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# STARS AND STRIPES JAPAN

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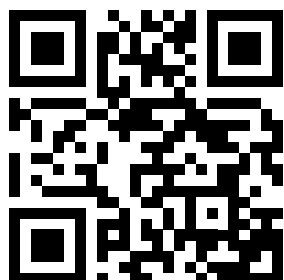
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## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Revisit the past through the writing and photos of Stars and Stripes reporters over the past 75 years at: **75.stripes.com**





**STARS AND STRIPES**  
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**Congrats!**  
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- Matthew C. Perry High
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- Robert D. Edgren High
- Yokota High
- Zama American High









**SPECIAL 16-PAGE PULLOUT INSIDE**

### CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

## To our readers

*Stars and Stripes Japan wants to thank all our military children, teachers and parents who participated in this year's Month of the Military Child campaign.*

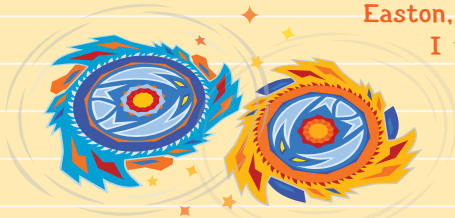
*There were some obstacles, but you all overcame them and the children were heard.*

*That's what it's all about. Let's do it again next year!*

— Stars and Stripes Japan staff

### Memories

I remember Beyblades. I remember going to the Exchange to buy slushies and candy. I remember playing Roblox at the Youth Center. All of this and more, all great memories with my friends Ethan, Joseph, Easton, and Isiah. I really miss them!



I remember my last day at school. These friends were giving me hugs, and saying good-bye. I was so sad because I had to leave all my friends in Idaho because my dad was reassigned to Yokota Air Base in Japan. Easily my greatest challenge as a military child was moving away from my Idaho friends. Have you ever been a Military child? Have you ever had to say good-bye to really good friends? I will tell you how I overcame this challenge, maybe this can help you. When I went to my first day of school in Japan I walked into class and made a friend named

Luke. We said hi to each other and then we became friends. The same thing happened when another new student came in, his name was Tyler. The very same day, I was invited to sit by some people during lunch. I accepted their invitation and sat with them and I made more friends because they were nice. Therefore, one way to overcome missing old friends is to start saying hello to new people and looking for other kids that are kind and nice.



— Joshua Reyes, from Yokota





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Celebrating  
Month of  
the Military Child

# John O. Arnn Elementary School

4th  
Grade  
Ms.  
Venn

**I**t is hard to be a military child because you have to move after a year or two. Sometimes it is fun to move to a new place. It is not fun to make new friends after you already have great ones. I am moving to Hawaii. I know it is going to be fun seeing new things and meeting new people. This is what it is like to be a military child.



- Rie Espinoza

**M**y dad is in the Army still. I think he is Chief right now. The only place I moved to was Japan and I hope I can go to more places. After moving to Japan I feel much better! When I moved here I was shy but now I'm kinda less shy. I made new friends and lost some friends. Well I still can talk to my friends on hangouts! I'm still in school right now and I'm only a 4th. I'm looking for a good future. I look forward to learning about your thoughts and feelings on the topic! <3.

- Sammy Hoskins

**I** (Dylanie) am a Military child...my dad has been in the Military for 23 years and still is! September 2012-April 2013 he was in war. When I was born my dad had to go to Kuwait. I don't like it when my dad leaves because I miss his big warm hugs. I like being a Military child because I get to travel to places like here in Japan, a total of 5 places in my lifetime.

I might move when I finish 5th grade or when I'm about to start high school. Whenever we move I sometimes get sad, mad, but happy at the same time! Happy: Because I get to make more friends, see new places, try new food, and learn different things. Sad: Because I'm leaving my friends, missing the... FOOD! and my house. Mad: Because again leaving my friends, saying bye to my teacher, STARVING ON THE PLANE. My dad and I sometimes go to work together and I see that my dad works A LOT. I bet everybody else that has a parent(s) that is/are in the Military. Now I can't go with my dad because of Covid-19! I miss going to work with him...Besides that! I (Dylanie) am a Military child. I love it!

- Dylanie Steele-Loli

**I** support my parents by going places. I love exploring new places. My dad worked in the Army. Now he works at S.H.A.R.P. I don't really know what he works as though. I am grateful for being a military child.

- Victor Rivera

**M**y name is Yeriel J. Padin Caro and I am a Military Connected Child. My dad is an Army Warrant Officer of 24 years of service. I like being a Military Connected Child because of all the cool places I get to visit. I was born in Puerto Rico and I have lived in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i, Fort Carson, Colorado and I now live in Camp Zama, Japan. My favorite sports are Football and Track & Field. I hope to one day represent the United States in the sport of Track & Field and beating Usain Bolt's Olympic records.



- Yeriel J. Padin Caro

**I** am a military connected child myself. My dad was in the Navy and he was traveling around the world with a big ship. His first stationed base was Yokosuka, Japan. After Yokosuka he moved to states then I was born in Texas. Then after that we came back to Japan. So my family has friends in many places so I'm happy. So I am glad to be a military child.

- Syon Phillips

SEE MORE  
JOHN O. ARNN STORIES ON PAGE 4



LIVE MÁS



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### Tyeis Kemp

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

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



### Quinn Borders

Lakeland  
University Japan  
Academic Program

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







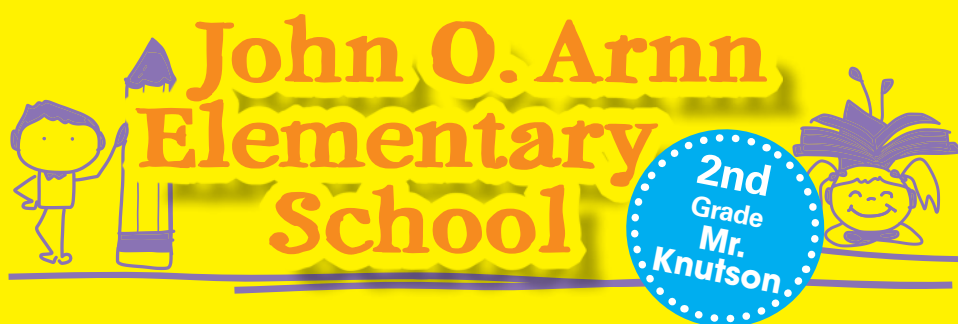
The collage consists of 18 individual posts, each with a unique image and text:

- Post 1:** A map of Texas with various locations marked. Caption: "I am an explorer too! Reyna". Heart count: 3.
- Post 2:** A man in a military uniform holding a young child. Caption: "I get to travel and learned a lot:". Heart count: 1.
- Post 3:** A drawing of a girl with long hair and a shirt that says "ME". Caption: "I am creative I love to draw #6". Heart count: 11.
- Post 4:** A drawing of a landscape with a rainbow and a body of water. Caption: "Where I am moving to:". Heart count: 8.
- Post 5:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to experience new places Claire #17". Heart count: 10.
- Post 6:** A drawing of a girl with long hair and a shirt that says "ME". Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 7:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 8:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 9:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 10:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 11:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 12:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 13:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 14:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 15:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 16:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 17:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.
- Post 18:** A man in a military uniform and a child. Caption: "I am a traveler I love to travel and see new places". Heart count: 12.





## CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



I am the daughter of an active duty soldier, and I think there are fun and sad parts of being a military kid.

It's fun because we have the privilege to live and attend school in different places like living in here in Japan.

However, the sad part would be moving and leaving our friends behind. It is also sad when my dad needs to be deployed.

Being a military kid is awesome, because I can experience a lot of cool stuff. I'm also proud of my dad, because as a soldier, they keep our nation safe from any danger.

- Mariel A.

I like being a military child! I like traveling to new places and seeing different countries. There are fun things to do where we go like parks, cherry blossom viewing, Monster Café, festivals, beach trips, and a ninja park. I like living on base and riding my bike around, playing outside, and having my all my friends live close by.

It can be hard to be a military child, too. When my Dad has to leave for work for a long time, I feel sad. I am going to miss my friends when we leave, because they might not go where I go. We will get to move somewhere else cool, and I will get to make new friends again!

- Connor L.

Being a military child can be rewarding and hard. I live far away from my family. Goodbyes to friends happens more often than I like. I get to use Facetime to talk to my family and my best friend, Corbin. My dad is gone often. I have lived in Kansas, Korea, and Japan. I like doing sports when we move to new places. I'm looking forward to new fun things in the future. I am a proud military child.

- Carter N.

Hello, my name is Jonathon, and I live in Japan, because my dad is in the Army. I like being a military child, because I can travel to different countries with my family. I also like being a military child, because I can learn different things my older siblings know about. I don't like being a military child, because I have to move a lot and go to different schools and make new friends. Even though it is hard being a military child, I like being a military child.

- Jonathon W.

My Daddy is in the military, and my Mommy was in the military. It is fun being in a military school, because we do a lot of fun things like play with toys, read, board games, and hula-hoops. It is very fun, because my Daddy's boss brings toys for me to play with and have fun. The bad part about moving is you have to eat airplane food that you don't like, including chicken, rice, corn, ice cream, and bread. When you get to the states and you go to a new school, it can be hard to fit in a military school. We went to Disneyland. I love the military. My Daddy is the best boss in the world, so is my mommy. They are the best. We love family time. No electronics, only playing with family. I was born in Germany, and I moved to Arizona, Georgia, now I'm in Japan. That is why I am a military child.

- Amiyah D.

With my mom in the military, I became a military child. My mom has worked in different places. She has worked in Kansas, Japan, and more. In Japan, I climbed up Mt. Takao. On Mt. Takao, I had soba. I also went to an arcade and played a claw game. This is what happened when I became a military child.

- Liam F.

I really enjoy being connected to military schools and traveling. Military schools can be challenging and rewarding. I also like to travel around the world. Going to military schools allows me to travel and meet new friends.

I really like my classmates and teachers. I also like the activities the teachers bring us to. I got to see a helicopter and check it out. The military told us how to fly a helicopter. The military also showed us a police dog. The police dog was able to find things that were hiding.

The military schools make sure we are safe. My school is on a military base and we have a security guard who checks everybody who comes to the base. The security guard and the fire department come to our classroom and teach us about safety.

Without the military I would not be able to travel around the world and see other countries. I also would not be able to see military helicopters and police dogs. I am very thankful for the military.

- Kierstin S.

I have lived in two countries outside of America. Our family has been able to do a lot of fun things. I enjoy Arnn Elementary, because the teachers are good, and I have many friends.

- Leah A.

Being a military-connected child is fun, because I have a lot of friends and I like living on the military base. My friends are really kind. We have a lot of stuff on base and food to eat. The different thing about living on a military base is that they don't have restaurants like cookie shops or waffle shops that we found in Seattle, Washington. I miss my friends when they move away and I miss my family in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. I like my life on the military base.

- Noah M.

It makes me feel good to be connected to the military community. My dad was in the army, and now he is an army civilian. I have lived on military bases in Maryland and Japan. I was excited to move to Japan, because I like going on planes and was excited to make new friends at a new school. The military kids that go to my school are very nice and sometimes can be your neighbor. You can make a lot of friends, because everyone is welcoming. I hope my dad keeps working for the military so that we get to live in new places in the future.

- Violet D.

"Hi! My name is Josiah." I have been connected to the military for eight years. My dad is a teacher for Zama Middle-High School. This is how I am connected to the military. We moved to Japan when I was three months old.

It is fun being a military connected child, because I get to live in Japan, I get to travel to other places in Japan, and I have friends from around the world.

It is difficult when my friends move away, and my grandpa and grandma are not here to celebrate my birthday. It is also difficult when I make a new friend off base, but we are not able to understand what each other is saying.

I like being a military connected kid.

- Josiah R.

It's kind of the same as being a regular kid. My dad goes to work like regular kid's dads. I like being able to move to a new country, and there's a lot of great things in Japan. I do wish we could stay in one place a little longer, it's hard being away from my grandparents. I've made a ton of friends since being here. Some are in Portland, OR, some are in Oklahoma, and a lot are here in Japan. One of my favorite things about being here in Japan is all the fun adventures me and my family have got to take! We've been to Disneyland, Tokyo, the Tokyo Tower, and I got to try sushi! Which I really love! I hope the corona virus ends soon so we can go back to having adventures and playing with my friends at school.

- Adrienne S.

I am a military child. My dad is in the Army. We travel to different places. I like going to Edo Wonderland in Japan. I like being a military child.

- Ethan W.

I'm a military child. For me, places on maps are memories. I look at Germany and say, "That's where we welcomed a new sister," or "That is the place with the hot foam milk!" I'm different than a lot of people, but I kind of like it. Being a military child is cool!

- Adair C.

There are good and bad things about being a military connected child. One bad thing is that friends move away. One good thing is living on base close to my friends. Another bad thing is being far from family. Another good thing is seeing helicopters. So there are good and bad things about being a military connected child.

- Miriam F.

I think that being a military child is a very hard life, because you move to other places and say bye to your friends. Saying bye to your friends is very hard to do, because my body keeps on telling me that I don't want to say good-bye.

Making new friends is good because at least you have someone to talk to and play with. I feel very, very happy being a military child, because when I move, I can discover new places and make more friends than the place I used to live.

- Fiona M.

"Oh, Hi! How are you? Oh, good." Let me tell you about being military child. It's fun to travel. I do not like moving from my friends. I like that we do not have to pay taxes on base. I like that we are safe. Thank you for reading this!

- Sullivan D.

It feels good to be a military child, because you get benefits like free housing and school. Military children are thoughtful and can help each other. These are some of the reasons that I like living on a military base and being a military child.

- Joseph P.

My Dad was in the military. I used to live in Colorado and had a bunch of friends. Then I moved to Camp Zama. I started going to a military school and made friends with other military kids. It was easy to make friends, because they are just like me. They also moved away from their friends and family.

- Charlotte C.


I like being a military child, because we live on a military base. I get to see my friends from school a lot. I like the part where we move, because I see new things and new places and there are parks everywhere! The only thing I don't like is moving away from my family and friends.

- Mackenzie M.



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Celebrating Month of  
the Military Child

I, Claire, was a military child and still am, and want to tell you where I have been and what kind of friends I have had (not listing names). I was born in Fort Hood, Texas, and then moved to Virginia because my father got promoted.

Then we moved to Korea because of the Army, where I had lots of good friends. After that we moved to Hawaii. In Hawaii I loved visiting the Honolulu zoo and aquarium right next to it. I also loved going to beaches such as a beach called Ko'olina beach and the Hanauma Bay which had lots of coral and tropical. After 4 years I moved to Japan due to my father retiring from the army and got a new government job in Japan and started school and made good friends.

But my favorite of all the places I've lived, I enjoyed Hawaii the most because of all the beaches and fishing places, but that not all. I also loved the zoos and aquariums along with the fresh air along with the plants. All in all, I enjoyed my military life!

- Claire Langley, John O. Arnn Elementary School



I was born on Misawa Air Base in Japan and after that I moved to Vandenberg Air Force Base California. I went Crestview School. I went to Disney. I then moved back to Central Japan. My family are still in Central Japan, I still go to school, But its Virtual School. I am soon going to over Central Florida Near Cape Canaveral.

- Isabelle Olson, John O. Arnn Elementary School



Hi, my name is Miranda E. Zilka and this is what I think a military child is.

Being a Military Child is very tough since you are always on the move and sometimes have to say goodbye to close friends and other things you love dearly. When I left Bahrain, my last home, it was a very, very sad day.

I am happy that I moved to Sasebo, Japan because I have met a bunch of good friends. Being a Military Child is a privilege, but there is still a price to pay for being one. The privilege of being a Military Child is you always get to see new things, travel, try out new foods and clothes, and most importantly, make new friends. The price every Military Child has to pay is leaving all these things behind.

Military Children also have loving family members. Most of the time, like right now, my dad is gone for several months. Eventually my dad comes back and tells us funny stories of his adventures on his trip like when he came back with a scar on his back, saying that he fought a gorilla and it gave him the scar, or when he came back home and went for a nap, saying he was tired after fighting pirates. Those stories always had me and my sister smiling.

I have lived in many places including: Florida (where I was born), Singapore, Rhode Island, Bahrain, and currently Sasebo. Each of these places have unique things that I have been lucky enough to visit. Military Children have usually visited many places like me. I've been to over 23 countries in my life and I'm only 10, but I know that I will visit more over time.

I keep in touch with all my friends and family by my Gmail account on google hangouts, Roblox, facetime, and sometimes by letter. I face time with my dad since he is abroad in Rhode Island for military school, I play Roblox, which is a video game, with my friends and talk with them on the game, I call and text some with my Gmail account, and my old friends I write letters.

Adapting to the new places you move to is very hard. In school you have to have a new class, make new friends, try to learn new things in an unfamiliar environment and you will always miss your friends that you left. At home, you have to find your room, unpack, and then you will probably walk around your house once everything is done and imagine your old house and how different it is from your new house.

Being a military child is tough, but I am enjoying the adventure.

Go Navy Beat Army!!!!

- Miranda E. Zilka, 4th grade, Sasebo Elementary School





**A**s a military kid, there have been so many events in my life that were both happy and sad. Deployments, PCS's, new places, new people, and so much more. Being a military child has its ups and downs, but it should be great to be a military kid.

One reason being a military kid is great is because you get to see many new places and people a lot. Since our parents in the military have to move around to work at different duty stations, we have to move to a new area and adapt to the people and culture of our surroundings. This gives many kids opportunities for having new friends and exploring new places.

Another reason being a military kid is fun is because it's easier for us to have the life skills of adaptation and getting used to change. Having to move new communities frequently, lots of us kids go through the pain of leaving our friends and homes and the joy of making acquaintances. But no matter where we move, it's kind of like a talent of good luck where it's easier to find new friends for a military kid like me!

One of the final reasons we shouldn't

be ashamed of being military children is because we get to see more of the world than most regular kids do. We are always moving around, dealing with change, and with that, we get to view and/or visit so many different countries! I've lived in Japan, the Philippines, San Diego, and visited so many places as well.

Even though there are many downsides to being a military kid, so many good things come with it as well. So many different experiences, companions, and communities. Speaking as a military kid myself, I have had loves and hates, joys and sadnesses, fears and excitements. Yet the one thing about my life as a military child that I love the most, is that it brings my family together more than being a regular kid would. Having to move around, leaving all my best friends and favorite places behind to start again and again, the one thing that has never changed in these experiences was my family. We stayed together, laughed together, cried together, and loved each other. These are the reasons I love being a military kid, and you should too.

- Tamika Kummer, Yokosuka Middle School

#### Militaristic Boyfriend

I fear my boyfriend  
Militaristic and smart.  
With busy humors  
And many long attitudes  
When he calls I feel frightened

#### Hard Times

An affection, however hard it tries,  
Will always be spiritual.  
An affection is spectral, an affection is religious,  
an affection is unworldly, however.

One afternoon I said to myself,  
"Why isn't the estrangement more impersonal?"  
Down, down, down into the darkness of the estrangement,  
Gently it goes - the face-to-face, of her own, of our own.

I saw the cunning social relation of my generation destroyed,  
How I mourned relations.  
Relations are ingenious, relations are crafty,  
relations are guileful, however.

Friendship is, in its way, the fragile concern of relationship.  
Does the friendship make you shiver?  
does it?

- Sophia Middlebrook, Yokota High School



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



Leaverton (on the right) and friend, Ralph, in Sagamihara in 1963.

## 63-year-old recalls life as military child

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY MICHAEL LEAVERTON

**A**s a 63 year old man, I have a lot of life to look back upon. Born in Landstuhl, lived in Toul, Ft. Stewart, Zama (Sagami-hara elementary - still have the yearbook!), Ft. Myer D.C., Berlin (West), Kitzingen, Fulda and Ft. Hood. As a child, I hated moving every 2 years - leaving friends that I knew I'd never see again. On the other hand, I saw and experienced things that most people never will, and they are ingrained in my memory. I am so grateful for them as well as the ability to meet new people effortlessly, which has been a blessing in my adult life. So to

you current military kids out there, sometimes hardships come with benefits that you may not immediately see. Embrace your experiences and remember that at the same time, your parent(s) provide a service to our country that

we cannot thank them (and you!) for enough.

When I was 6 or 7, we kids used to walk to the theater from home. most Saturday afternoons. Mothra was so huge, building his cocoon on the Tokyo tower, which we had all knew from going to Tokyo

with our parents. When the movie was over and we went outside, it was dark and raining with thunder. Everyone thought it might be because of Mothra and we ran all the way home - scared little kids!



Michael Leaverton in 2020.



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Last orders by 2pm. Additional set menu available and lunch orders may take 20 minutes to cook at your table by our server.





A military child,  
But what is that?  
I am called a military child  
But why is that?

Is it as simple as my dad being in the Air Force?  
Or is it more complex?  
Is it moving across the continent?  
Or maybe it is something else.

Whatever it is that gives us the name  
It is something to be proud of.  
I will wear it on my sleeve  
I am a military kid.

PCS

A new beginning  
Permanent Change of Station  
Time to start again

Independence

When our parents leave  
On their deployment missions  
We learn and adapt  
We become independent  
It's part of our commitment

- Cohen Stone

Waving goodbye to my loved ones,  
Whether my friends or my father,  
Pulls tight at my heartstrings,  
But every place I go is a new start.

Boxes piled high as the ceiling  
Memories are packed away,  
As we prepare for a new adventure,  
On air mattresses that hurt my back.

The empty house reflects my feelings inside.  
Bonds were not broken, but became weak,  
As I leave the past behind me,  
To look towards the future.

Dandelions

I am like a wish flower.  
Wind blows me to new places.  
I sprout where I land,  
I grow my roots deep,  
Until the wind blows again.

- Margaret Norberg

Our Flower

The dandelion is our flower  
A flower that is everywhere  
So delicate, one breath  
Is all it takes for it to go

Then it travels like us  
The wind determining where it will land  
As my dad's job determines  
where we are station next

The hellos and goodbyes  
The worries at night if my dad's all right  
The dandelions giving me hope,  
spreading the word as it is flows in the air

The Uniform

The green camouflage  
My dad wears everyday  
Makes my very proud

Moving

Change is difficult  
As soon as you get attached  
It is time to leave  
This cycle gets lonely  
Only your family by your side

- Aliyah Isidro

Military Child

Watching your parents leave  
Something that we cannot get used to  
A fight for freedom as they walk away  
A thing every military child has to go through

Saying goodbye to parents is not the only thing  
Going to a place we know we will not live forever  
New experiences and new friends  
Something we will have to do together  
A military child is what I stand for  
Such a small price to pay  
For such big things accomplished  
So we can all seek a better day

- Jaya Walker

Gaining a new life every four years  
Change is something I'm used to  
A new school with new peers  
I want to stay but there's nothing I can do

I'm dragged on a plane to an unknown place  
My third high school in only a year  
My education was always a race  
As my grades plummet I start melting with fear

Losing my friends, I never cry  
I hate knowing the fact that I will have to say goodbye  
All of them have a piece of me  
But leaving them is what makes them a memory

- Leilani Hanus

I still remember how it felt  
Losing your best friend "daddy"  
I never knew where he went and what he was doing.  
All I knew was that he was somewhere far away from  
Yokota.

When I think about what I want to do in life  
I can only think of one thing.  
Following my dad's path  
To save and affect people's lives.

- Andrew Beene

A hundred stories  
All with a different setting  
As well traveled as a their parents  
Serving under the military in the name of America

A friendship made as quickly as it is severed  
Packed and ready to travel to a new foreign land  
There mind tired of new information  
They keep contact as best they can with those he knew

Only to see that they have moved on  
Realizing they should move on as well  
They pack their bags ounce more  
They realize that the cycle must start anew

- Andrew Martinez

I lived where people vacation,  
It's for my nation.  
Each move is different in many ways,  
like how long you stay.

Each place is new to you,  
but you'll call it your home soon.  
Everyone says hi and is very welcoming,  
the first day of your new school is so frightening.

It's not easy to fit in,  
but you'll make good friends,  
you won't be the new kid anymore, just be patient.  
Time flies, and oh I have to move again.

- Jessica Vernon

In a crisis now  
Places slowly shutting down  
Millions getting sick

- Aliyah Isidro

COVID-19

The whole world is still  
Quarantined in our own homes  
To flatten the curve

- Avorie Heaps

Isolation

People scuffle through the store  
Masks cover faces  
Somber music can be heard  
As darkness descends upon  
The helpless people

- Allie Hill

Self-Isolation to COVID-19

As COVID-19 spreads  
I lie in isolation thinking  
Will I ever see my friends again  
But in the end  
I know deep down  
That this will all come to an end

- Johnny Marker

Deployments are hard

Deployments are hard  
When Mom or Dad leaves for months  
Miss them very much  
There will be tears in your eyes  
When you get to see them home

- Abigail Bennett

Don't get comfortable

I am always moving  
We can never stay still  
Why are we always moving  
Can we stop for a second and think?

It has been longer than a second  
Nobody is moving  
All I can hear is myself think  
Can we move again and feel?

- Sandra Quick

Benefits

The food and culture  
Different from here and there  
pick up new habits  
and you'll have fun everywhere

Doubts

nervous and shaking  
missing and wanting to stay  
time went by too fast  
it's time to start new again

- Aiden Valiente

Military Child

I am stuck on base  
Not allowed to visit friends  
Not able to see family  
Cannot even get my glasses fixed

But we all need to stay in  
So we can all stay safe  
And healthy  
From Covid-19

- Micah Clubb

Celebrating  
Monday  
the Military  
YOKOTA  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
*Mr. G*  
10  
&  
11  
Grad

Forced Pilgrimage

The glimmer of a tear from what feels is lost  
A closed fist in frustration and anger  
A cracked smile to give myself assurance  
The warm words from those that can never be lost

A new land with new people  
The feeling of being isolated, adrift in a crowd of people  
It only takes one person to break through your brittle walls  
Traveling with only the memories of old friends and a  
hopeful smile  
A warm touch, not from a hand but from another's smile  
The feeling of belonging to a people

- Damian Montano Massoud

Home

Military child,  
Across thousands of miles.  
Homesick, but for where.

Unavailable

An empty dining chair  
looms across the table.  
Another quiet meal today,  
a price to pay  
for such a comfortable life

Military Life

Constant movement is a familiar concept  
To all the military children stationed everywhere,  
New friends are made, old friends move away  
Which, at times, may be difficult to bear

The silver lining of living a military life  
Is the experiences of traveling to new regions,  
And the children who keep an open mind,  
When meeting others with different opinions and  
religions

- Elena Haas





**A Special Thanks**

Thank you my father  
He puts on his uniform  
And serves our country proudly

- Tanaya Pugh

**PCS**

Sound of the shuttle  
Tears falling down my soft cheek  
Wondering what's next

- Hana Vogeley

**Coronavirus**

The virus has us  
Quarantined to our small homes  
Wishing there was still school

- Jaxen Crawford

**Corona**

Its quarantine time  
On base twenty-four seven  
I'm extremely bored

- Ezekiel Woo

**New Journey**

I've got everything packed up  
My clothes, my shoes, everything  
I'm leaving my friends  
I'm leaving my home  
But a new journey begins

- Keiya Carlson

**Military Child**

He left in November  
Not home for December.  
Now it is April  
Time's moving like maple.

Thanks to this virus  
He is not beside us.  
This may be the first year, first day  
My dad won't be here for my birthday.

- Jackson Smith

**Military kids**

Sacrifice and bravery  
We recognize you

Through all the branches  
Every year on the fourth month

We honor with purple  
To have appreciation  
Acknowledge the sacrifice

- Aiden Valiente

It hid from the world  
Now it's back ready to hunt  
It's merciless and deadly  
Also cruel and relentless  
It hid from the world

- Hana Vogeley

**Moving Christmas**

The trucks all arrive quickly  
Boxes filled trucks leave  
Later household goods arrive  
To unpack again  
Like Christmas but nothing new

- Ethan Madsen

**Compact Corona Chic**

Itty bitty base  
Already isolated  
Just put on some masks

- Gwyn Nacionales

**Brats**

Military Brats  
World Travelers, Making Friends  
Purple is our hue

**We**

We are the color purple  
We are from nowhere  
But from everywhere  
Crafted from the sad goodbyes  
We remain strong and will rise

- Alejandro Perez

**"Deployment"**

Alone and panicked.  
Parents taken from kid's arms.  
"Will father return?"  
"Will mother find her way back?"  
"Fright" is an understatement.

- Chiara Duarte

It is time for dinner  
Dad's seat is empty  
I know he is fighting bravely  
But mom made his favorite  
Maybe I'll save him a plate

- Aiyanna Sheffield

Coronavirus  
Now it's our most hated thing  
Its brings pain and suffering  
Loved ones cry and are dying  
Prayers will bring peace

- Evan Firman

**Sacrifices**

I've Lived I've learned and  
I've loved, I have realized  
How much stronger  
The military has made  
Me, it pushed me to do right

- Isabella Garcia

**2020**

The Year of the Rat  
Symbolising new hobbies  
The gift of foresight, challenge  
And of course, the plague  
They sure got that one right, huh

- Gwyn Nacionales

How is spring going?  
Sitting at home just waiting  
For Covid 19 to die.  
It is the best and worst time  
Of my mundane life

- Joan Ward

**So Stay Home**

The coronavirus is stressing me  
I really want to go out  
But I'm quarantined  
I am upset

Keep yourself healthy  
Stay away people  
Don't go outside  
Please stay home

No one is out  
Because of this virus  
I am very bored  
Doing nothing at home

Everyone stay home  
Outside is very dangerous  
No one wants the virus  
So stay home

- Carmelo Holmes

COVID-19  
Wuhan, China, a pandemic  
the global death toll surpassed 206,000  
almost three million cases  
The new coronavirus, the seventh known to affect humans  
It is contagious before symptoms appear  
patients can be also asymptomatic  
virus could have spread from an infected animal to humans through il-  
legally trafficked pangolins  
France confirms Europe's first case  
Egypt confirms Africa's first case  
Declared the virus a pandemic  
Maintain "social distancing"  
Avoid unnecessary, unprotected contact  
wash hands

- Kai Harbert

**Military Life**

Moving to so many new places,  
Meeting so many new faces.  
I can't help but enjoy the military life,  
Even if it sometimes causes me strife.

For the military, I am so thankful and grateful.  
Never to the military should anyone be hateful.  
Although my family and I have been making sacrifices since the start,  
The military life will always have a special place in our hearts.

- Avorie Heaps

**But the Bird Always Flies**

A new time comes to change his ways  
Always unknown but expected  
Packed up his things to say goodbye to the temporary home  
Only known for a little while

There is never any pain felt  
Like a bird leaving its nest after flying for the first time  
Only emotion takes its toll because a relationship is incomplete  
However, the memories disappear as if they had never happened

The adjustment is easy because it has been done before  
Even a child understands why  
Changing your home also changes your lifestyle  
But the bird always flies

- Lanarri McDonald

**Nomad's Philosophy**

Forced nomads of the military sent to traverse lands of no familiarity.  
Only wisps of your memory in those you've met forgotten  
through the story.  
Lives loved and loves lost.  
With stoic expressions made to fit like a mask, to never be put in the past.  
The mask that now makes your identity only tightens the longer you travel.

To see new lands grants new opportunities.  
Strangers surround all visitors,  
Some outcast and others praised, to be last or in a daze.  
Paradise is seen only by the eyes that don't see themselves in a prison.  
Travel with those who are close whether it be forced or of your own will.

- Adrian Montano

**Military Child**

As you sit in the classroom on your last day  
Your friends comfort you as they wish you could stay  
The night before you were informed you must move away  
This is the life of a military child, so hope and pray.

This group of people you call friends will soon be gone  
You will feel lost and won't know where you belong  
It will be ok to cry on this very day  
This is the life of a military child, so hope and pray

As you move to this new place you'll feel as if you don't belong  
Everything will be ok if you refer back to this song  
As you pack your bags and head to the airport although you want to stay  
This is the life of a military child, so hope and pray

- Myles Early

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military children stories at:  
**militarychild.stripes.com**



## Celebrating Month of the Military Child

## SULLIVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2nd Grade • Ms. Windham

I am a military child. My dad is in the Navy and he works on a ship. He works on the USS Barry. One Saturday my dad let me visit the ship with him.

First he told me that he needed to go to the ship to do some work and I could come along. Then we walked up the brow to his ship. Walking up the brow was a little scary because I was afraid I would fall down into the water. After that we went to his stateroom. I was surprised because his room was so tiny. In my dad's room I stole some candy from him. His room did not have a bed. It had a couch to sleep on. It was funny because he had two desks and two computers for one person. The bathroom was very very tiny and only as big as a shower.

Next, he took us to the wardroom. The wardroom is where you eat. To get there we went up a very steep staircase. It's like a ladder. I was a little afraid I would fall backwards and hit my head. I went slowly and carefully up the ladder, but my dad went fast. The wardroom had two couches, a TV, and a big table in the middle. It also had lots and lots of snacks. My dad let us eat cereal.

Finally, we went up to the bridge. We went up two more ladders to get there. On the bridge they drive the ship. I was excited. We sat in his chair. His chair was very comfortable. It was a very high swivel chair. We could see the bow. The bow is the front of the ship. On the bow there was a big gun. The bullets were five inches in diameter. They shoot the gun when they're out to sea. I was happy that my dad let me on the ship.

- Andrew Gahl

Each year my dad Robert D. Clarkson goes on deployment. Me, my sister Colbie A. Clarkson, and my mom, Mac-ey M. Clarkson, have a countdown board. It has a Navy ship on the top, also it has "\_\_\_ days until daddy comes home" in the middle, and red, white, and blue stars on the bot-

tom. Each day I wake up and mark a number down. So let's say 3 days until Daddy comes home, I would mark it to 2. Each time I mark a number down I'm excited. Sometimes we make a paper chain with links. Each link is a day dad is gone. Each morning I cut a link. It starts off super long, but it's fun to see it shorten. When he does come home, me and my sister make posters to welcome him. I also look for him on the ship.

Thank you!!!

- Cohen X. Clarkson

I like being a military connected child because I get to travel a lot. My favorite place I visited was Australia. I loved going to Movie World and riding the Scooby Coaster.

First, me, my mom and my sister put on matching banana outfits.

Next, me, my sister, my mom, and my dad arrived at the theme park and we explored around.

When I saw the Scooby Coaster, I really wanted to go on it. It was an indoor roller coaster.

I remember that I thought a real giant ax was swinging from the ceiling but it was a fake one. I rode it two times. There was a twirly part. I thought it was fun! It was the best day of my life!

- Estella Petrich

My life as a military child is exciting and sad too. It's exciting because there are so many things I can do, like take a tour on a US Navy ship. I felt proud when my daddy gave me a tour on his ship. His bed is in a small space and has a blue curtain. I felt bad that he didn't have a comfortable place to sleep on like I have at home. I also felt worried that he might bump his head on the bed above him. Under his bed is where he stores all his clothes and other personal stuff. At home, I have a big closet and a dresser. I saw the place where he and the other sailors ate at. It was kind of like a cafeteria that we have at school but a bit bigger. My daddy said they call it Mess Deck and they call the place where they cook the food Galley. There are two lines where they wait to get the food. I did not get to see the food they serve at the time, my daddy said sometimes they have different fruits, meals, bread and chips to choose from every day, but it's not good all the time. I felt happy that my daddy got to show me where he works and where he lives when he's not with us.

- Ethan Muth



This is the Blue Ridge/C7F Cafeteria a.k.a. Galley - Ethan Muth

First, when I met my uncle we played basketball together. Next, we swim together and play in the pool. Then, he helped me do 2nd grade homework. After, I celebrated my birthday with my uncle. Last, I played with this dog named Marshall. Finally, I went back to the car and went to the airplane we just got our own food and didn't know if could do that or not and went back to Japan.

- Jeandre Fascenelli

When my grandparents came to visit me in Japan we took them to Tokyo Disneyland. My mom drove for us because she knows how to go to Tokyo Disneyland by car. When we got there, we took a lot of pictures with Mickey Mouse and we rode the carousel, trains, and the Dumbo Flying Elephant ride. We did a lot of fun things with them and had a great time with my grandparents. I appreciate my grandparents coming here because they flew a long way from North Carolina to Japan to come to see us.

- Joseph Gault

Being a military child, I get to see different places and I want to talk about my experience when I went to Hawaii.

First, we got picked up by our family friends and they dropped us off at a

hotel. At the hotel me, my sister, and my dad went to the pool and I made some friends! We laughed, we played, and sang ring-around-u-verse and we had an amazing time together. Me, my sister, and my dad went back up to our hotel room. I was so tired I fell asleep.

Next, in the morning, my family and I went to three beaches. Then at night we went to Dave and Busters. I had so much fun and we went there three times one day. There was a wheel with prizes. Me and my sister spun the wheel and we both got the same thing. I was so happy because there were so many games.

Then, the following day we drove around the island to visit different places. We went to Kalakoa Ranch and that's where Jumanji, 50 First Dates, and Journey 2 was made. At night we went to the luau and there were fire dancers and hula dancers and lots of food.

Finally, I have to leave Hawaii, but I still had an amazing time there with my friends. Me and my family got dropped off at the airport by our family friend. Then, got on the airplane and said Good-bye Hawaii.

- Louise Matro

First My life being a military child is hard, because my dad had to leave on the ship to work.

I love my dad because he's caring, sweet, and loving.

Life is hard without my dad because it's hard in the house.

I can go to different places as a military child.

Thankful for meeting new friends.

A military child is brave and smart.

Remember to be proud that I'm a military child.

You still make me smile when I'm mad. :]

Cheer me up when I'm sad.

He's with me everywhere I go.

I never give up.

Like an angel I fly in the sky.

Dad I hope you're coming back soon.

Hint:

The lines under the letters mean something, did you notice that?

- Louise Matro

A few months before I was born my parents knew that my Daddy might not be there for my birth because of deployment. So, they got me my own Daddy Doll like Kuya. If you're asking what a Daddy Doll is, it's my Daddy's whole body on a pillow! My Daddy missed my birth which is sad, but I have my Daddy Doll for my baby pictures.

When Daddy is in deployment, we bring Daddy Doll with us everywhere we go to like the zoo, aquarium, Disneyland, beach, Commissary and more! It feels like he's with me when I snuggle with him when I sleep, especially when I miss him

a lot. I play tea parties with him and Lulu too! We take pictures with him all the time and send it to Daddy. It makes him happy and that makes me happy too!

I love my Daddy Doll so much, but I LOVE MY DADDY MORE!

- Sophia Amerie Rojas Buison

We moved to Japan, and the movers came and I was happy because we were getting our stuff. We woke up and my mom told me my dad had to unexpectedly deploy the next morning. I was mad and sad. I was sad and mad partly because he had to deploy and partly because he was going to miss my birthday which was the next day and Christmas in a few weeks. We celebrated my birthday that evening, I enjoyed it. We ate an ice cream cake and opened presents. The next morning on my birthday he had to leave. Finally, he came home after three months of deployment. So, we tackled and tackled him until we got tired.

- Taylor Lehmann



- Zolanie Camille

Sometimes being a military child is fun. I got to go on a port visit to Australia to see my dad. We went on a lunch cruise along the Brisbane river. I got to help the Captain drive the boat. He even let me do it all by myself for a while. That part was very scary, the wheel was so big and heavy. The good thing is that I did not crash the boat. For lunch, I got a cool kids meal tower. The top had so many dessert options and lucky me I got to taste them all. They were all so good. I had a good seat and a great view of the city and Ferris wheel. There was even a rainbow out that day. I felt happy that I was on the boat cruise with my family, especially my dad. I love being a military child.

- Zolanie Camille

Being a military child is the best because I travel a lot. I live in the country of Japan and I love it so much. My favorite place to visit is Legoland located in Tokyo, Japan. The first time I went there was to celebrate my 5th birthday with my family. We took a lot of pictures including the biggest Lego dinosaur I have ever seen. I took the underground ride, played karaoke with my sister and built a lot



→ of Legos with the local Japanese. They have a wide variety of Lego sets you can purchase. It was so exciting; we have been going back ever since.

- Muhammad Sene

Summer time reminds me of Lily and Hawaii because it's always warm and sunny. It is also summer time when I met my friend named Lily. She is my neighbor back in Hawaii and we have a lot in common. We both do ballet class, love to swim and ride a bike together. Not only that, but both of our dads are in the military. We always share and talk about our experience being in a military family. She talks about all the places that she has been before. We never really move to a different state or country. I was born in Hawaii and my dad tried to stay in Hawaii as much as he could. We had been to different places but only for vacation. I am always excited to go to places that I have never been before, but I've always missed Hawaii. I miss the warm water on the beach because it was so relaxing. I miss all the tropical fruits and fresh vegetables that we had in our backyard. Most of all I miss the warm weather all the time. My cousins are always jealous of me and my brothers when we are at the swimming pool in winter time. I like Lily because we are so much alike. She loves Hawaii like I do. She said of all the places that she has been her favorite is Hawaii I will always remember the fun times I have spent with her. I hope that we will see each other again.

- Lynnea Jimenez

Years ago, I lived in a tower that, as far as my memory allows me, had a different layout than the tower I live in now. The tower I live in now has one more bedroom than the tower I previously lived in. The reason I live in a different tower right now is because my mom gave birth to my brother, so we needed another room for my baby brother. The tower I moved from was called Yonban. The thing I don't like about moving is that you have limited access to your belongings and things to do before moving.

- Chase Llanda

Being a military connected child is hard because we move a lot. When we go to a new school, we can be shy or scared. I like when we have new students in my class. I like to get to know them. First, I always greet the new students, and am always happy to make new friends. I remember one new student that came to our second grade class. She was a little shy and we shared a group desk. When she had trouble doing work, I helped her. One time, she had trouble spelling words. I helped her sound it out. Also, the things she doesn't have, I share, like scissors, crayons and colored pencils. When school was finally finished, I felt proud of myself for being nice to the new student. It doesn't matter if the student is new or old, be kind to everyone. It makes the students feel good and yourself.

- Sebastian Kilanski

## Celebrating Month of the Military Child

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My name is Stella. I am 7. I am special because I was born in Virginia and the rest of my family was born in Florida. Being a military child is fun because I can face time friends and family and make new friends. I like going on games with my friends. It is hard because my dad leaves all of the time, we always move and have to leave old friends.

- Stella

Being a military child, it is fun and sad. Fun because I travel many places and meet some new friends. Sad because you are gonna miss your friends, and teachers. And dad is always gone for deployment in how many months. Sometimes it's sad because we grow up without a dad on our side.

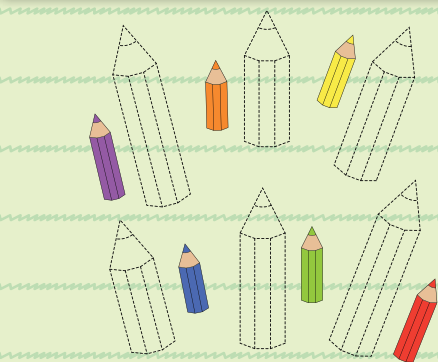
- Daniel



- Daniel

What I like about being a military kid is that I can live overseas and try new foods. What I don't like about being a military kid is that I do not get to see my grandparents, my aunt, and my uncles.

- Ari



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

My life as a military child is kind of hard because my friends and teachers move away sometimes.

Sometimes my dad leaves for work and I miss him.

I live close to my mom's family but I don't get to see my family in Ohio very much.

I am moving in 2 years. I'm scared about what kind of place I am going to.

I am scared if I can make any friends when I move to a different place.

It is nice meeting lots of new people from all over the world.

- Gemma

Hi, my name is Charles. I am 8 years old. My dad serves in the United States Navy. I was born in Maryland. Now I live in Japan.

I like being a military child, because I get to move a lot. I have lived in 5 different places. Living in Hawaii was my favorite. I love that sometimes I get to go on the ship and have dinner with my dad.

I don't like that every time I have to move I have to say goodbye to my friends. My dad misses a lot of holidays and birthdays. When he leaves on deployment, I miss him.

I like that I am a military child. I might join the military. I like that my dad works in the military, But sometimes it is hard.

- Charles

My father is a retired military, I was born here in Yokosuka and I grew up having the privilege to shop, study and to enjoy the base. My older sister and brothers who experienced our dad leaving for deployment were sad. I pray that all the military people are safe wherever they are.

- Bella

I am Julian and I am half American, half Japanese. My dad who is American served for the US Navy and retired after serving 24 years. He currently works at SRF (Ship Repair Facility) Yokosuka and he works very hard for our family. I switched from a Japanese kindergarten to an American kindergarten because my parents wanted to be able to speak Japanese and English. I go to Sullivan's Elementary School 2nd grade.

- Julian

### The Big Storm

I am a military kid and my Dad is in the Navy. I am going to tell you what happened when my Dad had to leave for his assignment. We had only been in Japan for a week. There was a typhoon coming. We got all the things we needed, so we were prepared. My Dad got the last flight out to San Diego. My Dad told me to be brave and help each other and that he loved us! After he left, the storm started to approach Yokosuka. The wind was howling and the trees were shaking! I missed my Dad a lot. My Mom told us that "everything will be ok". Then there was a loud banging noise. So we decided to hide in the closet downstairs where there were no windows. We made a campout in the closet so that we could sleep in there. That made me feel better because it was fun. There was thunder and lightning and we were scared. We wanted to talk to my Dad, but he was on the plane. We decided to call our Nana and Aunt and Uncle back in the states. When they answered we played games and told stories and funny jokes. This took my mind off of the scary weather. Finally, the storm stopped. When we looked outside... a tree had fallen down! This was one of those times that I missed my Dad a lot. But, my Mom and sisters and I stuck together and we got through the storm. Even though I miss my Dad when he is gone we can write, call and sometimes even skype with him. Then soon my Dad comes home. I am so excited and happy. I want to do so



many things with him. One thing I have learned as military child is that if someone you love is far away it is worth the wait for them to come back!

- Maiya Calfee





STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
TAKAHIRO TAKIGUCHI,  
STRIPES JAPAN

As you continue to stay home and combat COVID-19, besides binge-watching TV series, cooking up new recipes and spending time with your family, what else are you doing to pass the time?

If you haven't thought about it, this is a great opportunity to try your hand at arts and crafts.

Enter your local base arts and crafts centers or, if you're off-base, your neighborhood 100-yen shop. Here, you'll find

a number of craft kits ranging from knitting, leather crafts, needlework and polymer-clay art, to beading, origami, painting and more. Both the on-base and off-base options will have you leaving this quarantine with an abundance of handmade items if you're up for the challenge.

My wife is a fan arts and crafts. In the wintertime, she knits unique and colorful mufflers for our family and friends using 100-yen shop items. During this quarantine, she's also enjoyed trying paper-band kits which involve weaving strips of sturdy paper into boxes, coasters and

different accessories based on the one purchased.

A typical 100-yen paper-band kit contains 236-inch long colorful paper bands and an instruction card written in Japanese and English. Depending on the kit purchased, you can follow the step-by-step instructions with photos and illustrations to make the box or coaster you chose without fail. The kits do not include the scissors, ruler, pencil, glue, clothespins and masking tape required to complete your craft, so make sure to check the packaging for what additional items you need to have on-hand.

With this kit, my wife



carefully followed the instructions and swiftly cut and wove until she arranged the strips into a basket. To me, it was a wonder how strips of paper would transform dramatically into a usable basket.

My wife said she enjoys working on crafts as a pastime and the finished products always give her a wonderful feeling of accomplishment.

"At first, I didn't realize that I could complete one," my wife said. "So, I was very glad and proud when I saw it well done and looks pretty cute and professional."

Now, many of her crafts are used as a container for stationery and handkerchiefs in our home. The more she practices, and her skills grow, the more

she wants to make.

"It's only 100-yen, and you can get a hobby started very easily, without going to class and paying expensive tuitions," my wife said. "I think it a good starter to familiarize the art of handicraft. And it is fun!"

Check out your base arts and crafts center or 100-yen store to peruse the many options available! Practice makes perfect, so don't worry if your first attempts aren't perfect. Your cute products may surprise your friends and family, plus make for Instagram-worthy pics.

What are you making? Let us know on Facebook. Happy crafting!

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# 5 instant noodles you have to try in Japan

BY SHOJI KUDAKA,  
STRIPES JAPAN

Ever since I started working from home about a month ago, instant noodles have become my go-to for a quick bite. Usually, quick ramen would just be a weekend snack, but these days it has helped remove some of the stress on cooking during the pandemic.

Below are five of my regular choices that I've enjoyed since I was a kid. Having these more regularly has definitely taken me back to those childhood memories. Instant noodles are not just a guilty pleasure. So, try one or all of the options below and itadakimasu!

## 5. Nissin Chicken Ramen Noodle

This is the original instant noodle, the first ever invented, according to manufacturer Nissin Foods holdings. Since its debut in August of 1958, this instant noodle became an instant hit. Sixty years later, it remains the most popular and recognizable on the grocery and convenience store shelves.

This was my mom's pick to cheer me up whenever I got sick as a child. Its chicken-consommé broth goes very well with its wavy noodles.



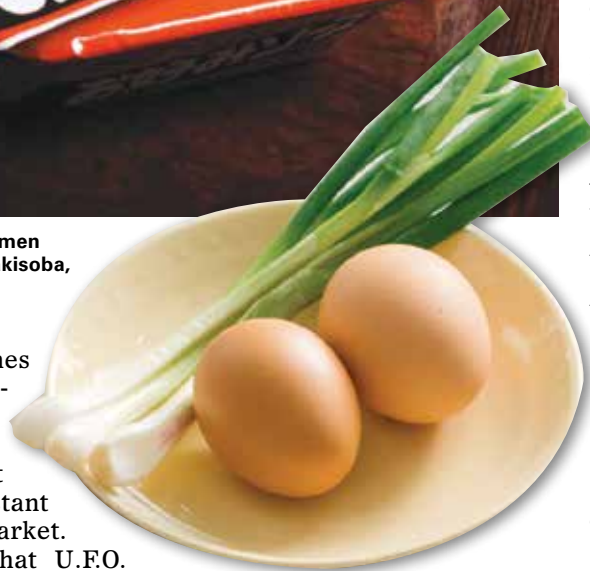
(From left top, clockwise) Nissin Yakisoba U.F.O., Maruchan Seimen Houjun-Koku Shouyu, Shin Ramen, Otafuku Okonomi Sauce Yakisoba, Nissin Chicken Ramen Noodle. Photo by Shoji Kudaka

The combination is something I would have no problem with having every day.

## 4. Nissin Yakisoba U.F.O.

U.F.O. is instant chow mein I still like to eat even today. This one debuted in 1976 and

its name comes from its Styro-foam saucer Nissin used to differentiate it from other instant noodles on the market. I remember that U.F.O. was already very tasty when I had them in the 80s. However,



this long-running food product has gone through many updates. Now, its chewy noodles and sweet and spicy sauce have made it even more addictive.

## 3. Maruchan Seimen Houjun-Koku Shouyu

Different brands advertise how closely their instant noodle offerings resemble noodles made from scratch at a noodle joint. Maruchan Seimen is the textbook example of noodles that are instant but don't taste like it.



The combination of soft-but-chewy noodles plus smooth soy sauce-flavored broth has me hooked. The flavor is good enough to have alone but also versatile enough to allow you to be creative and add in your own favorite toppings like veggies or meat.

## 2. Shin Ramen (Shin Ramyun)

When trying to round out this list with a spicy variety, it's hard not to include Shin Ramen, the South Korean variety found at any grocery or convenience store in Japan.

As its name suggests, Spicy Ramen's red broth is spicy and will not disappoint piquant enthusiasts. Spicy but flavorful, the broth will want you to sip it alone even if it burns your tastebuds a little. A great option for lowering some of the spice is topping the noodles with a raw egg. Give it a try!

## 1. Otafuku Okonomi Sauce Yakisoba

This instant chow mein comes with a very fruity sauce, which is by itself a huge draw for many yakisoba (chow mein) fans. According to Sanyo Foods, the manufacturer of the noodle, the sauce was jointly developed with Otafuku Sauce, a major manufacturer of okonomiyaki sauce.

If you like okonomiyaki, you should give this a try. The noodles soften in about three minutes of soaking in hot water, but since I love chewy noodles, I cut the cook time short to keep the noodles on the chewier side.

Not something I recommend for everyone but do experiment with the noodle soaking time to change up the textures.

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com



Otafuku Okonomi Sauce Yakisoba  
Photo by Shoji Kudaka

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# Pandemic pushes more Dungeons & Dragons players into virtual realms

STORY AND PHOTOS BY THERON GODBOLD,  
STARS AND STRIPES  
Published: May 21, 2020

**YOKOTA AIR BASE** — In days of yore, when a dungeon master commanded his party to roll for initiative, the clatter of icosahedrons – the 20-sided die – sounded across the gaming table.

But in the plague times, the coronavirus pandemic, Dungeons & Dragons, the popular fantasy role-playing game better known as D&D, has changed. It's gone virtual, with many more locked-down players, even in the military, turning to online platforms to live their fantasies.

"I look forward to my online game with my friends," said Tech Sgt. Thomas Smith, operations manager for American Forces Network Tokyo. Smith lives under tight restrictions on movements and group gatherings imposed by Yokota's commander.

"I haven't had any real social interactions outside of work; it lets me see and spend time with my friends and it's a good stress release," he said during a phone interview Monday. D&D "helps me maintain my sanity with all of the nonsense going on."

Players still gather with their dice, statistics tables and character figurines, but now they're just as likely to face one another on a virtual meeting platform like Discord than they are in real life.

Dungeons & Dragons, which first appeared in 1974, now counts about 13.7 million players worldwide, according to [dungeonvault.com](http://dungeonvault.com), an informational website designed for D&D players.

Unlike video games, D&D relies not on amped-up graphics but on players' imaginations. Traditionally played in person like board or card games, D&D also developed an online presence before social distancing and personal hygiene became pandemic buzzwords.

That presence has exploded, said

Adam Bradford, vice president of tabletop gaming at DnD Beyond, a Huntsville, Ala., firm that creates the game's official "digital toolset."

Before the coronavirus emerged, the company opened a few thousand new accounts daily, Bradford said during a phone interview May 16. Now it opens three times that number. The company has more than 4 million users and is expected to reach 6 million by the end of the year, he said.

Growth is not without its own problems. Internet bandwidth is straining to keep up with the increased activity across all kinds of platforms, whether work-at-home meeting sites like Zoom or a D&D virtual tabletop like Roll20.

Bradford said one challenge is keeping new customers engaged in the virtual realms in the same way they would be in person. The goal at DnD Beyond is to enhance personal interaction with digital content, he said.

"We've found that when people get together it's different from playing online," he said. "We are trying to keep people more engaged when online."

Christopher Gilmore, a veteran and dungeon master, said via Facebook message May 4 that his group moved to the popular chat application called Discord for its virtual sessions during

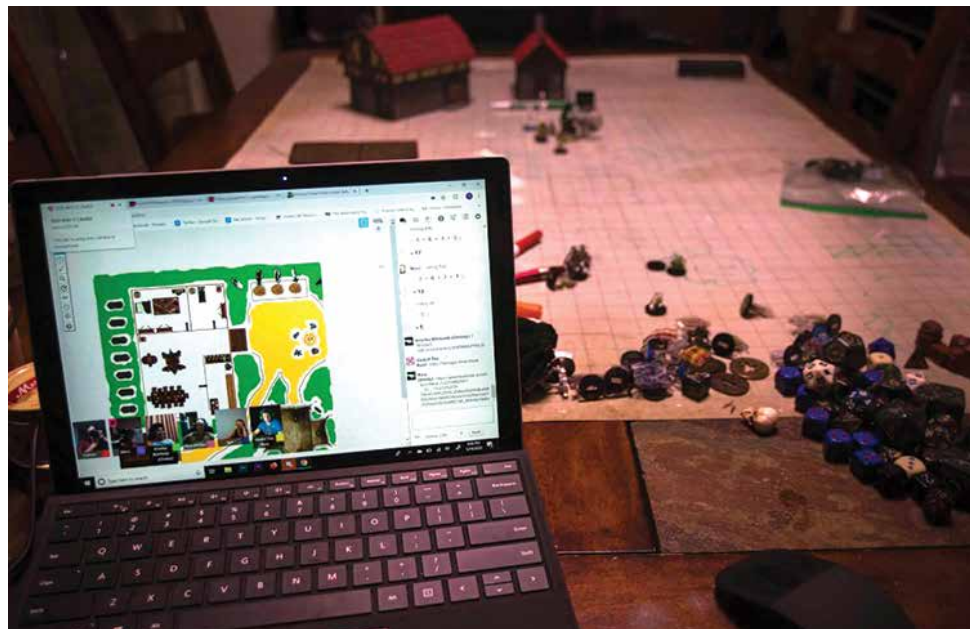
the pandemic.

"The internet took a huge hit when everybody was at home online and none of the carriers anticipated the increased need for bandwidth," he said.

The pandemic created a "massive influx of daily voice calls" over Discord, company spokeswoman Liz McBain said in an email May 13.

"In Spain and France voice calls have more than doubled; in Italy, they've more than tripled, and in the U.S., we've seen more than 50% growth in voice users," she wrote.

Spurred by D&D's popularity on Discord, DnD Beyond created Avrae, a bot,



Dungeons & Dragons, the popular fantasy role-playing game, has amped up its online presence during the coronavirus pandemic.



Dungeons & Dragons, which first appeared in 1974, now counts about 13.7 million players worldwide.

or software that automatically completes certain tasks. Avrae works on Discord to roll dice, look up reference material or ping people for their turns, Bradford said. The bot proved very popular.

For active-duty troops like Smith, who uses Roll20, playing online keeps the game alive.

"There are a lot of interesting aspects moving to a virtual tabletop," he said. "There are more tools available with easier access like maps and digital character sheets that help track what's going on in the game. But the biggest pro to

playing online is the fact I don't have to wear pants anymore."

Through D&D Smith connects with old colleagues, veterans and civilians. In his five years of D&D, Smith has played the game with 20 other people, only two of whom were not affiliated with the military.

"My favorite part is the fantasy aspect," he said. "It's fun to see where the group takes the story."

godbold.theron@stripes.com  
Twitter: @GodboldTheron

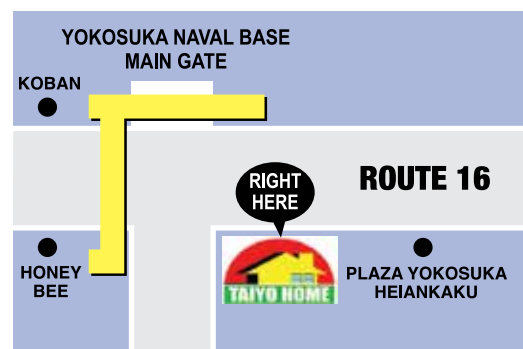


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# Stripes Sports Trivia

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Answer

Dennis Rodman

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Kanji of the week

沖

Oki (Offshore)

Language Lesson

I’m hungry.

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 With-ring link

5 Army bases

10 L.A. problem

14 Gaggles greeting

15 Item in a Greek salad

16 Bone-dry

17 One opposed

18 Sideline for some journalists

20 Beach bird

21 Lord's Prayer starter

22 Search for food

23 Rule from the bench

26 Oust

28 Wide's partner

29 Check information

33 Renowned

34 Prefix with "shock"

36 Selfies, e.g.

37 Supply for a newborn

39 Run over

41 NY time zone

42 Waste away

44 More despicable

45 Marsh growth

47 Crime boss

48 Setting for "Lawrence of Arabia"

49 Reductions

52 Type of staircase

55 Word on a door

56 Finn's floater

59 If-all-else-fails strategy

61 Continental coin

62 Look like a creep

63 Grazing ground

64 PC maker

65 Angry, with "off"

66 Type of jacket

67 Kind of idol

2 Sharpen, as skills

3 Type of commerce

4 Like beauty, they say

5 Lame excuse

6 One way to read

7 Six-pack location

8 Pipe material

9 Columbus, for one

10 Abhorrence

11 Diva's rendition

12 Zestfulness

13 Perimeter

19 Boozier

24 World-weary

25 Like some remarks

26 Prefix for "age" or "arm"

27 Library no-no

30 Mott's offering

31 Flooring pro

32 Put forth, as effort

34 High-class tie

35 Baltimore player

38 Serious warning

40 Abuse

43 Buttercup's cousin

46 Moved like a squirrel

48 Needing a bit of body work

50 Watering hole

51 Use the on-ramp

52 Vegas coin-eater

53 Patti who sang "Tennessee Waltz"

54 Cruise stopover

57 At no cost

58 Conflicted

60 Woodshop tool

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Grad Tab

Congratulations!  
Class of 2020

We've all struggled to come to grips with how the final quarter of our senior year has been taken away from us. We have learned the importance of appreciating our friendships and the feeling of just being close with the people we love. Although it seems that we have been unwillingly veered off-course, often that's where you discover who you really are and learn what is most important in life.

Maria Fogell  
Senior Class President  
Nile C. Kinnick High School

E.J. King High  
Matthew C. Perry High  
Nile C. Kinnick High  
Robert D. Edgren High  
Yokota High  
Zama American High







STARS AND STRIPES  
**Grad Tab**  
*Congratulations!*  
**2020**



Seniors show their Cobra Pride by wearing all black at a pep rally. Photo by Chen, T.

# E.J. King High School

Apilado, Mariane  
Arceo, Jefre  
Atencio, Princess Gwyneth  
Aviles, Briana  
Baker, Danielle  
Barnhill, Noel  
Caronan, Isabella  
Castillo, Rhemila  
Chapa, Aktin  
Escalera, Nechea

Eubanks, Irene  
Franklin, Brianna  
Gagnon, Matthew  
Howell, Meghan  
Ito, Tatsuro  
Kindt, Mackenzie  
Lachica, Kate  
LeBron, Rosemary  
Mazo, Angelo  
Mendez, Nicholas

Nall, Jalen  
O'Mara, Miya  
Oliver, Dominik  
Powell, Brandon  
Randall, Yumika  
Santos, Kaila  
Sasaki, Eric Patric Masatoshi  
Scarver, Leroy  
Schmidt, Jon Robert  
Schrader, Marcus

Seybold, Gabrielle  
Smith, Marika  
Sutton, Peiadra  
Tanaka, Joanne  
Trinidad, Tatianna  
Tyler, Jeovanni  
Villanueva, Jhovyn Daze  
Williamson, Yuka



Big men on campus. Photo by Chen, T.

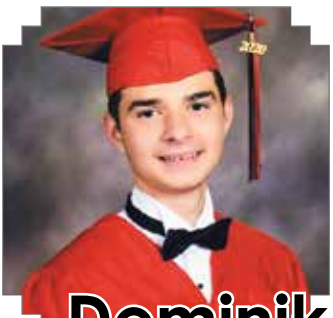


Students dress up for Spirit Week 2020. Photo by Howell, M.





Seniors are all smiles at Homecoming.  
Photo by Chen, T.



**Dominik**  
Congratulations Dom!  
We are so proud of you and  
love you so much.  
— Love, Mom and Dad



**kate**  
Congratulations Kate!  
We're so proud of you! Enjoy  
life, stay happy and healthy.  
Let the journey begin!  
— Love, Mom, Dad,  
Axel and Eliana



**Leroy**  
Situations good or bad you fought.  
REMEMBER no matter how  
rough life gets you are not a  
QUITTER. Congratulations Kid!  
— Mom and Dad



No time for senioritis as a senior  
prepares a class project. Photo by Chen, T.



Senior members of the Girls' Volleyball Team.  
Photo by O'Mara, M.

Thank you for instilling passion in us

As this senior year comes to an end, we would like to thank you all for helping us get to where we are today. You have been the biggest supporters in our journey towards adulthood, and have impacted our lives greatly. To our parents and those who have raised us, thank you for loving us with every ounce of your being. We are often too naive as children to realize that everything you did for us was in our best interest. You dealt with us through the good times and bad. The endless encouragement and constructive criticism pushed us to mature into bright young men and women. As we step out of the safety of your shadow to face the real world, we will keep you in our hearts and minds. Eventually, some of us will take on the role of parent, and it is then that we will truly understand just how much you cared and sacrificed. To prove to ourselves and the world that we made it, we will continue to grow into better people, and give back to the world.

To all our educators, from the history teachers who taught us the reality of the past, math teachers who taught us the importance of math in real-world applications, science teachers who taught us about the natural world and beyond, English teachers who taught us to be more literate and creative, and elective teachers who engaged us in extracurricular activities, thank you for instilling passion in us, for inspiring us to persevere and better ourselves in ways that we never thought we could. Your guidance and commitment have motivated us in ways that we will remember for the rest of our lives. To all the coaches, mentors, club advisors, and caring adults who have guided and influenced us, thank you for just being there to listen in our times of need and giving us advice. You were always there to comfort us in times when confiding in our parents or teachers was too scary. Thank you for filling that role.

This letter would not be complete without mentioning the class of 2020 itself. You all have made this year one of the most unforgettable years of our lives. For many of us, we became each other's support group. All the tears, laughter, arguments, and memories that we made together will resonate with us forever and we will share our stories with future generations. As we prepare to take our final steps as high school students, I want us all to remember that everything in the past has made us the people we are today, and as we look onwards and move towards the future, never forget who we are as individuals, for we are the biggest support that we can give ourselves. Parents, educators, caring adults, friends, and peers, thank you for being the support that we needed to help us reach where we are today.

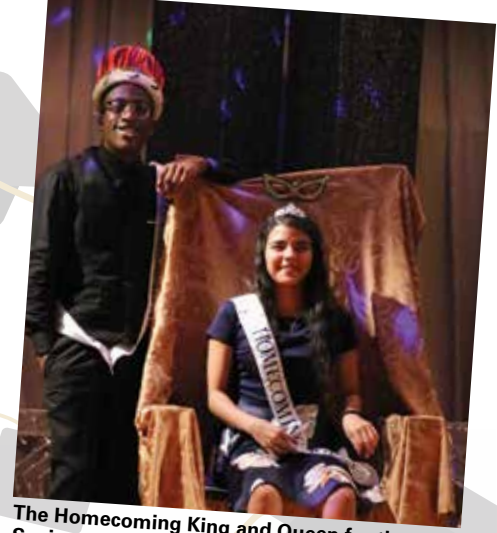
E.J. King High School  
Senior "Thank You" Letter



Eric Sasaki dresses up as a tacky tourist.  
Photo by Howell, M.



Students proudly display their Honors Awards at an assembly. Photo by Chen, T.



The Homecoming King and Queen for the Senior Class. Photo by Chen, T.



Seniors at Homecoming festivities. Photo by Chen, T.



Seniors celebrate fall sports at "Senior Night." Photo by Chen, T.





STARS AND STRIPES  
**Grad Tab**  
*Congratulations!*  
**2020**

## CLASS OF 2020

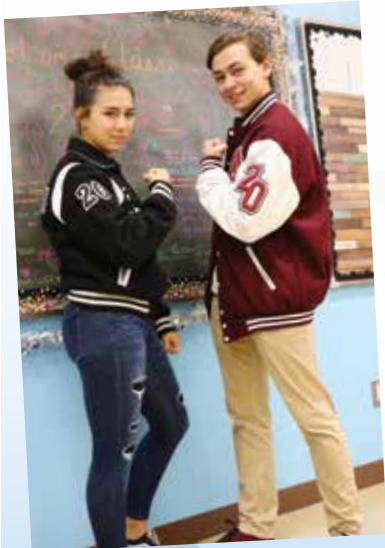


# Matthew C. Perry High School

Andres, Justin  
Benaya, Freczann  
Brownlee, Niklas  
Bugawan, Xandra-Tamara  
Caraballo, Vladimir  
Carlson, Hannah  
China, Marshall  
Cook, Mikayla  
Dearinge, William  
Flynn, Kaitlin  
Freels, Sara  
Giles, Adriana  
Gleason, Hokulani  
Hoffbuhr, Alaina  
Howard, Kaitlin

Jack, Sarita  
James, Avery  
Jones, Cherysh  
Kaufmann, Jalyynn  
Lebreton, Skye  
Malaca, Gabrielle Faith  
Matthews, Nehemya  
McCane, Julia  
Miranda, Shawn  
Montero Hamburgo, Vileyni  
Moore, Jacob  
Mosley, George  
Nachasingh, Sujittra  
Nakamura, Bunta  
Napalan, Kristina Chriselle

Nelson, Hannah  
Pappillion, Sariah  
Perdew, Ethan  
Quezada Britnell, Marcel  
Ratcliffe, Gabriel  
Ray, Alexander  
Restillador, Shania Mae  
Rudolph, Shion  
Ruiz, Noelle  
Strain, Payton  
Thompson, Sora  
Torrecillas, Matthew  
Viloria, Maliah Lyn  
Wilson, Erick  
Zhivago, Corinne



Noelle Ruiz and Ethan Perdew were voted the Senior Class' Best of 2020.  
Photo by Shion Rudolph



Payton Strain returns the ball during a home match against E.J. King.  
Photo by Kevin Rossiter





Jacob Moore, as the school's samurai mascot, hands out candy at the Homecoming Parade.  
Photo by Kevin Rossiter



Matthew Torrecillas makes an omelette during Culinary Arts class.  
Photo by Shion Rudolph



Congratulations!  
We are Proud of you!  
In Life be strong, take  
adventures and HAVE FUN!  
—— Love Mom & Dad



Kaitlin Howard, center, enjoys volleyball Senior Night with her family.  
Photo by Kevin Rossiter



Xandra-Tamara Bugawan and Kaitlin Flynn participate in an MCCS Family Advocacy Program Instagram photo campaign, bringing awareness to domestic violence. Photo by Megan Hilgemeier

### We could not have done this without you

Our last year of high school has been truly special. Between all the timeless memories we made with our friends, sports teams, and teachers, this will not be a year that we soon forget. This school year we witnessed the dawn of a bright new decade, made the first steps towards our life dreams by applying to college, and shared in our own personal triumphs of growth and achievement.

This year is not over yet, however. In light of the Coronavirus outbreak, we have been transitioned to virtual learning. This has brought its own challenges to each and every one of us. Most of us are not used to this style of learning and we have had a difficult time adjusting. Even in this strange time, our families and teachers remain committed to supporting us every step of the way. Just the same, we will remain committed to finishing our education and pursuing our life goals.

Our graduation will be a unique experience as we change it to accommodate for safety in the face of Coronavirus. Our achievements, however, will not be diminished. We are proud of ourselves for finishing high school all the same. We hope that we will make all of you just as proud in the years to come.

The Matthew C. Perry Class of 2020 would like to thank you for all the support you've given us not just this year, but all the years prior. It goes without saying that we could not have done this without all of you at our sides. For all the lessons you've taught us and all the hours you have supported us, we would like to express our deepest gratitude.

Sincerely,

*The Matthew C. Perry Class of 2020*



Sara Freels and Sora Thompson are twinning for Spirit Week. Photo by Sandra Lewis



Hannah Nelson plays her trumpet during the M.C. Perry Holiday Concert. Photo by Kevin Rossiter



Marshall China takes down his opponent from Tabuse High School. Marshall was undefeated in his last 37 matches and finished his high school career with three Beast of the East and Far East Championship titles.  
Photo by Kevin Rossiter



Skye Lebreton works with a student from Karyo High School during a cultural exchange field trip. Photo by Shion Rudolph



Marcel Quezada Britnell and Corinne Zhivago have fun at the JROTC Marine Corp Ball Birthday Dance.  
Photo by Shion Rudolph





# Nile C. Kinnick High School

Adepoju, Lynelle	Diokno, Athea Nicole	Hyider, Zayne	McDanel, Kenerick	Rodriguez, Alex
Advincula, Erica	Docuyanana, Adrian	Jenkins, Dayja	Meeson, Joshua	Rodriguez, Daena
Agpaoa, Kolby	Docuyanana, Ma. Althea Clarisse	Jimenez, Skylabelle Marie	Melo, Aaron Jayse	Salgado, Daiki
Alfini, Jainey	Doerr, Oliver	Johnson, Jada	Melton, Angela	Salgado, Daniel
Arandia, Seryna Gene	Dulce, Vincent John	Jones, Liam	Menard, Zoe	Santiago, Neshonie
Arredondo, Maya	Ellis, Debrianna	Keller, Claudia	Moore, Iain	Scheidt, Alexander
Arroyos, Samantha	Ermitano, James Gilbert	Kelly, Patrick	Mori, Alaysha	Smith, Anton
Basilio, Yannis Nicole	Espineli, Rhett	Kishida, Louis	Morris, Marcus	Sowell, Serena
Battle, Sierra	Estrada, Manny Riki	Kiszenia, Mitchel	Moyers, Elijah	Stovall, Emmanesta
Bolt, Airi	Felicitas, Fionna	Kiyotsuka, Chaston	Mullen, Natalya	Sullivan, Kai
Boyer, Cassandra	Fogell, Maria	Kohatsu, Hannah	Murayama, Christian	Tiefel, Zachary
Burtch, Mia	Gailson, HanokhEliyahu	Labato, Charlie	Neubauer, Derek	Tiengkamsaly, Hannah
Casas, Runa	Gallo, Madelyn	Laforteza, Drizzel May	O'sonis, Quinten	Timmons, Tephareth
Castro, Maryana	Garcia, Crystel Khaye	Lavullis, Daniel	Okamura, Gianni	Valdes, Vince
Catubig, Luke Nathan	Gomez, Daven Jush	Leary, Silas	Pabon, Christopher	Vasquez, Jareth
Chambers, Kayla	Gordon, Jada	Lichi, Isaac	Papadimitropoulos, Isabella	Venegas, Gianna
Christopher-Leon, Isamari	Guerrero, Beatriz	Lindsey, Tonella	Pascuzzi, Angelina	Ventura, Allen Joshua
Colon, Jayden	Gutierrez, Gabriel	Losinger, Gavin	Penberthy, Brandon	Venturina, Tristan
Crisci, Sophia	Hamilton, Ethan	Lovell, Alexander	Pendergast, Cayetana	Walker-Yacob, Reyana
Davidson, Elizabeth	Hammond, Journey	Ludwig, Toni	Perfecto, Amary-Gail	Webb, Samantha
Davis, Isaiah	Hanna, Jordan	Macaraeg, Nicole	Perkins, Angelena	Williams, Darryl
Del Signore, Andrew	Harris, Henry	Manson, Matthew	Plopino, Angelo	Williams, Mitiana
Delacruz, Madeleine	Harris, Marcellus	Marshall, Tajari	Posthumus, Daniel	Zarraga, Joseph Miguel
Di Meo, Jennifer	Hensen-Drumm, Skylar	Martin, Kylie	Ransberger, Ethan	
Dilts, Norica	Holzhauser, Joseph	Mauhay, Christopher	Robertson, Autumn	





**Emmanesta**  
*We are proud of you.  
Congrats on completing the first  
step! Keep moving forward!*  
\_\_\_\_ Mom and Dad,  
Jesse, Estella, and James



**Hannah**  
*Congratulations Hannah!  
I'm so proud of you.  
This is only the beginning,  
and the sky's the limit!*  
\_\_\_\_ Love, Dad



**Jareth**  
*We are so proud of you!  
We cannot wait to see the  
amazing things you will  
accomplish in the future!*  
\_\_\_\_ Dad, Mom & Siblings



**Jennifer**  
*You had to attend high schools in  
three different continents, yet you  
persevered. We are so proud of you!*  
\_\_\_\_ Mom, Dad,  
Lauren, and Jake



**Jordan**  
*Congratulations to you on  
such an amazing achievement!  
We love you and thank you for  
making us proud everyday!*  
\_\_\_\_ Mom & Dad



**Claudia Keller and Runa Casas preparing to cheer.** Photo by Eric Casas

Thank you for the unconditional love and support

The Nile C. Kinnick class of 2020 cannot thank everyone enough for the unconditional love and support we have received throughout these last four years. When we look back through all of our high school memories, not only will we remember the highlights such as Homecoming week or Far East Events, we will remember all of the people who helped us along the way and how we couldn't have done it without them.

To the teachers and administrators, thank you for constantly helping us not only to further our education, but for helping us become the people we are today. Thank you for going above and beyond by not only teaching us the required materials, but for teaching us that test scores and school grades don't define us and that we can always be better than we were the day before. We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication especially during these unprecedented times. We could not have gotten through online school without you and even though it wasn't the senior year we had imagined, you still managed to make it special. Though we won't remember every single thing you taught us, we will definitely remember the impact that you had on us and the lessons you taught, which is something that we will carry with us forever.

To our parents, thank you for being our biggest supporters and for always sticking with us through thick and thin. Not only have you been here for us these last four years, you have, and will continue to be here supporting us for our entire lives, and that is really all we can ask for. You never fail to help us see our potential by teaching us to become better people who are prepared for the world outside of high school. Your unwavering love and support doesn't go unnoticed and we hope we have made you all proud.

To the class of 2020, though this wasn't the senior year we were all expecting, it was memorable in its own way and we overcame it, still reaching our goal of graduating high school. As seniors, we have felt a wide range of emotions about how things have evolved such as sadness, anger, frustration, fear, self-pity and many more. We've all struggled to come to grips with how the final quarter of our senior year has been taken away from us. We have learned the importance of appreciating our friendships and the feeling of just being close with the people we love. Although it seems that we have been unwillingly veered off-course, often that's where you discover who you really are and learn what is most important in life. We should be proud of how far we've come so congratulations! Once a red devil, always a red devil.

Maria Fogell  
Senior Class President



Ethan Hamilton, Zoe Menard, Elizabeth Davidson, Daven Gomez, Clarisse Docuyan, Maria Fogell, Natalya Mullen, Dayja Jenkins, Angela Melton, Jaimey Alfini, Sklar Hensen-Drumm, Hanokh Gailson, and Hannah.



Quinn O'Sonis, Emma Stovall, Kayla Chambers, Angel Perkins, and Sierra Battle at a senior's tie dye event. Photo by Quinn O'Sonis



Maria Fogell, Jaimey Alfini, Elizabeth Davidson, Sierra Battle and Angel Perkins at the Senior Sunrise in their Halloween costumes for fall Spirit Week.




Angela Melton, Clarisse Docuyan, Beatriz Guerro, Athea Diokno, Maryana Castro, Amary Perfecto and Gianna Venegas after the senior tie dye event.




**Kayla Chambers**  
*Congratulations Class of  
2020 High School Graduates*  
Nile C. Kinnick  
High School College Bound  
Scholarship Recipient



**Kylie**  
*So proud of you and what you  
have accomplished and wish  
you nothing but happiness  
and success for your future!*  
\_\_\_\_ MOM & DAD



**Madeleine Delacruz**  
*Congratulations Class of  
2020 High School Graduates*  
Nile C. Kinnick  
High School College Bound  
Scholarship Recipient



**Marcellus**  
*We wish and hope that  
one day you will reach the  
apex of success.  
May God continue to lead you.*  
\_\_\_\_ Mom and Dad





STARS  
Gra  
Cong  
20

## E.J. King High School



E.J. King seniors at the Senior Holiday event. Photo by O'Mara, M.



A senior shows true teacher appreciation during a pep rally game. Photo by Chen, T.



Seniors battle during a tug-of-war with their teachers. Photo by Chen, T.

## Matthew C. Perry High School



A group of Perry seniors strike a pose during the winter pep rally assembly. Photo by Shion Rudolph



Niklas Brownlee dives for a save during a practice in March.



Shawn Miranda, Skye Lebreton, and Avery James lead the seniors during the Homecoming Day Parade. Photo by Kevin Rossiter

## Robert D. Edgren High School

## Yokota High School



1, 2, 3...jump! Wait...now?



Who are these masked seniors? Paulynn Misch-Cruz, Val Hipple and Audri Waack.



Yokota Seniors are pumped up for the first day of their last year of high school at the August welcoming ceremony.

Best friend and Annie



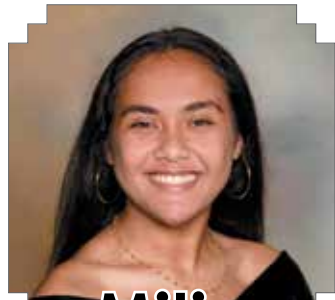


## Nile C. Kinnick High School



**Maryana**

Congratulations! We're so proud and know you'll be great at USD! Never forget we are always here for you =) LOVE YOU:  
— Your #1 Fans, Pop, Mom, Jake and Theresa



**Mitiana**

May you always have grit to do great things in life. We are so proud of you! Hooyah!

— Mom & Dad



**Tori**

Happy Graduation!! Know how unique you are – follow your dreams, and honor your true self. Find joy in the choices you make. I will love you forever, for always. God bless you always.

— Nana



**Tori**

We are so proud of you, and best wishes on your next adventure!

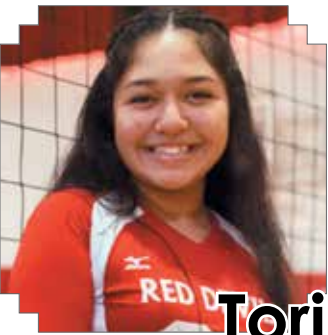
— All our love from Kansas, The Velghes



**Tori**

Tori, Live your best life with no regrets! We love you!

— Love, Aunty Valley, Charlie and Atlantis



**Tori**

Congratulations Sissy! You did it! I'm very proud of you and love you!!!

— Love, Kelly



**Tori**

Congratulations Tori Fa'aea Tamasailau Osterbrink. We love you.

— Your Grandparents, Emau and Taase Amosa



**Tori**

Congratulations Tori!!! You did it!!!

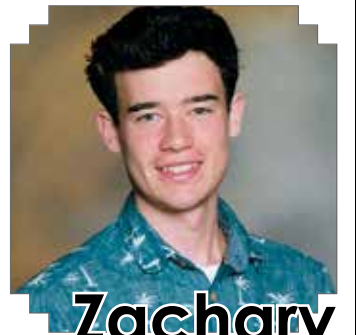
— Love, Your families from American Samoa, Hawaii and USA.



**Tori**

Shout out to our graduate Toris Poris! We love you and are so proud of you!

— Love, Aunty, Joe & James



**Zachary**

Congratulations on your diploma! We're proud of your determination despite transferring to a new high school and pandemic restrictions.

— Dad & Mom

## High School

## Zama High School



Hana Robbins and Kaela Jackson hold the senior banner at the Homecoming Pep Rally in October.



Ms Madeline Warner, Julianie Gonzalez-Ruiz, Norberg share a hug outside the school.







# STARS AND STRIPES Grad Tab Congratulations! 2020



## Robert D. Edgren High School

Adinolfi, Emily  
Andrews, Naomi  
Bispat, Kyana  
Bitor, Sarah  
Cunningham, Caitlin  
DeLaRosa, Jake  
Dudley, Jason  
Hart, Heidi  
Hartley, Joshua  
Hipple, Valerie  
Johnson, Mykelah

Kirby, Jeffrey  
Larson, Maggie  
Liggett, Samira  
Macias, Christian  
Magaña, Jett  
Marius, Malin  
Marsh, Taina  
Martin, Xavier  
Mathews, Sydnie  
McGee, Noah  
Misch-Cruz, Paulynn

Moffett, Dmitri  
Morrise, Melody  
Nakano, Taisei  
Nestor, Sarah  
Nichols, Matthew  
Parnell, Shamar  
Perez, Deija  
Quigley, Chase  
Ricks, Jared  
Rosario Velazquez, Kenneth  
Royster, Maya

Salas, Jasmine  
San Nicolas, Damian James  
Serrano Cruz, Adriana  
Smith, Jacksen  
Smith, Rika  
Struve, Caleb  
Swanson, Drew  
Waack, Audriana  
Zarate, Andy



The food was surpassed only by the company during the Senior Breakfast.



Taking a break in the sun, this crew is soaking it up before the snow comes ... next week!





Ready for the parade to get underway, the Senior Eagles are ready to lead the way.



Eagles getting a jump start on their futures.



Paulynn Misch-Cruz and Jared Ricks are ready for graduation ... virtual or otherwise.

You have inspired us

The Senior Class of 2020 would like to say, “Thank you.” It has been a very long four years and we appreciate all that you have done every step of the way. We have all worked hard to get to this final stage and we couldn’t have done it without our community helping and supporting us. Parents, we know it must have been hard for all of you to deal with us up to this point but we would like to say, “Thank you,” as well for everything you have done. You were the ones who made sure we were having a great senior year and made sure we were always on top of our game. We thank you, again, for helping us with not only pushing us to be our best but making sure we had things to help us relax and enjoy ourselves, too. We thank the parents from Project Graduation for taking their time to plan senior activities, the senior trip, fundraising, and graduation. I know it is hard to cooperate with a bunch of teenagers and figure out what we like, but we hope you know that we enjoyed everything you had planned for us. We also would like to thank another group of people, a part of this community, who truly got us to where we are today, and that is our teachers, staff and even our coaches. All of you have helped us so much and words could never even come close to how much gratitude we have for our Edgren staff. You have inspired us to become better people every day and we appreciate the hard work you put into us. Thank you, coaches, for pushing us to be the best in the sport we were playing and giving us memories that will last forever.

So Edgren Community; parents, teachers, staff, and coaches, the senior class would like to say, “Thank you,” one more time, and we hope that we have left an impression on you, like you most definitely have on us.

Sincerely,

Maya Royster  
Senior-Class President



Drew Swanson and Jeffrey Kirby are fans of starting off their day the right way with a good breakfast.



“Senior” citizens before their time, Kiyana Bispat, Taina Marsh, Naomi Andrews and Mykelah Johnson strike an elderly pose.



Practicing medicine, Caleb Struve wraps Sarah Bitor’s arm for a cast.



What a year it has been for Caitlin Cunningham: National Merit Scholar Finalist, Best Delegate at Harvard Model Congress, National Finalist in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and Valedictorian. Congratulations, Caitlin!



All signs point to happy seniors.



No “side out” here. Volleyball was the highlight of the year for Adriana Serrano Cruz and Deija Perez.



Josh Hartley and Taina Marsh are just a little happy to be crowned king and queen.





STARS & STRIPES  
**Grad Tab**  
Congratulations!  
**2020**



# Yokota High School

Arzuaga, Aika  
Bailey, Jaliyah  
Bauman, Rebecca  
Brady, Jared  
Carlson, David  
Choate, Cody  
Crawford, Veronica  
Dashler, Ramiaemi  
Dashler, Ramishamie  
De Leon, Kailea Ha'ani  
Debus, Alexander  
DeFazio, Richard  
DeGrella, George

Dozier, Chloe  
Duarte, Gianna  
Estrada, Jerome  
Familaran, Rachelle  
Firman, Aidan  
Fisher, Austin  
Fisher, Kirin  
Franks, Calli  
Galvin, Michael  
Garza, Christian  
Gilmore, Taelore  
Gonzalez-Ruiz, Julianie  
Hakun, Steven

Heagerty, Dustin Haze  
Healy, Keegan  
Heino, Caleb  
Herman, Araya  
Hill, Alexandria  
Jackson, Anderius  
Jackson, Kaela  
Jenkins, Naomi  
Johnson, Kamryn  
King, David  
Lambie, Owen  
Lane, Jaydan  
Leong, Logan Jude

McCleese, Marcus  
Mendoza, Deniel John  
Morgan, Kimaya  
Morioka, Stacy  
Naranjo, Adrien  
Norberg, Ann  
O'Grady, Liam  
Resto, Nevaeh  
Reyes, Dheaven  
Robbins, Hana  
Schneider, Abigaile  
Setka, Danica  
Smith, Ethan

Sojot, Jonathan  
Souza, Sakura  
Standbridge, Layla  
Swain, Emily  
Swygert, Hannah  
Taynton, Emily  
Togans, Paul  
Vasquez, Cynthia  
Ward, Isaac  
Warner, Madeline  
Warrington, Emma  
Wiedie, Magdalena  
Williams, July





**Adrien**

Congratulations!  
10 different schools but you  
made it to graduation.  
Proud of you!

— Love, Mom & Dad



**Calli**

We are so proud of you!  
Best of luck for your future!  
Happy Graduation Day!

— Love, Kenny, Mom,  
Abbey, Brianna, and Naomi



**Chloe Dozier**

Congratulations Class of  
2020 High School Graduates

Yokota High School College  
Bound Scholarship Recipient



**David Carlson**

Congratulations Class of  
2020 High School Graduates

Yokota High School College  
Bound Scholarship Recipient



**David**

We are so proud of you!  
Your future is bright, so keep  
pushing and know you always  
have our love and support.

— Love, Mom, Dad & KK



**Julianie**

So proud of your hard work  
and achievements.  
We believe in you and We  
love you so much! Congrats!

— Ma and Pa

### Once a Panther, always a Panther

Panther territory, YHS, Yokota High School. This is a school we know all too well. We all had the privilege to attend one of the best high schools in the world (in my opinion), which has many special attributes. The first notable thing about Yokota is how wonderful they are preparing us for our future. Moreover, the Yokota community was always extremely accepting in whatever we said we wanted to do after graduating. As long as we set a goal we wanted to achieve, they were going to do whatever they could in order to prepare us for that.

Furthermore, I feel the biggest impact that high school had on us were the memories that will stay in our minds forever. Whether it's getting scolded by Ms. Hill for arriving late from lunch (as I know most of us have at one point or another) or parking our cars in the most random ways possible & almost getting in serious trouble with admin over it. And I'm sure we can never forget the late nights we stayed up until 4 a.m. in an attempt to salvage our grade in A.P. stats, A.P. government, A.P. lit; or whatever class it was. All of these memories have in some way shaped us into the people we are today, and heaven knows where we would be without this experience, for some of us that might've meant better mental health, but let's look at the positive here.

Personally, to my fellow graduates I say thank you. Going to a dodeca school in Japan is a unique experience within itself but doing it with all of you was definitely a trip. From the senior sunrise that wasn't really a sunrise because of how cloudy it was, to somehow "magically" winning all the pep rally games, there are so many tremendous memories we may have not appreciated at the time but can now look back and smile at. So thank you for just being you guys & being my extremely dysfunctional family.

All in all, Yokota High, thank you. Thank you for the many laughs, tears, lessons, opportunities to make lifelong friends, and most importantly, helping to shape us into the people we are today. Once a Panther, always a Panther.

Thank you.

Kimaya Morgan  
YHS Senior



**Rebecca**

Wow! What a year!  
YOU DID IT!  
We are so proud of you and  
everything you have accomplished.

— Love Mom & Dad



Madeline Warner helps Cynthia Vasquez complete her 2020 voter registration form in their senior government class.



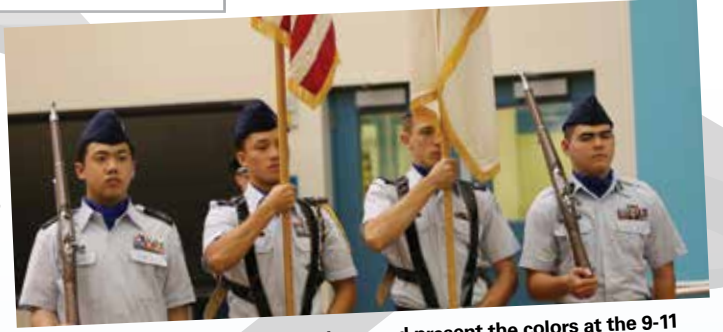
Class President Hana Robbins and SGA President Joey DeGrella outside the old campus.



The Powder Puff Football Senior team gets ready for the annual Homecoming tradition.



Boys' soccer seniors the day before the cancellation of the season.



Senior members of the JROTC color guard present the colors at the 9-11 Memorial Ceremony. From left: Isaac Ward, Joey DeGrella, July Williams, and Anderius Jackson.



**Kimaya**

Congratulations on your graduation.  
"Education is our passport to the  
future, for tomorrow belongs to people  
who prepare for it today" Malcolm X

— Mom & Kahlia



**Mickey**

Congratulations Grandson!  
We are proud of your scholastic  
and athletic achievements.  
Make the world a better place.

— Love, Obaachan and JiJi



**Nevaeh**

Congratulations!  
Game on to a new adventure.  
We are proud of you.

— Papa & Mama



**Steven**

What a unique senior year!  
Definitely one for the record books.  
Congratulations on your graduation!  
We're extremely proud of you!!!

— Mom & Dad



**Xander**

So proud of who you have  
become! Time to start  
your adult adventures!  
I'll always be here for you!

— Love Mom





# STARS AND STRIPES Grad Tab Congratulations! 2020



## Zama American High School

Alcala, Angel  
Amanatidis, Caitlyn  
Atkinson, Jessica  
Barry, Alicia  
Bernardo, Angela  
Bivins, Amon  
Brown, Justin  
Brown, Royce  
Brush, Daniella  
Bulda, Shaira Marie  
Caburian, Ronnie  
Carabajal, Moises  
Chang, Mia  
Colar, Jalina  
Cox, Cortes  
Cruz, Abbygail Joy  
Cruz, Jaziele

Daviss, Olivia  
Diwa, Christopher  
Dorsey, Baylee  
Eberhard, Michelle  
Flores, Danielle  
Gartland, Liam  
Giles, Jason  
Green, Jarred  
Harpersberger, Riria  
Hartranft, Christian  
Hayashi, Kaito  
Heredia-Mawhiney, Cristian  
Hernandez, Adriana  
Hernandez, Christopher  
Hickmon, Jamaal  
Hirata, Iris  
Ingram, James

Irwin, Takumi  
Jones, Milton  
Mack, Solace  
Martin, Desmond  
Matelski, Timothy  
McAbee, Logan  
McNeill, Kayesha  
Meissner, Ethan  
Morin, Elias  
Ochiai, Shio  
Orlosky, Maxwell  
Platt, Chandler  
Reyes, Rayczle  
Richardson, Makoa  
Rioux, Jazlyn  
Rivera, Shantelle  
Ross, Michaela

Russel, Liam  
Sakamoto-Flack, Leah  
San Valentin, Alessandra  
Sanchez, Joseph  
Santos, Hannah  
Sessions, Cody  
Singer, Luke  
Smith, Kirari  
Southerland, Savannah  
Suyama, Eve  
Tabelual, Maeley  
Trautmann, Joey  
Urbina, Omar  
Wallen, Amari  
Walter, Lewis  
Yamaguchi, Kouto





**Jazlyn**

*Congratulations Jazlyn!!  
We are so proud of you!!  
We love you!!*

— **The Bishop Family**



**Jazlyn**

*Congratulations on surviving  
high school and I hope you  
have an amazing graduation!  
Good Luck in college!*


— **Laivey**



**Jazlyn**

*We are proud of you!  
We will continue to be one of  
your biggest cheerleaders.  
Go and live your dreams!*

— **The Rudolph's**



**Jazlyn**

*I am incredibly proud of you!  
I love and miss you so much.  
Happy Graduation  
2020 graduate!!*

— **Nan**




**Jazlyn**

*Congratulations! Remember  
you are going to college with  
our love and support. You know  
where to find us when needed.*

— **Sabrina**






**Jazlyn**

*Congratulations on your  
graduation. I am very proud  
of you. I know you will do  
great things in the future!*

— **Dad**



**Jessica**

*I can't believe we are  
graduating!! This isn't the  
end! We are just starting the  
next journey of our lives!*

— **Jazlyn**



**Kayesha McNeil  
Leah Sakamoto-Flack**

*Congratulations Class of  
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**Zama American Middle  
High School College  
Bound Scholarship Recipients**



**Leah**

*You're an absolute rock star!  
You've done great things  
since that first day of school  
in Seoul! Keep it up!*

— **Love Mama, Papa,  
Nina, Emma and Coco**

Thank you for guiding us

To all of the wonderful parents, diligent educators, and other caring adults who helped us get closer and closer to the finish line, we truly appreciate you. This school year has been one of the most challenging by far. No one could have truly been prepared for what was about to take place this spring. As various Far East events and the spring sports were canceled, I'd like to thank you for all of the shoulders that were there for us to cry on. Senior year feels like a roller coaster. We all came in excited about our last year and wanting to go out with a bang. Together, we plummeted down the first drop when COVID-19 spiraled out of control. From that point, it gave us tunnel vision just to graduate and say "We made it!"

When the classrooms closed, some probably downplayed how much work teachers actually put into their jobs. But far from skating off, teachers worked tirelessly to prepare a new online syllabus to support the students from afar and to alleviate the stress parents were faced with. Even with distance learning, educators have provided continuous educational opportunities and practice for students while schools are closed. The plethora of support from Google Meets video calls to "just checking in" email, truly shows all the love and support our educators give to us.

The encouragement from home is astonishing. Parents are working double-time assisting their children with scholarships and preparing them for their next chapter; whether it be college, military, and workforce. Our loved ones deserve more appreciation for their guiding us thus far in life.

When this pandemic is over, when the sun appears from behind the clouds, and our streets are filled with joy and laughter once more, we'll make a promise not to take things in life for granted. For our dear teachers, you will finally get the recognition you deserve! Until then, together we say thank you.





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URL: <http://luj.lakeland.edu>



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