have no friends. When you move, and it's super busy, you have to leave best friends then you move back and there are no more.

- Noah R.



I think that being a military kid is important because you get to experience the wonder of the world. For example, I have moved to Washington, Florida, California, and Japan. I make friends along the way, then I leave them. Being a military kid also has its downsides. Sometimes your military parent has to leave for deployment. It's sad to be a military kid, but it's also really fun! This is why I think being a military kid is important.

- Lilly E.



What's it like being a military child? I can say that it's both good and bad. Being a military child is hard because you have to struggle with your parents' deployment. It's hard because you don't get to see your mom or dad for who knows how long. What's great about being a military child is that you get to travel to different countries and explore their culture with your family. You won't forget about the unique experiences as well! So now you know what life is like for military children and military connected kids.

- Alayah T.

# Matthew C. Perry Primary School

2nd grade, Ms. Kasler



My name is Ada. I am 7 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is you get to make new friends at new places. One hard thing about being a military child is leaving friends, family, and teachers. I can show bravery by saying goodbye to friends and family. Being a military child makes me feel happy.

By Ada Ringwold  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Aidan. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military is I get to go to fun places and go on fun adventures. One hard thing about being a military child is being alone in my house when my parents are gone. I can show bravery by going to new schools in different countries, states and leaving friends we love. Being a military child is fantastic!

By: Aidan MacKinnon  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is William. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is the military pays for your flights. One hard thing about being a military child is my dad always leaves for school trips. My way to show bravery is not having a meltdown because my dad is gone. Being a military child makes me feel happy.

By: William Killen  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Emilia. My dad is in the Navy. One good thing about being a military child is that if you're going to visit someone you're going to have fun before the last hug. One hard thing about being a military child is for example, I left my pet with my big sister in a different place. I can show bravery by taking care of my little sibling and myself. Being a military child makes me feel glorious!

By: Emilia Glownia  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Andrew. My dad is in the Marine Corps. I am 8 years old. One good thing about being a military child is getting to make new friends. One hard thing about being a military child is when my dad has to leave. I can show bravery by not crying on the plane. Being a military child feels good.

By Andrew Chapa  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Aven. I am 8 years old. My mom is in the Marine Corps. One thing good about being a military child is being brave. One thing hard being a military child is working and playing with parents if they have to work and telling parents something while they work. I can show bravery by trying not to be nervous. Being a military child is amazing.

By Aven Troung  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Evelyn. I am 7 years old. My mom is in the military and she is in the Navy. One good thing about being a military child is getting to visit her work. One hard thing about being a military child is leaving my dog named Moree. I can show bravery by making new friends. Being a military child makes me feel happy.

By: Evelyn Fleischhauer  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Sebastian. I am 7 years old. My dad is in the Navy. One good thing about being a military child is getting VIP food from their country. One hard thing about being a military child is leaving friends. I can show bravery by trying not to cry on airplanes. Being a military child makes me feel special.

By Sebastian Beltre  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Jia. I am seven years old. My dad is in the Navy. One good thing about being a military child is getting VIP suites with heated toilet seats and buttons! One hard thing about being a military child is leaving friends and family. Another hard thing about being a military child is getting used to a new home and school. I can show bravery by not crying on the airplane. Being a military child is fun and hard!

By: Jia Malakai Quiban Canosa  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Graycein. I am 7 years old. My dad works in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is I get to make friends all around the world. One hard thing about a military child is trying your best not to cry on airplanes. Being a military child is fun.

By: Graycein Salter  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Isabella. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is getting to experience new people, places, and cultures. I can also make new friends. One hard thing about being a military child is leaving friends behind. I can show bravery by saying goodbye to friends. Being a military child makes me feel happy.

By: Isabella Piller  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Julia. I am 7 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is making new friends and it is fun to have friends. One hard thing being a military child is parents separating and you have to choose one. I can show bravery by taking care of myself. Being a military child makes me happy.

By Julia Gonzalez  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Sophia. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is I get to see the world. One hard thing about being a military child is leaving my dog behind and going to new places. I can show bravery by having a friend. Being a military child feels like I'm special.

By: Sophia Magallanez  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Marisol. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Navy. One good thing about being a military child is that the military pays for your flights so technically you save money. Another good thing about being a military child is that sometimes my dad brings back souvenirs for us when he gets home. One hard thing about being a military child is not being there for if family passes away. I can show bravery by trying not to cry on airplanes. Another way I can show bravery is by leaving my dog with my aunt in the United states. Being a military child makes me feel happy, sad, mad and excited.

By: Marisol Ponce  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Kara. I am eight years old. My dad is in the Navy. One good thing about being a military child is you get to make lots of new friends. One hard thing about being a military child is you have to leave friends. My way of showing bravery is trying not to cry on the plane. Being a military child is great.

By: Kara Peizel  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Lincoln. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is they pay for moving. One hard thing about being a military child is saying goodbye to pets and teachers and friends. I can show bravery by trying not to cry on an airplane. Being a military child is lovely.

By: Lincoln Platt  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Nathaniel. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is that you get to go to new places. You can learn new languages. You can't be with your friends all the time. I can show bravery by saying goodbye to your friends and family and I have to make new friends. Being a military child is super fun.

By: Nathaniel Manio  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School



My name is Zavior. I am 8 years old. My dad is in the Marine Corps. One good thing about being a military child is getting to play video games with my dad. One hard thing about being a military child is leaving my teachers. I can show bravery by meeting new teachers and new friends. Being a military child is exciting and fun.

By: Zavior Mayberry  
2nd Grade, MC Perry Primary School





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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# Matthew C. Perry High School

9th grade • Ms. Sullivan



- Brooklyn Hunter



- Amaya Downey



- Kaiden Bradley

### Life of a military child

**B**eing a military child is not that different from being a regular child. There are some pros and cons to being a military child. The pros would be traveling and seeing new things. You also get to meet new people and try new foods. However, there are very few cons such as moving away from family and friends and restarting your life every three years. Most people say it sounds like fun, but it can start to get tiring and making you feel like not wanting to move anymore. Sometimes you wish you could settle down and grow up with the same people; you wish you were a normal kid. It's okay to feel that way; a lot of kids do. But some kids do enjoy moving and seeing new things. People think that moving all the time is weird, which it can be, but after a while, you start to get used to it. People always ask something like "How do you do it?" and you never really know how to answer because to you it's normal. It is okay to feel different as a military child because no one besides another military kid will understand. The best thing is getting to travel at such a young age so that you can brag about it and say you've already been there while most kids have to wait till they're older to go.

- Leilani Zuniga

**W**hile the life of a military child has many positives, there are many sacrifices we have to make. I recently moved to Japan from the states leaving some of the greatest friends I have ever had. I had spent the last 4 years making those friend and it wasn't like I was just moving to a state across the road either; I've moved across the world. This is feeling that no one other than another military kid will understand. It is indescribably sad. Having to leave the people you care about every couple years is very hard mentally, and is something that we shouldn't have to learn to handle, but we do.

- Jerry Cordero

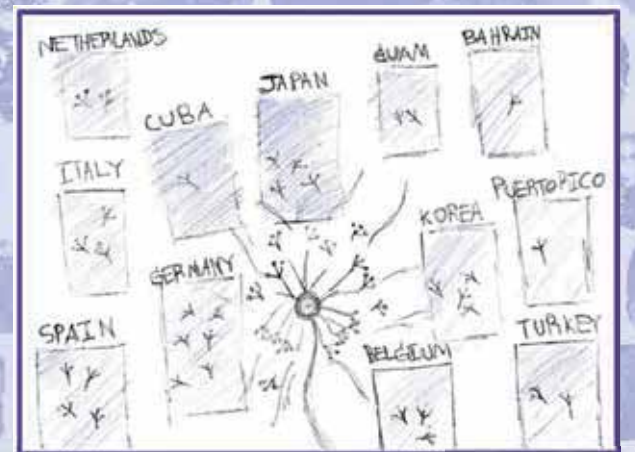
### My story

**M**y journey as a military child began at four years old when my parents accepted an engineering job in Iwakuni, Japan. Coming from Alaska, everything here was very different, from the tropical weather to the food, the culture, the people, to even commuting. The hardest part was going to Japanese school, dealing with the language difference, and having no friends.

It was hard, but as time went on, I managed. I wasn't a remarkable student, but I cultivated relationships with my teachers and classmates as well as an understanding of the language, culture, and system by which the Japanese followed. I'd walk to school at eight, have class until first recess, then take extra Japanese lessons until lunch where we served our classmates in weekly shifts. This was followed by recess for forty minutes. We then cleaned our school, had our last classes of the day, and finished with mandatory club activities until 5:00 p.m.

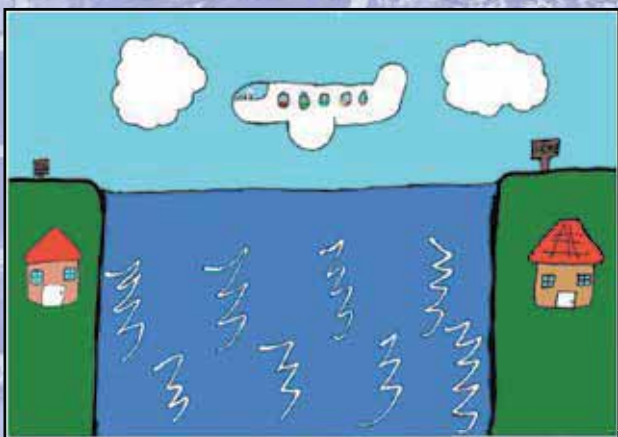
Of course, it wasn't all good. I still had to deal with racism from my Japanese classmates. Plus, I was quite the petty troublemaker and slacker-though I don't like getting into the details of that. After five years of living in Iwakuni, my family moved to California as their term limits on their SOFA status had expired. The transition from a Japanese school to an American school was also rather hard. However, they were much more welcoming as it was a Title I school that was a melting pot of students. After a two year stint there, my family ended up moving back to Iwakuni as the cost of living increased and the rates of crime and poverty had risen. So, here I've been for the past three years.

- Michael Byers



- Eugene Flores

Check out more military children stories at: [militarychild.stripes.com](http://militarychild.stripes.com)



- Jaxon James

### Life as a Military Child

**L**ife as a military child can be challenging. You are faced with a lot of stressful situations that can greatly impact your life. Some problems that I have faced are moving. You aren't just moving from one place to another, but you are also leaving behind the friends you have made and as well as family. You are also leaving behind the wonderful memories you have made with those people. Some military children have had to go through this since they were young.

I was one of those children. When I was 7 years old, my dad joined the military during the year of 2016. I stayed in Guam with my mom, my siblings, and her side of the family. It was definitely hard living without my father and only seeing him for a couple days every 1-2 years, but I loved being with my family in Guam and building a strong relationship with my cousins as well as my friends from school.

When the year of 2020 came, I eventually had to move with my father to the states. It broke my heart having to leave my family and friends behind, but I knew that my father wanted us to be with him. Moving was tough for me. The long plane ride, the different time zones, and having to adjust to it. It took me a while to get comfortable, but I was starting to realize all the opportunities I was going to have.

I was provided with a better learning environment along with new friends who understood the struggle of being a military child. My father and I also built a stronger relationship because of this. The military has got me to where I am now, and I am grateful for it.

- Alexandra David

**E**xplanation: These images show the life of a military child by showing how they move from place to place and are adapted to a new environment. Each image shows the character making a friend having to leave to a different place then restarting the cycle while the character grows up throughout the images. I added different details like stickers, bracelets, and other drawings to make it look like how a normal pin board would look.

- Kailey Contreras



SEE MORE MS. SULLIVAN'S CLASS ON PAGE 22

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

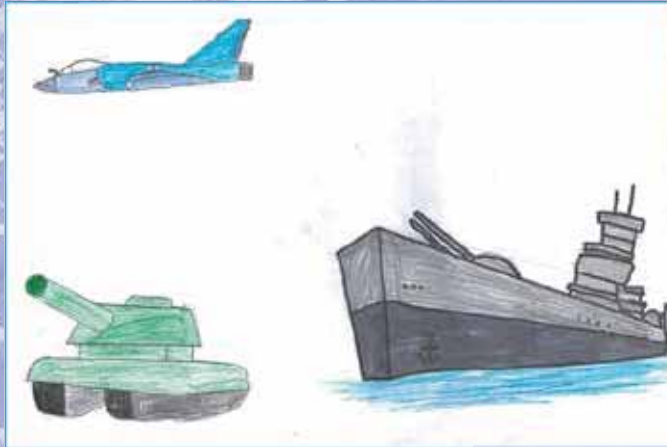
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

# Matthew C. Perry High School

9th grade • Ms. Sullivan

**B**eing a military child has its ups and downs, and it takes some time to get used to. Being a military child means moving around a lot and being in places you're not used to. This means making new friends, leaving new friends, missing family, and having to adapt to a new environment. I have met a lot of people who have had very difficult times as a military child. I've also had a bunch of friends leave, so I'm constantly having to make new friends. The good thing about it is that I get to meet a bunch of new people and get to know them. My friends often move every two to four years. My family will be here for a total of seven years, so I will see a bunch of my closest friends leave. I already had most of my first and closest friends leave back to the states while I'm stuck here. It sucks but I learned to deal with it. Another challenge I have had as a military child is my dad is not around much. My dad gets deployed to other countries, so I don't get to see him a lot. Communication is difficult, especially when he's on a ship because the ships don't have service. The amount of time that my dad is gone varies a lot. It could go from just two weeks to six months. When my dad is gone, I take on a lot of responsibilities. I take care of my mom and my sister until my dad comes back. Being a military child has its challenges but comes with a lot of opportunities.

- Dylan DeGuzman



- Tyler Steenhoven

**B**eing a military child is not easy. It comes with a lot of challenges like moving once every couple of years, or even just being on a military base because some are really enclosed and tiny just like the one in Japan. Over here, we struggle with being social because it's a small base. Most parents are really strict and don't allow their children to go off the base until they are teenagers because you have to have an ID which you get at 13. Even then you have to be really responsible once you get an ID. You have to cherish it because if you lose it it is a hassle to get a new one and you won't be able to go anywhere again unless it's with your parents. Being a military child on a small base can also be very stressful. You never know who you can trust. You can tell one of your closest friends something and somehow the whole base seems to know. But in the end being a Military child is actually pretty cool because you get to travel the world. While there is a little bit of sacrifice when having to leave the old place that you lived, but who knows, sometimes it may be better than where I was before.

- Andres Isaac Otero

**T**he sacrifice that most affects me is leaving my friends and family behind. Friends are a big thing to me; I have a hard time becoming best friends with people. So, once you become my best friend, you will always be my best friend. When I moved to Japan, I left behind my best friends Mia and Naimah. Naimah was my best friend since 5th grade. She was my first friend at that school. Mia is the person I could relate to the most because we are both Hispanic and have a lot of things in common. I had to leave them behind but with a promise: no matter what and no matter how long I am gone, we will never stop being best friends. This is the most important sacrifices of a military kid.

- Jayden Valverde-Barrantes

### Up Down

Up down all around moving is a pain it all feels in vain.  
Losing friends is sad but it just might not be that bad.  
For we keep moving up and down and all around.

Up down and all around we are here a new place it starts to feel displaced  
New school new people new marks it is all going in a arc  
Someone approaches-a new friend or new foe?

His smile was up but his body was down he was talking all around  
He asked what is your name I felt pain for I did not know how to tell  
"My name is Bob" I began to sob because my first friend should last a while

We became close time goes by when we were together  
We grew up we always pickup each other  
We were the best duo always having each others backs

We train hard wanting the same thing to bring victory to our name  
Pilot simulators and lots of work outs 'til we make the Air Force  
Finally we made it-we thought it would be a breeze until most countries got mad  
Ready for our first day when we had an eerie feeling we felt very dizzy.

and  
We took to the skies ready for a fight little did we know there were spies  
Up and down and all around missiles launched in the sky over the radio I heard goodbye.

As Bob flew down I continued up we were now apart for my heart has sunk  
At the funeral all I could do was think of his smile. I thought this should last for a while.

- Aidan Scherr-Tefft

**I** think that being a military child is a challenge in itself. Though there are plenty of opportunities that could outweigh the difficulties of being a military child, the struggles and sacrifices that come with it can greatly compare with the positives. I do admit that as a military child, traveling overseas and living in new countries is thrilling but I do wish to live some sort of normalcy.

Being a military child is all about sacrifice. I feel like everywhere I go, I have to sacrifice something in exchange for moving to another country. One recurring sacrifice would be my friends. I can't move without having to say goodbye and it sometimes feels like it's the tax for even having the opportunity to move. I don't feel very close with my family either. I never had the time to truly bond with my outer family and it feels a bit odd considering many would say they're quite close to their cousins or grandparents. Since we're always moving, I suppose I never had a place that I could call "home." Familiarity and being a military family does not come in hand.

However, being a military brat isn't all that bad. I appreciate all the benefits of being a military child. I know many struggle with medical bills or even college funds and the fact the military is there to fund these things for us is an amazing advantage. As mentioned before, I really do cherish the opportunity to move. I love living in new countries and being able to find out more about the place. In all honesty, being a military child is hard but it's not so bad at times.

- Kei Nichols

Don't know where i'm going  
Or remember where i'm from  
At least i'm not alone

- Laney Mullins

**A**s long as I can remember, I lived in Hawaii. Even though I was born in San Diego, California, all I remember was living in Hawaii. When my dad told us we were getting orders to Japan, my heart sank into my chest. I thought about what was going to happen because I was moving away from my home. Everyone I knew was in Hawaii; I didn't know anyone in Japan. The next day when I went to school, I told my best friend and she broke into tears. Then our family had to tell our family. They were not understanding about us moving to Japan. On our pack-out day, my sister told our parents that she wanted to stay in Hawaii. So, she did, and when we moved to Japan, I cried my eyes out. Finally, I got used to living here and now I like it.

- Malia Vigil

### Being a military child

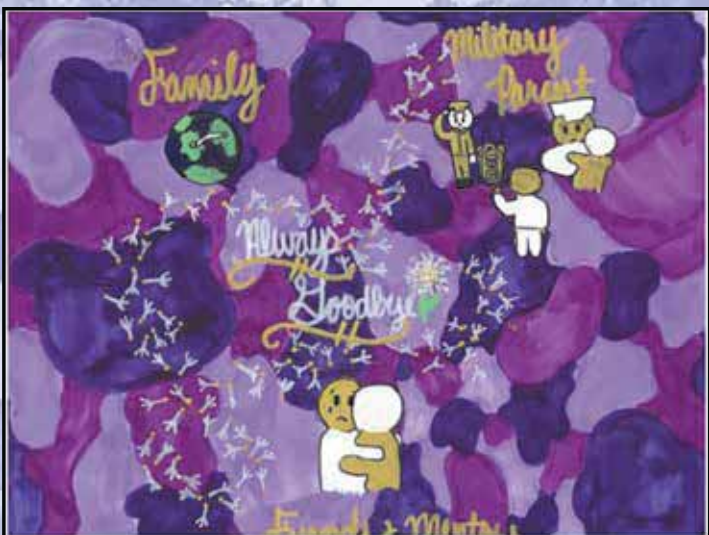
Tis a good thing  
To be a child  
Whom parent or guardian  
Serve the people

Tis an honor  
To be able to make sacrifices  
For my belief in country

And as the cherry on top  
I get to see Japan  
Something most people only dream of

Moving to foreign countries is one of my favorite things  
About being a military child

- Kiama Njoroge



- Lorah Govea



- Steven Gilham

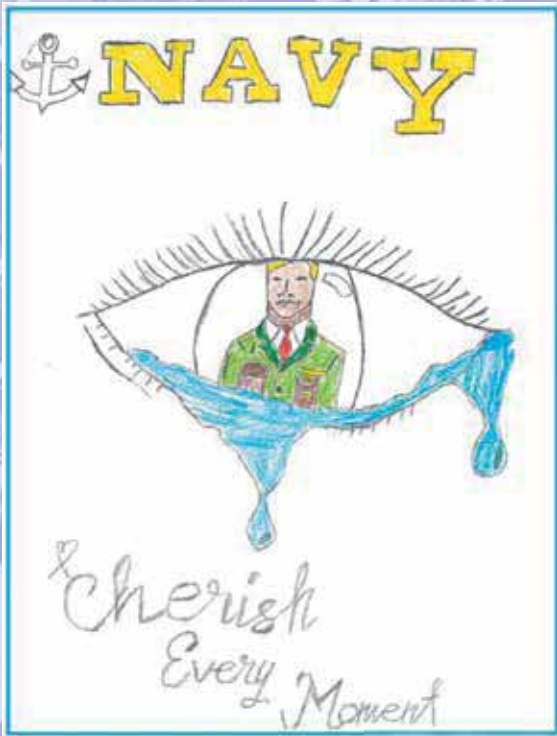
CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# Matthew C. Perry High School

9th grade • Ms. Sullivan

**B**eing a military child is quite interesting. We get to go to places where other people may not be able to visit and we can have many memories and photos of these places to look back on. We also get to meet many new people throughout our lives in different places. Military life gives such great benefits for families and lasting memories. I am truly grateful for these experiences and grateful for everyone's service.

- Hailey Martin



- Ethan Mercado

**S**ometimes it may be hard for a military child to comprehend that they lead a very different life than most kids do. And this different life comes with many pros and cons. For example, military kids get to travel around the world and experience many new things that most people don't get to. However, all the moving may cause the child to feel like nothing in their life is secure, especially since their parents are always coming in and out of their life. A military child's life is full of fun and adventure but that also means leaving people behind and being left behind. It teaches them an important lesson for adulthood; everything is temporary, and one must always be ready to adapt to new surroundings and challenges. In conclusion, the life of a military child is as great as it is difficult and depending on your perspective, you'll either be happy or miserable.

- Maia Minton

**B**eing a military child comes with multiple challenges. One of the biggest challenges is that I have to leave my friends not after too long first meeting them. This is a very difficult situation to find myself in, but it also comes with many good things. Being a military child, I can travel around the world and experience the foods, traditions, and overall the feelings. Although I haven't really experienced my parents leaving, I know that it is sad when one of either parents leave for months. Although it comes with ups and downs, being a military child is not bad.

- Ryusei Joneson



- Sophia Karolewics

**L**iving in Iwakuni or anywhere other than America can affect you in any way. It's definitely hard to be away from my family and friends but I'm getting opportunities here that I wouldn't have in the states. What I've learned while being here is that you'll gain and lose people. It's hard to have my friends leave but I love meeting new people. Living in a place where you have to be away from your family for years at a time can really affect your mental state. While I've been here, I've noticed so many different things, not just in my area but the people I surround myself with. I find it somewhat helpful to live somewhere far away from home because it's really helping me grow as a person. I really enjoy being able to experience this crazy change with my family. I'm extremely grateful to have this opportunity and I probably would have never left America if it wasn't for the military.

- Naiyanalise Lillard



- Kandie Montour



- Jack Hoeft



- Jose Montalvo



An Intermission Between Acts

**T**his drawing represents the stress of packing up your life when you have to move, the transition of your home becoming a house. The tedium of figuring out what goes in which box, picking things to throw away because they just won't fit, or don't seem

as important anymore, and the feeling of seeing boxes in your room instead of furniture and posters. The piece looks messy on purpose as moving can feel messy, despite it leaving your house emptier than it was before.

- Nina Lietzan

**B**orn in Yokosuka, Japan, I went to a public Japanese kindergarten then to an on-base kindergarten at Atsugi, Japan. At the time, I barely had a concept that there were other places than the United States, Japan, and Guam. Then, I got the news at the end of 2nd grade that I was moving to Iwakuni. At first, I remember being completely clueless, but very excited. It was going to be a new cool place with a bridge for all I knew. And so, I moved to the Iwakuni Base. I reunited with a childhood friend of mine and also made new friends. At this point I thought I was living the life. As for my knowledge of the military, I found out there were different groups and moving was normal for everyone. Three years later it was my turn again, I moved to the U.S. I remember the mixture of bittersweet excitement. I missed my friends quite a lot, but it was a new place! I went to a public school at Hanford, and it was so fresh. Everything was so different, and I absolutely loved it there. I've made good friends and felt new air. However, I've also learned that being a military child isn't quite normal, nevertheless a great thing to add on to my life. Of course, there were people I had to leave on the way. But if I weren't in this situation now, I don't think I'd be so eager to want to see the world. Obviously, I've never been in other people's shoes, and I won't know their stories, but in mine this "title" is nothing but opportunity and just another way to experience how strong family and friend's bonds are. I believe it has made me stronger and grow to be my best.

- Leah Tetreault

SEE MORE MS. SULLIVAN'S CLASS ON PAGE 24

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

The Military Child

The life of a military child is hard but rewarding. A military life opens an infinite number of opportunities for everyone, like meeting new people, going to special parties, seeing members of the corps in uniforms and dresses, while experiencing traditions that go down for centuries. Although being in the military is rewarding and empowering, it is also difficult. These difficulties could include frequently moving from one job or school to another, maintaining lifelong relationships, and being apart from family. In contrast, it can make you mentally and perhaps physically strong. That is why it is important to have a strong relationship with your family and friends so that they can give you advice through the bad and celebrate the good times.

We are all here to support the mission. The meaning of "supporting the mission" is different for all military personnel. Teachers might say that it is "aiming to provide students the same level of education that you would have in the United States" and the list could go on. My definition of supporting the mission is knowing that the community and base are defending and supporting everyone through all the hardships, and standing up for what is right for us, our community, and for our nation. The accomplishment of this role in the military should not only be acknowledged but truly honored.

- Abigail Pittman

The cycle

They set out to sea without me. Sitting sipping on my tea waiting for something. I look out to the gentle breeze feeling like a leaf. Always moving, not sleeping, only looking for that special something. Yet still no luck searching. Every time I find a hint it turns out to just be a pit. Part of me lost with each attempt. Eventually fractured I finally see right in front of me. My emptiness supplanted by new joy once unseen. Finally free from never being able to see the things around me. Whole once again like a tree I dig my roots down to stop all this hopeless traveling. Now tired I rest in this finale and start again. Yet like ouroboros it seems to repeat every generation.

- David-Juan Shimizu

Matthew C. Perry High School

9th grade • Ms. Sullivan

As a military child, I love the many experiences I have had. For example, I am constantly meeting new friends, meeting different types of people, and going to different places. However, that comes at the sacrifice of my dad being deployed sometimes, which then leads to difficulties with parent communications. These struggles are tough because I need my dad as I am growing up. From losing my friends to losing my dad for a bit, it's sad. However, meeting new people increases my ability to socialize. Whenever I make new friends, I have developed the skills to come up to that person and start a conversation. These skills are useful in many ways and being a military child helps me use these skills.

- Preston Ramirez



- Raken Pelletier

Growing up in a military family, I experienced a lot of different adventures and changes. My dad's job took us to different places, and each move meant starting over in a new school, making new friends, and adapting to a new community.

I remember after each move, the excitement of exploring new cities. My surroundings are constantly changing. I always find a favorite thing about each place I go to. Sometimes, it can be in a loud city, or a beautiful landscape away from all the noise. I always try to learn any new traditions or cultures I encounter.

With every new beginning comes very sorrowful goodbyes. Having to say goodbye to friends that became a regular part of my life is never easy. However, the bonds I have created with all these other military children is worth it. We understand the struggles of being a military child, but also the benefits.

Education was very hard too. I have been to many schools in different countries, this has exposed me to different perspectives and ways of learning.

Through it all, my family was constant. We always created a sense of home wherever we went. Together, we cherished the moments we had together and making the most of every opportunity.

Being a military child has shaped me in many ways. It has taught me strength, being able to adapt very quickly, and embracing change. It has made me feel appreciation for the sacrifices made by my dad and all those who serve. Most importantly it has taught me to cherish the present moment and finding strength in the connections we make along the way.

- Ashley Santana

Military Child

As a military child, I don't have as much experience as some of my peers. However, I do have the basics down of the challenges of being a military child. Originally, I lived in the city of Yuma, and I had everything I wanted. At the time, while I knew my father was in the military, I wasn't aware of what being a military child meant. When I was around 9, my father told my family that we could possibly move to Japan.

I was extremely frustrated and wanted to just live with my abuela, so I didn't have to say goodbye. It was rough and I could hardly bear to leave my family and planned life in general. When I began to leave Yuma, it was frightening without any knowledge of my return. The journey was exhausting, long, and overall depressing. This resulted in me closing myself off from everyone no matter who.



As a Military child, I have been able to go on so many train rides around the world. The most train rides I have been on in a single country is the country of Japan. My dad used to take my brother and I on a lot of these trips when we were a lot younger, and they make up some of my most fond memories of being a Military Child. I will forever thank my dad, as well as the rest of my family for helping me make those memories.

- Richard Rusnok III

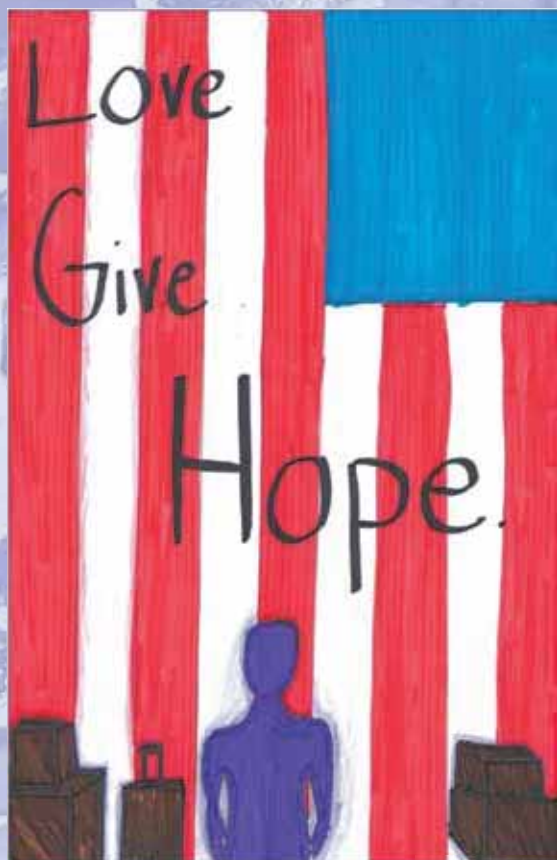
A Military Child thanking those who support you

Being a military child sometimes comes with problems: decreasing grades, depression, suicidal thoughts, and substance use. Although there are bad things about being a military child, there are places where you can seek help. For example, in school there are counselors. I was depressed in 8th grade because of my decreasing grades. I went to the school counselors, and they helped me. They put me on the right track and my grades progressively increased. There is also MFLC, which stands for Military and Family Life Counseling, in the school.

Another thing that supports me is the friends I have made along the way. I have only lived in two places which are Okinawa and Iwakuni. In both places, I met friends that I can trust and friends who support me when I am feeling down. During my depression, my friends helped me a lot too. When they see me feeling down, they cheer me up and help when I am facing problems.

Last but not least, my family has supported me in the best ways. While our family has not moved as much as other military families have, but when we did, I missed home. My family saw that I was struggling with moving away from other family members, and they supported me by taking a family trip to take my mind off of the things that bothered me.

- Jayden Washington



- Izaiah Zara

Arriving in Japan was a culture shock. Obviously, the language, currency, and people were different for me. It was hard to adjust as I didn't know how to translate everything. Going into the TLF was a major problem. I lived there for a couple months and had to share a room with six of my other family members.

My confidence and social skills dropped immensely as everyone in school already had their own group. I made the decision to not attempt to make any friends. I felt really lonely for almost two straight years. But I've now opened up and I'm far better off as I have my own friend group and started to interact with everyone around me. Engaging in social activities and outings are more common than before.

In due time, everything will get better if you just try rather than focusing on licking old wounds.

- Cali Villagran





CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

# Matthew C. Perry High School

9th grade • Ms. Sullivan

### Difference

**M**any people believe that military families are constantly moving due to either one or both parents being in the military. Their children are also constantly moving around to different schools and leaving their past friendships behind.

Although this is what many military children would usually tell you if you asked them about the sacrifices they've made, I am a military child, but my experience is different from others. I've only moved to three places before my parent's retirement from the military. Two-thirds of these locations are in the same place: Japan. I've only lived in the United States for about two years until I moved to Japan. I do not have any memories of living in the United States. Places like Six Flags, Chick-fil-A, or any popular American place mean close to nothing to me. I was never able to experience it, so I never got to see what's so good about it.

Despite all of this, I have been given many other opportunities. Japan is a foreign country, meaning I got to experience Japanese culture. An example is authentic Japanese food. In the United States or any other country, a lot of food that isn't authentic doesn't taste the same. It doesn't hold the same feeling, or in this case: taste. My staying in one place allowed me to fully immerse myself in their culture, which is an opportunity that most Americans can only dream of.

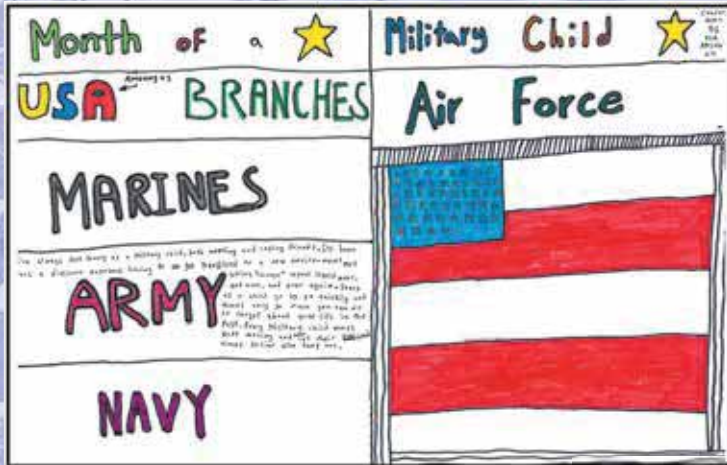
- Ryle Paningbatan

**I** am a retired military child. My dad worked for the Navy for 23 years and 3 months and retired in October of 2023. I was born when my parents were stationed in Yokosuka and then we moved to North Carolina for 3 years. I don't remember much from NC.

After North Carolina, I moved to Naples, Italy. I remember a lot from Naples. I remember having the base furniture as we waited for our stuff to arrive. When our stuff got there, I remember unpacking everything with my parents and re-building furniture with my dad. We had an attic in the tower with many sections for each family to use. I loved going up there with my parents to go unlock our door to look at all the stuff in the room. I remember walking to school with my mom and my brother every day. I remember when we found a baby bird in the road and took care of him until he passed away a couple weeks later. I remember going to many places in Europe like Italy, Holland, Germany, Spain, and Finland. Those trips were really fun. I remember coming back from school one day and hearing that my great grandma passed away and skipped school to go to Japan for her funeral.

After Italy, we stationed to Iwakuni, Japan. My family was so excited because we were able to be close to our grandparents and finally have traditional Japanese food again. I remember going back to school. I remember growing up in the same house for seven years. I remember making new friends that would come and go. These tiny memories are the things that build up my life and create my adventure, but the most important thing is that I had all these adventures and obstacles with my family.

- Angelica Palaki



- Copper Allen

**A**s a military child, I have big dreams and the hardest thing is to find opportunities depending on what you want to do. That can determine how you feel in the future and change your path. In the future, I want to play a professional sport, but I find it hard because I go to a school that is not well known. This means that getting seen by college scouts is really hard for me, especially going to a school overseas. But it does push me harder to work towards my goals so I can be known. For example, in my school gym there are a bunch of banners on the wall and a personal goal of mine is to have my name on a banner on that wall that will be seen for generations to come.

- Christopher Brooks



- Veatriz Orozco



**G**rowing up in a military family, I've had unique experiences. My mom, a former Navy member became a teacher for military children when she departed the Navy. This has kept us connected to the military community. The number 76 symbolizes the USS Ronald Reagan, stationed at CFAY where we lived. The Navy flag represents my mom's service, and the airplane signifies the aircraft I've encountered at MCAS Iwakuni, including sitting in a fighter jet cockpit. The soldier in my collage signifies the sacrifices of military parents around the world, providing their children with unique experiences like the ones I have gotten.

- Taisei Shimakura

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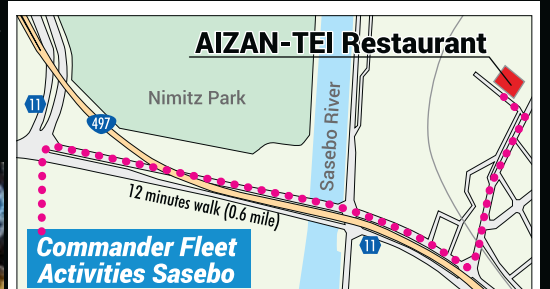
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## The Bird

The mockingbird,  
It soars through the air looking for  
something its not  
It's always injuring itself, tumbling  
through the air distracted by the  
beauty of another bird  
People pass by watching it attack a  
mirror, curious as to why.  
It's attacking the reflection, attacking  
itself

The mocking bird  
It's own mating song is sweet and gurgling.  
But it mocks the songs of other birds  
Their tunes carry harsh squeaky notes  
and horrible to drums in our ears  
But still, it mock, mock, mocks because  
all horrible things are of its own creation

The mocking bird  
I think it hates itself  
Always mimicking, that's its job I  
suppose, it's in the name  
Its tunes are more spectacular than the  
House Finch  
Colorful, cherry voiced, yes  
But still, the mockingbird's tunes are  
that of the heavens

The mockingbird  
Others birds songs are dull in  
comparison  
In all way, shape, and form  
It pains me when it thinks it's the  
darkness because all I see is the light  
There's a barrier between us, everytime  
I try to help its for nothing

The mocking bird  
Mocking, imitating, copying  
These terms are forever tied to the  
bird, drilled into its skull forcing it to  
change itself  
It's what its used to, it's all it knows  
I pity the mockingbird

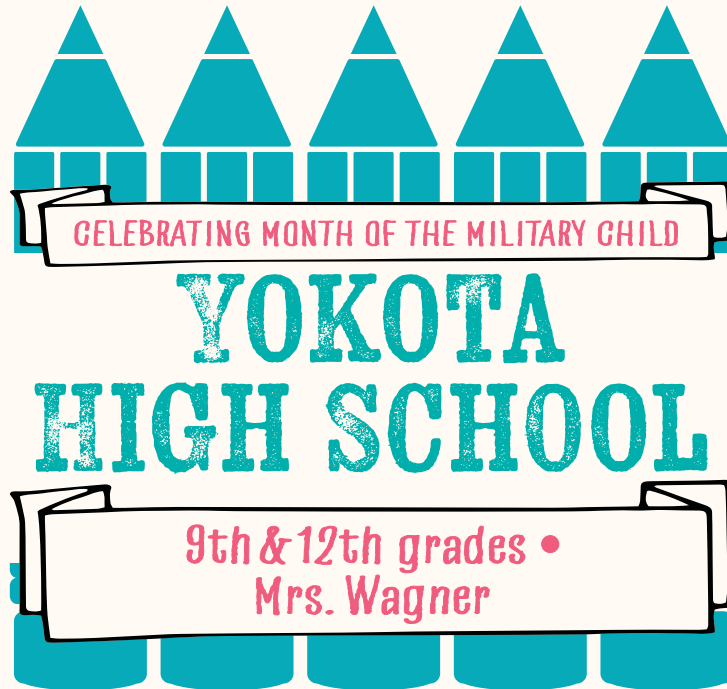
– Haylie Velez

## The End of the World

They nearly disappeared.  
Mimicking their own reflection.  
Attacking white.  
Gurgling black.  
Gray.  
Winter.  
Summer–  
A popular, colorful, adaptable song.  
The animals colonize.  
The animals survived.  
Dogs barking,  
Car alarms squealing.  
Escape.  
Repeat, many-tongued mimic  
They nearly disappeared.

*The End of the World is a poem about people who were left alive when the world ended and how they are trying to make a way of life. The first line "they almost disappeared" is how they almost died at the end of the world, but they found their gray area. As the animals survived and summer came around they were able to adapt to their new planet. They escaped from their negative mindsets that were left with them due to traumatic events. They continued to mimic the way of life as a way of "fake it till you make it." The sounds of dogs barking are what they would hear at night because the dogs continued as if everything was normal and they would chase squirrels or birds all the time. The car alarms became a very familiar noise when the world "ended" since all the cars had their alarms*

– Emma Smathers



*going off and nobody could turn them off. The last line which repeats the first is a way of declaring victory, like they almost disappeared but they didn't. They survived and they adapted to start a new generation of people.*

– Aubriana Benningfield

## I am From...

I am from the salty sea air  
And the road made of shells  
From my heart pounding in my ears  
As I search for the Ghost in the  
Graveyard  
From the rattle of a horse trailer  
As twelve kids play tag on its metal frame

I am from the dirt in my fingernails  
Refusing to leave after a day of playing  
outside  
From the scrapes and bruises i received  
After making childish decisions  
From the taquitos and pizza  
Made lovingly by my mom

I am from the pine-crested mountains  
A part of sixteen hands reaching around  
a sequoia  
From the music I heard and loved  
Dancing with my siblings  
From the excited shout I gave  
As I mastered a brand new skill

I am from the books I have read  
Warm golden pages filled with impactful  
words  
From the calluses on my fingers  
Made by shining silver strings on a  
chocolate-colored violin  
From the splinters and paint splatters  
Received when working on fences

I am from the laughter of my friends  
Both here and ones long left  
From explorations made  
In a new and strange place  
From tight and warm embraces  
That last forever in a moment

I reach up and grab the boxes  
Then sit on my bed and look  
At the pictures and keepsakes from my life  
Collected over the course of seventeen  
years  
Hundreds of memories and lessons  
Are encased in every one

## The Many Tongued Mimic

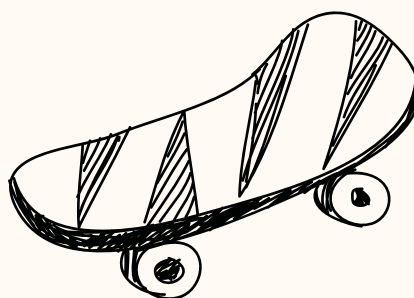
"Many tongued mimic"  
Nearly disappeared  
Survived  
Colonized the New York suburbs  
Recent arrivals in the East

Ability to mock or mimic,  
Frogs,  
Pigs squealing,  
Dogs barking  
Wheels squealing

Very territorial  
Wings are black  
Get too close,  
Swoop down on people  
Attacking

*"The Many Tongued Mimic" is a poem about a fictional creature named the "many tongued mimic". It first appeared one day around 30 years ago, in New York State, but started to be spotted in the city itself around 25 years ago. Nowadays, sightings have been seen in the East coast. Its name derives from its ability to mimic many different animal and mechanical sounds, like birds, cars, wheels, and dogs. It may use these sounds for mating purposes, but its greatest use is for deception. At night, they use sounds like a dog barking or whining to lure people towards them, and when the time is right, it swoops down to attack and eats their flesh. Strangely enough, they have only been observed consuming human flesh. The many tongued mimics are nocturnal animals, and mysteriously disappear when the sun rises. The location where they disappear off to, however, is unknown. Not many have been able to fully observe the Many tongued mimic and survive, but the one thing they know for sure is that it possesses deep, almost obsidian black wings. This serves to help them blend in with their nocturnal environment. The wingspan is said to be around 12 feet wide by hearsay, with the animal's height being said to be around 5 feet.*

– Gabrielle Murphy



## - Growing Pains -

Cheery voiced, familiar visitors  
The Mockingbirds  
Sweet statebirds  
50 years later, they had advanced  
Very territorial  
The Mockingbirds  
Swooping down on people or animals,  
pigs squealing  
Car alarms, wheels squeaking  
Attacking their own reflection, injuring  
themselves,  
The Mockingbirds  
Escaping prosecution  
Advanced halfway across the continent  
Disappeared from parts of the East  
Coast  
Familiar visitors to backyard feeders,  
The Mockingbirds

*My poem is symbolism for entering adult hood. As one grows, they face harsh reality and change. They leave behind old customs, attitudes, personalities, and evolve into a new individual, whether positive or negative. "Sweet statebirds" with "cheery voices" begin to attack their own reflections and injure themselves. This signifies an individual's conversion to stronger, deeper topics and actions as opposed to innocent ideals. Throughout all this change, however, the individual remains themselves, which is why I repeat "The Mockingbird." Whether one's 60 or 6, they are still themselves inside. My poem "Growing Pains" reflect's one's life journey and the changes that come with it.*

– Renee Shone

## The River in The East

Cheery voiced,  
Coast to coast,  
Adaptable and colorful,  
As sweet as a bird song,  
From Tennessee to Texas,  
Sweet and gurgling,  
The Mississippi tumbles,  
Down the East coast,  
And through Mississippi,  
Reflections like windows,  
Frogs and insects,  
Songs as sweet as berries,  
From New York,  
To the Great Plains,  
The Mississippi in the East

*This poem is about the ever-expansive Mississippi river. It has always been a necessity for America, from it being used to transport settlers, to supplies, to the American way of life and influence. It is heavily used, even to this day. With over 175 million pounds of cargo shipped by using the river, it is America's watery artery. The river has beautiful scenery and has been known to have popular water-based activities along its banks. On top of all of this its banks have been farmed for generations, from the fertile soil being washed upon the banks for thousands of years. There is no doubt that Mississippi is an important lifeblood of our beloved nation.*

– Jonas Hutchins

## Who Am I?

I am a product of having to say  
"goodbye"  
Riding on airplanes time after time  
Having to talk to relatives on phone  
screens  
And mission out on trips to Chuck E.  
Cheese

I am a product of summers in  
Hawaii





Always hearing "Play Nice"  
Long beach days followed by  
BBQs

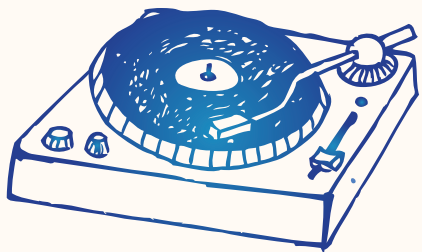
Walking home with sand in my shoes

I am a product of Reggae  
Leaving the house covered in bug spray  
Climbing up Plumeria trees  
Wearing handmade dresses from my  
aunties

I am the product of chlorine-damaged hair  
A room full of pictures from everywhere  
Being told to keep the "glass half full"  
And being the new kid in school

I am the product of Permanent Changes  
of Station  
Wondering about the paths untaken  
Wearing the color purple in April  
Seeing the dandelion as military kid staple

- Melia Okamoto



**Fall & Winter**

Fall and winter  
Dogs barking, pigs squealing, wheels  
squeaking  
Each phrase at least 3 times  
Bird songs  
Sweet and gurgling  
Fall and winter  
Color nearly disappeared  
It is gray  
Harsh reflections  
Learned 200 songs but singing another birds  
Fall and winter  
Familiar visitor  
Common from coast to coast  
Who had been marked by a few harsh notes  
Fall and Winter

*I wrote this poem about the hardships that fall and winter have, even through the joyous times that are supposed to come. I wrote how the bird songs are sweet, yet the color nearly disappeared. This is supposed to show how happy it sounds, and how happy pictures of it look, but once it comes it tends to feel sad. The sun comes out less, there is more rain, and it is cold. In the middle the line says "learned 200 songs but singing another bird's". This is meaning how repetitive it can feel, and how every year these seasons tend to feel the same with the same holidays and traditions. At the end I also added how it is "marked by a few harsh notes". This is supposed to put together in a summary what it looks like, and how not all people feel gloomy during fall and winter but people that do have a hard time and it feels harsh to them.*

- Mallory Cochran

**Shattered Melodies**

Species  
Mock  
Sweet and gurgling  
Sounds,  
Wings  
Swoop  
Mimicking,  
Attacking

Reflections  
Injuring themselves

Species  
Mock  
Sweet and gurgling  
sounds;  
Harsh  
Rich songs  
Disappeared  
Singing,  
Tumbles

Harsh  
Species  
Attacking  
Rich songs

Singing  
Shattered melodies

- Kaitlyn Marrero

**The Pet Shop**

The ability to mock or mimic others  
When singing another's song  
Repeat each phrase at least three times  
And continue selling the mockingbird  
illegally  
Adaptable  
Colorful  
And cheery voiced  
Marked by a few harsh notes  
Pigs squealing  
Wheels squeaking  
Dogs barking  
And continue selling the mocking illegally  
To the point of injuring themselves  
New York pet shop owners  
Were so popular

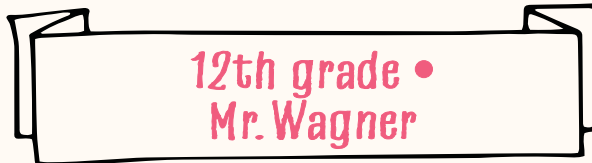
*The meaning behind the poem:  
The strange pet shop is about a pet shop in New York. This is a different world of whimsical unorganized madness, and Mocking birds are illegal to own. The pet shop owner wants to show the world that Mockingbirds aren't as bad as people think, but are beautiful things. He then captures them and sells them but people keep thinking that they are really robots because they make noises that animals shouldn't make, like a car alarm. The New York petshop owner eventually proves that they are real and people begin to buy them. He becomes the most popular pet shop owner in New York.*

- Jonah Campos

**Rich Songs, from Coast to Coast**

1. Cheery  
Many-tongue mimic  
Mocks  
Sweet
5. 200 song  
Repertoire  
Year round  
Gurgling  
Colorful
10. Rich songs  
Mimicking  
Coast-to-Coast  
Territorial Adaptable
15. Cherry voices

- Zenko Heinrichs



**Family is there too**

Moving around the world  
What a time to be alive  
Living in Europe from a young  
age  
To living in Japan while older

Now it's time for me to go on  
my own  
To leave my family  
The people who love me and  
support me  
I'm scared, I am soon alone

- Aiden Leppo



**Last time together**

Soon-to-be graduating seniors in a  
military base  
Trying to make everlasting memories  
with new and old friends  
Occasionally getting sentimental over  
the varying time spent  
Made memories together with no ends  
Some to the military  
Some to a university  
Let's all meet again  
In this land of memories

- Julia Morioka

**April for US**

In April Children Stand  
With Courage and Resilience  
Brings Laughter and Good times  
Which brightens the Sky

We are strong and brave  
Moving around all the time  
Having Different Experiences  
Which Makes Us Unique

- Ethan Bricker

**Six Thousand Miles**

Traveling the world  
Never staying in one place  
Friendships come and go  
Six thousand miles apart  
Family was left behind

- Christopher Stone



**Traveling the world**

Exploring new places  
Moving every couple years  
Never staying put  
Losing something every move  
while learning something each time

- Carter Cantway

**Brave Military Children**

We fear not challenge  
As strengthening our courage  
Is what betters us

- Alan Wiegand

**Great Opportunities**

We are moving to a new station  
My parents are part of the crew  
I enjoy a relaxing vacation  
Across the world, we flew

In a good time to be where I want to be,  
I always feel protected  
I am happy to have supportive workers  
Hearing success as expected

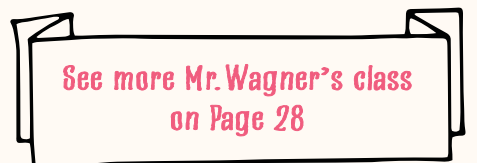
- Kale Wiegand

**Inextricable**

When the sun seizes all around  
With humid making us sweat  
It makes me remember  
That all of you guys are moving away

It will happen again in two months  
With all of you guys leaving me behind  
But the bond we made  
It is impossible to break

- Taiga Arakaki





CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

## YOKOTA HIGH SCHOOL

9th, 11th & 12th grades •  
Mr. Wagner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

### Deployment

He packs his bag again so we can take  
him to his plane  
Most days are pretty boring but this  
ones not the same  
I know he'll be okay, at least I hope he'll be  
Now I guess being the man of the house  
inevitably falls to me

Our time apart is over I wonder how he  
has changed  
I wonder if he'll notice our height is now  
the same

Excited that it's over but a little nervous too  
Just happy to be a family again now  
that the deployment is through

– Brailyn Ivey

### No Where

No place I've stayed  
Have I called home  
Always everywhere it's no fair  
Been over here and over there

From the East Coast to the West  
Always going on a side quest  
I consider no where the best  
I'll have to find somewhere to rest

– Carter Schaefer

### Orange Sand Blossom

The Season of Orange,  
With The Sand of a Basin,  
Blossoming Flowers and Leaves.  
The Orange Sand Blossom.

Orange for the German Oktober Fest,  
The sand of New Mexico's White dunes,  
And Flowers of Japan's Cherry Blossom.  
I am from an Orange Sand Blossom.

– Christian Bressler

### No Roots Needed

Home is in the heart  
Uniforms mark each new start  
Moving base to base  
I live beneath foreign skies  
Growing from all the goodbyes

– Mariah Hilliard

### Somewhere

The lack of a childhood home,  
to the answer:  
"Well I was born in San Antonio, Texas,  
but we move constantly."

After all, moving 14 times and having  
17 homes—  
makes it quite difficult to know.  
I have been "everywhere,"  
yet from "nowhere."

– Gabriella Burgoyne

### Home

Where am I from?  
I can tell you  
That I'm from Japan  
Circle of the sun

From Yokosuka Red Sea  
To Yokota, blue skies  
I wear these colors with pride  
Because this is my home.

– Jai Bailey

### My Military Child Story

Cold rain drips on the head of an infant,  
On the dark and wet Seattle streets,  
But the time has come,  
Onward to the next adventure,

As the sun sets over Mount Fuji,  
A young boy is inspired,  
But the inevitable cadence has come  
once more,  
Onward to the next adventure,



Light shines into Korea,  
The young boy catches a  
glimpse of Seoul Tower,  
But alas the time has  
come,  
Onward to the next  
adventure,

In the beautiful heat of Singapore,  
The boy discovers a mysterious  
creature,  
But once more the time has come,  
Onward to the next adventure,

They say everything is bigger here,  
The boy is told to remember a Spanish  
Mission,  
Like an alarm it was time,  
Onward to the next adventure,

The young man sees his prior  
inspiration,  
He conquers it with his old man,  
But soon the time will come once more,  
It will be time for another adventure.

– Jadon Pierce

### The Next Family

Here we are again,  
every couple of years  
my home looks un-lived in,  
until the next family moves in.  
I guess I'm the next family  
for a kid who is just like me  
moving in with my family  
to make a new home look lived in.

– Joshua A. Flores

### Longing for my Homeland

From the still rice paddies of Thailand  
To the rolling hills of Hesse  
The hot deserts of the Lone Star State  
And the mountains of Japan

I am connected to all of these places  
They are all very dear to me  
But there is only one place I call home  
Oh, longing for my homeland, to be with  
my own

– Jimmi Olney

### Change

From mountains to plains  
day and night clouds never change  
beginning from scratch

– Daniel Morris

### Next Episode

The new props stuck deep in the stage  
floor,  
Foreign streets, homes, and lots,  
The feeling of unease rarely matters,  
Coming and going is common for your  
plot.

You hardly remember your beginning or  
end,  
memories of the first second and third  
act,  
The changing cast revolves around the  
bend,  
Just out of reach of a finale.

– Maubrey Johnson

### Phoenix Resilience

The past tour comes to a close  
but struggles come back to bite  
yet those who suffer it stay strong  
their grip held tight.  
Despite the thieves of the night of hope  
and dreams  
their adaptation from their former  
selves can be seen  
And prevail through their most  
desperate times  
They are the military brats

– Alexander Popovich

### New Beginnings

What's your name? I ask for the  
twentieth time  
A question I have had to get used to  
asking  
After leaving my old life, my old friends  
It is now time to make more  
Whether in America, Asia, Europe, or  
elsewhere  
It's always the same  
We move into our houses, our emotions  
are mixed  
Hoping for friends, and hoping for fun

Are there good sports teams? We ask  
Band? Art? Anything else?  
Though we may not have the same life  
that we had before  
At least we have a new beginning

– Spencer Pratt

### The life of a military child

It's a blessing but also a curse  
Lots of high and lows  
For being faithful and supportive  
A price paid for the sacrifice

Not many know what it is  
Saying goodbye is sad and hard  
To people who are friends and family  
Sometimes expecting a far away text or  
call

Packing boxes comes and goes  
Reminding themselves of what their  
parent does  
The color is purple for the entirety of  
the military

– Nicholai Riley

### Butterfly forest

Home is somewhere I could never grasp  
for me it is like a butterfly on a  
migration  
The butterfly may be in one place  
but it won't stay there forever

In the end the butterfly is constantly  
moving  
never somewhere that was permanent  
However a butterfly will always return  
during its migration  
somewhere where it can call home.

I am similar to a butterfly in that  
sense  
as I too have a place to return to  
It may not be as beautiful as a  
butterfly forest  
but it is something I can call my home

– Alexandra Vargas

### Ways Divided

Farewell's gentle breeze  
Hearts heavy with silent tears  
Paths diverge, we part

– Samuel T-Gray

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military children stories at:  
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**Goodbye**

I shut my eyes tight  
Not wanting to say goodbye,  
I opened my arms sadly,  
Hugging my friends one last time,  
It's time to say bye.

– Kailyn Williams

**The Reality**

The friends given to me by this lifestyle  
Will always come to mind when I smile  
The hundreds of 'see you later' not  
wanting to say goodbye  
Make me wish I could've just stood by

To my friends who made everyday my best  
Thank you for making me feel so blessed  
I will always remember the days  
When laughing too much was our only  
mistake

As I sat in that plane  
I kept thinking about how leaving was  
never my aim  
The repeated feeling of guilt has not  
left my mind  
The feeling of leaving my favorite people  
behind

– Gabriela Saavedra

**A simple question**

When others are asked where they're from  
It's an easy answer "I'm from so and  
so" but for me  
I pause and I wait I don't know what I'm  
supposed to say  
Do I say the place of my early years or

Of my teens or rather where I am now  
But instead of saying all the places  
that home once was  
I simply just say "everywhere" to keep  
it short

And still I pause every time and think  
of all the places that are my home

– Adriana Jackson

**Simmering Soup.**

I am like a Simmering Soup.  
With ingredients from all the  
places I've been.  
Taking in morsels of others,  
To make up who I am.

Experiences from Florida,  
Germany, Japan.  
Their flavors make up my  
being,  
Making myself a fulfilling dish,  
To those I serve myself to.

– Gavin M. Murphy

**Month of Purple**

We move all the time,  
It's stressful but exciting,  
Next place not the same,  
When we finally adapt,  
Same thing is bound to happen.

– Kicoh Guenther

**Nonmilitary military child**

Not moving,  
watching people go,  
I'm in the same place,  
There are different people though,

Nonmilitary military child,  
Living overseas,  
Not the same old town,  
But I have the same old keys

– Hinckley Frost

**My Memory Lets Me Down**

Sorry, do I know you?  
Names and faces fly by in my mind  
There are too many to remember  
Most I forget

Did I know them at some point?  
Was it another life  
Was it another school  
Or is it simply my imagination

I say hello to the familiar dark  
Do I know you?

– Thalia Cosyleon

**Military child by where are you from?**

I say I'm from the South but I'm  
technically from Utah  
Mama says I'm Utahan because that's  
where I grew up  
Daddy says I'm southern due to my roots  
But what roots?

The roots that get torn up from the  
ground every three years  
The roots that were forced to learn the  
new land,  
the swamps of Louisiana, the red sand  
of Hawaii, the desert dirt of Utah, and  
all in between

I say my roots are in the south but  
where are they really?

– Remi Lee

**Moving places**

I am from many areas of  
the world, Two to be exact.  
From the vast lands of  
America now to Japan.  
Home is wherever I move to,  
Wherever my family is.

Home is multiple places  
From the city lights of

Las Vegas to the middle of nowhere in  
Colorado  
From seeing the cactus in the deserts  
to dead grass and cows in the farmland  
Now we are here... here in Japan

– Owen Moreno

**New Experiences**

Another adventure, another story  
From base to base, I change  
Saying goodbye to a life I once knew  
And entering this new stage  
In quiet moments I think to myself

What a life it would be if I could stay  
One place, one home, one school  
But there comes a new experience, each  
and every day

– Aruene Canta

**"Purple Smile"**

the pros and cons of a military child  
Fun and joyful, but mysterious and wild  
The feeling, not mild  
Oh Purple smile  
Moving about  
With a shout  
Getting to know everyone without a doubt  
Oh purple smile

But when the time has come  
The feeling becomes numb  
Scrambling for the crumb  
Of where that old feeling came from

– Gerrit Browne

**The Cycle**

I meet someone new  
Then together we both grew  
Now someone I knew

– Chaz Anderson

**North Dakota**

I'm one of the lucky few,  
I haven't had to move as much as you,  
I've said goodbyes and hellos,  
But you'll always be the place I love most.

I've had to leave twice,  
Because of the life my family chose,  
But you'll always be my favorite,  
North Dakota, I love you most.

– Bella Ramirez

**Where I'm From, Where He Goes**

The same home I've lived in for years is  
where I'm from.  
No different scenes out of my bedroom  
window,  
Except for the man who wore camo.  
He's been to every home but his own.

How I wish he were home.  
Or to travel by his side.  
What is the world like outside?  
What made him think it was right to  
push us aside?

– Sierra Light

**Some Place Called Home**

I am from tumbleweeds and dust,  
I have seen and known many places,  
Watching as my friends and family move  
around,  
Loneliness lingers with each sound.

But as I pack and leave my home,  
Going into another unknown,  
An experience I am to know,  
Something I can truly grow.

– Jessica Franks

**"New Places"**

I've lived in many places,  
And Seen many faces,  
Known many people,  
Only to leave them once again  
From friends to strangers,  
Facing new dangers,  
New base new me,  
Untapped opportunity

– Gavin Loescher

**There is no one home**

There is no one place I'm from  
Every other year there's a new residence  
A school I have to attend  
A new existence to face

Bouncing from place to place  
No one home  
Just me alone  
From place to place

– Sydney Otto-Roddan

**Our lives**

Life is full of adventures  
From moving to exploring new places,  
to saying hellos and goodbye  
To friends and familiar places.

We keep the memories with us,  
Ones of laughter, and ones of sadness.  
Collecting them in every minute of  
Every day, making new ones.

Packing boxes one day, then  
Unboxing them the next.  
Supporting our parents in the next move.  
Not knowing what the future holds.

– Marisela Post

**Change**

As the seasons change,  
So do important places  
And the familiar faces,  
But change is not all that bad  
It marks a new start.

– Casey Bumpers

**Military Life**

Moving place to place  
Living on a military base  
This journey brings on pain  
But with it comes strength

I call one place a home  
Just to count down the days  
But I can adapt so I am ready for the change,  
This is the path the military paves

– Landon Reyes



See more Mr. Wagner's class  
on Page 30

## CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

## YOKOTA HIGH SCHOOL

9th, 11th & 12th grades •  
Mr. Wagner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

## Yearly Occurrence to Some

Flying high in the air,  
Wondering about this new country  
Sat in the airline seat,  
We approach the flight line.

Can't read this language,  
Everything's so new.  
We struggle to adjust,  
Not much is the same from before.

New house smell,  
New furniture,  
I miss where we came from,  
But I'm ready to start anew.

– Gera Wilson

## Privileged Nomads

New opportunities on the horizon  
My whole life planned out,  
For decisions I can not forbid  
Making me want to shout.

Moving with the wind and sea  
Never being able to fully feel the  
breeze,  
Here comes the next leave;  
Where is the next place I need to be?

– Kiele Klaus

## Leaving so soon

Life is usually hard when moving  
I spiral sometimes  
The thoughts in my head are too much  
I just need my friends

Friend though hard to find are great  
People who understand you  
The true ones stay  
The others abandon you

When you leave your friends do not  
Keeping in contact is hard and few even try  
When we disconnect my thoughts get worse  
Making new friends is hard but they  
help stop the spiral

– Rebekah Spafford

## To and From

From big country towns to small base  
communities  
Saying goodbye to what was known and  
loving what's new  
Living from Germany, Korea, The U.S and more  
Gaining new experiences with every new move

As a military child goodbyes never  
become easier  
However perseverance, resilience, and  
strength become our friends  
We shed tears, and we often leave with  
hurt hearts  
As our new adventure awaits,  
excitement and apprehension ensues

– Tatianna Mason

## Japanese military child

I am a Japanese kid and you can tell by  
looking at my face  
I am from Japan but I have moved around  
the world  
if you can tell in any case  
I have learned a second language with  
help of my surroundings  
And with many friends and family and  
bondings

I am from where I am from  
But in any case you should visit Japan  
for you are always welcome.

– Yuzuki Sibley

## The purple month

Sadness all around  
Branches all turned  
into one  
But spaced ever far

– Lucas Smith

## Memory lane

Best friends  
scattered far  
longing to be with  
them again  
Waiting patiently



– Braedan Raybon

## Same old change

I will graduate high school  
another change for me  
kids will leave like usual  
but only this time it's different

some will come back for a visit or two  
some will never enter my presence again  
I'll be here, staying behind, figuring  
myself out  
but I know I'm ready

– Adisen Jones

## 17 hour plane ride

As I boarded the plane.  
And moved away once again.  
Another "new me" mindset was created.  
Another chance to "re deem" myself.  
Saying goodbye to the sweet summers.  
Saying hello to this foreign place now  
called home.  
4 years later, I am completely different.  
Oh, I miss my sweet summers.

– Maja Maule

## Old Country

Ohio, my home  
Where dreams and hopes intertwine  
Heartland of the states  
In each step, we find our path  
Embracing quirks, true colors

– Royce Canta

## Moving

The skies the seas they are familiar with me.  
I say goodbye to this old life,  
So bitter sweet.  
I greet this new life presented before me,

A world of many flights.  
Forests of orange and pink,  
The memories they start to sink.  
For military child am I.

– Kairi O'Bryan

## Roots

Tokyo is my home  
Imbedded inside the  
land  
Roots of my comfort  
Time flies people come  
and go  
While I stayed, you left

– Kai Patton

## Where am I from?

Where I am from  
there is division-  
me; and the friends  
who could have been.

Where I am from  
there is another me  
confused on whether this-  
Is their last "forever" home.

– Caitlyn Handley

## My Hero, My Home

My Hero, My Home.  
Fighting everyday for us.  
So we can be free.

– Roniece Edwards

## Upbringing

My childhood is coming to an end  
Looking through the windows of the past  
My life can fit in a box  
Yet it reaches across a country

The world, my playground  
America, my roots  
Home, where my family resides  
Family, where I belong

– Yelena Cosyleon

## The month to celebrate

One month of the year  
To educate the struggles  
Go through moves and changes  
Enjoy all the adventures  
Life of military child

– Tiara Royster

## Timeless

First day, new schools light  
Surroundings fresh and faces new  
In a world unknown  
A home away from the known

Now it is summer's end  
Memories still fresh  
In each move, a journey true  
A timeless trend

– Ivonne Alcantar

## Overseas

Only a few years, four at most  
Now it's time to go again off to  
somewhere new  
I'll get my friends number to talk to them  
But soon we stop talking as our new  
lives push us away from what we once knew  
We travel overseas, it feels like we  
moved to a new planet  
So far away from what I called home  
I have to make new friends, meet new teachers  
My mom says I'll come to like it, but  
why try when we'll leave so soon

– A'niece Long

## Friends Left Behind

I'll miss you nine -  
my dearest friends.  
I fear our time  
is near its end.

I'm used to this,  
I've moved a lot.  
But since her kiss,  
I'd rather not.

Yet I must leave  
this coming June.  
So tell me please  
You'll call me soon.

– Andrew Quinn

See more Mr. Wagner's class  
on Page 32

# Stripes Sports Trivia

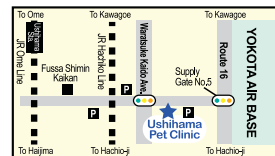
**SAY MY NAME!** When it comes to rockin' a sweet 'stache and making left-hand turns, not many can keep up with me. My 200 wins and seven NASCAR titles place me atop a throne built for "The King." I even had a crown of sorts – a cowboy hat, of course. Who am I?

**Answer**

Richard Petty

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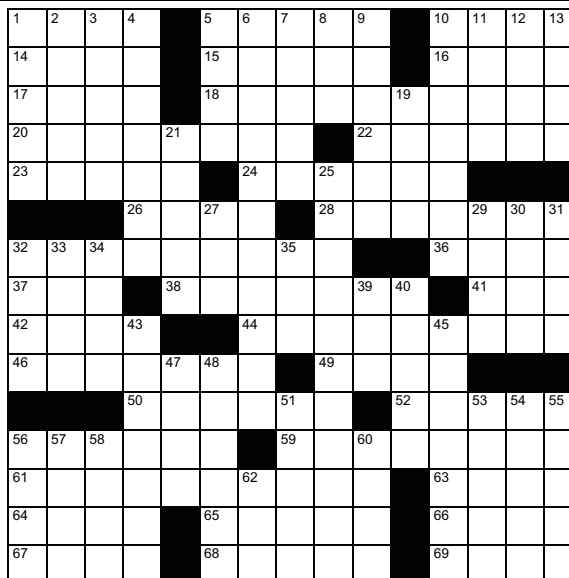
Sat. & Holiday Close at 5pm (Closed Sun.)

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- Go to and fro
- Ski slope
- Witch's blemish
- Matinee \_\_\_\_
- Hepburn film, "Wait \_\_\_\_ Dark"
- Word after rush or happy
- PBS science series
- English rock group?
- Ditchdigger
- Italian city NW of Milan
- Brawl
- Wee-hours flight
- Justice's garb
- To the degree that
- Chemical reaction phenomenon
- Jazz singer Simone
- NAFTA signatory
- Progress delay
- Rock's Bon Jovi
- Cocktail garnish
- Bringing from abroad
- Adopts, as a stray
- Like some excuses
- Thin, silky fabric
- Schnozzes
- Perfect pass
- Outgoing officeholder
- Nobel Prize category
- Painter of melting watches
- Puts to work
- Enlarge, as a road
- "The Blackboard Jungle" author Hunter
- NFC West team



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- Bird feeder fill
- Brooklyn five

### DOWN

- Pub servings
- Love lots
- Really, really want
- Hyundai model
- It may come to shove
- Arousing attention
- Mall component
- Pewter component
- "Stranger Things" girl
- Atop which
- First-rate
- Hairpieces
- Grove growth
- Robert of "Airplane!"
- Adds ice, maybe
- Went missing
- "Gotta run!"
- Pacific island nation

- Auth. unknown
- Summoned, as a butler
- Short
- Home to the Himalayas
- Armored vehicle
- Dove's sound
- Danish currency
- Dishearten
- Arousing-over
- Fly like an eagle
- Spouse's family
- Give the slip to
- Smooth-tongued
- Showy display
- Trapper's wares
- Disparage
- Galileo's birthplace
- "Time" anagram
- Department store department
- Father's Day gift

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Commodore Matthew C. Perry and the U.S. Navy were not the only ones that paid a visit to Okinawa in the 19th century. Representatives of other western countries such as France and the Netherlands visited Okinawa around the same time. As a result, the Ryukyu Kingdom signed treaties with them. Just like the one between the kingdom and the U.S., these treaties with the European countries covered agreements on commerce, replenishment, and consular jurisdiction.

## Kanji of the week

# 起

O/ki (Wake up)

## Language Lesson

Take your time.

# Goyukkuri.

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

YOKOTA HIGH SCHOOL

9th, 11th & 12th grades • Mr. Wagner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Lone Star State

Where the rooster crows  
And the tumbleweed blows  
Where the river flows  
I call it home

I will be home soon  
In the last week of June  
Texas, I will swoon  
By the light of your gorgeous moon.

- Lena Segura

Stationary Military

I am stationary  
Others are mobile  
I remain here  
Others move on

Many friends made  
In one place  
Many friends lost  
Still the same place

- Leela Lilly

Leaving Once Again

I'm leaving this place.  
You'll forget me, and I you,  
Like others before.  
And every one forgotten  
Keeps a small piece of my heart.

- Kayla Lingle

In the Box

Us all in the box  
Trapped in the box with  
people  
People we don't even  
know  
Wonder when we can get  
out  
Where will I be next

- Aimi Burns

Pit Stop

From one place to another  
Required to leave  
Oh what to anticipate  
Where I will be led

Come and go  
Here and there  
Where ever I go  
I'll meet you there

- Maximus Fischer

Vegas then Japan

Golden sun beams on me.  
Walking home from school in the desert.  
Should I call this home?  
Or should I move to the next?  
Japan frees me from my fear.

- Leah McGree

Utah To Japan

From different lands  
Never where I am from  
None are similar  
Never will they be the same  
Each, still a version of "Home"

- Tate Lee

A New Assigned House

Assigned and booked house  
Used before we came to call  
Word used for comfort  
Home a word used many times  
Until retirement we stay

- Zaiyesha Lasher

New Home, New Memories

From my neighborhood in Maryland  
To a base in Japan  
Away from my old friends  
Away from my homeland

New sights are introduced to my eyes  
I welcome new friendships  
That help me grow and thrive  
And I realize that I have a great life

- Kaitlyn Gandolph

Clouds

Floating up above  
Bringing change  
like the weather  
A new adventure

- Dean Lingle

My life in a nutshell

Okinawa born  
First base was in Missouri  
But I had to leave  
Now I am back in Japan  
And I am resilient

- Jourden Sifferlin

Home

Golden state's sunshine,  
Hot sand on beaches so fine,  
Moving from base to base.  
Forests, mountains, cities bright,  
California's beauty in sight.

- Kai Post

Military life

Leave my decade past,  
For the military life,

Done through great intrigue.  
To living elsewhere anew,  
Soon to make new legacies

- Easton Branco

So, where are you from?

This question has always puzzled me  
As I don't know what to say  
Boston, Louisiana?  
Or St. Louis in May?  
Moving place to place  
Never really feeling at home  
When will this all stop  
So I can reply "Oh, I know!"

- Aurora Gothran

"My Adventure begins"

My Adventure starts  
in Japan 2008  
I am a Military child  
always now in my vision  
I can see Purple.

- Samuel Light

Home sweet home

I come from Utah  
With a nice blue sky  
A beautiful place to be  
lakes from the shore to the deep  
I swim so free in my hometown

- Ely Begay

Bringing us together

April is the sign  
When the dandelions bloom  
Representing us  
It all brought us together  
Embodying all in purple  
Where am I from?

- Allyson Moore

Where am I from?

From the sunny Florida shores  
To the green hills of England  
To the elegant mountains of Japan

I have been far and wide  
These experiences help me see the beauty  
of the world  
On all of its faces  
To see the meaning behind the cultures  
In many more places

- Jonas Hubbard

New life

We are constantly on the move  
Meeting challenges along the way  
Making the best of life in different  
places  
As we view the whole world  
Don't know where we belong  
Longing for answers foretold  
Only to be told to move forward  
To a new life

- Kaylie Sangston

Travel

We go where we're told  
Travel with Courageousness  
New Country Awaits

- Matthew Ballard

Traveler

Exploring the world wide  
But never time to set aside  
Settling down and Learning  
Always staying up till Morning  
But after these fantasies fade away  
I realize my purpose  
And the night turns to day,  
As a Traveler, Roaming wide and near

- Alan M. Schaefer

I am a bird

Life is like a bird,  
Trapped in a cage,  
Longing to be free,  
And yet my view always changes.  
To the sand of Okinawa,  
To the naval ships of Yokosuka,  
To the planes of Yokota,  
And yet Japan is always in my view

- Jay Gutierrez

Often Unseen

Children of brave souls  
Marching to the beat of Pride  
Their sacrifices  
Unseen but deeply felt love  
Month of Military Child

- Benjamin Brandon

The Life

I rise each morning  
To ask important question  
Which base am I at?

- Mark Burress

