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Regaining trust

BY KADEN MICHAEL,
 6TH GRADE
 HUMPHREYS MIDDLE SCHOOL

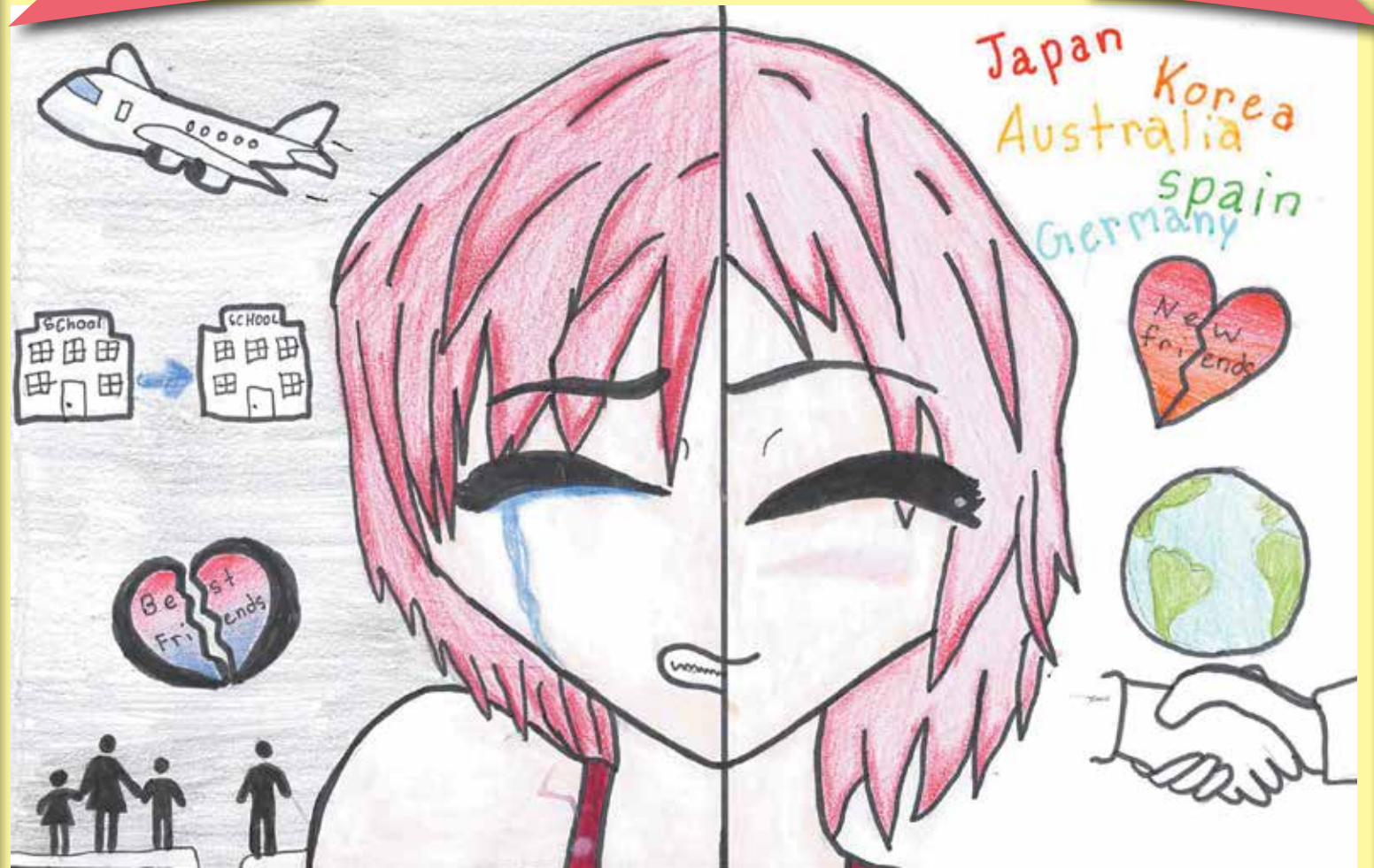
Being a military child is hard because sometimes my parents are gone for like a week or maybe a few months or so and sometimes, they are deployed for 1 year. So, life is hard for a "military brat". Well, there are benefits such as being able to travel a lot which not everyone is lucky enough to do. Sometimes I forget what my parent looks like when they are gone for so long like my sister Mina (who was 3) forgot what our dad looked like when he was gone for 9 months. It takes a toll on the relationship between me and my active-duty parent.

My dad is the active duty parent right now. The longest he has been gone is 9 months. I know that some people are gone up to 18 months so I count my blessings that my dad is not gone for that long. However, he did leave more often when I was younger. I would gravitate toward my mom when my father was gone. When he came back, I would still ask my mom for everything even though he was right there. My dad had to regain my trust. It took time for me to trust him, but we would always work through it.

I have enjoyed my time as a military child and have had many different feelings about being a military child. The toll on relationships makes me feel upset because I have to leave my friends. PSCing makes me feel confused and unsure because I had so much excitement in coming to Korea and it just disappeared. The DODEA school has made me feel good in helping me adjust to life in Korea. Finally finding new friends and leaving old ones has made me upset and happy because I had to leave my old friends and find new ones. My main point is I actually like being a military child (although I don't really like the name "military brat").

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child



- Valerie Carrasco, 6th grade, Lester Middle School

Proud to be an American

BY GABRIELLE MCKINLEY,
 6TH GRADE
 HUMPHREYS MIDDLE SCHOOL

My life as a military child began in full force. I was born while my dad was on a 15-month deployment to Iraq. I finally met him while he was home on leave, but then he had to head back to the Middle East. Many of us that are military children have had the same experience with parents being deployed and missing major events in our lives. Before our parents go on deployment, we spend a lot of time with family. This is how we become resilient, which is an important trait in being a military child. In the military, moving is a way of life. Most military brats have moved several times, some even to foreign countries. While some people dislike moving, I enjoy it. The reason for that is because I get to experience different cultures and meet new friends. If I would have never moved, I wouldn't be as culturally experienced as I am now.

One hard thing about being a military kid is adjusting.

Adjusting can be hard because you may be used to your old life and your old friends. Sometimes making friends can be hard, and friends make the difference in adjusting because it is always good to have someone you can play with and talk to. Adjusting can be good because you get used to it. When you're an adult, and you have to move away from home, it won't be as difficult because you've already done it. If you're used to adjusting, you can be able to focus more on what made you move, for example your job, or going to college.

I am proud to be a "military brat" because I am part of a sacrifice for America. Instead of getting to grow up in one place with the same people, I move around because my dad works for the military and serves our country which is a huge sacrifice. Military kids are also appreciated by others because of what they go through for others' safety. I know I am serving my country, and that makes me proud of

SEE PROUD ON PAGE 2

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child



Osan BGCA names Youth of the Year

BY ANDERSON BRYANT
TEEN COORDINATOR,
OSAN AIR BASE YOUTH PROGRAMS

Dawn Kerlin has been recognized as Osan Air Base Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year. Kerlin is a 15-year-old freshman who currently attends Osan Middle High School. Particularly noteworthy are her outside interests in various organizations and sports which reflect her character.

Kerlin is very engaged in extracurricular activities such as Keystone, JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, NJHS, basketball, and marksmanship. Kerlin is a determined young woman who continually strives for

excellence. She truly values and believes in service to others and exemplifies the leadership and character which are required of the Youth of the Year (YoY). Kerlin aspires to become a pharmacist and an Air Force Officer. She demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities and leads her peers with such a contagious positive "can do" attitude. She shows leadership in how she relates with others and demands respect by the way she carries herself.

We would like to congratulate Dawn Kerlin and we know that she will represent Osan Air Base Youth Programs well as the Youth of the Year.

PROUD: Community molded me

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

my citizenship.

Being a military child teaches me how to be a proud American. I notice luxuries in America that aren't in other countries. These luxuries make me grateful that in America we have so many options to choose. It makes me proud when I see America win in the Olympics and make great new accomplishments. Seeing the American flag raised on a world stage gives me a feeling of pride, knowing that those representing our country are giving us a sense of unity. Some countries dislike America and burn our flag for reasons we don't understand, but they have probably never met those of us Americans who are good people.

In conclusion, I think being a military child will affect the type of adult I will be. I am accustomed to change. I am familiar with independence. Moving around has broadened my outlook on the world. Living in other countries has taught me to be respectful of other people's culture and ways of life. When I get to college I will know how to interact with different types of people. I am proud of being a military child and of the way it has molded me into the person I am today.

Being a military child connected is awesome! Because we are safe and being protected. My education is free, our family's hospitalization is free since we are covered from my dad's health insurance. We can travel to a different country and meet military friends and families. But the sad part for me is that I will miss my friends and all that I met, but that's a life of being in the military. But the good thing is I could move on and meet some new friends and start a new life again. But the most important thing of being a military child connected is the "PRIDE" I have for my farther. For being so proud of my father for sacrificing his life, for protecting other people and of course for serving the country.

- Arwen Ancheta, Osan Elementary School

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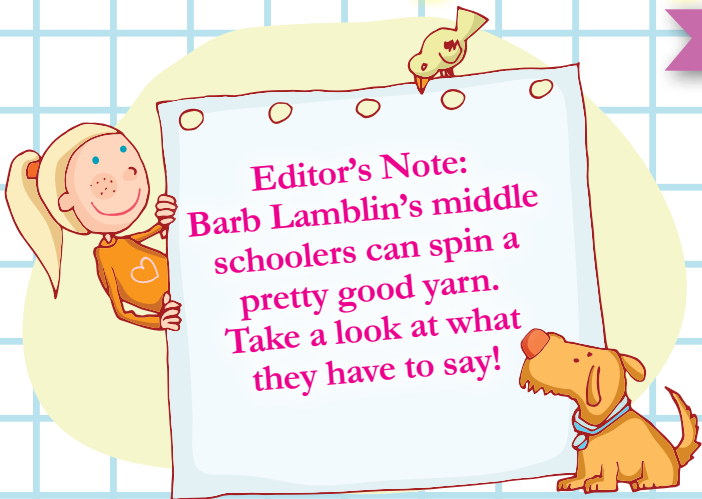


ECO Bus Program

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Humphreys Middle School

Ms. Lamblin



Editor's Note:
Barb Lamblin's middle schoolers can spin a pretty good yarn. Take a look at what they have to say!

I am a military child, which means every 2 to 3 years we move or PCS. Sometimes it can be hard to move because we have to pack everything up and clean the house and leave friends, but now mostly all kids have a phone or some device to text or call each other.

My family has moved all around the United States to Fort Bragg in North Carolina (I was born there), Fort Belvoir in Northern Virginia and JBLM in Washington (my brother was born here and my dad was deployed at the time), and Fort Gordon in Georgia. Now my family is stationed at Camp Humphreys South Korea (where my mom is from originally). My favorite move was when we lived at Fort Gordon. I went to an off base school and played a lot of sports for the county, mostly tackle football. I had many friends at my old school.

I hope to move back to Georgia after this assignment. Every time we move it takes a while to get to the other states, and other countries, like Korea. My life as a military child is pretty fun, because I experienced many different things like cities, people, and cultures. Now I think I can adapt easily to a new place or environment. I'm happy to be a military child and proud of my dad for serving in the U.S. Army.

– Brandon Uresk, 6th grade

Being a military child (or people call us military brats) has given me and my family lots of opportunities such as traveling to many different places. I think the best duty assignment for my family has probably been our time in Europe. We were stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, for four years. All the countries within Europe have pretty much open borders meaning I can go in and out freely for the most part. The countries are so close that I can take a train, airplane or even drive to any of them. We did just that! We traveled all around Europe and it's almost impossible to pick a favorite country. There are a few that were awe inspiring which made our four years there worthwhile.

When we went to Paris we got to stay in an apartment with two floors and a clear roof for a whole week. We got to see the sparkling Eiffel Tower in all its glory. It was so pretty and even better in real life than in the black and white photos of it that we have at home.

Another memorable place was when we took a trip to Ireland. When we took the trip

we got to go with another family. We got to see the Cliffs of Moher which were huge and fascinating sea cliffs. We also got to kiss the Blarney stone (by the way kissing the Blarney stone is not a good idea if you are a germaphobe) which legend says that if I do that I will be gifted with the gift of gab. By the way, if you didn't already know the gift of gab is the ability to speak easily and confidently.

Our time in Europe was a great and fun experience for my family. We were able to visit many wonderful countries, experience many lively cultures, and meet many friendly people. I will always remember the good times we had in Germany, and Europe all together. I don't know where our next duty station will be, but I hope I will be able to visit Europe again one day.

– Isabella Boshers, 6th grade

Being a military brat has a sort of warming chaotic essence. On one hand, we are always moving around and never stopping to rest. On the other hand, the people we are surrounded by always know what we are going through and will help us along the way. Millions of military brats have experienced this feeling of wanting a new adventure, but holding on to their memories of the places they've been and their experiences.

Moving to Australia and Korea were both very unique and frustrating experiences. This was because when moving to Korea we had to deal with a language barrier, new culture and customs. Also, when moving to Australia we had to deal with moving into an apartment (new for us) and trying to understand the Australian's accents. Our family traveled a lot in Australia and have seen more of it than the United States. We traveled all around Australia and all over New Zealand. But it doesn't even compare to the amount of travel we have done while living in Korea! We have traveled all around Korea and Jeju, Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, Malaysia, Vietnam, and last for now, Japan.

From the two countries I have lived in overseas, I have learned that the countries have different customs and different behaviors that are rude or not. For instance, in Korea it is not rude to burp, belch, or spit in public or to push past people, whereas in America it would be very rude. Also in Korea, when handing something to someone, they always bow a little, hand it to you with their right hand out of respect, touch their

elbow with their left hand, and are never short of being kind. In some Asian countries it is rude to show people the bottom of your shoes, but as Americans we do not think twice about that. Australian customs are completely different because every day they stop their work to have "mornos" and "arvos" which stand for morning and afternoon tea. Australians also abbreviate everything, like telephone is "tellie" or breakfast is "brekky."

Living overseas is quite the experience that I think everybody should at least get a taste of, and although there are a few negatives and that it may be nerve racking, I think that the pros outweigh the cons. After almost three years living overseas there have been some frustrating parts but these are the years I am going to remember as an adult, not the times I sat on the couch and playing video games. To my fellow military brats, remember to always embrace the experience.

– Elam Dunton, 6th grade

The idea of moving to a country on the other side of the world was kind of put aside by me. I didn't really think anything of it. It was just going to be moving to another house, except in an airplane this time. At the time I had just been going to regular public schools that were not associated with DODEA. I didn't even know what DODEA was up until quite recently. I wasn't exactly excited to move, but it's not like I could really do anything. Part of moving was that I was going to move away from friends, but I wasn't really sad about that. We could still always talk, due to technology we have nowadays.

When the time finally came, I didn't feel anything. It was just getting on a plane and getting a new house. When we had finally gotten settled school had already started. School was pretty much how I expected it to be. It was still pretty much the same as regular schools, except for the nice buses. By the time the first week had ended I had found some people I could hang out with. School and homework was relatively easy to keep up with. Here I am now, just doing a homework assignment. Living in a military community wasn't much different from life before. It was to go to school, do homework, and play games. Although it seems like it would be much different, it's not. There's my story, living in a military community, and it's almost the same as living outside of one.

– Daniel Wilson, 6th grade

Being a part of a military community it is a gift because it means my dad works for the government and it provides everything like schools, PX, Commissary, and etc. I have a great school since I have lots of good friends and gives me a great education. If I wasn't in the military community, I'd have to be in a Korean school, which makes me basically have no reason to use English and I would not have any American friends. When I first was in Korea the first military base school I attended was at Camp Humphreys then I moved to

Daegu where I made lots of friends. After being in Daegu for 2 years, we are back at Humphreys. I'm enjoying my life right now because I'm seeing the old house I lived in when I was 1st grade, and seeing how things changed and stayed the same.

– Darren Kim, 6th grade

Being a part of a military community has changed my life in many ways, good and bad. Some good things are that it has given my family and I many new opportunities and experiences, though it has been hard living away from family but the DODEA schools have counselors so I have been able to express my feelings. Another thing that has been hard is friends moving away. I have been able to have some very close friendships with a couple people but then they move away, but then again there are many ways to find new friends like going to the teen center or joining a club. These things are all accessible to us. I love living in Korea. It is amazing with so many things to do. I wonder where I'll be going next.

– Rosalyn Weber, 6th grade

When my dad first joined the military we had to move to Texas, and I made some good friends there, my first friend's name was Cade, sometimes we'd go to each other's houses to play. I did pre-k in English and we had a worm pool that I loved to play in during free time. I had many friends that I really miss now. After I did my homework I would play video games until it was my bedtime. During the summer I went swimming a lot, it was really hot in Texas, sometimes it would get past 100 degrees Fahrenheit! After we went swimming in summer it was time to go back to school, I was excited yet worried because I was going to be taking Spanish and I didn't know any Spanish words except for the word 'Hola'.

On the first day of school I wasn't worried anymore, some students from pre-k were in kindergarten with me and my teacher was really nice. In kindergarten everything I did I got a 100 on it, for me it was easy because of the previous school year which prepared me for this school year. Near the middle of my kindergarten year, we moved out of our old house and into a bigger house, it was pink and had a big backyard and I had a big bedroom that was painted green that had cd's on the closet door. In the summer we went on trips to the ocean with my grandma and grandpa when they came to visit me. One summer I went to my grandma and grandpa's house. I wanted my mom to come, but she had to stay home because she was going to have a baby. When my family and I returned back from my grandma's house I came home to a new baby brother. The new baby brother meant I had to share a room. I did not want to share a room with my new baby brother because I already had a brother in my room and that was enough for me.

My time in Texas and in early school was great. I learned a lot of Spanish in kindergarten and first grade. I learned how to read,

write and speak Spanish, my favorite letter in Spanish was 'ñ'. Most of all of the places we've been I loved my time in Texas!

– Ben Partridge, 6th grade

Life as a military kid has many ups and downs. It just depends on how you look at it. If you enjoy traveling the world and can move on from others and look on the "bright side" you can enjoy the travel. Leaving friends who have been through a lot with you is hard to take. If one thing is for sure it's nice to be able to travel and learn about all these cultures with people you could end up having a true bond with. The one thing everyone hates about being military is that when you move overseas and one of your close friends or family has something happen and you can't do anything to help. We all get used to that and that's when we see the bright side of this new place we're in and end up enjoying it until it's time to move to our next home, we move out, or our parents retire.

My time as a military kid has been filled with stress, anger, sadness, joy, and amazement. I've been in Texas, Okinawa, and Korea. My favorite is easily Texas. I've met so many great people through football and school and no matter where we are in the world we would always have each others' backs. If there was one thing I learned from my friends in Texas it's that people will come and go but the bond with them never will.

– Dylan High, 8th grade

Have you had to move three times from state to state or even to a different country in only eight years? I bet not, but I have. I have been to Texas and Virginia, and I currently live overseas in Korea. The journey started for me when my dad told me that we're moving because that's how the military is. I was five years old when I was told and I am now thirteen. I wasn't so happy when I heard the news but now that I'm used to it. I am always excited to move around. I think the reason for that is I love new adventures and meeting new people.

I currently live in Korea. I never thought that I would live overseas at a very young age but it happened because of the military. The plane rides were long but it was a good experience. When I moved here, I stayed in lodging for at least ten days then moved into a house off post. It wasn't my first house off post but it's different from a normal house. I moved into a villa type of home. There are four buildings with only three floors and I'm happy to say, we are a close community. I live about fifteen minutes away from the post. My school is great and I made friends quickly, just like my other two schools. Although at the moment, I'm not going to school because of the coronavirus so I do have to work from home which is fine with

See more Humphreys Middle School on Page 6



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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.”

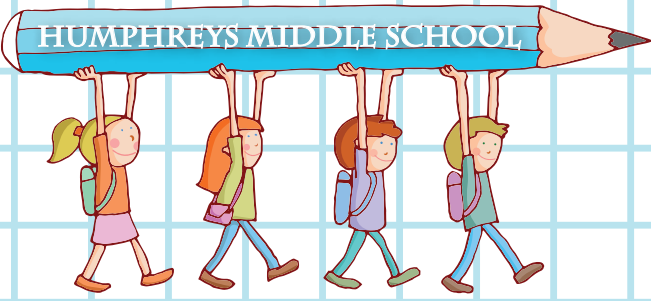
Quinn Borders

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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.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

me. I'd say the virus, air quality, and how far places are here are the only negative parts to this place. Everything else is pretty great. I have been living here for fifteen months but I'm moving in about five months to Washington State. I love being a military child though it's not always easy, it made me become who I am today.

– Victoria Cabo-Schultz, 8th grade

I remember the day when my parents came to me and said there is a possible chance we are going to move to South Korea. I looked at them extremely surprised and I tried to hold back my tears. I lived in Florida all my life because I had the luxury of not having to move. My dad worked on a Navy base in Florida as a civilian and we never had to move. I thought he loved his job at the base. I remember him always applying for jobs overseas so he could provide my sister and me with a great experience. He applied for jobs in Europe and in Asia. I never thought that we would actually move overseas. When he told me, he seemed so excited. I thought how could he be so excited when I would have to leave the only home I have ever known?

A couple weeks before I moved, I only spent time with family and friends. It still didn't feel like I was moving to Korea. The

Saturday before we moved, it was time to say goodbye to my favorite cousins. We were outside a restaurant when we said goodbye. I didn't think it would be this hard to say goodbye to them. I tried to hold back tears while saying goodbye but I couldn't. All of the memories that I made with my cousins were flooding into my head. I couldn't say goodbye. I wanted to stay with them forever. They got in their car and left. That was it. I wasn't going to see them for a long time. It hurt to realize that but I had to move on.

I woke up the next morning very scared because I knew what was going to happen. It was time to move. I tried to think about it in a positive way but the only thing I could think about was how I am being plucked out of my only home and moving to a foreign country. I have never been out of the United States. My grandparents were coming over to help get the last of the little things out of our home. We eventually arrived at the airport and said goodbye to my grandparents. My family and I then went inside the airport and went to our plane. I had never been on a plane before. We flew from Florida to Seattle because we were going to spend a week in Seattle because we have never been there. After visiting Seattle, we woke up at 3 in the morning and left to go to the airport. It was time to leave the country. We got on our plane and left to go to South Korea. After a very long plane ride, we landed in South

Korea. At first, my dad and I didn't like it here. He thought he made a bad decision. My mom was the one to always tell us that it will get better and this was a great decision. This whole idea eventually got better.

After a few weeks of being at the Camp Humphreys base in South Korea, it was only a little better. We had to live in lodging during Christmas and we had no Christmas decorations in our room. I thought it was the worst Christmas I have ever had. My family and I didn't do anything for Christmas that year and we had no family. A couple weeks later it was a new year, 2020. We finally got our own home. I was so happy that I would have my own room again. School on Camp Humphreys was getting better. I finally got into the routine of things at school and I made some new friends. I began to get very comfortable in our new home. Now, it has been about three months since we got to Korea and I am very happy that I am in Camp Humphreys even though I miss my family and friends.

– Abigail Haugen, 8th grade

I've been a "military brat" my whole life and I'm glad to be one. There are many good things about being a military child such as going to new places and things like that. However, there are also times where I wish I wasn't. Before I moved to Korea, my dad was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, but we lived off-post in Clarksville. I was absolutely terrified because it was my first time going to a school that wasn't in a military base. After a few days, I got used to it, and it turned out to be one of the most memorable experiences I've ever had.

Before Clarksville, I was in Hawaii and I started school there so the thought of going to a new school made me nervous. I was always shy and wasn't interested in talking to new people. In fact, meeting new people

Humphreys Middle School

Ms. Lamblin

scared me to death. The night before my first day at a new school, I couldn't stop thinking about what might happen. "What will they think of me?" "Will I be able to make any new friends," I thought. Then, it was the next day. I got ready and was headed to the school. I was in the car and my mind was full of so many thoughts. "Am I really going to a new school?" I kept thinking. The car stopped in the parking lot of a big brick building, and it was time for me to start my new journey.

My dad and I started walking towards the building. We opened the door to get into the office. Once we walked in, the lady on the front greeted us and my dad told her it was my first day there. She got up from her desk and led my dad and I to my classroom. I was so nervous. As we walked in the empty hallway with blue painted walls, my heart would beat faster and faster after every step I took. I thought my heart was going to explode. The office lady suddenly stopped in front of us and looked to her right. There was a door that said "Mrs. Turner's Third Grade Class!" on it. The office lady knocked on the door and a student opened it.

"Mrs. Turner, I think the new student is here," said the student. A few seconds later, a woman came to the door. "Here's your

new student, Mrs. Turner," the office lady said as we walked through the door. The office lady and my dad went back to the office. The teacher reached for a handshake and my hands were shaking as I reached for hers. "Hi! I'm your new teacher, Mrs. Turner," she said "What is yours?" "Hi," I said with a shaky voice. "My name is Jean Weilbacher." We walked into the classroom and every student's head looked up at me. I started to heat up because of how embarrassed I felt. Mrs. Turner looked around for an empty seat and put me next to a group of students. There were only three of them. One was a girl with straight brown hair, one was another girl that had curly black hair and blue glasses, and one was a boy with straight blonde hair. As I walked to the seat, the other students were still staring at me, some of them were whispering something to their friends while staring. It only took a few steps to get to the seat, but time was going so slow that it felt like I was walking in slow motion.

When I finally got to the seat, the group looked up from their desks. I didn't know what to say so I simply smiled at them and put my things down. Once I sat down the girl with red hair introduced herself. "Hi! I'm Natalie!" She had a cheerful voice. She pointed at the girl with blue glasses. "This is Lana. She may look mean but she's very sweet." "And this is Hayden. He's really shy when he meets new people but once you get to know him, he can be really talkative." He looked up from his work with a confused face. "What are you talking about? I'm not shy at all." Lana started to laugh. "She was obviously kidding. But she wasn't lying about the talkative part." We all laughed and Hayden asked for my name. All three of them stared at me with wide eyes waiting for a name. "I'm Jean." I said with a smile. "Do you want to be our friend? You can sit with us at lunch and play with us during



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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

recess!" Natalie said excitedly. I looked at Lana and Hayden to see if they were okay with the idea and they both nodded aggressively. "Sure! I'd love that." I said.

One of the best things about being a military child is building new great friendships. Natalie, Lana, Hayden and I all stayed as friends and still hung out with each other from third grade to middle school. Unfortunately, I had to move but we're still contacting each other now. I'm so thankful to be a military brat!

– Jean Weillbacher, 8th grade

Being a part of a military family can be pretty exciting. But can be really rough and can greatly affect your life in positive and negative ways. So far my life as a military child has been really good and fun. But then again, there were a few downsides to my military child life. You get a lot of new and exciting opportunities in your life.

Traveling and moving has had a great impact on my life, I didn't really like it. It was hard because when I had to move, I had to leave behind all my friends that I knew and the fun places that I have been to. It was hard for me to make friends when I moved, I also had to start learning a new language (English), it was different from the languages I grew up with and already knew. On the bright side, I am now able to speak 4 different languages which can really help me in my career. I get to discover new places and explore different cultures. Sooner or later, I had actually made better and newer friends.

The new school I went to here in Korea was better than my last school; the teachers and students are nice. We have many fun activities like school dances and after school clubs. I wasn't very happy back at the 2nd place I lived. But I then moved here and noticed that I had a chance to

start over and make better decisions. Being a military child isn't all that bad and it's actually an amazing opportunity to be one.

– Stella Laureano Mendez, 8th grade

Here I was nervous for school to begin. Now you may ask, why? Well you see my dad is in the military.

We have to move from a state or country every three years or so, and it's not easy to move. You have to go to a new school, get a new house, you basically have to get a new everything. The reason I'm so nervous for school to begin is that I don't know anybody there, I'm completely new. I thought to myself, What if no one likes me and then I get made fun of. Silly me I'm sure that won't happen.

It was time. We went to school. That's when the butterflies started coming, even worse than before. I was only in third grade at that time. We got to school and went inside. I took a big gulp. The good thing was that it was the first day of school for anyone, and we had to go into a gym and wait for our teachers with your classmates.

We waited for a couple minutes. I was just sitting there with butterflies in my

stomach. That's when I saw my teacher. She told the class to stand up and we all stood up and went to the classroom. This girl came up to me and said "Hi." Her name was Alexandra. She was really nice. She showed me the third grade hallway. I was more relaxed and wasn't nervous after all. I still missed my other friends though. I talked to friends on the phone which was nice.

– Camila Jaramillo, 6th grade

Being a military brat will forever be my pride and joy. I've been around the military world my whole life and I wouldn't change a thing. I get to tell everyone all about the experiences I've been able to see all while being so young. I love making new friends and getting to move all around the world, and it's all because my dad wakes up at five in the morning every day and puts on his old boots, just to fight for everyone's freedom. My family and I are very close because we've always had each other through all of our moving. No matter where we end up going, we have each other. I'm always very sad when we get told we have to move again, but I remember that I get to make a whole new set of friends with a new best friend and I get happy again. I get to see new people, and I get to live in a brand new place, which is something the average kid doesn't get to do. One thing I hate the most is having to go to a new school and being the "new kid." Everyone talks about you and stares, especially when you go to a school off base. They don't know what we go through and some of them don't even care to ask. I've always thought of us military brats as a special bunch. I learned that the flower that represents us is the dandelion. Much like a dandelion when it blows away in the wind and replants itself, us military brats are able to get up and move and root ourselves in a

new place without any problems. We pack up our house and get ready for a whole new adventure. We are strong. We have our own special beauty. We are resilient. We survive. WE are military brats.

– Abigail Cook, 6th grade

My family has been relocated a dozen times and will be relocated to somewhere again soon. Past ten years in my life my family has moved four times that I know of. My mother says that I am in a special circumstance because my father serves in the U.S. Army and his job requires the family to move regularly. While my family frequently moves to different locations in the world, I have experienced my life learning different languages and cultures, which helped me to understand many aspects of intercultural society.

I was born in the year 2008 while my father was serving as an officer in the United States Army under overseas duty assignment in South Korea. I went to a preschool in South Korea and the school teachers taught all lessons in Korean language. I had a chance to make a few local Korean friends in school, which helped me expand my Korean language skills and also learned many different aspects of Korean culture. In early 2013, my father received a military Permanent Change of Station (PCS) order to move back to America.

My family and I moved to the state of Maryland in March 2013. My first year in Maryland, I didn't understand anything that was in the world of America, which was a cultural shock for me. Soon as I landed in Maryland, I was excited even though I couldn't understand anything because everything looked much different from Korea. A few weeks after my family had settled down my parents told me that I had

to go to American school, which I thought would be fun. The school that I went to was called College Gardens Elementary School located in Rockville, Maryland. The first day of school went pretty well but the problem began on the second day. Sure enough, the second day was not fun at all. I couldn't understand what my teacher was saying but at the same time my teacher couldn't understand what I was saying. It was hard to overcome the cultural shock and the language barrier. Thus, I decided to focus on learning English, and a few months after, I was able to communicate with my teacher and classmates. My language skills became much better as I tried hard and I made a few good friends in school. A year after I arrived in Rockville, my family moved to a different city in Maryland called Elkridge. Elkridge was about an hour away from Rockville so it wasn't too far away. I began attending Rockburn Elementary School in Elkridge and I enjoyed the school a lot. While I was living in Elkridge my mom suggested that I should participate in Taekwondo martial art program. I went to Taekwondo lessons almost every day and very much enjoyed it.

In March 2016, my father, once again, received a PCS order to go to Yongsan Korea. My family and I moved from Maryland to Korea and I was fully adapted to American language and culture. I entered the Seoul American Elementary School as a second grader and it was fun. I began to know my relatives in Korea and they were new to me. I learned the Korean language and culture as a real experience living in Korea. In February 2018, my father, once



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

again, received a PCS order to move to Pyeongtaek, Korea. Pyeongtaek is located about 50 miles south from Seoul. I began to attend Humphreys West Elementary School and entered the Humphreys Middle School last fall.

My father expects to receive another PCS order going back to America soon. I enjoy learning Korean culture and language, which are very important in my life. I sure will apply my learned values from Korea to next location in America. I also believe that I'm a lucky person that was able to go through real experience living in overseas with different culture and language.

– Jerry Kim, 6th grade

I am here in South Korea. The military base is Camp Humphreys and I go to Humphreys Middle School. I would like to say that having parents who are serving our nation is incredible. You should always be grateful you have parents like this. Not everybody gets a chance to have experiences like we do so don't take it for granted. When you move you will like it, it isn't all bad. Think of it as an adventure. Go Have An Adventure. Now's Your Chance!

– Kayla Riley, 6th grade

As a military kid, I am not excited when it is time to move. I get the feeling of not wanting to leave family and friends and then I get to my other location and make new friends and love it there. So for those of you who have seen the movie "Inside Out," it is kind of like that. You make great friends, then you're forced to move away. You don't like the new town, then you make new friends and decorate your new home and everything is normal again.

The way a person feels depends on the person. If the person likes moving to different places and meeting new people then they should be just fine. If the person doesn't like moving from place to place then they will say they are fine, but actually aren't fine and are very sad. For me I'm a little bit of both; I don't like moving away from my friends and/or family, but I like meeting new people and trying new things.

– Samantha McCullough, 6th grade

Humphreys Middle School

Ms. Lamblin

No one likes it when your parent goes away, even on Temporary Duty. They leave for 2-4 weeks and you miss them. And then, that moment comes along, when they come up to the door and walk in. Most people probably greet their parent with "I missed you" or "glad to have you back", but me and my sisters would do something different. We would wait on the staircase, and when our dad walks through the door... we would shoot him with nerf guns.

It became a tradition after the first few times, and it was plainly obvious that we were going to be there, but it was still fun. Besides, this was the one exception mom made to the "no shooting nerf guns in the house" rule, and we didn't want to waste it. It made the two weeks of him being gone worth it. Dad would always act surprised that we would ambush him.

Although, there was one time where we really surprised dad. My older sister and I ambushed our dad in the entryway, as usual. After shooting him up pretty good, we then told him that we were done, so he walked into the living room looking for our mom. When he opened the door, he got pelted with nerf darts. My mom and younger sister had set up the turret in the living room to catch dad off guard when he walked in. The expression on his face was priceless, it was truly a memory to cherish.

If you have a parent that goes on Temporary leave a lot, why don't you try doing something different when greeting them. It's much more fun.

– Kairi Hall, 6th grade

Life gets harder because more people get in the way of your feelings.

We have to move from place to place because my dad gets orders to move. This

is bad because we lose friends. I lost my friend, Santos, because my dad had to move to Korea and we ended up losing his contact because I got a new phone. Santos was a friend that came to most of my parties. We usually rode bikes and fixed up some cars together; we played Nerf Wars and started a lemonade business.

Santos and I left each other in fourth grade. I have a new friend now but know when we move I will lose him too. Then I will make more friends because that's the circle of life as an Army kid. I have fun meeting new people but have a hard time forgetting them. Sometimes I get shy but then I get used to it. I usually have fun then I get bored so I try to have fun with new people and sometimes it starts bad and then gets better.

Here in Korea everything is hard but there are a lot of people who like listening to Kpop. I don't like it but some people do. I listen to some good songs and I like to sing them. It is nice here in Korea; the schools are nothing like the state schools --more easier to understand. There are buffets, BBQ, and Korean restaurants and lots of things that are new in the world.

– Xzavier Degrasse, 6th grade

These are some pros and cons about being in the military. First I'm going to do the Pros. The pros about being in the military, is that I get to see more of the world than children that aren't in the military get to. I get to meet new and different people. I also get the chance to see other places that I thought I would never see. Sometimes I enjoy the military because I get to see new things.

Of course there are some cons about being in the military. All the time, we have to move and have to leave friends and have to say goodbye to the one place that we called home for about 2-3 years. We also have to adapt to new roads, new houses, and new kinds of people. You might also have to leave places you might have not gone to and wanted to.

When I was younger, I was about 3-4 years old, I was in Louisiana Fort Polk. I really liked it there other than all the bugs during the summer. I had a lot of friends and got to play outside and had a really good time. Then when we were moving, I didn't even get to say goodbye to my friends. I didn't get to even see them! It was

very sad. I missed all the restaurants there, the pools, and most of all my neighborhood. It was very very sad. Then of course we moved and it was exciting to see where we would live.

Our next destination was Red stone, Alabama. We met all kinds of nice people, I played baseball, soccer, and a lot of fun sports. I was about 6-7 years old in Alabama. Then when we finally got into our new house, friendly neighbors came and introduced them to us. They were very nice and we became friends. Then they moved about 4 months into living in Alabama. It was actually really sad. Then we really didn't go outside and play that much anymore. But of course I went to school and made a lot of new friends. But there was this mean girl in school. Her name was Monti. She used to sit next to me and would kick my foot that had a cast! But then she was nice to me when I was moving. But of course, MOVING!! After of course we moved to Korea and I really love it here but we will have to move back to the states.

Our next destination, is San Antonio, Texas.

– Samantha Recheungel, 6th grade



As a military child I move all the time. I've moved seven times in my life. Every time I move, I feel sad because I have to say goodbye to my friends. My life is disrupted every time we move as well. The one thing that's kept me happy is how much I love building legos.

Our most recent move was from Georgia to South Korea. I was at school when the movers packed up my legos. My mom didn't see them pack because she was in

another part of the house trying to sell the house. Somehow, the movers didn't realize how important my legos were to me.

When we got to South Korea and moved into our new house, the movers brought in my legos while I was at school. When I got home from school that day, and I walked up my stairs, I saw all my legos in the bottom of boxes and some big bags. My First Order Star Destroyer, Hogwarts Castle, and Kylo Ren's TIE Silencer were all destroyed. I was devastated from seeing them destroyed. All the hard work I put into them, they took me HOURS to build and just seeing them there, right in front of my very eyes, broke far beyond my ability to fix them. It was shocking.

The movers even put a BOWLING PIN in the box with my legos. I got the bowling pin at my 6th birthday party with my friends' signatures on it, so I wanted to keep it. When the movers put the bowling pin in the box of legos it acted like a WRECKING BALL, destroying the Star Destroyer, crumpling into over 1400 pieces, beyond my ability to repair it. I was mad and I felt helpless. I had NO control to fix it.

Right now I'm working on fixing all the lego sets that broke, including the ones I didn't mention. I've finished repairing Kylo Ren's TIE Silencer, Hogwarts Castle, First Order AT-M6, Lego Nexo Knights Merlok's Library, Resistance Troop Transporter Set, Creator Mighty Dinosaurs, Star Wars First Order Battle Pack, Star Wars Resistance Trooper Battle Pack, and a WHOLE LOT MORE.

Overall, this was pretty shocking when I first found out. However, once I calmed down, I was able to rebuild many sets or just used the parts to make something new. This experience taught me that I can overcome any obstacle if I am determined enough. Overall, this is a small aspect of being part of a military family, but it is big in my world right now.

– Dalton Parham, 6th grade Being in the military community makes me kind of happy. I get to move to different places and try different kinds of food. The part that I don't like is that I have to leave my old friends behind and move to a new place that is unfamiliar. Also the time zone changes, making my sleep schedule a bit off. So the first couple days in a new country I have to stay awake all day so I could get adjusted. It's also nice to be in a military community

Military spouses able to beat the odds

Two months into 2020, statistics dictate that most people have already given up on their New Year's resolutions. Sadly, only about 6 or 7 percent who make resolutions attain their goals. I've always been a resolution-maker and a yo-yo dieter, so I am forever making plans to lose 10 pounds, then breaking them.

But one year, I made a resolution that would take me a decade to achieve.

In 2010, our family was stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, where I made a New Year's resolution to submit essays I had written two years prior to newspaper editors. I had written about parenting, marriage and military life to relieve my own stress during my husband's yearlong deployment, and my essays had been sitting in a folder on my computer ever since. "I should finally do something with these," I thought.

I googled how to submit essays to newspaper editors, and flying by the seat of my

The Meat and Potatoes of Life

Lisa Smith Molinari



double-digit-sized pants, I wrote to them and hit send.

In my mind, my goal had been achieved. I had done my research, conquered my fear, and put myself out there.

Problem was, my essay got published.

My uncle called from the States two weeks after my submission to tell me that he was reading my essay in The Washington Post. I was stunned. "Now what?" I wondered.

Having struggled with self-confidence most of my life, and having left my legal career to manage our military family, I was so focused on getting over my fear of submitting my writing

for scrutiny, I never stopped to think about what I would do if someone actually liked it. I didn't know much about the industry, but I knew that I couldn't waste the unique opportunity The Washington Post byline had given me. So, I continued researching, started a blog, created a column, reached out to other writers, pitched my work to countless editors, read my columns in public, joined writers' groups, and became intimately familiar with the feeling of rejection.

That resolution in 2010 followed its logical course — my original goal to simply submit my writing became my goal to

publish an essay, which became my goal to be a columnist, which became my goal to syndicate, and so on and so on, until my goal morphed into one that many Americans have — to publish a book.

I had no business thinking that, just because I wrote a weekly column, I could publish a book. Although electronic self-publishing has made it easier to publish, it's harder to be successful at it. According to Publisher's Weekly, the average book sells less than 500 copies.

Facing these horrendous odds, I forged ahead with my plan to publish a book. Really?

Insane, I'll admit. But not only did I finish my manuscript, I signed a book contract, too.

That 2010 New Year's resolution I made to "put myself out there" took me 10 years to accomplish, but I did it despite every probability against me — a stay-at-home military spouse and mother of three, moving every few years, with no inside contacts and no previous experience

in the publishing industry. Other military spouse authors set terrific examples — Corie Weathers, Siobhan Falls, Alison Buckholtz, El Brown, Tara Crooks, Rebecca Yarros, Terri Barnes, Kristine Schellhaas and Jocelyn Green, to name only a few.

My book, "The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com," will be released on May 1, one week before Military Spouse Appreciation Day. So apropos, because I credit my accomplishment as a book author to having been a military spouse.

Ours is a unique lifestyle that fosters independence, resourcefulness, determination and guts. I may never lose that 10 pounds, but being a military spouse gave me the skills I needed to beat impossible odds and achieve something precious, rare and meaningful. Of that, I am eternally grateful and proud.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at:
themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@
gmail.com

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

because people know how it feels leaving a home and friend behind so you won't think you're the only one that is sad about it. Also when I was younger my dad would go on business trips leaving mom, my brothers and me at home. I really missed my dad when he was gone. This is how I feel living in a military community.

– Antonius Vasser, 6th grade

I am a military kid because my mom saw an opportunity to improve our lives. My mom decided to take the job because she wanted to provide for me. Even though we moved a couple of times, I still was able to make friends. I liked moving when I was younger because I could start fresh everywhere I moved. Moving to Korea helped expand my vocabulary and new foods. Overall I've had a lot of exposure to different cultures.

Now that my mom is making more money, she gives an allowance. Now I have pocket money and a bank account to save for college or emergencies. My mom likes her job better now than before but still wants to get better jobs in the future. When I go back to the states, everyone is interested in hearing about what it's like. In school here, I have learned how to program in my robotics class. Living in Korea, the crime rate is low so I feel even safer here than I did before. I also really like the food; I loved it from the first time I tried it. Here in Korea, my teachers push me to be the best I can be.

My schoolwork is harder now than it used to be. My old schools were more hands-on, but now my school is more writing. Some of my classes here have taught me how to be independent and a problem solver. I have had a hard time here with kids being rude at school. The air quality makes it hard to play outside. I used to take golfing lessons at a clubhouse and I was really good at it, but I haven't gone for a long time. I used to be able to go to the mall whenever I was free but now because of coronavirus, I have to be more careful.

In conclusion, it's good to be a military kid but it can be really challenging sometimes. I like that my mom has a better job and we get to travel. I think other kids who are moving in the military should do research about the new place first, but moving can be fun. Overall, being a military kid is a really fun experience that I can share with other people.

– Blair Morrison, 6th grade

It is hard being a military child and always moving around, granted I've only lived overseas once and that's here, in Korea. I still don't enjoy moving that much. Moving is hard since once I make friends for two years then I leave. I honestly like it here in Korea. I have really good friends, an amazing girlfriend, and it's fun being on base and being able to walk all over the place. In North Carolina, I had lots of good friends and close family and it was hard saying goodbye to them, especially since I was going to be overseas and wouldn't be able to talk as much as we used to in the States. My friends back in the states were really funny and close by so we always hung out. I knew it was going to be hard to make new friends here since I didn't know a single thing about Korea. I also knew no one and I have a tendency to alienate myself from people I don't know.

Since I became older I realized how hard it is moving around, but when I was younger I was usually very excited and want to meet as many new friends as possible. In middle school and high school, anxiety and fear of being judged stops people from going out and talking to people. It's way harder to make new friends and meet people in middle school. I hated going to school for the first two months. Now I realized it's best to go out and try to meet new friends since the worst that can happen is that both you and them won't hit it off. I figure it's better to try and fail, than to not try at all.

– Adrian Caceres-Rodriguez, 8th grade

Being a military child has its pros and cons. A pro is that I have traveled to many different places such as Japan, Korea, and other places people wish they can travel to. I also have a lot of friends in different areas, and I have also experienced many different activities such as camping, animal feeding, surfing, and a lot more fun activities. Now, there are a lot of cons when it comes to being a military child. For instance, we have to move a lot, we have to move away from all of our close friends and sometimes even our families. I have been moving every 1 year, and it's really sad and frustrating, but I've gotten used to it. By enjoying my time wherever I'm at, and leaving knowing I will always have friends in that area.

My time in Okinawa Japan was full of unknowns and treasures. Before I moved to Okinawa, I was first stationed in Florida. I wasn't at all excited about going to Japan after all of the legends I heard about the area. Like how it would be very humid almost all year, and how there were a lot of dangerous creatures. I remember when I first arrived in Okinawa, it was very humid and according to my Auntie (who was living there for awhile) the dangerous creatures were on that island. I hated living there already, my first day of school was really sad because I had no one who tried to become my friend, and it seemed like everyone in that school was very close. I felt really left out, but then I started making friends with some people in my classes so I hung out with them for a while. I felt very happy because I finally found a lot of friends. The best part was that I had friends all over the place. In my neighborhood, friends off base, and I even made friends with people at my Dojo (my Jiu-Jitsu dojo). I absolutely loved it there, because it turns out, besides all the humidity and dangerous creatures that were in Okinawa, I still had many things to do that kept me distracted from all the bad things. But, unfortunately I moved after a year in Okinawa. To be honest I think that move was one of the hardest moves I've ever experienced. I would tell young military children that moving may be sad, but to remember that you will always have your memories and friends to stay connected.

– Nyzel Fagaragan, 8th grade

My experience as a military child is hard, considering that I have to move over and over again, as in I have to make new friends almost every year. It is also hard because I have to be without a dad for years. When he goes to the field, and that same thought every day, that, "What if" always scares me. The thing that is kind of good is, for the most part, free education. I love how my step dad is respected for what he does and that we have a roof over our head at all times.

– Jovany Nunez, 6th grade

Being a military kid is hard because not staying in one place keeps me from calling one place, "home," but the good things are you get to meet new people and friends, and learn about cultures.

When I left the United States it was super hard leaving behind my friends. I said in my head, "I can make friends really fast." It is easy because I am a military kid and I do this all the time. So, sometimes I want to move because I do not like the school or the house. The bad things are when my mom or dad have to go to the field or get deployed, and I can not see them for a while; so there is always one parent at the house with kids and I have to help out.

When I go to a different place like South Korea I get to learn a new culture and a new language. I have learned a lot of new languages because of traveling to new places in the world. It is a hard thing for some of the people who do not know English so it is hard to talk with them. One of best friends is Google translate.

– Andres Caceres-Rodriguez, 6th grade

As a military child, my favorite part is that I get to travel. Traveling has been a huge part of my life, usually traveling overseas. I love the plane because you get to see nice views, (if you have a window seat which I've always gotten) you get delicious meals every time, and the flight attendants are the kindest people you can meet. Though the flight is amazing, I even love getting to the airport! When we first arrive we are greeted with the best architecture I've ever seen. There's always super cool technological stuff and moving sidewalks, to be honest, that right there is someone's dream. Just imagine, every day instead of walking you get to glide across the floor.

Traveling is fun but can get boring at times. For example, when you have to wait in a long line to get scanned or when your plane has been delayed an hour. Yes, this has all happened to my family and me on vacations and it was irritating. One thing that I also dislike is the drive from and leaving the airport. I usually fall asleep at the 30 minute point. However, in the end, traveling is a fun experience. It gives me new things to try out every time. I hope when I leave Korea I get to live in another place overseas where I can enjoy more Asian culture.

– Makayla Buffum, 6th grade

My favorite thing about being a military child is all the traveling we do as a family. Especially if we're moving some where new or it is overseas. I really like staying somewhere different even though it's just one night. I know you're probably asking "Well what other things do you like about traveling?"

First thing is the culture like the food, the people and the customs. When we travel overseas we get exposed to different kinds of food and it's usually delicious and sometimes it's very healthy. Usually the majority of people are very kind. The locals, tour guides, waiters/waitresses all share their own personality. The art usually has a meaning behind it and it's usually very old. All of these aspects of being a military child help make my life very exciting.

– Hayden Buffum, 6th grade

Do you know how it feels when you move away from everything you know? Being a military kid can be tough sometimes. You leave everything behind and have to adapt to a completely new environment. You don't know anything and have to start over. The most part I miss is the friends I made.

I remember when I met my friends in 5th grade, after moving. I sat down at an empty desk on the first day of school and waited for the teacher to come. He did, and introduced himself. (We did too). I noticed a girl I kind of knew at piano class, who talked to me sometimes and was friendly. I got through the day pretty quick, and the next few days as well. I didn't really talk to

anyone else because I was shy.

After a few weeks, the girl I met at piano talked to me. We talked for a little for the next week and became friends, kind of. Sometime later, I talked with one of the other quieter girls in my class at recess. We got to know each other better, but didn't really talk much after that. Sometimes we did, sometimes not. I still talked to the girl from piano class, though not every day. We became closer. What I didn't know was that she was trying to be friends with the other quiet girl.

Another few weeks passed by, and a boy in my class moved. His friend was pretty nice, and we gradually talked, more and more. Soon, we became friends- worked together, played at recess together, and sat near each other. (There was also a group of girls I played with at recess sometimes). I talked with him most of the time. He was the first friend I made in 5th grade.

Around this time, a group of girls invited me to their lunch table, and I sat there pretty much every day. But one day, the girl from piano class invited me to her table, where the quieter students sat. I talked with her and we became friends too. She introduced me to the quiet girl I had talked to at recess that one day, and we started to become friends too. Soon, we were the best of friends. I was finally adjusting to my new life here, after moving. I talked less to my other friend, but we still talked.

So now, I sat with my two friends and we talked and laughed every day. We ate lunch at the classroom, too, when the teacher allowed it. Often, after eating, we played a board game or just talked.

One day, my friend from piano announced something- that she was moving soon. My other friend and I were surprised and sad. Sometimes we didn't like us being in the military, because people like our friend moved. We spend the rest of the month trying to make the best out of our friend. The day she didn't come to school was sad, but we still talked on something called Google Hangouts. After she moved, my other friend became closer to me, and so did I. We still did everything we did before, but just without our other friend. We drew pictures, talked, and visited each other's houses. For the rest of the year, I would only have this friend.

For the next few months, everything went pretty well. I had my friends, and we laughed and talked every single school day. Soon, it was the end of the year and we said bye. We stayed in contact and remained friends. Both of us even joined an art class together, we both liked art and it was fun. My friend and I knew we would see each other again in 6th grade, a day that seemed far away at that time, although I might move after that.

But for now, we still had time.

– Irena Eskew, 6th grade

It was Christmas morning, I was seven years old, and Santa had come. I rushed to wake up my brothers and

sisters. As we headed downstairs to see what he had left under the tree, my joy was suddenly overcome with sadness as I remembered that my dad was not here. He was in Afghanistan, and would miss this holiday like he had just missed my birthday and Thanksgiving.

Being a military child comes with both privileges and hardships. As now an eleven year old, I have lived in four states and two countries. I have been able to see the mountains in Texas, where I was born. I have also visited many beaches in the Carolinas. I was able to see the Statue of Liberty in person in New York City where my aunt, uncle, and two cousins live. We visited the arch in St. Louis, and got to see our favorite baseball team, the Boston Red Sox play the Cardinals. Now we are living in South Korea. We have visited many tourist attractions, and had many new cultural experiences. I have had the opportunity of being able to see the world, but also have two cousins that I have never met. I have made many new friends, some we even consider family. However as soon as we are used to one place, it is time to pick up and start all over again. New state, new house, new friends.

The life of a military child has both ups and downs, but I believe it has shaped me into the person who I am. I am resilient, adaptable, and courageous. While I don't get the freedom to grow up in the same town and go to the same school, I have been able to meet people all over the world. I have had more life experiences in eleven years than most adults have in a lifetime. I take advantage of everyday I get to spend with my dad, and nothing is taken for granted. Being a military child is about taking the good with the bad, and embracing every hardship as a new and exciting opportunity.

– Camren Therrien, 6th grade

I used to live in America. I lived in a safe little town, where we knew all our neighbors. I lived in Fort Bragg, which my mom and my dad didn't enjoy because it made my dad have to jump out of airplanes. However, I loved living there before I moved over to Korea. We had a two-story house, and I had many head injuries. I would soon learn not to try to stand under a counter's overhang. I would learn stitches were better than bleeding from my head. That injury was from me hitting the counter overhang. I also have a few scars from accidental injuries, like on the right side of my right elbow, or on my chin.

I haven't lived in America for five years, though I do remember I wasn't too upset- I take that back. I couldn't bring my German Shepherd mix, Athena, or my Husky, Venus, to South Korea. I cried as I gave Venus away, but not Athena, because she was with my grandma in Florida. It wasn't the fact that I had to move that made me upset. I had lived in Florida, Germany, and North Carolina. My brother was born in Germany, and my family visited Switzerland, Pisa in Italy, and Venice. It was leaving the house and my dogs that upset me.

I hated giving away my dogs. I hated leaving my house behind. I felt angry that I was moving. My mom said we couldn't have dogs. Though she was wrong because living with a dog actually made people like you even more. I told her nobody would care about the dogs, but we lived in Osan, in a hotel. Imagine living in a hotel, and you hear dogs running around right above you for the entire hotel experience. I've thought about getting my dog Athena back from my grandma, but recently her dog Bear died. I'll also be moving back to Fort Bragg, in the states. I've lived in South Korea for several years, and I still haven't been to Jeju Island or the DMZ. I hope that I get to go to one of those places before I return to North Carolina. I won't enjoy leaving the food in South Korea, but I will enjoy a taste of fresh air quality.

– LaShaun Turner, 6th grade



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Stop the Madness

C OVID-19 Go Away
 COVID-19 shutting down the schools
 COVID-19 keeping us inside
 COVID-19 making us wear masks

To prevent COVID-19,
 You must have good hygiene.

They shut down the schools and moved it online,
 This really isn't cool and the days are intertwined.
 We are kept inside,
 encouraged to keep a social distance,
 but my friendships are almost nonexistent.
 We are advised to wear masks
 Which can be a really big task.
 I hear it is even draining the economy
 And toilet paper is super low in inventory.
 I am over the Corona attack,
 I just want my life back.
 COVID-19 just please go away.
 - Kaden Michael, 6th grade

Be thankful

T he coronavirus is the worst thing that could happen to me.
 Yes, I thought it would be fun to see what home-school is like, but now I don't want to see my house ever again.
 People think that it's just a virus, so they go out without a mask, or don't wash their hands when they get home. They think that they are fine, which they are not.
 When they catch it, then here we go again with school being closed and maybe until the end.
 I now know what children that can't go to school feel like, because I feel trapped inside of my house, like I am in a mouse trap.
 I feel no fear but only anger because my grades go down- I don't get any direct instruction time.
 I only would say that I hate being at home, and yes hate is a strong word, but I think this is the perfect situation to use it in.
 I just want school to open so I don't have to stay in my house, even though I get to do school in my pajamas.
 People who are still in school and want to go home and wish they were home, I would tell them that they should be thankful that they don't have to be stuck in that middle of the coronavirus and that they should never complain anymore because... school is where I want to be right now.
 - Samantha Rechenguel, 6th grade

Coronavirus is cruel.

I t stops me from going to school.
 For kids its very scary.
 For adults its more to carry!
 Having a coronavirus nightmare.
 Gives us quite a scare.
 Being near the coronavirus gives me chill's.
 It prevents me from having a social skills.
 Everyday I would stare
 Wishing I could get some fresh air.
 Wearing a mask...
 Prevents me to ask.
 Why do you exist?
 What did we do to deserve this.
 This is all i ask
 Is to not where a mask .
 So find a cure super fast
 and have the virus come in last
 All we want is not to see the coronavirus on the run
 taking lives all it wants is not fun - for anyone
 Look in the mirror and what do you see?
 Coronavirus standing right behind you or me.
 The coronavirus is like an eagle
 hovering over us is just evil
 Stop virus you think its cool
 But it really just cruel
 so stop virus stop
 its not fun
 please
 stop.
 - Kayla Riley, 6th grade

The Virus Custody

F irst we get the message that school will be closed, and everyone was fine.
 Then as we know it school is closed for another week and everyone is scared.
 Next week we get the news that the numbers are growing on the people infected.
 When everyone realizes we are stuck in South Korea, they start to freak out.
 Everybody raids the commissary and the PX, leaving people to put limits on things.
 Trying to survive and protect ourselves every day from the Coronavirus.
 - Mikaila Ebbers, 6th grade

Corona Consequences

W hen I first heard the news of missing school because of the coronavirus it seemed like it would be fun. Not having to go to school just had to be better than going right? Apparently that was not the case. While we don't have to go to school, we still have to do work. I don't mind that we have to do work, but just doing work at home makes the work a whole lot more stressful. By the time 2 weeks had passed without going to school, I just wanted to go back. Yet here we still are, 4 weeks into being home-schooled. All I can really do is hope that school will resume soon as things have started to slow down here. It would be nice to be able to find and do your work without having to dig around to find your assignments. I'll just be anticipating when they say we're gonna go back to school again.

- Daniel Wilson, 6th grade

Troublesome

N o, school this week was great
 No, school next week was nice
 No, school next, NEXT week was troublesome
 The fear of getting sick, keeps me Isolated Inside
 The fear of the sick, who are slowly gonna die
 The worries of the school, brings out stress to the students
 The scientists try to find a cure, but can't find it in time
 I have to keep myself clean, to keep me from getting sick
 But 1 big mistake, can cause trouble for me all day
 If I am sick, I get taken away
 If I am not sick, I can stay home all day
 - Deion Liufau, 6th grade

Go away, corona

G o away, corona
 Don't make me check schoology twice
 Now I can't remember classmate's face
 Now my weight is gaining
 I cannot even go school
 Because of you
 Go away, corona

- Tae Yi, 6th grade

A t first, there were only 30 cases. The next day there is 100. Today, there are over .970 cases in just South Korea. My family has stayed, for weeks, locked up in our own homes, waiting for the virus to pass by. We have stocked up on food, on soap, on survival supplies. If we catch something, where will we go? The doctors, filled with the sick, will most likely get us more sick. The first 7 days-great. A week off of school. The second 7 days. This is nice. No school, but we are cooped up inside our homes, doing nothing of value to our lives.
 The weeks go by, and we receive online assignments. We are cooped up in our homes, eating nothing but what we have. We still haven't gone outside.

Weeks pass. Even the most school-hating introverts are getting upset. The numbers of deaths across the world rise drastically. The Corona spreads.

Everybody is paranoid that they will catch the Corona Virus. The virus creeps closer, daring us to step outside and get some exercise.

If we do, we know that it will soon be too late for our family.

People start to break, going outside. The virus spreads in our neighborhood, the world becomes overridden with the hungry virus that will seemingly never be full.

Terror spreads across the worlds. A short walk to take the trash to the disposal feels like a hard journey through a vampire city at night, or a walk through a lion-infested jungle.

The virus spreads, taunts you and the rest of the world with its fear-inducing symptoms, and everyone knows that they will never, NEVER, be completely safe.

- Georgina Aveson, 6th grade

How Lucky Are We

H ow Lucky Are We,
 With everything behind the door
 Isolated inside,
 When will we break free

The surreal cities
 Full with people that we see blind
 For having a mask isn't much
 Lucky to have a shield against the virus

Quiet counties
 With simple neighborhoods and farms
 With people wondering will it ever spread here,
 Lucky to be in a quiet area

This time of outbreak like zombies roaming
 Except not zombies but a virus
 So we are considering ourselves unlucky while really,

How Lucky Are We
 - Narine Plourde, 6th grade

Under Lock Down

W e all cannot go to school
 I thought no school would be fun
 However it is not because I cannot do anything until my homework is done
 We are under lockdown,
 We are under lockdown

It feels like my whole world is changing
 Our beautiful days are wasted,
 Our fun plans are canceled and redated
 I wish we could go back to school
 But we are under lock down

- Sophia Macayan, 6th grade

Fight Tonight

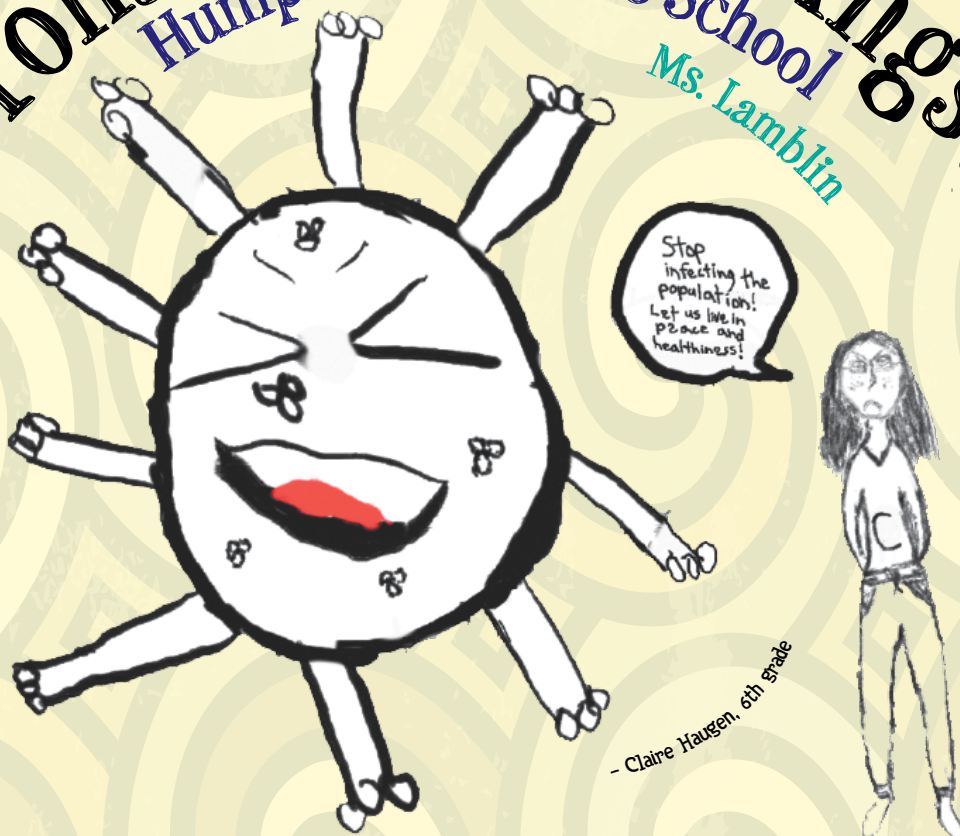
C orona, Corona,
 keeping us from the light,
 Giving students stress and giving them strife,
 Corona, Corona,
 leaving us scared at night,
 Keeping our posture
 to ...
 Fight Tonight

- Ezekiel Phillips, 6th grade

Coronavirus Ponderings

Humphreys Middle School

Ms. Lamblin



- Claire Haugen, 6th grade

UNRECOGNIZABLE

E verywhere I go
 I see a sea of masks
 It makes everything
 UNRECOGNIZABLE
 Instead of seeing lively smiles
 I see a mask
 hiding the lips that
 contain the smile
 Perhaps it is better than
 having the lips infected
 with corona
 But that doesn't mean
 the lips shouldn't smile
 Even under the mask
 I fantasize that everyone
 is actually smiling
 So that when corona is overcome
 and we can take the masks off
 Our world will be
 Once again
 RECOGNIZABLE
 - Anna Lamb, 6th grade

Coronavirus as a child

C oronavirus
 Coronavirus
 Shutting down
 Games, Stores, Schools
 Masks on every face
 People gone without a trace
 Places empty as fast as light
 Coronavirus
 Coronavirus
 Causing pain for all
 No play no fun
 Everyone gone
 Coronavirus
 Coronavirus
 Why can't you go
 Then school, games, stores
 Will open, so
 go away
 Coronavirus
 Be gone for good
 Go away
 Coronavirus
 And leave me be.

- Maddie Campos, 6th grade

THE VIRUS

T he virus is horrible
 The virus is keeping us from
 having fun
 It makes us have school
 online
 No one likes it
 The virus is bad
 It is creating horror to our lives
 Oh the virus
 Oh the virus
 Please cease to exist from our poor
 lives
 - Andrew Schlecht, 6th grade

Confused and worried

A t first it was in China, then spread across the globe.
 The number of infections has risen, including the death toll.
 Then it's here in Korea now and schools shut down.
 And here I am stuck in the middle of it, confused and worried.
 The online homework has piled up, I don't know what to do.
 All I'm hoping for is for this to end soon.
 There are cases in America, too.
 Where else is there to go, without having to wear a mask, wherever I go?
 Why does this thing exist? It's because of one bat.
 Why would anyone want to eat that?
 - Gage Snodgrass, 6th grade

Out the window

O ne day of no school i am fine
 Next day i am concerned
 Next week i am frustrated
 Week after i am panicking
 The walls are closing in
 I am still cooped up in
 The same habit of
 Click click,tick tick
 Where did the time go
 Out the window
 With everything i knew
 I was lost in the news
 Of Coronavirus
 And all the online school
 Lost with fear poking
 Where did everything go
 Where did the time go
 Where did my computer go
 Is it the afternoon already?
 My time out the window
 - Rebecca Mader, 6th grade



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Humphreys Middle School

Ms. Spires
6th Grade

The process of moving from South Korea has not been like any other move before. Every move is sad yes, but this is a bit more stressful. A few months ago my dad broke the news to me and my sister that we were moving to Okinawa for three years. We were going to leave the day after school ends. We made a plan that we were going to the U.S and visit family and close friends. Then a couple of months later the Coronavirus broke out. At first I didn't worry because it wasn't bad, but then Daegu had a huge burst of cases and school started to close and all of the sports for CYS cancelled. Then President Trump made a travel ban from the U.S to Korea and vice versa. The garrison recommended not going off base and a lot of travel was being restricted. So when I asked if we were even able to move and my parents answered with a maybe and I don't know I started to worry. Am I even going to move? If I do move what is going to happen? I started asking questions about the move and it was mostly the same answer, "I don't know if the Coronavirus lets up maybe," Or "depending on the situation maybe." There was never a solid answer and that was a big difference from the other moves. With the other moves we had a set plan, here we don't. I find myself asking, "Am I even going to move?"

-Madeleine A. Campos

I always had to move and go to a new place. I was very sad when I had to

Editor's Note:
The students in Nechole Spires' class tell a great story, so sit down and give them a read. Great job, kids!

move or when my friends moved. When I get to a new place it doesn't take too long for me to feel better in the new location. I get to meet new friends. Even though I missed my friends at the old location. I don't like when I have to pack everything up. I have to throw some stuff to move. Moving days could be hard because sometimes it takes hours to reach your new location. When I go to a new school I like to see what is different between the new school and the old school. Moving could be hard, but I like new locations.

- Katie Choi

Being a military child could mean so much to one person, but to me it means starting a new beginning. When I hear from my parents that we are moving to a new place, I act like I seem fine even though I know that I'll miss my friends and possibly the place very much. This phrase "a new beginning" means that wherever you go, you can always start fresh and make new first impressions. It can be hard moving place to place making new friends and saying goodbye to the old ones, but every single military

child in the world has to make the best of it! Being a child of a service member is a privilege. It means I can go all around the world, explore new places, make new friends, and most of all make beautiful memories to cherish forever!

I remember new faces every two years or so. I also remember having to know how to adapt to new places and new people, having to try to smile and look happy when I miss somewhere else. But every military child has his/hers ups and downs and it's our job as a military child to collect those moments we have in different places with different people. It is also good to go to different places, because when you tour the world you can explore different traditions, cultures etc. Some people have never left their state or country. It is an outstanding opportunity to travel and many military kids have been to more than several countries and states. So this is why being a military child could mean so much to a person. But again to me it means to start a new beginning. And I cherish these moments I have had in different places with different people.

- Mikaila Ebbers

Camp Humphreys, South Korea is the best thing that ever happened to me. I now understand what it is like to live overseas in a foreign country. I have new friends and a new school which is way better than where I use to go to school in America. I now also live in a bigger house than I use to in America, and I'm able to do things that I was never able to do in America. For example, after school for middle and high school students can go over to the PX to talk, hangout, and eat. They are also able to go to a youth center to play video games, board games, and do homework. A few other experiences I have gone through was showing an ID to get on to the army base. Although you can have some cool experiences on base you can have them off base too. The education system on Camp Humphreys is perfect. This system gives students more time to get work done and study for a quiz. The teachers are caring, smart, and are understanding too. I also remember one time when I went to the pool on Camp Humphreys. The pool was awesome it pool had a snack bar and a diving board. The Exchange movie theater is cool too, it reruns past movies. Another experience I had was standing in the movie theater for the National Anthem, I had never done that in America. I really did not like when I had to leave America because I was losing my friends when I moved to South Korea. Basically what I'm saying is that you meet new people and have new experiences which is good or bad depending on how you look at.

- Harrison Edwards

Friends are a wonderful thing, but as a military child, you must be grateful for the friends you have before you must leave them. It was June, at the end of fifth grade and my eyes were swollen with tears. Me and my family were going to move to South Korea. Ruby, Cassidy and Talayah were also crying. We were hugging each other tight. "It's not fair!" I cried. Ruby also had to move to another country due to the military, and she nodded in agreement. "Why do we have to move...?" She said. We were crying our eyes out, while everyone else was cheering. I couldn't help but be angry at them. How are they so happy?! I thought. Why do I have to be torn away from my friends, while their friends are there for them for the rest of their lives? I hugged my friends until I had to get on my bus. I sat in the back seat on my own. Next thing I knew it was time to go to school in South Korea. My schedules were confusing, but my teachers were great! I met someone named Kairi and her best friend Camila. They

soon became my best friends. I still miss my friends from Virginia to this day, but it isn't as painful now that I have new friends. It is bittersweet

- Destiny Kaelynn Givens

The best thing about being a military child is all the fun stuff to do. For example, on base going to the teen center is one of my favorite things to do. There are a lot of games and many clubs. In addition, the Post Exchange is a great place to hang out because there are many toys and a lot of games. These places are very family friendly.

The second best thing about being a part of the military community is all of the fun things we can do off base while being in Korea. For example, Fun things off base include going to the arcade and movie theater. The arcade has all sorts of things like batting cages, airsoft range and bow shooting. I enjoy these activities very much. In addition, the movies are very fun because they have big booths where they give you 2 seats and extra-large popcorn.

The hardest part about being a part of the military community and being a military child is leaving your hometown. This was a very sad time for me and now I only get to see my friends and family there when I am on vacation. The hardest part was that I had no choice and had to leave all of my family and friends behind. I still try to talk to them as much as I can. Being a military child is sometimes hard.

There are pros and many cons to being a military child however, I feel the benefits outweighed the cost because I would have never been able to do all this cool stuff without being a military child.

- Skyler Gonzales

I cried as I looked at my house one last time. I got in the car and tried to be as happy as I possibly could. This was my first move overseas. My mind told me to stay and live like you were. I tried blocking the thoughts but they kept coming at me. As we got to the airport, I stopped thinking about the cons though I was still hurting inside. We sat down and waited. I thought of the happy memories of being in Florida. After a while, the plane arrived and we got in our seats. My heart was beating fast and my foot was shaking. Not only was this my first move overseas, it was my first time on a plane too. The plane started and suddenly we were in the air. Time went by fast and we were only a few minutes away. I was hurting the whole ride but it went away when the plane landed. We landed in Seattle and spent some time there. We were getting on another plane before I knew it. I knew this was going to be

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See More Humphreys Middle School on Page 12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

fun but my mind told me this was going to be sad. We got on the plane and I wasn't scared anymore. I smiled as the plane rose. I looked out the window and had mixed emotions at the view. It made me think of Florida but it was a bit prettier than Florida's skies. We were in South Korea in the blink of an eye even though it was 10 hours. We spent the night at a hotel near the airport. We got on the bus and went to the base in the morning. When we got there we went to Lodging. We spent a lot of time in Lodging so it was already night time. I got in bed and my mind wouldn't stop thinking of home. But soon, I fell asleep.

- Claire Sophia Haugen

Born in Newport News, Virginia was the start to an amazing adventure. Who knew that I would experience so much travel during my first twelve years of life? After living in Virginia for two years my dad received orders to Hawaii after returning from combat in Iraq. Not being able to remember too much about the entire move I still remember the house we moved to and the life in paradise. However, being a child of a military dad and a hard-working mom that also worked for the Army, I spent most of my days in the local Child Development Center while my parents went off to work. But what did I know, this was just a way of life that I thought all kids had to experience? I enjoyed being around other military children that had lots of experience of their own even though we were only 2-5 years old. When my new battle buddies and I turned Pre-K age it was time for us to pack up our backpacks and head to school that was full of other military kids with lots of experience. I made friends with kids from all over the world such as Germany, Japan, Poland, England, and New York to California. Upon Pre-K it was now time to move to Fort Bliss, TX. Now back in the United States it was time to prepare for Kindergarten on base. After unpacking from a long trip across the Pacific Ocean and a drive from California to Fort Bliss we spent a few weeks learning the new lifestyle of Texas. Throughout our short time in El Paso I was able to make lots of friends, learn about Mexican culture, visit Las Cruces, White sands, and Ruidoso in New Mexico. Though our time was short in Texas it was fun and educational. Our next move was to The Kingdom of Bahrain located in the Persian Gulf where we spent our next two years enjoying different cultures. I was now attending school with Saudi Arabians, Bahrainis, Kuwaitis, United Arab Emirates, and

kids from across America from families in every branch of military service. After years of traveling around the Persian Gulf countries we got assigned to Fort Bragg, NC. Now in the third grade I was able to concentrate on the American lifestyle and learn more about American traditions firsthand. In addition to going to school my family and I were able to travel to Nebraska, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida visiting family and many major landmarks like Walt Disney World Resort and Legoland. After that short year we moved again to South Korea where I spent the last three years meeting many new friends and spending a lot of time with my Korean family. In a few short months we will be moving to Fort Hood, TX where my dad will retire after 31 years of service. I loved being a military child and would do it all over again if I had a chance.

- Jeremiah S. Johnson

To me, being a military child involves lots of sharing and sacrificing. I have to share a person I love with the country that I love. Although I do not have siblings and may not have to worry as much about sharing as some kids do, I have to share my dad. When I was four, my father had gotten deployed to Afghanistan. While he was deployed my mother took me to Korea to meet my maternal grandparents and family. This was great for me, I was able to experience the other part of my ethnicity and culture. However my dad was not with me and I was more than extremely thrilled when I finally got to see him again, he had been able to get vacation and came to Korea, but to my great disappointment I could not understand anything he said. Instead of hearing "Hi sweetie it is great to see you," I had heard "blah... blah... blah..." Being away from my father for a long time had allowed my four year old mind to forget English. Although I do not remember everything because I was only four, I remember being very frustrated. I remember wishing that my dad had gone with my mom and me to Korea, instead of having to share him with the army and Afghanistan. My father and I could only communicate with the extreme basics of language, body language. I wanted to understand what he wanted to tell me directly from him, without anyone translating, I wanted to tell him what had happened while I was having fun in Korea. I was only four then and could not understand why he couldn't just be with my mom and me. This was even more confusing for me when his vacation ended and he had to leave again. On the way to the airport my mom and

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my grandparents had begun to cry, I told them "Don't cry, you said he will be back, there is nothing to worry about." but when he pulled out his luggage from the car, and reality hit me, I began bawling. Even though I could not communicate through the English language I still was able to communicate in my own ways, and in a way being a military child taught me these important lessons. So when I was finally reunited with my dad it did not take me a long time to learn English and things were good. Being a military child may not always be the easiest thing, but it provides good experiences, and lessons. GO MILITARY POWER!

- Anna Lamb

Am I the kind of person who likes planes? Most kids who have parents in the military have had to fly across the world or move from time to time. So far I've moved about four times. I've always hated planes. You're a million feet in the air inside of a metal box that shakes while getting fed stale pretzels - not my thing. All plane rides to me are like that. It's like a routine almost. I get a middle seat on the plane, my dad spills some sticky drink on me, and then of course I get a cramp every single time! For the first three plane rides it was like that. Middle seat, spilled drink, and cramps.

But the story I'm about to tell you takes all of those things and cranks it up to seven. So it starts out like it always does. I hope this trip will be fine, my dad is doing his own thing, my mom is late, and my brother well he's human alright. So we get on the plane and right off the bat I have to sit in between the two boys in my family which isn't really on anyone's check list when one of them has a bladder the size of a golf ball. Then when the drinks 'finally come' in the words of my small bladdered brother I set mine down and in two seconds I have a can of sprite on my nice clean pair of jeans!

Now you'd think that's the end of it but no you're wrong because that was the first plane of two. So, now everyone's getting off the plane cheery and happy midway through the trip. What about me? I looked like a horse about to be put down based on the way I'm walking. Was I crying though? No of course not if I started reverting back to a two year old we might be late! So I did what anyone else would do and dealt with it like the older sibling I was. If you were me you may have done something different but at this

point I was tired and my pants were soaked. So no, I don't like planes at all.

- Alexandra Maldonado

I was starting 3rd grade when I had moved to Japan. In 2nd grade, a Japanese girl was in my class and she was mean. Of course, I had assumed all Japanese people were mean and I was terrified to hear that we were moving to Japan. Begging my dad to decline the job he said, "It will be an adventure, Ella." An adventure could be cool, I thought. All of us started packing when it was almost time to move. We didn't have much to pack because my dad wasn't a very high rank and didn't get too much money. It was his new job in Japan that would have him earn way more money. During the last few weeks, I sat around my room and played with my best friend (who I still talk to), Audrey. Before we left for the hotel, I had one last playdate with Audrey. It wasn't sad, it was a nice playdate, probably the last time I would actually see her in person. The day of flying to Japan came and I wasn't ready to leave. "I don't wanna leave my friends," I said to my father. "Oh come on, you'll make friends in Japan too," he said. So I did. The Japanese were actually really kind. I had even learned some Japanese and I loved our new home. Then my dad got another job, this time in Korea. Here we go again...

- Ella Odell

I ask myself a lot, am I different? It's mostly because of why, and how I'm a military child or brat. Understand that, my dad retired from the military before I was even born, so I don't experience much. What I mean by that, is go through what most military brats go through. My dad is a retired civilian, who is working for the government. Now while almost every military brat lives in one place for a few years, and leaves to move to a different base, because of either one, or both parent(s) being a soldier. But, I don't really have to do that. But while that is, me coming to Korea has changed how I thought about that. While I was in Korea, I got to go to the exchange and the commissary, etc. more often (I only went to a base once in a while at New Mexico). I also got to use my id, and ration card, because I've never done that before. I got to go to a military based school, I got to do activities focused on military subjects, like "The Month of The Military Child."

Mostly, I am just happy to come to Korea once again, even if I do find myself quite different.

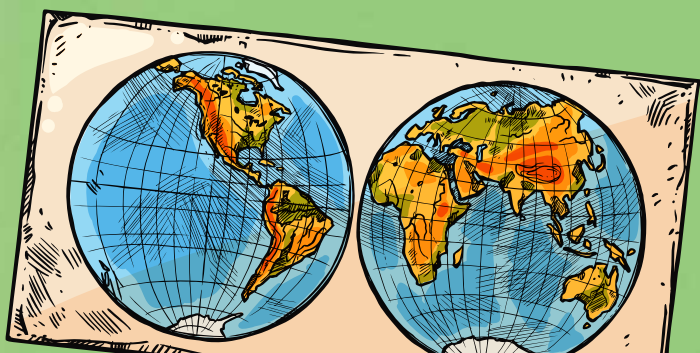
- Narine Plourde

My family can't stay in one place. We have to move every two or more years, but as I move I've experienced different countries and people. I love to travel because I see different people and places, so being in the military suits me. I have a lot of different friends because I have lived in a lot of different places. Each other place was beautiful, and I could learn about the culture.

When I was living in Japan, I was very young, but I remember one thing - that it was an awesome place. I would go out and play with other children. I would sit on the grass, which felt cool and coarse like sand and hearing playful children's voices would make me feel peaceful. I can remember my brother playing swords with other boys. I would go to an aquarium and see fish swimming in a big container like the ocean. Sun reflected into the water and glittered with different species of fishes inside the water. I also remember watching television shows, eating fish and rice from the Japanese mart, and waiting for my brother to come back from kindergarten.

In America, I used to live near the sea so I would go there almost every day. It would take five or ten minutes to go to the ocean. I and my brother will always go to the playground and play tag with other kids. We would use body language or ask our mom to translate to the kids because we didn't know any English. After we became older, we started going to kindergarten and learning English.

After a few years, I came to Korea. I was living in Seoul and it was my favorite place. Eating tteok kkochi and roaming around the city with my friends, buses, and cars honking and walking while talking. I remember early in the morning getting ready for school and running towards the bus station and when I would get to school teachers and friends there were happy. Then I moved to Pyeongtaek, also in Korea, because of my dad's work. All I could hear was wind, I felt like I was the only one in the universe because it was so quiet. It was boring until I started going to school. My brother and I would often go to Seoul on the weekends using the train crowded with people bunched together. Now Korea is my favorite place in the world. I have lived here



for more than 9 years now.

Being a military kid is good. I have almost learned three different languages, cultures, and places. It is so good to be in the military because they give you housing money and monthly salary and we get to move to different countries. You can live in your favorite place and then go to other countries. This is what I experienced being in the military and this is why I love where I live.

- Sarah Pyo



My experience as a military child has been harsh. Having to move away from your current location every two years, parting ways from friends, having to create new friends in an entire new school full of strangers, and a lot more stuff.

One of my stories as a military child is moving away. About two years ago, when I was in 4th grade, I had to move away to a different country. For the entire week, I was panicking. Will my new school be good? Will I be able to make new friends? Those thoughts scurried through my mind during my last few days at school.

I told my friend about me moving and, of course, she was sad. My friend was equally as shy as I was, so we only had each other as friends. Even though I told her about me moving, we still did usual, normal stuff together. Like swinging on the swings and chatting at recess, being partners in P.E., eating lunch together, helping each other out with homework, walking to the school bus together, and laughing and having fun like close friends. We did everything together.

Soon, as my last day of school approached, it was time for me to move. I sighed and headed out the door to my bus stop. When I arrived, I saw my friend and we talked together. When the bell rang, we went inside and got ready for school. At recess, we did the same exact thing we did for the last 150 days or so. We got on the swings and chatted about what we would usually talk about. It would be the last time I would ever sit on those swings. After about 20 minutes, it was time to go inside again.

At the end of the school day, I got my backpack and me and my friend walked to the school bus together, like always. As we were walking, I stopped for a second and gave her a little sticky note. It had my phone number on it. She put the sticky note in her pocket and told me that she would treasure it forever. When it was time to leave, we both hugged and made promises that we would call each other usually. She waved goodbye and disappeared into the distance. I waved goodbye

as well and got onto my bus. I looked out the window and saw everything one last time.

Two years later, where I am currently at right now, I made a new close friend. I enjoy the new school I go to. I am happy. But, I do sometimes miss my old school and my old friends and all the fun times I had together with them. Then I realized I had to move on. Being a military child might be hard, but you have to realize that change isn't bad.

- Jessica Song

In my life, we move a lot, state to state, or country to country. It is a good time to make friendships, and a good living. It is also low-spirited when we move. When you leave people, friends and family. But when you move, you can get more friends and have more fun with the people you care about. I have cried about moving because I was scared, wondering why we have to move. Sometimes we take vacations and see family and have fun! It can be good moving and meeting to people.

- Quinci Tyson

The life of a military child includes moving around a lot. Sometimes it is moving around the United States and other times it is moving to bases overseas. I have had the opportunity to live in Georgia, Japan, Florida, Kentucky/Tennessee, and now in Korea. Japan was my favorite place to live so far.

In January of 2012, my family and I moved to Camp Zama, Japan; which is about one and a half hours away from Tokyo, Japan. My younger sister Aliya and I went to the Child Development Center's Strong Beginnings program. In April of that year, the world-known newspaper named Stars and Stripes did a front page article, which had featured a picture of me, my sister Aliya, and a few other of our classmates/friends, for the Month of the Military Child. That experience was one of my most memorable (and fame inducing) memories because it was the first time I was on the front page of a newspaper!

In Japan we lived in a huge, brand new 2-story apartment. We had good neighbors, whom we had sleepovers with a couple of times. The playground was nice and big and was directly in-front of our home.

Japan was also the first place I was ever able to walk to and from home and school. I was even able to go to the School Age Care Center for a few months due to my Kindergarten classroom being closed for remodeling. During my brief stint at the School Age Center, I was so good at playing one of the Mario games in the game room, that I was crowned as one of the best Kindergarten-First grade gamers at the School Age Center.

Another experience I fondly remember during my stay in Japan is going to the many free concerts put on for the military family member community. I clearly remember attending a specific concert that my dad (who is an Army musician) was playing in. I had so much fun at that concert because I was dancing



around, taking pictures with my family, tasting the delicious concert foods, and watching the Japanese performers performing.

Another reason I like Japan is because of the New Sanno Hotel. My mom, dad, myself and sister spent many nights away at the New Sanno Hotel. It was one of our favorite places to visit during 4-day weekends. We would order food from room service, spend hours in the pool/jacuzzi area, explore the area, and spend our time relaxing there after our many visits to the Japanese theme parks like Tokyo Disneyland, Hello Kittyland, Legoland, Kodomo no Kuni (Children's land), Tokyo Summerland, Fuji Q highland and several other places. On top of that, Japan is also the place where we met Lea who has become one of the best family friend's we have ever had. We still keep in touch to this day and she has also visited us since we moved to Korea.

- Avery Cody

One day I was told I was leaving my home and friends again. It was heartbreaking for me because I loved where I was. When it was time for me to go I said bye to my friends and teachers. We packed our things and left our former home. A year later, I went into my new school and I didn't know anybody but they seemed to know each other. I felt like this was how it was going to be for the whole year, but then something happened. I started talking to some people and we became friends. Later on I knew everyone in class and they all knew me. I then felt happy there. So sure I said that I left my home and friends and it was hard, but afterwards I was happy because I made new friends in my new home.

- Sarah Alvarado

I remember when I was in Maryland and my dad got an email, saying that he could PCS to Korea, and he decided to go. I didn't want to go though, because I wanted to stay with my friends in my nice school. I thought if I went to Korea, I wouldn't have a nice school like the one I had. I also thought I would have nice friends like the ones I had in Maryland. I was nervous to go to a new country.

When it was the last day before we left, I was a little excited, mainly because I really liked airports. When I got to Korea, everything looked very different, and the ads in the airport looked very weird to me. When I got to our new base, My family and I went to the army lodge. It was very late, so I didn't really know what was happening at the time. We stayed at the lodge for a couple months, and I got to know the base and outside the base. I was very surprised and interested about the Korean culture, and the food especially.

When I got to my new school, I

was really nervous, because I didn't know anyone. I was especially nervous because I had started school there in November, so everyone had friends except me. I visited all my classrooms and met all my teachers, and at the end of the day, I even had a friend. In the end, I was not nervous about my new school anymore, and I was happy I moved here. I was happy I moved to Korea at Camp Humphreys.

- Alexander King

Moving as a military child is different from moving as a normal kid. As a military child you move a lot. I've always hated moving. It makes me sad and stressed. The move from Washington State to Arizona was the hardest move for me so far in my life. I had to move from family, friends that I had known for four years and I realized that I hated moving and how it made me feel. I was so sad because I was far away from my family. That Christmas, my brother realized how it made him feel too. He started crying saying that he wanted his family. We were confused that he was crying at the time because we were going to see Santa. Then it all made sense. We always went to my aunt's house for the holidays and he understood that something was different. I felt bad because I knew I couldn't do anything to cheer him up. I was seven and he was five. Over the last couple of years I have learned that there are some good things about moving too. Every move is different. Every move is another opportunity to learn something new and try new things. New friends, new places, new experiences. It's cool to know that you have friends all over the world. Being a "military brat" and moving every few years has taught me to be a better friend to others, to be independent, and to be confident in myself.

- Emma Koontz

My dad is in the military, and sometimes has to go on deployment for his job. In 2017, we lived in Europe, my mom joined an online singing competition. She made it to the finals, and was invited to the concert where she would be singing. However, the day it was supposed to be held, was the day my dad had to leave for deployment. My mom decided not to go, and spend the day with my dad, for he would be leaving that afternoon to Afghanistan. He had to leave September through May, that's nine months! The time has come where he had to leave, we all said goodbye. I felt like my brother was the most heartbroken, he was five at the time. He slept with one of our dad's T-shirts, because he said it

smelled like him. We still got to facetime with my dad, but it's not the same face-timing as talking in real life. As time passed, it was October, and in October, it was my birthday! That was the day I would be going into my double digits! I was turning 10, but my dad wasn't here to celebrate. We still got to talk over the phone though. We had Thanksgiving dinner without him, and celebrated Christmas without him. It was very tough, but we still get to talk to him over the phone. We saw fireworks on New Year's Day, but it wasn't the same without him. So as more time passed, it was mid-April, and in April is my brother's birthday! He still was sad that our dad wasn't there, but he did get to facetime him. It felt like forever for my dad to get back, but when he did it was the best time ever! When he got back in May, we celebrated mine and my brother's birthday at our favorite restaurant. In the end, all of my dad's hard work and sacrifice was worth it.

- Sophia Macayan

I am a military child and a TCK (third culture kid). I was born in Kuwait, Asia but I am half Dutch and half American. Lived in five different places and visited so many more including Denmark, Greece, Canada, South Africa, and Dubai. I know being a military child is hard and especially when my dad was deployed. When we lived in the Netherlands, every time my dad was deployed, my mom and my sisters would make a chain out of paper for how many days he would be gone and every day we would cut one off meaning one day less till he could come home. I remember this one time where my dad was deployed and we went school supply shopping the day he came back. When we were done shopping my mom told us that we had forgot something, so we thought hard and then I remember we were supposed to pick him up that day. My mom pointed behind us, and there he was waiting.

Another thing that is hard about being a military child is moving because on one hand it's always exciting but on the other it is painful. I don't really remember the second more that much but I remember my third move clearer. We were moving from Arizona to Belgium and I was completely excited because when we had moved to Arizona I had felt different, I didn't fit in, I was different, nobody understood what it was like moving. When I started school in SHAPE (the NATO base in Belgium) it was amazing because in the cafeteria and I heard like six different languages at once because at SHAPE there are 29 countries represented and everyone understood.

There are good things about being a military child. I have had friends all over the globe and I have visited places all over too! I have been to places a normal kid may not have gone: I have climbed the Acropolis, gone from Buda to Pest several times,

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seen the Little Mermaid and been in Hans Cristian Andersons home, and even gone to the Anne Frank House on a three day field trip in 5th Grade. Other good things about being a military child is I get to learn about things and actually see them. Also I have learned bits of different languages like food and simple bits in French, how are you in Spanish, hello in Italian, and goat in Hungarian (kecske). Honestly, I don't think I could have ever stayed in one place for my whole life without moving or traveling a lot. Being a military child has its ups and down but in the end it is worth it. I couldn't imagine having a better life to live than this one. And even if being a military child means not having an actual home always my home is always where my family is.

- Rebecca Mader

I am a military child. I've learned being a military child means having an active parent that serves in the military. We move every few years. When moving, I have a chance to move out of the state or out of the continent. My family and I recently moved out of the continent. We moved to South Korea. We have never been here before, it is a new experience for us all. Along with my adventures, I have always made new friends.

I like being a military child

Celebrating Month of the Military Child Humphreys Middle School

Ms. Spires

6th grade

because of traveling. Visiting new places and experiencing new cultures is a privilege that other kids may not be able to experience. I am lucky that I get to share my unique experiences along the way. On my journey, I like site-seeing and adventuring out. I use this time to listen to music. I am excited to explore South Korea. I noticed a lot of new things here, for example, Korean barbecue and how it smells. I also noticed Korea has a lot of coffee shops and convenient stores around. I love everything about South Korea, and it is an excellent experience traveling places and being a military child.

- Journee McAllister

U usually, being a military child can be fun. There's a lot of traveling, learning new things, meeting different people, and getting to know different languages depending on where the school is located in the

world. Although, there can be some things apart from perks. From my experience, being a military child also means that you have to move often, be apart from family members, and be a new student again. It can be tough sometimes, such as finding some awesome best friends, but soon having to separate. Not staying in one location is another struggle, because you might have to leave some parts of you behind, such as pets. Leaving favorite teachers, or maybe even a close family member. Being a new student can be hard too, however most of us partially get used to it. One time on the first day of first grade, I cried because I missed my grandparents and parents after they left. I didn't quite know English too well then, and couldn't communicate with the teacher or the students. So it was hard for me to calm down, especially after I attracted the whole class's attention. On the other hand, moving to a new place can turn out to be the best! You get to make new memories! Sometimes, you move to a different house and city, but not a different state. Moving to different places also means learning new cultures, and who knows, maybe the culture might become a close part of you one day. You could also bring along traditions from the last place you lived. Being part of the military can become a blessing too. Moving to different places can help one learn adaptability, respect, and different kinds of people. Apparently, adaptable people aren't as afraid of change, and will do what is

necessary to handle the change. Respect is important too, respecting others will prevent conflicts, as well as helping you to become a better person. You also get back the respect you give, a simple way of becoming friendlier. Knowing different kinds of people can help you with socializing. It becomes easier to socialize without offending anyone. Different kinds of places have different foods, so tasting new food is fairly common. Even though sometimes a parent will have to work on holidays or weekends, it is still pretty cool. Frequently moving also lets you travel a lot! It also lets you have the experience of knowing a lot of places (which is helpful for some classes). One also has to be flexible in a military community. Another thing is language proficiency, schools teach different languages depending on where they are in the world. If they work hard, then they might remember how to speak and write the language. Overall, being a military child has its pros and cons just like every other thing.

- Gyuri Park



It's great being a military child. I went with my grandmother all the way around the world to Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, and almost anywhere in Europe. In Italy we spent most of our time in Rome. In France, we went to go see a giant wooden clog. Many things can be done in Europe. If you're a military child cherish it with all your heart because there are people who can't go anywhere.

- Victoria Van Pelt

Time to time, we move, we're fine, But sometimes I feel out of line, Meeting new friends, but knowing it'll end On the same sad tone, while my parents defend I wish I had more time, Is this what my parents had in mind, To change my life, or make it hard to define, They tell me it will be ok, but I still feel underlined, Like everything will change, and my best friends will be out of range, But soon I accept the changes, And Time to Time I feel in line.

- Ezekiel Iosua Phillips



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From the battlefield to the ring

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. RAMON A. ADELAN,
51ST FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OSAN AIR BASE – With piercing blue eyes and unwavering confidence, a man walks into life’s arenas and envisions success. Whether exchanging blows in an octagonal ring or climbing snowy mountains to call in airstrikes, his visions of prosperous outcomes cancels out the deafening noises.

Being distracted can be the difference between life and death, or standing upright versus tumbling down. Knowing the severity of a miscalculated move, his passion and professionalism keeps him in the fight – one that parallels the worlds of MMA and being a U.S. Air Force TACP.

“Being in the ring and being a TACP are very similar,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Bunkley, 607th Air Support Operations Group tactical air control party (TACP). “The feeling I get going into the ring, is the same feeling I felt when I stepped out of my vehicle for the first time in Afghanistan and charged my weapon.”

Bunkley continued to explain the butterflies deep in his stomach from the uncertainty of what’s going to occur, which were flooded over by the trust he had in himself and the troops by his side.

“In combat, you don’t know if you’re going to hit an improvised explosive device or if you’re going to start taking contact,” Bunkley said. “You have to be on your toes the whole time. Same with in the ring, you don’t know what your opponent is planning. All you know is that they’re trying to defeat you.”

Whether Bunkley is observing his opponent from a higher terrain or is face to face with them, his goal is to be victorious. The amount of hours, days, months, and years of training can make or break him.

Life as a TACP

“As a TACP, you have to be able to



Staff Sgt. Mark Bunkley and Senior Airman Richard Kim survey an area during simulated close air support training. Photo by Senior Airman Denise M. Jensen

multi-manage, which is something that doesn’t come naturally,” Bunkley said. “It’s not natural to talk to you, this guy over here and then three different people on the radio. You have to train a lot to obtain the ability to multi-manage in these situations. You have to be able to take information given and act in a quick manner that’ll make sense to get effects on the battlefield.”

His mission is to supply multilateral communication between aircraft and ground troops in the battlespace. He’ll either give the “cleared hot” order to aircraft for close air support or receive a bigger picture of the battlefield from intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft.

“The challenges of being a TACP drew me to the career field,” Bunkley said. “I was 18 years old going through the schoolhouse and all I wanted was to do something that would be meaningful and make a big impact on my life and others.”

Going into the initial stage of TACP training, Bunkley doubted whether he would make it through to graduation. He knew in the back of his mind there was an incredibly high attrition rate for special warfare Airmen.

Now after nine years of service, Bunkley has become extremely well versed in his job. He has deployed and has had the opportunity to be an instructor in the special warfare pipeline.

“Sometimes I think to myself, ‘I can’t believe I get paid for this,’” Bunkley said. “We get to call in airstrikes, shoot guns, go skydiving and experience many different combat courses. But with all that comes the sucky moments, like hiking up a snowy mountain to get a good observation point. You can stay in the field for days at a time in extreme heat or cold; it can be wet or dry. Through the good or the suck, I wouldn’t want to be doing anything else.”

Bunkley’s two worlds meet

In January 2020, the Las Vegas native was one of nine U.S. Air Force special warfare and combat support Airmen to receive an opportunity to visit the Ultimate Fighting Championship Training Center. During this visit he was able to meet and train with some of the top UFC fighters.

“It was totally awesome to get the opportunity to go out to the UFC Training Center and train with Dustin Poirier, Forrest Griffin and Stephen Thompson,” Bunkley said. “We were able to hear their stories of past fights, how they came up and some of their challenges they’ve faced.”

The goal from this opportunity was for the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service to strengthen their partnership with the UFC, which provided the Airmen and fighters a look into each other’s worlds.

“I’m definitely not able to be a top UFC fighter and be a TACP at the same time,” Bunkley said. “Being a MMA fighter is a full-time deal. My plan is to continue fighting amateur and get my experience up and hopefully fight at the pro level in the future.”

Bunkley’s experience in the ring includes three amateur MMA fights, more than 80 jiu jitsu competitions and a couple of Army combative matches.

“I grew up wrestling and didn’t get into

MMA until my deployment to Africa,” Bunkley said. “I had a group of friends who trained a few times a week and started to join them. I got addicted to it. I started training once a week, then twice a week and later found myself training almost every day.”

“Took my first fight on a seven hour notice”

“I was back home and a buddy of mine, who helps promote amateur and pro-level fights, noticed me competing in jiu jitsu,” Bunkley said. “He called me and said, ‘Hey man, I know you do jiu jitsu but do you want to fight in the cage tonight.’”

Bunkley surprised and confused, ended up agreeing to the fight.

“I just went for it,” Bunkley said. “I took my first fight on a seven hour notice in Las Vegas on the strip.”

At this point in Bunkley’s experience, he had primarily done ground combatives and only two or three sessions of striking.

“The whole feeling of having my music played while walking up has no comparison,” Bunkley said. “The adrenaline and excitement overcomes you before you start throwing fists. And it’s all very real. These dudes are straight up trying to knock your head off.”

As soon as the bell rang, Bunkley’s nervous feeling faded away. His focus was on how he could defeat his opponent.

“Very quickly, I realized this guy’s striking was a lot better than mine,” Bunkley said. “I was getting hit over and over, but I just kept watching him looking for my edge. When I got the chance, I took him to the mat. It was over. I knew that’s where I had him. From there, every round I took him down.”

The years of high school wrestling and jiu jitsu payed off for Bunkley in this match, which came down to the very end.

“I played my strength,” Bunkley said. “I was tactical about the fight and it all came down to the judge’s decision. Standing there felt like forever for them to announce the winner. And with a unanimous decision, they raised my arm in victory.”



Bunkley jokes with his team. Photo by Senior Airman Darien A. Perez



Relax and chill out with some cool cats

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHIHON KIM, STRIPES KOREA

I am a dog person through and through. Yet, sometimes I can imagine relaxing with a nice cup of coffee while watching the playful antics of adorable cats.

If you're a feline fan or animal lover, who like me isn't allowed to have pets due to lease restrictions, don't despair, Korea has plenty of cat cafes to fill the void you might be feeling.

Samcheung Goyangi café near LOTTE MART shopping mall in Pyeongtaek has been offering furry friends to play with in a cozy setting for almost two years. The café is on the third floor as implied by its name "Samcheung," which literally means the third floor.

Owner Sin, Jung-Hyeon started her career as a cat caretaker when she was in high school, but opened the cafe two years ago without cats.

At friends' requests, she began adopting abandoned cats and she gradually started to see her current business take shape. Today, Jung-Hyeon help a cat shelter find forever homes through her café.

When I arrived at Samcheung Goyangi, I had to remove my shoes and put on indoor slippers. The café is separated into a cat play space and what looks like an average coffee shop offering various teas, coffees and other beverages. From the café, you can watch the cats hanging out in the play area.

I paid 7,000 won for admission, and then purchased a green tea latte for 1,000 won (about \$0.83). You can chill out with cats as long as you like during the weekdays, but on the weekend, there



can engage the cats freely.

Most of my time in the play area was spent with this relaxed and adorable British cat who had plump cheeks. Near the window there were stacked cubes the feline residents used as napping cubicles.

As I moved about the room, some curious cats approached to say hello with their curved tails.

Samcheung Goyangi Café

NOTE: Children under 12 years of age are not allowed entrance without an adult.

ADDRESS: 3F, 22, Pyeongtaek 5-ro 34beon-gil, Pyeongtaek-si

PRICE ENTRANCE FEE: 7,000 won; Drinks 1,000won; Chicken breast for cats (2,000won)

OPERATION HOURS: 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.(weekdays), 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (3-hour time limit on weekends & holidays)

CONTACT INFO: 031-691-5579, 010-2061-0891

WEBSITE: <http://0316915579.tshome.co.kr/>



is a 3-hour time limit per customer.

As I waited for my tea latte, I learned the proper way to pet a cat from a poster near the drink pick-up area. I was glad I saw this otherwise the cats would've endured an unexpected ordeal because according to the poster, cats do not like being touched on the belly or tail. I now know only to pet their head, chin and cheeks.

Soon, it was my turn to enter the cat lounge, but first I had to wash my hands. A few cats greeted me when I entered, and I saw about 20 different types of cats, including Scottish fold cats and Bengal cats all roaming freely in the area. There were different cat trees and scratching posts for the residents to climb up and scratch to their hearts' content.

As I pet a chubby British short hair lounging on a log chair, the owner of the café came in and delivered the tasty green tea latte that I ordered.

Most cat cafes do not allow visitors to pet the cats unless they approach you first, but here you



Eun Dal-rae, a 3years old Italian greyhound, she is one and only dog in this cat.

A dog in a cat café?

This cat café has an odd resident. Eun Dal-rae, a 3-year-old Italian greyhound, is a rescue who also calls Samcheung Goyangi home. Much like some of the cats around her, she steers clear from humans. She was friendly enough and seemed to have adjusted to her roommates' habits.

Before visiting Samcheung Goyangi, I didn't know whether or not I was allergic to cats. And while

I enjoyed seeing them and playing with them, after my visit, I realized I am, in fact, allergic.

So, I suppose there will be no shelter cat in my near future, meaning I will remain a dog person.



Cat boarding

The cat café also offers cat boarding service. For the service, you're required to bring your cat's food for their stay. The rooms are not

SPEAKIN KOREAN

Cat: **Go-yang-i**
 Meow of cat: **Ya-ong**
 Are you a dog person or a cat person?
Gae-reul joh-a-ha-se-yo?
A-ni-myeon go-yang-i-reul joh-a-ha-se-yo?
 I think I'm more of a cat (dog) person.
Jeo-neun goyang-i(gea)-leul joh-a-he-yo.
 Your cat is so cute!
Goyang-i neo-mu gwi-yeom-ne-yo!
 How old is your cat?
Goyang-i myeot sa-ri-e-yo?
 May I pet your cat?
Goyang-i han-beon man-jyeo bwa-do dwae-yo?



→ like luxurious “pet hotels,” but the knowledgeable owner of the café will take good care of your friend while you are gone. The boarding area includes beds, bedding, bowls, treats, temperature control and a lot of love.

The prices for boarding cost from 25,000 to 35,000 won per night (up to 2 cats) - one more cat in the same shared space costs an extra 5,000 won per night.

What to know

- All cats must be fully vaccinated.
- All cats must be flea free and disease free.
- All cats must be neutered.
- All cats must be over 6 months old.

kim.chihon@stripes.com



Chakan Goyangi

Only five-minute walk from Pyeongtaek Station, is Chakan Goyangi, another great place to socialize with adorable cats while sipping coffee. The lounge area that is home to around cute 20 felines ranging from Russian blue to Scottish Fold, offers plenty of space for visitors to play with the cats or play board games while the cats lounge about. It is clean, bright, and has plenty of cool scratch posts and furniture for its furry residents. For human friends, the café offers a wide variety of drinks including coffee, tea, soft drinks, and even tasty food like fried rice and desserts. Regular admission for adult is 9000 won (or about \$7.19) including one free drink for the whole day and 8000 won for children under 18. This café is easily accessible via public transportation and parking is difficult in this congested area, so I would avoid driving there. All in all, despite the parking situation, Chakan Goyangi is still a good place to relax with a nice cup of coffee and plenty of cute kitties.

ADDRESS: 3F, 38-1, Pyeongtaek-ro, Pyeongtaek-si
PRICE Entrance fee: 9,000 won for adult, 8000 won for children under 18.
OPERATION HOURS: Noon to 10 p.m., Noon to 5 p.m. (Monday only)
CONTACT INFO : 031-658-2517



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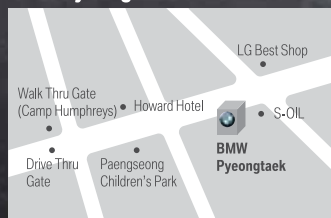


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MILITARY SALES



Korean spring greens you should know

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BBURI KITCHEN,
GROOVE KOREA MAGAZINE

For those of us who've grown up abroad, shopping at Korean grocery stores can be both a beautiful and bewildering experience. What is this root? This tangle of leaves? How can I make it delicious? Unfortunately, marts and markets don't make it easy to taste the ingredients, or buy small amounts for recipe testing. This season especially, the markets are full of bom-namul, or spring greens, which are inexpensive, delicious and healthy ingredients that you'll definitely want in your kitchen. So we hope that this short guide to ten basic bom-namul will help get you started (if you haven't already). There are so many more, but this is just the start!




Bireum-namul
(비름나물)

Bireum-namul is in the amaranth family, and can be thought of as a summer spinach. It's a wild green that grows abundantly in the countryside and tends to be foraged rather than planted and harvested. It's one of the last bom-namul of spring, so you know that summer is right around the corner when it begins to grow. Bireum-namul has a fairly earthy and nutty flavor, and goes well with both gochujang and Joseon ganjang. Simply blanch and season for a tasty banchan dish.



Dureup(두릅)

This is the only bom-namul on this list that comes from a tree. The young shoots of *Aralia elata* (a kind of angelica tree) are trimmed and brought to market in late spring. Like many bom-namul, dureup has a very nice, slightly bitter flavor. It is often eaten blanched and served with cho-gochujang (vinegared gochujang for dipping). Skewer with beef and lightly batter and fry to make a nice main dish.



Ssuki(쑥)

Translating "ssuk" is tricky, but it's often called mugwort in English. When ssuk arrives in the markets, you know spring is here. It has a very herbal, almost eucalyptus-like fragrance and it best in mid-spring, before Dano (the 5th of May on the lunar calendar). Ssuk is most commonly eaten in doenjang-based soups or made into rice cakes. You can also deep fry your ssuk for something nice and crisp.



Cham-namul
(달래)

There's no good English translation for cham-namul, and that's probably because it's not widely known outside of Asia. Its smooth, bright green leaves and crunchy have a fresh, grassy aroma, and it can be eaten raw or blanched. Blanch and season with Joseon ganjang (original soy sauce) or even just with salt for a nice spring banchan. Try adding it to your salads or using it as a garnish.

groovekorea.com



Chui-namul(취나물)

Though it bears a passing resemblance to cham-namul, chui-namul leaves are somewhat furry and have a slightly thicker, tougher texture. For the reason, it's not usually eaten un-cooked. Blanch and season with Joseon ganjang to make another popular spring banchan.



Saebal-namul
(세발나물)

This namul is a kind of saltmarsh sand-spurry, a pleasantly crunchy, thin, segmented plant that grows (as the name suggests) in brackish marsh areas. Saebal namul is great when eaten raw, use it in salads or even as a garnish. Koreans like to mix it with a soy sauce dressing. Don't over-salt—this plant has a naturally salty aftertaste.



Spring is in the air and so is the Naeng-i

STORY AND PHOTO BY CHIHON KIM

A long chilly winter is finally gone, and spring has arrived. For many, the hints of spring are in the new flowers blooming, a slight change in the temperature, or a certain scent in the air. What reminded you of the fact that spring is just around the corner? As a child, my first hint of spring was Naeng-i.

Known as “Shepherd’s Purse” in English, this herb is

paired with Korean soy bean paste stew, or “daenjang jjigae.” As an adult, Naeng-i is my favorite spring green even though as a kid I really didn’t like the peculiar scent of the herb, but my father was pretty strict and wouldn’t let me leave home without a good breakfast.

I didn’t know what this green plant in my soup was until my mother sent me to the market to pick some up. I had to keep repeating its name, so I wouldn’t forget, but by the time I reached the herb section of the market they all looked the same! Unable to distinguish which was

the Naeng-i, the vendor helped me and taught me a quick trick to finding it in the future: always look for the ugliest herb in the group.

Though its appearance is not attractive, Naeng-i is filled with nutrition sure to help you beat spring fatigue and regain your appetite. The herb features a thick, white root attached to green leaves that resemble dandelion leaves and it is one of the most common herbs grown on farms, in the hills, and, sometimes, even popping up randomly in home gardens.

Consider adding spring herbs to your shopping list next time you visit a Korean market. They are healthy and add the flavor of spring to any meal. Don’t forget to wash them thoroughly and add them to some soy bean-paste stew (daenjang jjigae). Another way to enjoy Naeng-i is seasoned with soy sauce and perilla oil then used as a substitute for some of the veggies in bibimbap. Try it and see why naeng-i’s scent is the real smell of spring in Korea.

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Learn to make a delicious Patbingsu at home

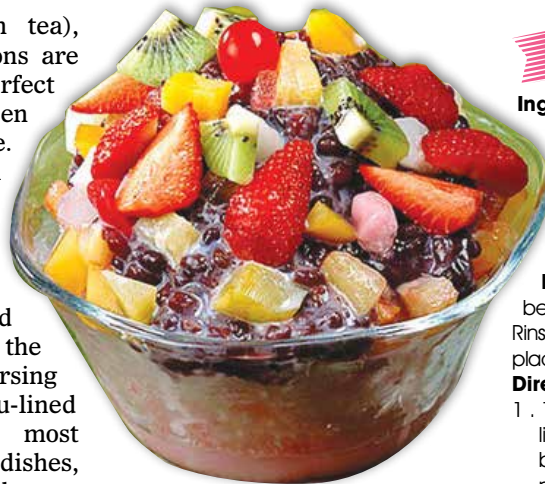
STORY AND PHOTO BY CHRISTY SWAIN, HAPS KOREA MAGAZINE

Patbingsu is just one of many red-bean based desserts in Korea. Pat is red azuki bean, boiled and sweetened to make a paste which is then layered atop bingsu, or shaved ice. The ice itself is sweetened with condensed milk and makes for a lighter tasting treat than those ice cream sandwiches you’ve wolfed down in summers past. Topped with some rice cake, or ddeok, for texture, this treat will cool and refresh.

Much like iced coffee confections, bingsu variations

abound. Nokcha (green tea), coffee and fruit variations are the most popular, and perfect for those who aren’t keen on red bean or rice cake. Bingsu topped with frosted cereal and fruit is often served as a side dish in hofs and noraebangs, perfect for re-hydrating sun-parched bodies and for thinning the

alcohol coursing through soju-lined veins. Like most Korean dishes, bingsu’s made to share, so grab your besties and scoop up a bowl of bingsu, available at most bakeries, major restaurants, and cafes for 3,000 to 8,000 won.



Recipe Traditional Patbingsu

Ingredients:

Red beans (azuki beans), sugar, vanilla, salt, shaved ice, sweetened condensed milk, rice cake, strawberries, banana, and kiwi.

Directions for 4 servings:

Preparation: Making sweet red beans:

Rinse and strain 1 cup of red beans and place them in a thick-bottomed pot.

Directions:

- 1 cup of dried red beans will make a little more than 2 cups of sweet red beans. Each serving of patbingsu needs 1/2 cup of sweet red beans.
- Add 4 cups of water. Cover the pot and bring to a boil over low heat for 10 minutes.
- Lower the heat to simmer for 1 hour.
- Open the lid and check if the beans are cooked well or not. The beans

should be crushed easily. Chew a sample of the beans. If there is something hard when you chew, you need to cook longer.

5. Drain the water and add 1 cup of sugar, 1 ts vanilla, and 1/2 ts salt. Mix well.

* tip: the water from the beans can be used for making rice

6. Uncover and stir the sweet beans over low heat for 5 minutes.
7. Turn the heat off and let it cool down. Keep in the fridge.

Putting it together:

1. Add 1/2 cup of sweet red beans on the bottom of a dessert bowl.
2. Add 1 1/2 cups of shaved ice over the sweet red beans.
3. Add chopped strawberries, banana, and kiwi on top of the ice.
4. Pour 2 tbs of sweetened condensed milk onto red beans and place 5-7 chopped rice cakes on top.
5. Serve right away with a spoon and enjoy!



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It would be a shame to leave Korea without trying the dessert that most of your students will list among their favorites!



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Recreate key noodle dish from award-winning Korean film 'Parasite'



BY CHIHON KIM,
STRIPES KOREA

“Parasite” has invaded the U.S. after an Oscars sweep earned the Korean film four awards including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Foreign Language Film. Now, as it makes its debut overseas, Parasite fans are talking about one aspect of the movie – the food. In particular ram-don, a Korean comfort food known as “Chapaguri,” a compound word mixing “Chapagetti” and “Neoguri.” In post-production translation, the dish name is ‘ram-don,’ mixing ramen and udon, which are a bit more familiar to western audiences. This dish incorporates Korean instant noodle packages and other ingredients.

In Korea, director and writer Bong Joon-ho is well known for utilizing small props in his films to carry heavy symbolic meaning. This element of Bong’s films has earned its own moniker “Bong-tail.” Parasite’s bong-tail is the ram-don from one of the most high-tension, high-stress scenes in the film and is thought to symbolize the gap between the rich and poor.

Don’t worry! If you haven’t yet had the opportunity to catch this movie which critics are calling “flawless” and “gloriously entertaining,” I’m not going to spoil it. Instead, try ram-don first (or if you’ve also become a Parasite fan, you’ll want to hold on to this recipe) and then be on the lookout for the movie at a theater or streaming service near you!

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- PREP TIME: 2 minutes
- COOK TIME: 5 minutes
- TOTAL TIME: 7 minutes
- DIFFICULTY: Very easy
- SERVINGS: 2
- INGREDIENTS:
 - 1 packet of Neoguri (Instant noodle)
 - 1 packet of Chapagetti (Instant noodle)
 - 1 piece of Korean sirloin (Hanwoo) or any steak cut you prefer.



Basically, the dish is made of two types of instant noodles and topped with sirloin. So, you don’t particularly need special ingredients other than two noodle packages – Jjapaguri and Jjpagetti. What makes the dish is the protein, which can be anything that suits your fancy. A famous film critic in South Korea analyzed that cheap instant ramen means the working class, while sirloin, an expensive ingredient in Korea, signifies the upper class.



Photos by ChiHon Kim



1 Put 7 cups of water (1400ml) in a pot that is large enough to hold the noodles. As soon as the water comes to a boil, put the ramen packets into the water.



2 Trim the steak of all gristle and thick layers and then cut it into small cubes. In my case,

I bought chopped steak for stew at the grocery store, which was convenient. Next, toss the steak into another pan and cook it in any kind of sauce you prefer. When the steak is done, remove from the pan and set aside.



3 As soon as the water comes to a boil, add the noodles and the two vegetable mix packets. Stir the noodles so they cook evenly and let boil for about three minutes. Avoid overcooking the noodles, as you will need to fry the noodles in the final step.



4 Drain most of the water from the pot, leaving 3/4 cup of water to just barely cover the noodles.

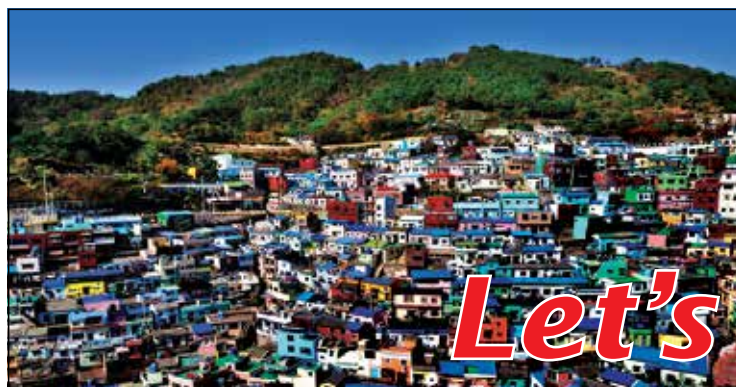


5 Add all of the Chapagetti seasoning packet and half of the Neoguri seasoning packet (add more Neoguri seasoning if you like the spicier taste). Add the tiny oil packet of Chapagetti and then turn the heat to medium. When you’re creating the dish, bear in mind that the key to cooking ram-don is controlling the balance of the two seasoning packets to your liking.



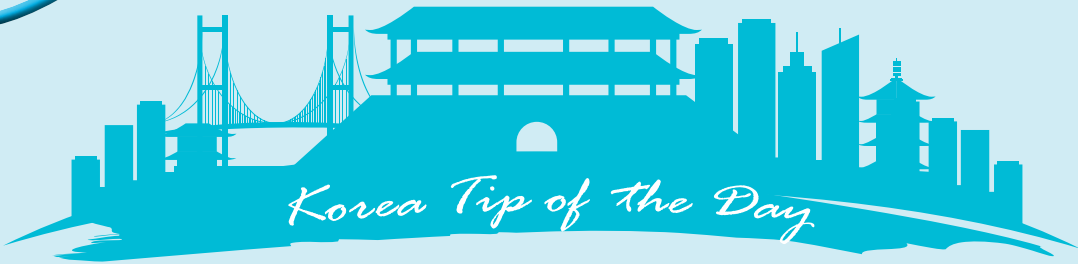
6 Sauté for 1 more minute until the noodles have soaked in all of the seasoning in the pot. (Add a little water if it’s too stiff.) Remove from the heat. Serve your noodles in a bowl with the sirloin (or other meat) on top.

Bon appetite or 잘 먹겠습니다
(Pronounced:
jal meok-ke-sseum-nida)!



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MAGAZINE KOREA
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School zones speed limits reduced off base

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHIHON KIM, STRIPES KOREA

While driving off base, you will want to be on the lookout for new, reduced speed limit signs around schools. The South Korean government approved a reduction of speeds limits in school zones across the country earlier this year to take effect in April.

Under the new regulations, drivers will have to

reduce their speed to 30 kph, a 10-kilometer decrease from the previous school zone speed limit. Also, be aware that in school zones with no sidewalks or walkways the speeding limit is now reduced to 20 kph.

Drivers are also now expected to stop at crosswalks even if there are no traffic lights present. Proceed with caution and keep an eye out for pedestrians in school zones.

In addition to reducing speed limits and changing some of the rules, the penalties for violations of these new laws are stricter. Fines for speeding in a school zone have increased from 80,000 won (about \$64.43) to 120,000 won.

These new laws follow measures taken by the Korean government after Kim Min-Sik, 9, was hit and killed by a car in a school zone last September. The new bill paves the way for heavier punishment to negligent drivers.

Included in this bill, known as the Mink-Sik Bill, a driver involved in the death of a child under the



age of 13 while speeding in a school zone, will be sentenced from a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of life in prison. Those who injure a child will be sentenced from one to 15 years and fined up to 30,000,000 won.

Korean police are also taking further steps to ensure safety in school zones with speed and surveillance camera installation across the country.

As in all school zones whether here in Korea or in the States, always respect the speed limit and watch out for pedestrians and school children.

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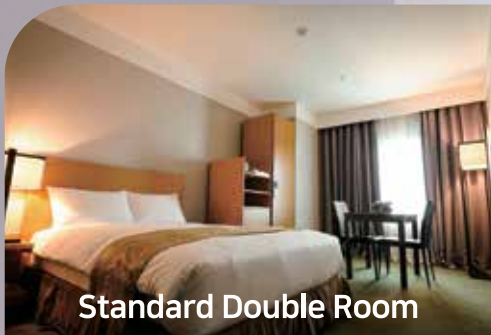
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12 tax tips made for military life

MILITARY ONESOURCE

As a servicemember, the tax implications of combat pay, deployment or multiple moves can be daunting. However, free access to Military OneSource MilTax services – designed specifically for military life (MilLife) – can make tax time easier for you.

With MilTax, servicemembers have quick access to consultants who are experts in the tax code and how it applies to military life, as well as easy, secure and free tax preparation and e-filing software. Take advantage of MilTax services to save money and time this tax season.

TAX TIP 1: Gather tax documents first.

Before filing, organize paperwork and establish a specific

place for all incoming tax documents, like W-2 forms, as they arrive in the new year. You may need to track down others. You'll also need Social Security numbers, birth dates and other information for everyone included in the return.

Not sure of all the documentation you'll need? Contact a MilTax consultant – they can help you figure out which documents you'll need to file for your specific situation.

TAX TIP 2: Contact MilTax for tax relief.

Stuck? Questions? Unsure of the next step? Let MilTax take the stress out of tax season. Military OneSource's tax consultants can answer your questions, and our free tax preparation and e-filing software makes filing your returns fast and simple.

TAX TIP 3: Get tax credits for your classes.

The IRS allows you to apply a Lifetime Learning Credit toward your taxes for approved post-high school education courses that lead to new or improved job skills.

For more information about the Lifetime Learning Credit and other qualifying education expenses, see the IRS article "Qualified Education Expenses" – or, contact a MilTax consultant about your specific situation.

TAX TIP 4: Take advantage of the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act.

Active-duty servicemembers have always been able to keep one state as their state of legal residency for tax purposes – usually their home of record – even when they move frequently on military orders. A state of legal residence is also considered their "domicile" or "resident" state.

Since 2009, when the Military Spouse Residency Relief act was signed, a nonmilitary spouse of a servicemember may also be able to keep their state of residency the same as that of the servicemember, regardless of which state they currently live in.

TAX TIP 5: Get automatic tax extensions when you're deployed.

When you're deployed, your service wants you to focus on your mission, not your tax forms.

Consequently, the IRS automatically extends tax deadlines for U.S. Armed Forces personnel deployed to a combat zone or in support of operations in a qualified hazardous duty area.

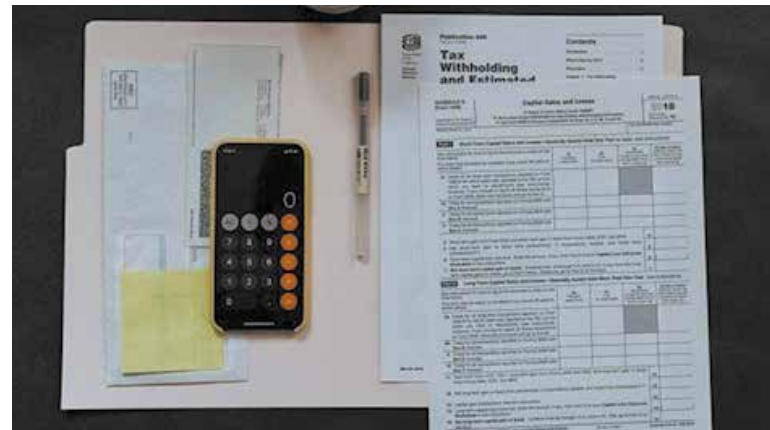
The deadline for filing returns, making payments or taking any other action with the IRS is also extended for at least 180 days after the last day of qualifying combat zone service or the last day of any continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from service in the combat zone.

TAX TIP 6: Exclude home sale profits from your taxes.

Many military families buy a home knowing they may have to sell it when their next PCS comes around. It's important to know about capital gains tax ahead of time.

If you make a profit from the sale of your main home, you may qualify to exclude up to \$250,000 of that gain from your income, or up to \$500,000 of that gain if you file a joint return with your spouse. This is called the Sale of Primary Home Capital Gain Exclusion.

To be eligible for this exclusion, most people must have owned the home for at least two years and lived in that home for at least two of the last five years. However, servicemembers who have moved due to PCS, before being able to meet these requirements, may still qualify for a



partial exclusion. In those cases, they may not be taxed with the total capital gain for the sale of the home.

TAX TIP 7: Report and claim casualty losses from disasters.

If you have property in an area determined by the president to be eligible for federal assistance – such as a region devastated by a hurricane or forest fire eligible for assistance from FEMA – you can claim unreimbursed expenses from casualty losses on your tax return.

If you are eligible to claim a loss on your tax filings, use IRS Form 4684, "Casualties and Thefts." Refer to IRS Publication 547 ("Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts") and Publication 584 ("Casualty, Disaster, and Theft Loss Workbook") for more detailed information.

Additional resources can be found on the IRS website, and MilTax consultants can help you sort out your specific tax situation for free.

TAX TIP 8: Itemize non-cash charitable contributions like clothes and volunteer travel expenses.

If itemizing makes sense for your tax situation, know that clothing and other items donated to approved charities – listed with the IRS – as well as ingredients for meals donated to soup kitchens, can be deducted if you keep records. Many organizations that accept donations provide a list of recommended values for donated items based on their condition.

You can also deduct the costs of gas and oil that are directly related to getting to and from the place where you volunteer. If you do not want to figure your actual costs, simply deduct 14 cents for each mile instead. For 2018 taxes and beyond, changes were made to itemized deductions you can claim on Schedule A (Form 1040).

TAX TIP 9: Get special tax considerations for combat pay.

Combat pay is partially or fully tax-free. Certain servicemembers serving in support of a combat zone may also qualify for this exclusion. These areas currently include:

- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Saudi Arabia

- Oman
- Bahrain
- Qatar
- The United Arab Emirates
- The Kosovo area
- The Persian Gulf
- The Red Sea
- The Gulf of Oman
- The Gulf of Aden

The Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude.

TAX TIP 10: Know about tax deductions for reservists.

Reservists whose reserve-related duties take them more than 100 miles away from home, each way, can deduct their unreimbursed travel expenses on Form 2106, even if they do not itemize their deductions. They can also deduct the purchase and upkeep costs of uniforms that they can't wear while off duty, minus any allowance they receive for these costs.

Taxpayers can request a free transcript of tax returns covering the past three years. The Get Transcript tool on IRS.gov is the fastest way to get a transcript.

If you have any questions about special tax situations for National Guard or reservists, contact a MilTax consultant for a free consultation.

TAX TIP 11: Remember your retirement plan contributions.

An IRA or 401(k)-type plan might mean saving for retirement and cutting taxes at the same time. Servicemembers who contribute to a plan, such as the Thrift Savings Plan, may also be able to claim the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit.

TAX TIP 12: Find answers to common questions with official IRS resources.

Take advantage of the IRS's Interactive Tax Assistant to ask tax-related questions, and read the answers to others' questions. Specifically for servicemembers, IRS Publication 3, "Armed Forces' Tax Guide," details special tax situations for those serving in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard.

Taxes are complicated. Remember that our free MilTax services – both our expert military tax consultants and e-filing tax preparation software – stand ready to make tax season easy for you. Call 800-342-9647.



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MEDICAL TREATMENTS

- ✓STD Diseases
- ✓Prostate disorders
- ✓Circumcision
- ✓Vasectomy
- ✓ED



map

American doctor qualification authentication (ECFMG 0-666-991) in compliance with the urologic medical specialist

KOREA RESTAURANT GUIDE

| Seoul | Osan Air Base |
|--|---|
|  <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">20% OFF</p> <p style="color: white;">SHOW YOUR MILITARY ID</p> <p style="color: white;">www.icpk.co.kr</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: white;">www.facebook.com/cpkpizza www.instagram.com/cpkkorea</p> | <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Only Fresh Chickens!</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">OSAN AB</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">2</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">TIBA 2-for-1 Chickens</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Call 15 min. early for Fresh Pick up</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">031-668-2993</p> <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">Best flavor for Americans, All chickens A++ Products</p> |

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Stripes Sports Trivia

The last 5 NFL teams to lose one game or less in the regular season have all failed to win the Super Bowl. Most notably, of course, is the 2007 Patriots - the 2nd team to ever finish the regular season undefeated. Can you name the most recent team to finish with one loss that failed to win the Big Game?

Answer

Carolina Panthers (2015)

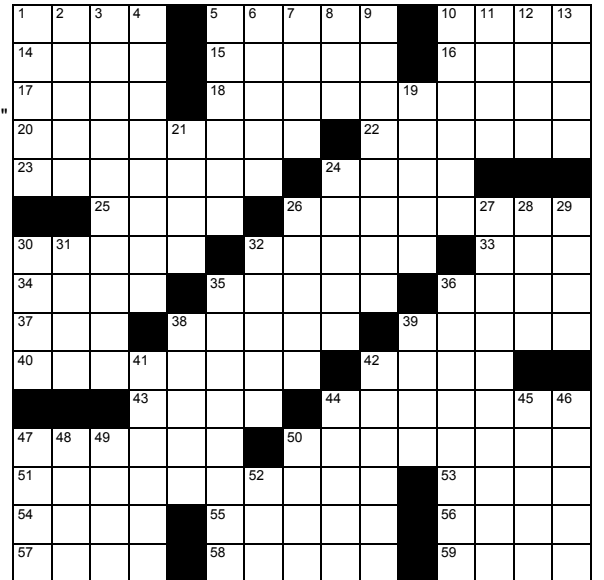


Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Reading aid
- 5 Crosswise, on deck
- 10 "Now hear ___!"
- 14 Song for a diva
- 15 Pigeon's perch
- 16 Utterly detest
- 17 Small brook
- 18 Book you can't put down
- 20 Speed
- 22 Mind-boggler
- 23 High cost of leaving?
- 24 Slinky's shape
- 25 Margarita fruit
- 26 Grocery store haul
- 30 Stephen King's home
- 32 Netflix offering
- 33 Sib for sis
- 34 Not tricked by
- 35 Bartender's mixer
- 36 Urban eyesore
- 37 Till bill
- 38 Soupy "Oliver Twist" fare
- 39 Slug's trail
- 40 Third in rank
- 42 Horsewhip
- 43 Picnic hamperer
- 44 Boastful display
- 47 Part of AWOL
- 50 Like many a rescue
- 51 Place for early 20th century TB patients
- 53 Tethered toy
- 54 Fox or turkey follower
- 55 Flaxlike fiber
- 56 Minute amount
- 57 "Dear" advice-giver
- 58 Pass, as time
- 59 Soon, to a bard



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- 2 Animated mermaid
- 3 Tiny metric volume
- 4 Trigger was one
- 5 Skiing specialty
- 6 Birth surname of Warren and Shirley
- 7 On pins and needles
- 8 Bio bit
- 9 Rapid, as a rise to fame
- 10 Word before ride or seeker
- 11 Send to the gallows
- 12 News tidbit
- 13 Hospital fluids
- 19 Band together
- 21 Command to Fido
- 24 Object pettyly
- 26 Brooklyn's ___ Island
- 27 Responsibility
- 28 Type of lily
- 29 Rotunda feature
- 30 Like some points

- 31 Green Gables girl
- 32 Lament a loss
- 35 Turncoats
- 36 Neighbor of Poland
- 38 California slugger
- 39 Close with a bang
- 41 Versailles agreement
- 42 Like Roger Rabbit
- 44 UCLA player
- 45 Likewise
- 46 "Caribbean Queen" singer
- 47 Dog in "The Thin Man"
- 48 Fishhook feature
- 49 Uppity one
- 50 A ___ a dozen
- 52 50 Cent piece?

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

DID YOU KNOW?

One type of service has managed to stay in demand in South Korea is one that provides wedding guests for hire. Business is booming and some companies even allow clients to view photos of potential "guests" ahead and choose the ones they think look similar to their real friends.



Hangul of the week

이별
ibyol (farewell)

Language Lesson

Thank you for your effort.

Su-go-ha-syeoss-seub-ni-da.

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Honor
Honor and remember those who have served in Korea through reunions, scholarships, and events.

Network
Be part of a network of those who served in Korea.

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | 6 | 7 | | 2 | | | |
| 5 | | 8 | | | 3 | 1 | | |
| | | | 1 | | 5 | 4 | | |
| 5 | 2 | | 8 | | 6 | | | |
| 8 | | | 4 | | | | | 2 |
| 4 | | 3 | | | 8 | | | |
| | | 5 | 7 | | | 6 | | |
| 7 | 3 | | | | | | | 5 |

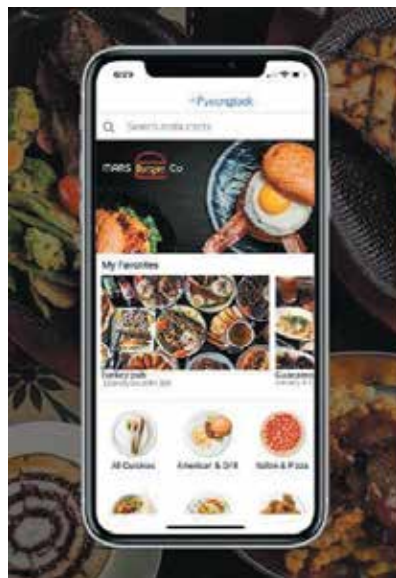
HOW TO SOLVE:

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 Previous Sudoku:

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

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10 tips to successfully work from home

STORY AND PHOTO BY STACY ROMAN,
STRIPES KOREA

With the current state of affairs, many employers are asking their employees to work from home if they can. If you haven't worked remotely before, there are a few things to think about as you get started. I've been fortunate to telecommute quite often and have experienced both the good and the bad. Here are some tips and tricks to help you work successfully from home.

1. Make sure you've got the right stuff. Before you start, make sure you've got all of the software you'll need loaded on your computer. In one of my jobs, I brought in my laptop and made sure the IT department loaded the correct versions of the software we used in the office. Also, ensure you've got the right amount of internet bandwidth to support your needs. If your company requires a telework agreement, read through it carefully and ask questions before signing the dotted line.

2. Location, location, location. Find a dedicated workspace in your home which will work for you. It could be a home office, a spare bedroom, the kitchen counter, dining room table — wherever feels best for you. I've used the dining room table and am currently writing this from a desk in my living room. However, make it easy for you to shut down and walk away at the end of the day.



3. Rise and shine. As tempting as it is to literally roll out of bed and switch on the computer, try to keep your morning routine as normal as you can. Take a shower and change out of your pajamas. Yes, I'll admit to attending a virtual production meeting in my sweats and slippers. Even though I was comfortable, I didn't feel very professional or productive. Once I changed, my mindset changed as well.

4. Stay on schedule. If you normally show up at the office at 8 a.m. and leave at 4:30 p.m., try to stick to it. It'll make it easier as you start out and a lot easier when you have to go back into the office.

5. Get organized. Calendars and lists will become your new BFFs. Sharing your calendar with co-workers makes it easy to coordinate meetings and

to-do lists help prioritize which items are more urgent. You won't feel as overwhelmed or feel as much of an urge to call it a day early.

6. Schedule breaks. When you work in an office, you often take quick little breaks throughout the day — getting a cup of coffee, comparing notes of "The Bachelor" with a co-worker or just stretching your legs. Be sure to schedule in a few breaks during your day. Take in some fresh air outside, if you can. Or, if you're feeling extra productive, swap out a load of laundry.

7. Use technology to your advantage. My mother was a field adjuster for a large insurance company back in the 90s. Compared to the tools we have now, she may as well have worked in the Dark Ages. Online sites such as Google Hangouts, Zoom, Skype, FaceTime,

Calendly and more make it so much easier to stay connected remotely.

8. Log out of your social media accounts. Unless your job requires you to update social media for the organization, try to avoid it as much as you can. It's easy to get sucked in and not realize how much time you've spent searching for the perfect cat gif response to a friend. Logging off and removing the sites from your bookmarks can make it a little less tempting.

9. Set boundaries. If you've got little ones at home with you, it can prove quite challenging. If your spouse is also working from home, try to come up with an equal care plan with each other. If it's just you and the kid(s), use nap time to your advantage and knock out a bunch of work. No naps? No problem. Break out coloring books, puzzles, or give in and let them watch a few episodes of their favorite show. If you're on an important call, find a quiet room and let them know it's not okay to interrupt. Put a sign on the door if you need to.

10. Keep the lines of communication open. Be honest with your employer. If you need to adjust your schedule to split your shift for family reasons, don't be afraid to ask. There were more than a few times when my husband was TDY where I'd start my workday at 5 a.m., put it on pause to get my kids off to school and then finish up by the time they'd get home.



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