




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

Sender's name

Congratulate a 2021 grad!

Our annual Grad Tab highlighting Pacific DODEA high schools and their graduating classes will appear in the May 27 edition of Stripes Okinawa.

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

What you need:

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

Send info by May 7, 5 p.m. to PacificGrad@stripes.com and a Stripes representative will follow-up with you right away.



Zip-lining fun at Forest Adventure
Pages 18-19

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

DAY HE CAME HOME

"Kids get a blanket and let's go." Mom said.

"Where are we going?" Sam

asked.

Ok? I said confused. We got on the road and started driving.

My mom said we were picking someone up from the Airport!

"Is it Dad?" Presley asked. "No, it's not Dad, he's still working in the states. It's one of my friends, Jerry."

"Jerry, who's Jerry?" "It's no one, he's just going to stay for a while." said Mom.

We were all so confused, so we just played a game until we got there.

"Ok, we're almost there!" said Mom.

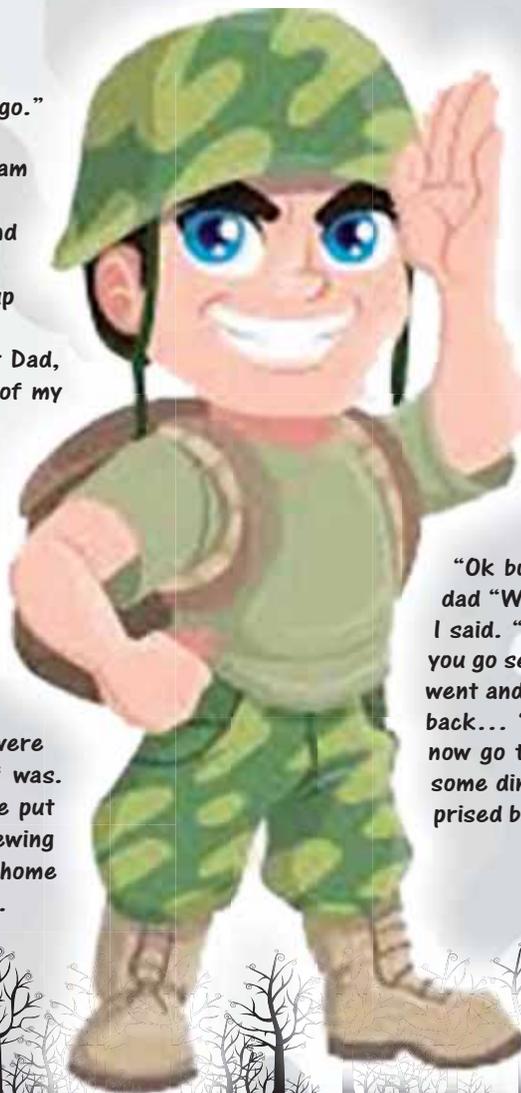
We were all so excited to meet this Jerry guy. We waited for 10 minutes at the airport until my brother saw something.

"Mom is that..." She nodded her head.

"He's here," said Mom. Presley and I were so eager to see who this mystery buff was.

"Dad!!!!" Presley and I said confused. He put all his luggage in the car, and he was chewing gum like he always does when he comes home from trips.

"It's been a whole year!" I said.



When we got home, I went straight into the bathroom to get a surprise for him.

"Meow" "Why is there a kitten in my daughter's arms?" he asked my mom.

"Well, when we went on our daily walk around the park, we were feeding the cats and shook the treats a little more before we left and she just came out of the bushes so we checked all over for a mom but there wasn't one.

When we gave her food, she ate forever so we knew she was starving."

"Ava and I practically begged her to bring her home." Presley said. We put the kitten in the car and drove away.

"Ok but why did you have to take her?" said dad "Well we wanted to save her." Presley and I said.

"Ok well, off of that subject, why don't you go see what is in my suitcase." said dad. We went and opened his suitcase and he brought us back...

"Swimsuits?" Sam said, confused. "Ok now go try on those bathing suits and let's eat some dinner!" dad said. I've never been so surprised before.

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- Ava, 5th grade, Stearley Heights Elementary School



MORE FROM MRS. RICE'S 5TH GRADE STUDENTS ON PAGE 6

Life of a gypsy

Being a military child is a blessing and a curse. There is nothing comparable to walking the beaches of Japan, seeing the lights of Las Vegas, enduring the snow of Alaska, or maneuvering the hills of Germany. No one else can say they've done what I've done, seen what I've seen, lived where I've lived. I live the life of a gypsy while living in houses of well established residents.



I'm a tourist who never stops touring, a

sightseer with infinite sights, and an explorer, who even if they tried, can never stop exploring.

On top of this, I'm the cousin they can't see, the friend that stopped showing up, and the kid that once was.

It's hard building relationships and walking away from them with no choice. It's hard telling someone you've learned to love that your relationship ends when the top of the

hour glass is empty. It's hard listening to

others as they explain to you you're the luckiest person in the world just because you get to see it. It's hard, but I genuinely can't tell you if I'd have it any other way.

I'm blessed, I'm cursed, I'm cultured, I'm ignorant, I'm someone who wishes they can stay in one place and keep meaningful relationships and have a sense of hearth or some acceptance or any feeling of a home, yet I'm an independent dependent on the search to find themselves. I'm a gypsy.

- D'lijha Jones, Senior, Kadena High School

MORE FROM MS. MENDOZA'S STUDENTS ON PAGE 2



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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

KADENA HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Mendoza

Editor's Note: Heather Mendoza's students are some teens who have a lot to say, and know how to put it into words. Thanks for being great examples, guys!

Dandelions

Roots grow deep and leaves spread vast
Withstand a hurricane, a monsoon or typhoon
Once it's time, let go of the past
Ride with the breeze and pack up for June
When it's time to go, it's time to go fast
At arrival, reconcile
Roots grow deep and leaves spread vast
Emblem of the military child

- Mika Poelma, Junior



Being a military child is tough for many people, but I have had an amazing experience of being a military brat. When people think of a military child, usually they assume kids are traveling frequently and making new friends constantly; that wasn't the case for me.

When I was born, my dad was on recruiting duty in Texas, then he got stationed in Okinawa for 3 years, then when I was starting preschool we moved to California. Once I finished 1st grade we moved back to Okinawa Japan in 2010, and now I am still on island as a senior at Kadena High School. My older brother and sister joined the military too after high school. My brother was in the Marine Corp and my sister joined the Navy. It is very neat that 3 of my family members have served our country.

My experience in Okinawa has been wonderful. The thing I most love about Okinawa is the unique culture and the assurance of safeness I feel here. Without my dad being in the military I would have never experienced living overseas, so I am very grateful for this opportunity. The one thing that has been hard living in Japan, is being away from family back home. Just recently, I was not able to attend my brother's wedding, which was tough. I will say, though, that I am very thankful for FaceTime and the technology we have today; without it I would be very disconnected and know very little of the rest of my family. Being a military child can be rough at times, but in the end I need to realize the blessings that come with my dad being a Marine. I am proud to call myself a military child.

- Vivien Reese, Senior



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Month of the Military Child

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What's Your Story?

The term “brat” has never carried much weight to me. My father enlisted before I was even born, so I have never known a life outside of this. I don’t have a childhood home or friends to miss. I don’t remember any time where I didn’t count down the months until it was time to move. So, when people ask me “what is it like being a military kid?”, I’m never quite sure what to tell them. Maybe about the time I forgot my ID at home, and couldn’t get on base? Or that I now loathe the colour tan because it makes me feel like I’m 12, and lost in base housing? In all honesty, I feel like these things would more accurately describe military life than any story I could tell them about the places I’ve travelled to when I’m not in the vicinity of base.

Perhaps I could tell them about how difficult it is to look for and apply to colleges while overseas, or the fact that it’s very inconvenient to be prone to motion sickness when you travel so often. But, most civilians don’t find any of that very interesting. Most people would rather I tell them how lucky I feel to be able to see the world and have such a unique experience, colleges included. Since elementary school, I have been asked time and time again to write about how great it must be to be a Brat, and how this experience has shaped me. I wrote the phrase “growing up as a military child..” so many times my fingers hurt. The word “resilience” haunts my dreams.

In truth, I don’t feel as though it is some great gift that has taught me invaluable life lessons. It is just the way that I live, and it has its own ups and downs, just like anything else. It can be hard to move around, but I can also find it hard to stay in one place. It doesn’t matter to me whether it’s the roar of traffic that I hear, or the roar of jet engines. I will be myself whether I live by a military base or not.

– Cali Farris, Senior

I could say it gets easier (in regard to the moving and constant rearrangement of friend groups and peers) but that would be a lie. Of course, it becomes more manageable to cope with shifts and losses that being a military brat entails, but management and ease are not one in the same. It is never easy to become acquainted to new people and locations, and it’s sure not easy to say goodbye to your close friends, but over years of this moving life one begins to realize that there is nothing you can do to change it, and with that knowledge comes a solemn understanding: nothing is forever. This saying is not exclusive to the armed services; in fact, it is applicable to anything in this world, but it is especially true to the military child.

The amount of times I have asked or been asked “when do you move” is innumerable. It is a question too often asked when first meeting a fellow military brat, but for good reason. Families are in constant rotation, so it’s only on occasion you will befriend someone whose departure schedule aligns with yours, and even then it is not set in stone. Some people grow reserved, distant and discouraged. What’s the point in creating connections if it all ends in a year’s time? Sure, you can say you will stay in touch. But what really is the likelihood? Chances are you will never see your friend again. As physical distance grows, connections to peers weaken.

With all this said, I am not ungrateful for the opportunities I have had. I’ve been very fortunate to be able to travel and experience the world. I have seen wonderful places and met even greater people. I am never hungry, and I have a warm house to rest within. But this life certainly takes a toll. It grooms you to continue it. It is strange to think that it would be more bizarre to just leave this life behind, move to the city and become a civilian, than to not be around fighter jets, uniforms and tanks. I believe this to be the reason why so many children of military background join the service; it’s all they know.

I do not know what I would like to do with my life. I’m seventeen years old, living in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. I am intelligent and well spoken, but I lack “day one” friends, connections, a normal life, and street smarts. I’ve grown up in an environment where, although very safe, I have never had the opportunity to see what the real world is like. I am not ready for the real world, I know nothing of it. Sometimes it seems like the military is all I have.

The Month of the Military child is to show respect to the “important role” we play within the military community. As military children we are among the most adaptable people on the planet. We sacrifice our time and relationships to ensure our parents and guardians can continue to support our great nation. We understand our role, and many of us rise to the occasion without hesitation, doing as we are told without questioning. But the absence of a “normal” childhood affects us tremendously, and still hurts.

– Kaden Wobse, Senior

Being a military child, sometimes the most simple questions can be the most difficult to answer. Something as simple as “Where are you from?” will have military brats stuck in a stump because... Where ARE we from?

A military brat is a child whose parent or parents serve full time in the military. This comes with a lot of upsides, like getting to move to new places and countries, having places to eat American food (if you live overseas), and it’s really one big adventure. Of course, good things come with downsides, and these downsides include constant moves to different places, having to adapt to these new places very easily, and not having a place to call home.

I am proud to call Okinawa, Japan my home of 16 years and counting. Though I was born here and I have never moved, this doesn’t mean I don’t know the struggles of being a military child. Being a military brat, you’re gonna establish relationships with people, but having to say goodbye is the hardest part. I’ve always been the one to wave goodbye at The Rotator, but never the one with bags in hand. On social media, I always see my friends posting pictures of themselves at their new station in Europe, Korea, and even Hawaii, and there are days when I’ve just been a little bit envious. Sometimes, it just feels like everyone is moving on to new places to do big things and I’m just being left in the dust on a rock off the coast of Japan.

Of course, living in one place for all of your life isn’t all cons. After all, never having to move and actually settling in Okinawa has allowed me to live a stress-free life (besides the stress of trying to uphold my family name). I know Okinawa like the back of my hand, and there’s still more for me to explore! One of my favorite things to do is to meet new people and introduce them to how much Okinawa has to offer. The food, culture, and hotspots are what have helped me fall in love with life in Japan, and I couldn’t imagine living anywhere else. No matter if you move constantly or live in certain places for long periods, don’t take it for granted. Explore everything you can, make lasting friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime.

– Maria Obsuna, Senior



With the ever-changing restrictions COVID-19 brings to the military, I’ve been able to reflect and realize more of who I am and the things I’m grateful for. As an upcoming high school graduate of a DODEA school, one thing I became more aware about was the life that may not have been chosen by me, but one I live everyday.

The military brat life is one I’m very grateful for. I know that if I didn’t have a parent in the military, I wouldn’t have had the amazing opportunity to live in places I would never think I’d call home. Military life can also have its downs: credits changing for each school, stress filled summers PCSing, losing friends with each move, not having one place to call home. But when I look at it, the pros far more outweigh the cons. Because of my father’s occupation, I’ve had the amazing chance to live on the beautiful island of Okinawa, Japan, three times, adding up to a total of nine years. With each time stationed in Okinawa, I fall more in love with its beauty, consisting of its natural earthly beauty, people, food, and culture.

I’ve been able to witness countless sunrises and sunsets in AZ, CA, WA, NM, TX, HI, Japan, and Korea, each containing its own sense of beauty and wonder. Although I had to say goodbye to many friends with each move, I was also able to say hello to more new faces and build lasting relationships with people all over the world. From purple and watery poi, to spicy red bibimbap, I’ve been able to taste different and amazing foods all over the world. This goes hand in hand with the culture I’ve been able to learn about and be a part of with every location I go to. I will admit, being a Hispanic-Hawaiian mix isn’t the easiest, especially when asked about your own culture and heritage. Gladly, I was able to join things here in Japan like the Far East LinguaFest program DODEA offers, so I could improve my Spanish speaking in order to converse with and understand my extended family. I was also able to find and join a hula teacher so I can dance hula like my mother did at our age.

If I were not a military brat, I would still be able to have similar opportunities, but I wouldn’t get the wonderful experience of learning all these things on the island of Okinawa. I’m proud to be able to call myself a military brat, and although I may not have a specific place to call my home, I’ll be able to find and make one anywhere I go.

– Anela Salgado, Senior



Being a military child has its perks, as do most things, but with the good comes the bad or the less positive aspects. I’ve been a military kid since I was born and when I was younger, I didn’t understand it. When I was younger and we had to move, I didn’t comprehend that I wouldn’t be seeing my friends from there for a very long time or maybe ever again. For that reason, I’ve never really experienced those friends that you still know since kindergarten or first grade.

I moved when I was two years old, then in first grade, and then again in sixth grade. Moving when you’re younger is a lot less stressful than if you move once you’re a little older. When I moved in first grade it didn’t matter. I thought it was so cool to go somewhere new and in addition to that I only saw my friends at school. As I got older, moving made a much larger impact, because either I moved away from my friends or they left me.

A common question in military life is “how long are you here for?” While most Americans stay in the same place for the majority of their life, when you’re a military child you never know when you could be leaving or saying goodbye to the people around you. I’ve seen so many people come and go, and that’s hard on everyone. Instead of having someone you’ve known since first grade you usually just get the people you’ve known since your first day of that school year. This forces you to make new friends each year. This is exactly what I did; I have met so many people, some of whom I’ve grown close to and others not so much. Being a military child is great, but nothing is only ever sunshine and rainbows.

– Chloe Malinao, Sophomore

ZUKERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

preston Olson age 6

The Military Child

I am sad to be a military child because I have to say goodbye to my friends and the good part is I get to make new friends and I get to watch TV with



- Preston Olson

1st grade • Ms. McParlin

Editor's Note:
Ms. McParlin's class wants you to know what it's like to be a military child. Thanks for sharing, kids!

Achilles Johnson age 7

I am a Military Child

I am happy to be a military child because I have to go to new places and I get to see new things and I get to see my dad when he comes home.



- Achilles Johnson

Alice 6

I am a Military Child.

I am happy and sad to be a military child. I am sad because I have to leave my friends. I am happy to eat new foods. I move a lot, it is fun. I meet new friends at new places. My Dad goes a lot to help planes.



- Alice Erwin

Olivia 6

I am a Military Child

I am happy to be a military child. Because the Navy is the best. I love working hard. My favorite places are Osaka, Tokyo and the United States. I love traveling. I love all the countries that I live in. I have been in many places because I am a military child.



- Olivia Sombie

Evan age 7

I am a Military Child

I am happy to be a military child because I am going back to South Carolina. I am going to be there and I will have so much fun. I will love my family so I will have fun all day long. The bad thing is I will miss my teacher.



- Evan Daniels

Sierra

The Military Child

I am happy military child because I move a lot to see my family. My favorite is to see my mom. But I will see my mom through and my



- Sierra Wesley

Ethan Leong age 7

The Military Child

Being a military child is rough because you have to move to places you don't know. I don't like it. I say good-bye to friends and family and pets. But there are some good things like eating birthday food and going to water parks, art projects and I



- Ethan Leong

Zachery age 7

I am a Military Child

I am happy my mom is military because we get to be quarantined for 14 days. I can play with my Nintendo. I can see my mom. I miss her.



- Zachery Cameron

Mia 6

I am a Military Child

I feel happy and sad. I am a military child. I don't like my dad leaving for 24 hours. I miss him. But I love my family because they take good care of me.



- Mia Mullen

Andrea Vasquez age 7

The Military Child

I like being a military child because I get to stay in my home. I get a long time with my family. I also make new friends.



- Andrea Vasquez

Eliza Manalac age 7

The Military Child

Being a military child is fun because you get to travel to your favorite place. Like when I move you get to visit Okinawa because my mom is in the Navy. Also making new friends and going to a new place where I haven't been is awesome.



- Eliza Manalac

Ethan Leong age 7

The Military Child

I live in different places to go. I want to go to New York city and visit my family. The thing I like the most are going to new things.



- Ethan Leong

Colin Day age 7

The Military Child

I am a military child. It is hard to be a military child because my dad leaves. But I like my home because



- Colin Day

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



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LIVE MÁS



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Tostadas, and Many other TB Promotional items.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Stearley Heights Elementary School



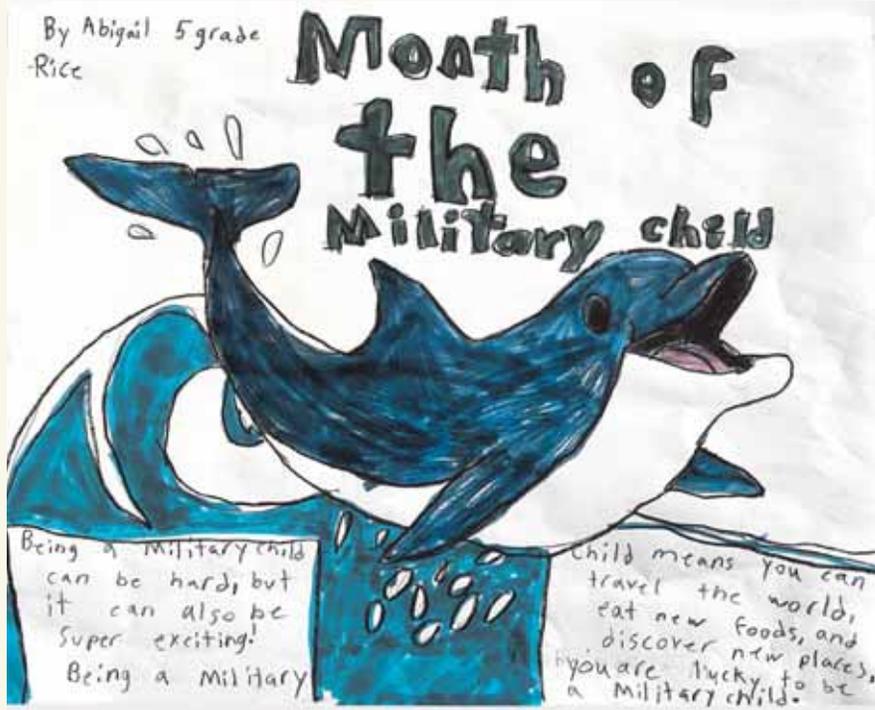
Editor's Note: Kelly Rice is proud of her hard-charging and talented students. And we can see why. Great work, kids!



My name is Rachel, and let me tell you somethin' in a song, About all the things that can't go wrong

About being a child, not just any child, a purple, I mean military child
 You can travel places, and try new things, oh the joy it sure brings!
 All the food and different cultures, feed you dead to the vultures
 JK I was kidding...
 But anyways... Oh the places you could go, it's like traveling around the world!
 Some people don't even travel, but if you did, oh the joys that unravel.
 I'm about to end this song, by all the things that can go wrong...
 Your parents can go at times, TDY or training.
 They can be gone for 1, 2, 3, and more months or years!
 And the melancholy voices go through your ears.
 The sadness it may bring, but you can hear the joy of the voices,
 When they come back with something they bring. (?)
 I hope you like my song about the month of the purple... I mean Military Child!

- Rachel S.



- Abigail



Being a military child is fantastic because I get to see new places and make new friends. I love my dad because he works hard for my family. My dad is the best dad I could ask for. It is hard because I must leave my friends, leave my school, and leave my teachers. Before he would leave, he would spend lots of time with the family. The day he left, my mom started to cry; well, the whole family cried. A year later, I got called to my school's office in North Carolina, and my mom was in there. So, I walked over and turned my back, and there he was standing right behind me. He surprised us at school and had returned from deployment. I ran over and gave him a huge hug. My brother and I loved it! One of the ladies working in the school office started crying because she was so happy. That day he let my brother and I stay home. When we got home, we went to get food. Our neighbors were also thrilled. That was the best day of my life. Hopefully, the next trip he goes on, he is safe.

- Sydney Bates

- Jack Anglin

My experience of being a military child is my dad deploying and moving a lot.

For the past few years my dad has deployed, and we have had to move a lot. And it affected my life because me, my mom, and my sister miss my dad every time he deploys. And not only that he misses me, my mom, and my sister's birthday sometimes. That makes my whole family sad because we all love hanging out with my dad and we all do soooooo many things together, like metal detect, and spear fish, and watch movies. We do so many things together and now that he deploys a lot, I just miss doing all those things with him every time he leaves. Since he deploys so much, I'm kind of used to it. But my sister still cries and misses my dad every time he must leave. And me and my sister have been through a lot of schools. And when I say a lot of schools, I mean I've been through five. All five of those schools had lots of my friends and I hated moving away because we would have so many sleepovers and played all the time. It was very fun, but my dad always tells me that's life and sometimes I cry but deep down inside I know that it's going to be okay.

- Shawn Romero



- Damian

Being a military child is fun but can be hard at times, you have to travel all over the place, and you can miss friends and food that you love. But, if you only moved to 2 places your whole life, like me you don't really feel that sad. But either way, I would miss the food, culture, and nature. I also love stationary and daiso. I wouldn't live without it. Oh, and the snacks are cheap, so I can get a heck load of snacks and CANDY! Either way traveling around the world is fun, well if I did, because I've only been to Okinawa and California. (P.s, the weather in both places are great, you should really go there for vacation or to live there.)

- Rachel Su

I have to admit being a military kid is not great. My dad is always on 12's and weekend duty. A long time ago before I was born my dad was a kid and our great-great grandpa was going to fight in world war II. Luckily, he survived. And, then I came along in 2009. Right when I was born, I was a military kid. During that time my dad was always on deployment. I always talked to him on the phone. I was very good friends with the people who lived across the street to the point my mom let me go in his house without asking, but only if his parents were okay with it. Then, when I was 6, we were forced to move. Then I went to BHPS and then years later I went to AEIS. Then after 4th grade they did not have any room for me so here I am at SHES. Then I made lots of friends and Nick, one of my friends, now plays Fortnite with me. Now I have fun and I have a good sense of humor and like memes. My friends and I always play soccer. I like LEGOs and my sister bought the whole Harry Potter LEGO set. But I should not make too many friends because when I move, I will be super sad that I have to leave so many friends. I have to admit 2020 was not a good year, COVID 19 came, millions died and 2020 was considered the year with most deaths in the whole world. Did I mention my nana died in 2018? It was the worst. My sister cried so hard she cried for three days, my whole family was sad, and I have more than 100 people in my family! I do not like being a military kid, it is so hard to be a military kid.

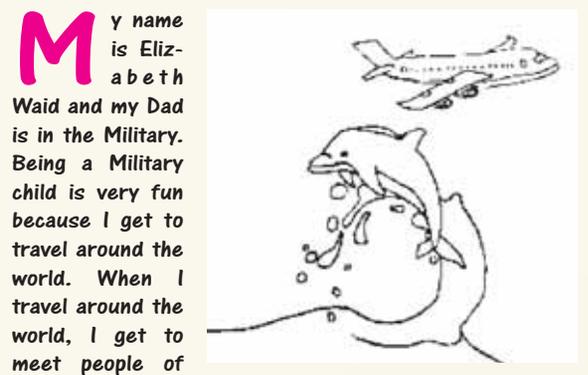


- Cadence Watson



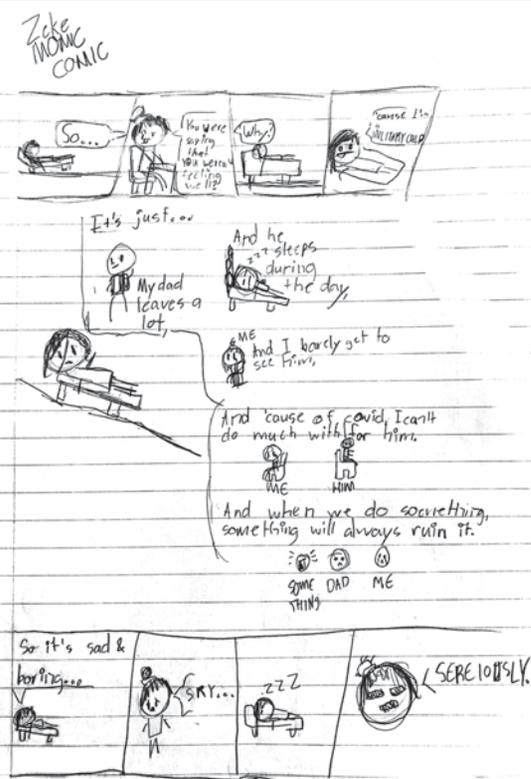
Being a military child is basically the hardest thing. It has its ups and downs. The downs are your mom or dad miss a lot of important things in your life. I know because my dad has missed some of my birthdays when I was little. He also missed me doing a lot of cute stuff. Some more downs are every three or four years we move about two weeks before my birthday. Therefore, I have no friends and spend it with strangers. I also make a lot of new friends but then have to leave them which is really hard. I also must move to new houses and go to new schools all the time. The worst part is that moving is stressful, so you have to be on your best behavior, which is really hard for me, so I get in trouble a lot when we have to move. The last bad thing is I am always super far away from my other family members, so I really never get to see them. The good parts are that I get to see more places than many people do. I have been to places that some don't even know about. I also get to make new friends. I have been able to try lots of good food and do lots of fun things. Being a military child also means that you get to know a lot of languages. One word I know is "good day" in German. You also get to have a lot more amazing teachers. I can say that being a military child is great but can also be lonely.

- Audri



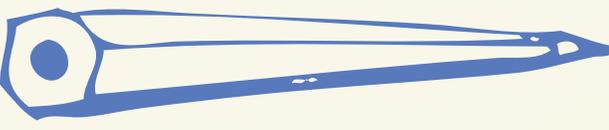
My name is Elizabeth Waid and my Dad is in the Military. Being a Military child is very fun because I get to travel around the world. When I travel around the world, I get to meet people of different cultures. I live in Okinawa, Japan. I have learned that the Japanese build beautiful temples in honor of their Gods and what to cook on special holidays. One day on New Year's my mom decided to cook soba noodles (the Japanese cook soba noodles because they are very long meaning a good year) and on the seventh of January we ate mochi to honor the new year god. The only problem in my opinion is that you make friends and then you must leave them, or they leave you. My best friend Mia had to move to California, but they got to stay in Okinawa for one more year but when she did have to move, I had to search for another best friend. Recently, we got news that my family and I are moving to Hawaii and that all my friends are going to move out around the same time. That made me feel a little better since I know I will not be left out of anything between my friends. I know that I am very lucky to be able to Move to places others may not have even heard about! The point is that I am super lucky to have this experience because most kids can't.

- Elizabeth Waid



- Zeke

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



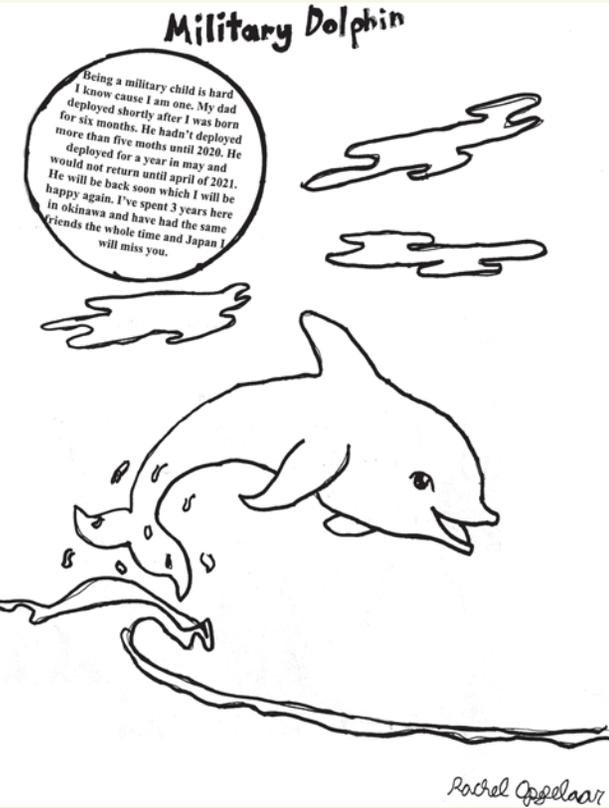
- Owen



- Aerie



- Jazlene Haskins



Rachel O.

I'm a military child who is 11 Years old. My dad is in the military and we just moved to Okinawa, Japan and this is my first time overseas. My dad is in the Air Force and we moved a lot. We went from California to Texas to Ohio to here in Okinawa, Japan. And so far, I like it. I didn't want to come here because I did not want to leave my friends but once we started exploring Okinawa and I made new friends I started liking it here. My brother and I are having fun everyday here. It's just an amazing and fun place to explore and we are just amazed the more we explore this place and I can't wait to explore more. My dad has been deployed 7 times and same with my mom when she was in the military. I can't wait to see what happens next!

- Jeremiah

MORE FROM MRS. RICE'S 5TH GRADE STUDENTS ON PAGE 8

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Stearley Heights Elementary School



Being a military child is awesome because mainly I can have a good life. Also, being a military child is good because I always feel safe. Being a military child is fun also because I can go to new places and go almost anywhere. It's also fun because even if I move to a new place, I can contact my friends and talk to them. Sometimes, my parents have to go to places for a long time, but they will still come back. Also, I can always call them. It might be challenging when my friends move away but I can always contact them. Also, being a military child is awesome because I can try new foods in different places. If I was not a military child, then I would not be here, so I am glad that I'm a military child.

- Nick



My dad is in the military and he has been since he was 29. Last year he was deployed for 6 months and missed his birthday, and now he is training in South Korea and will miss his birthday again. He is in the Marines and is a Lieutenant Colonel. We live on Kadena Air Force Base, but he works on Camp Courtney. Sometimes he works overnight shifts, and sometimes he travels for work. We miss him when he is gone.

We just moved to Japan recently and it

was kind of exhausting because first of all it was a several day flight. Then, we waited for the express move for 6 weeks, and it took 3 months for our main move to get here. I also just started a brand-new school, and I had to get used to a whole new system of learning. I made new friends though and traveled to a lot of new places. There have been challenges being a military child, but it is exciting!

- Sasha

Hi, my name is Cecilia and I am a military child. I moved here a year and 2 months ago, in 2019. Right before we moved here my dad went on a deployment. We stayed in the hotel until like February! Then, we moved into our house and got settled in. The night before Easter my dad and my mom sat down and talked to me, my dad said that he had to leave again, for 6 months. That moment my heart stopped... I didn't know what to say, the whole room was silent, then I started tearing up, I didn't want him to leave again! It was so hard for me the first time! After a couple of weeks, he left. Again. But I made a new friend. She is always there for me and she helped me get through it. She is in my squadron and her dad is the commander, so she knew how I felt. Me and my mom, brother and sister went on awesome adventures when he was gone! We went to new beaches and we had so much fun getting to know Japan and its different cultures! My dad missed my birthday, but he facetime'd, and I had the best party ever! When my dad got back, we had the best time ever!!! This year in 2021 my dad left again at the end of January and is supposed to be gone for 3 weeks but has to quarantine for 2 weeks not with us. Life as a military child is hard but it is so much fun at the same time!

- Cecilia

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



A safe and attractive family beach near Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium.

- Parking, swimming, and showers are free
- Protected by jellyfish nets
- ¥100 coin lockers available in the dressing rooms
- Safe for families: Nurses and guards are on duty during the swimming season from April through October.
- ※ No snorkeling, scuba diving, or smoking.
- ※ The facility could be closed depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Visit the Ocean Expo Park website for the latest information when planning a visit.

A gorgeous and unique lagoon beach with emerald-green sea and pure white coral sand.

Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium <http://churaumi.okinawa/en/>

Hours Regular season (October-February) / 8:30-18:30 (Last admission 17:30) Summer season (March-September) / 8:30-20:00 (Last admission 19:00)

※ Note: Regular season business hours in March 2021.



All about it

Everyone knows that veterans help our people, protect our countries, and understand that we are stronger together. Veterans, This is for you:

You Help us

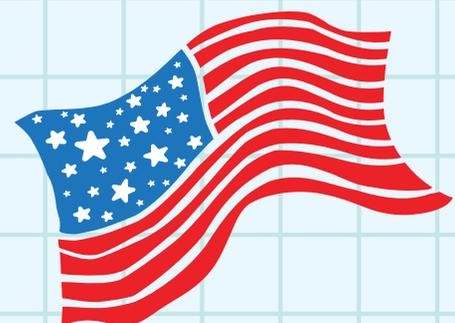
You make us feel good

You also spend time with your loved ones,

And you are helpful for those who are in need.

And for you Mom and Dad, you make me and Anabella feel grateful

Thierry Nimbona, Ryukyu Middle School

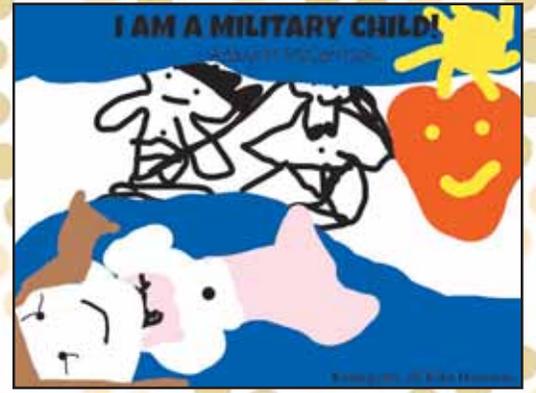


CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

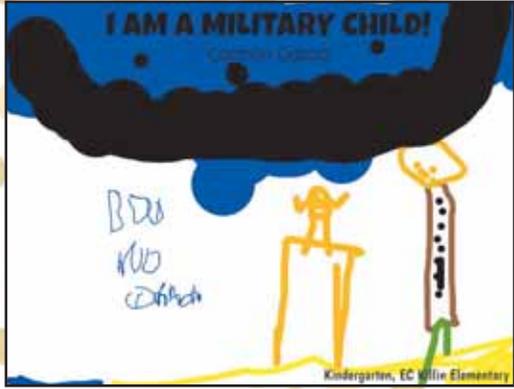
E.C. Killin Elementary School

Kindergarten Ms. Byrom

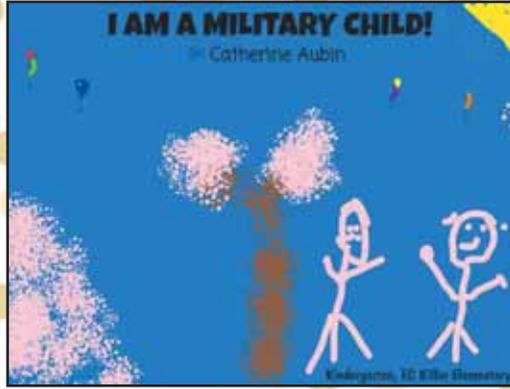
Editor's Note: Ms. Byrom's talented students submitted some wonderful artwork. What a great way to share their creativity!



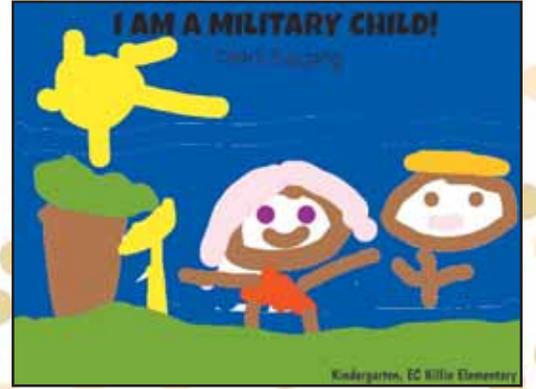
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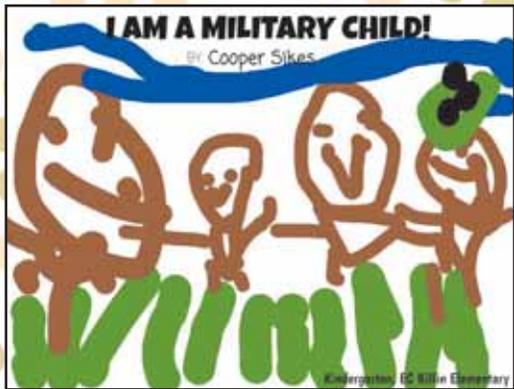
Cannon Garcia



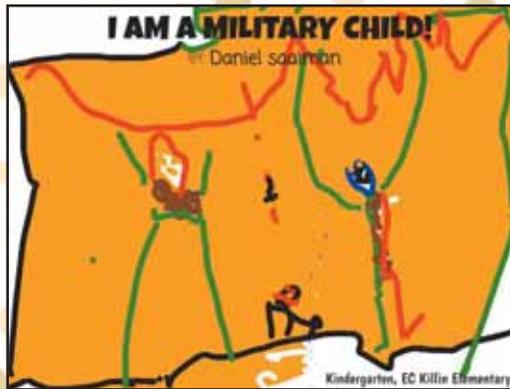
Catherine Aubin



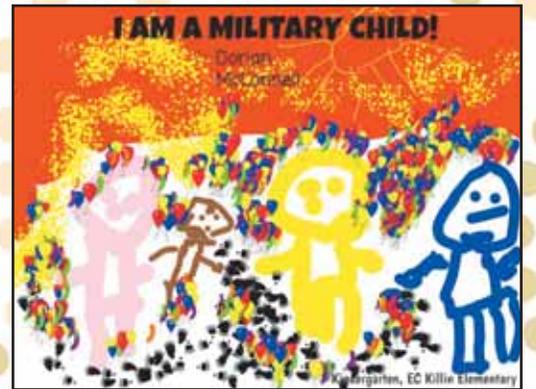
Charlotte Sugcang



Cooper Sikes



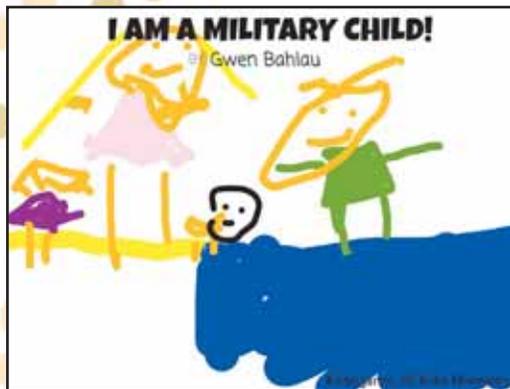
Daniel Saaiman



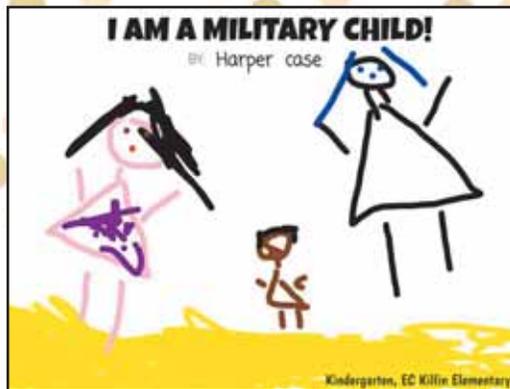
Dorian McConnell



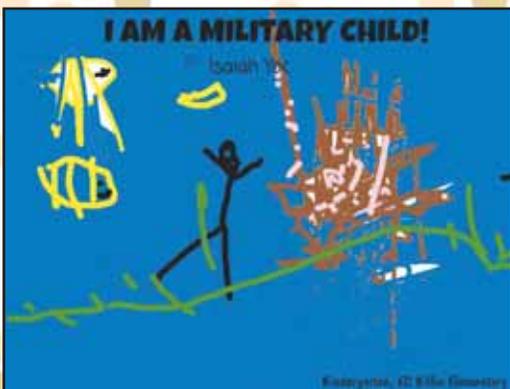
Earnest Chandler



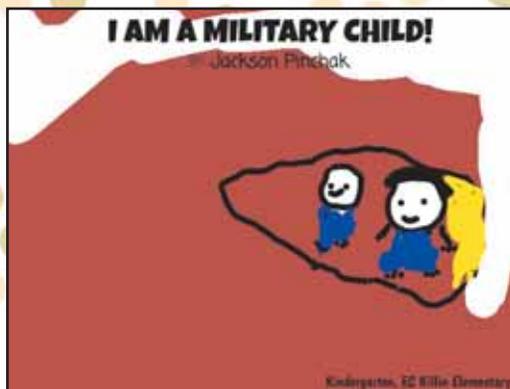
Gwen Bahlau



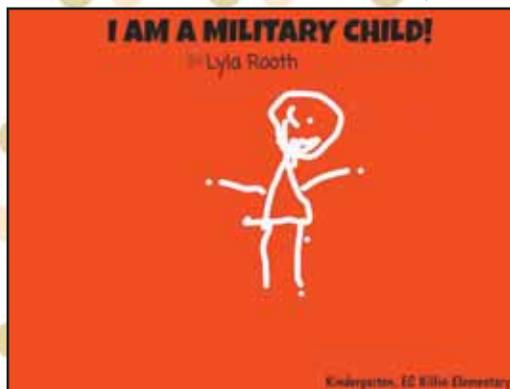
Harper Case



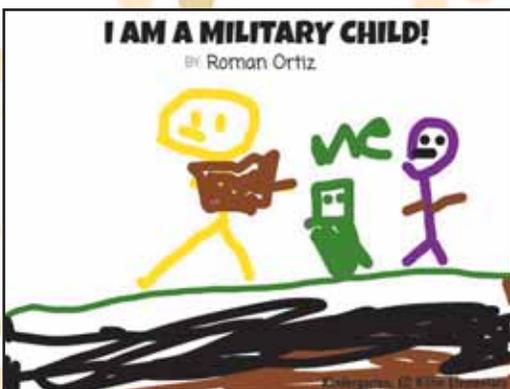
Isaiah Yoc



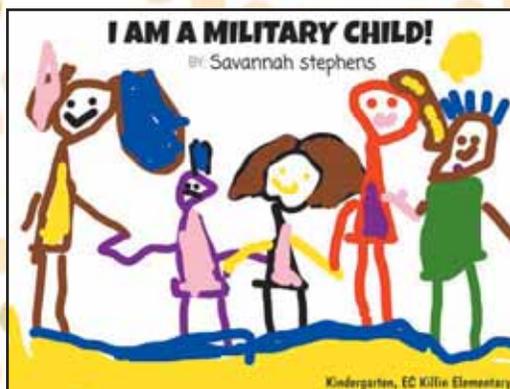
Jackson Pinchak



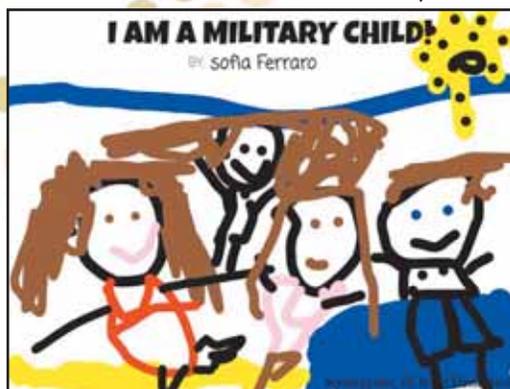
Lyla Rooth



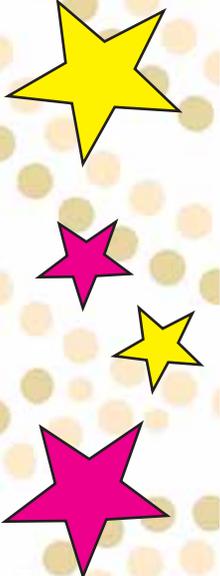
Roman Ortiz



Savannah Stephens



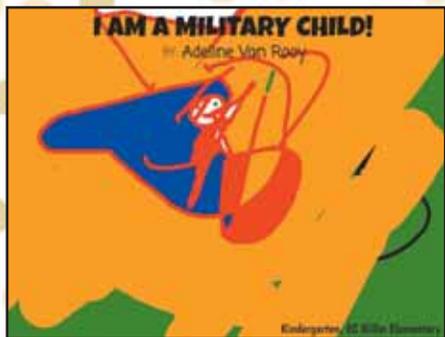
Sofia Ferraro



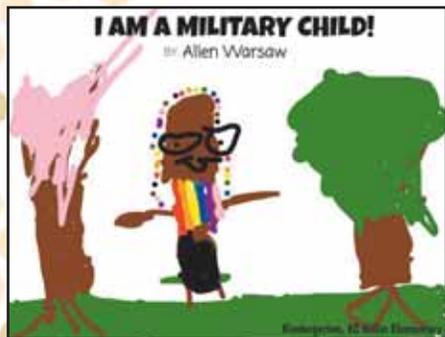
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Send your Month of the Military Child submission to MilitaryChild@stripes.com by April 15!
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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



Adeline Van Rooy



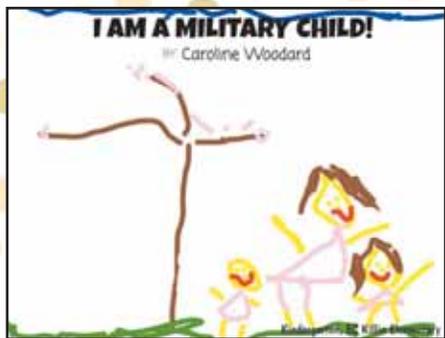
Allen Warsaw



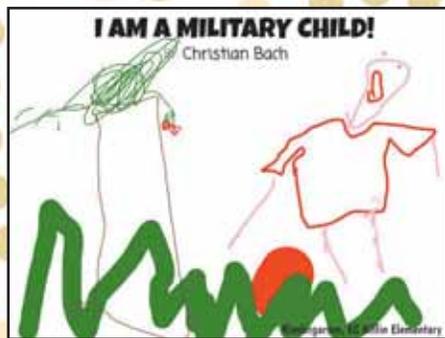
Athena Alferos



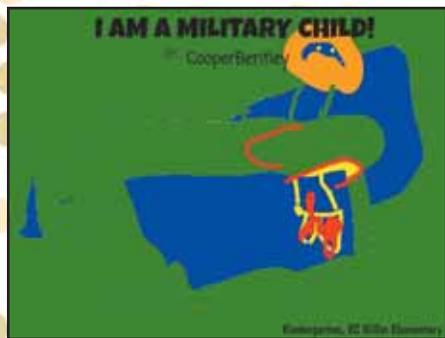
Caiden Lieberman



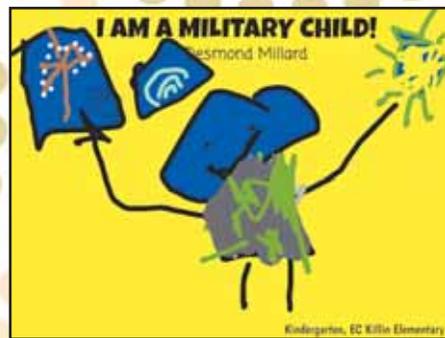
Caroline Woodard



Christian Bach



Cooper Bentley

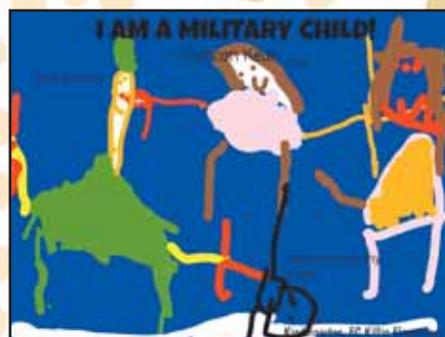


Desmond Millard

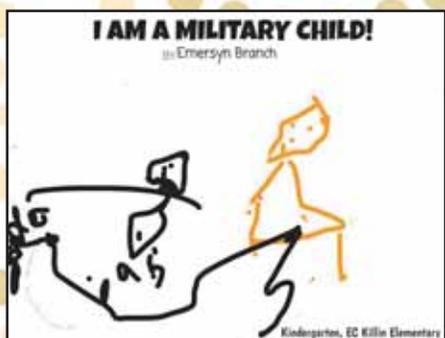
E.C. Killin Elementary School

Kindergarten Ms. Kunkel

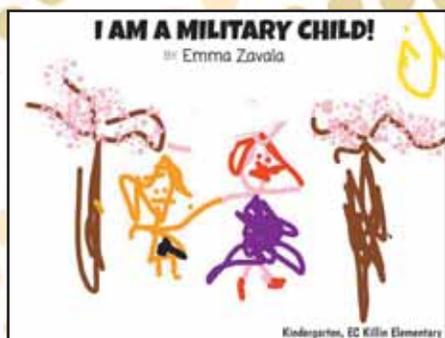
Editor's Note: Ms. Kunkel's kindergarten class shared their drawings and digital art with us. Nice work, kids!



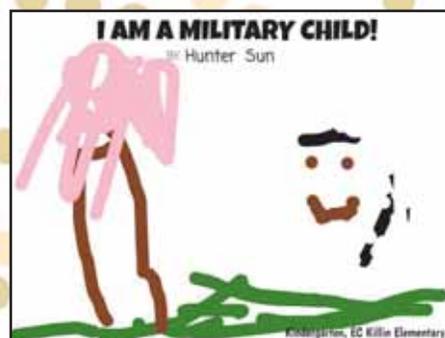
Duncan Kean



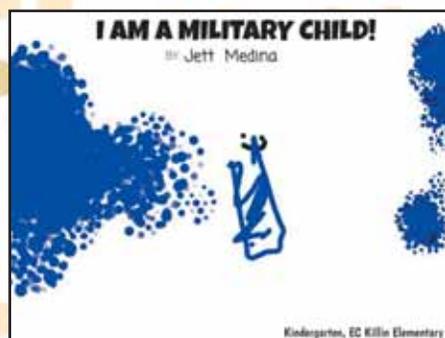
Emersyn Branch



Emma Zavala



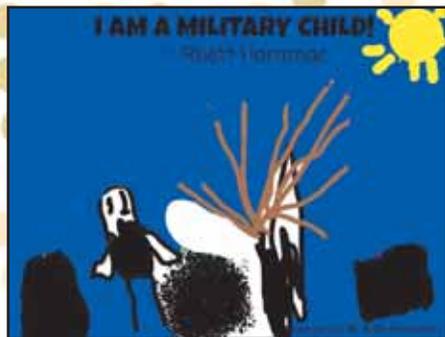
Hunter Sun



Jett Medina



Marley Garrett

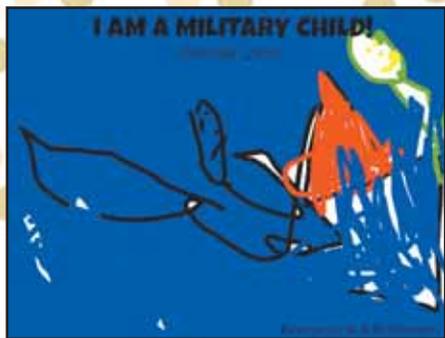


Rhett Hammac

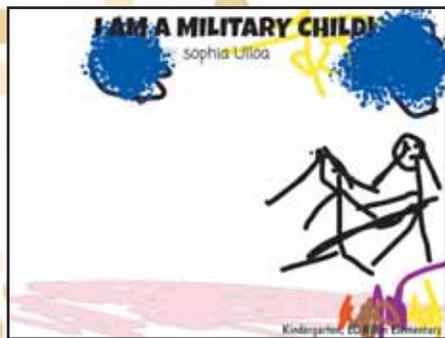


Samantha Ramirez

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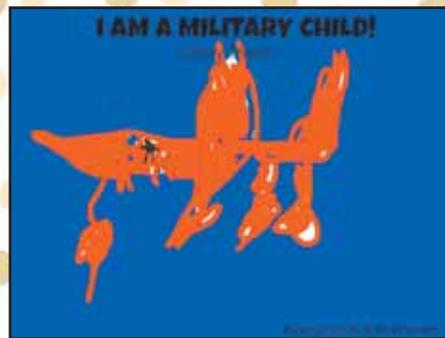
Samuel Larick



Sophia Ulloa



Tiffany Angle



Vahly Traore

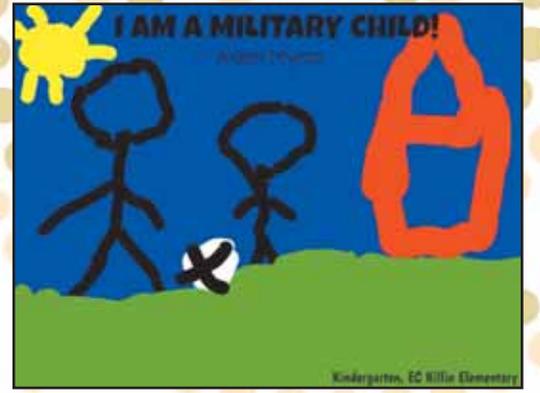


CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

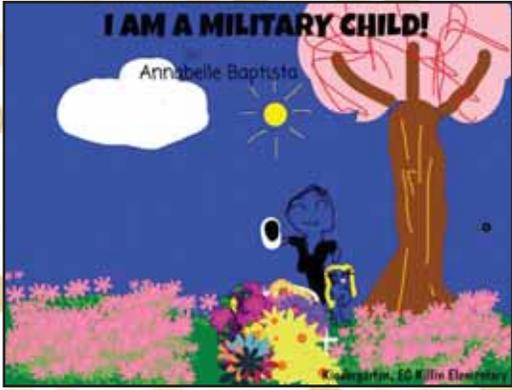
E.C. Killin Elementary School

Kindergarten Ms. Strickland

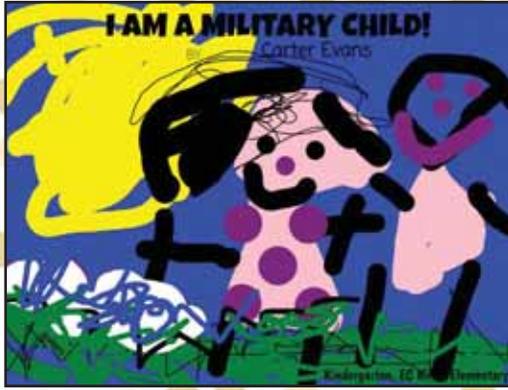
Editor's Note:
Take a look at the work submitted by Ms. Strickland's talented bunch. Awesome job, kids!



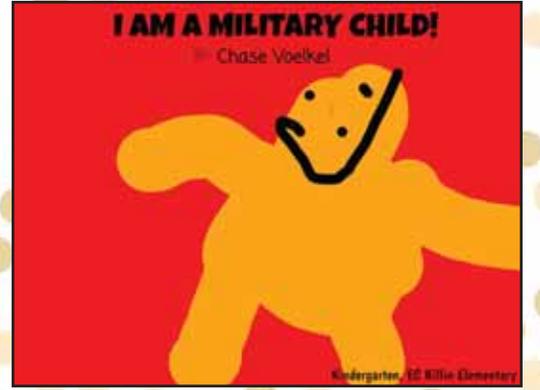
Aiden Myron



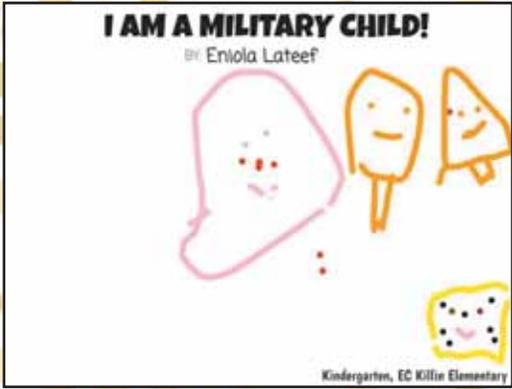
Annabelle Baptista



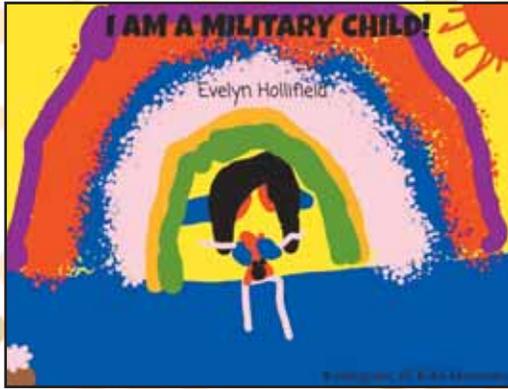
Carter Evans



Chase Voelkel



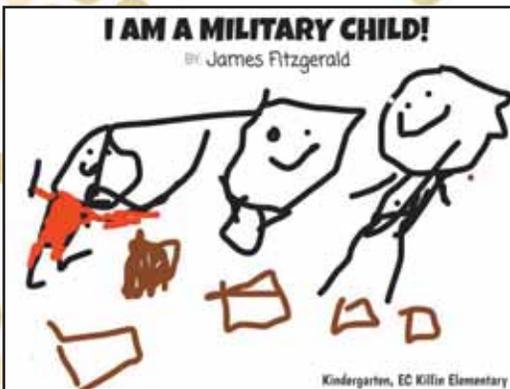
Eniola Lateef



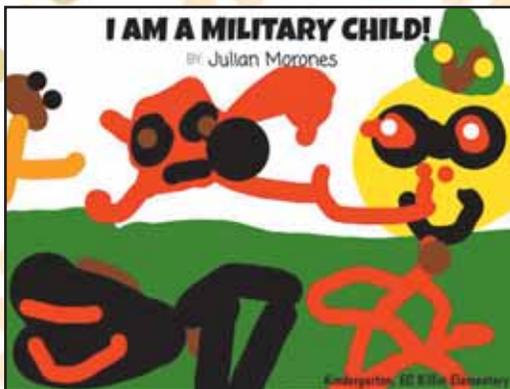
Evelyn Hollifield



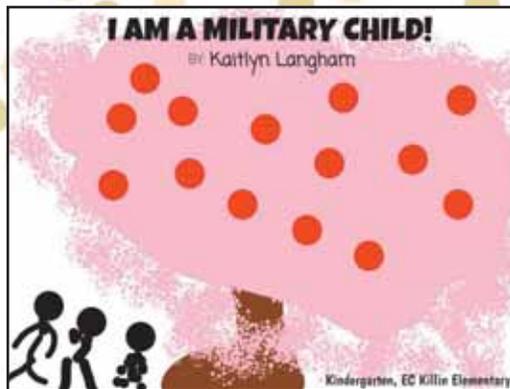
Isabelle Smith



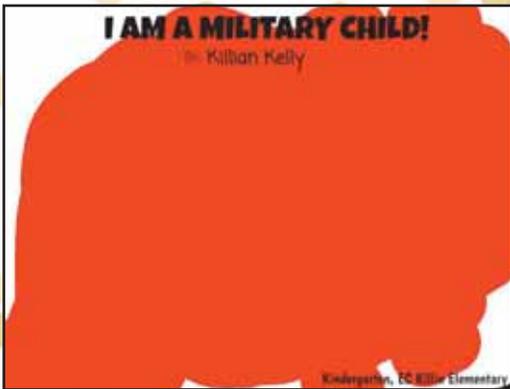
James Fitzgerald



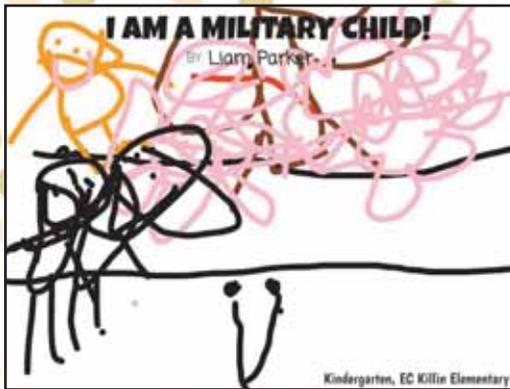
Julian Morones



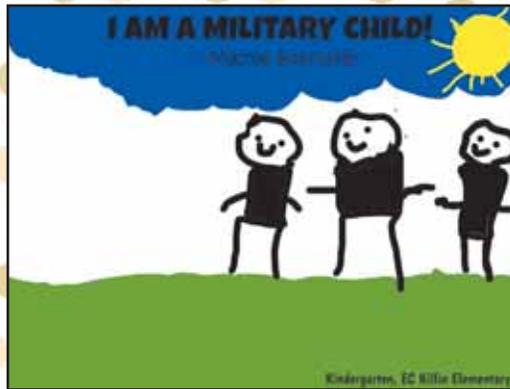
Kaitlyn Langham



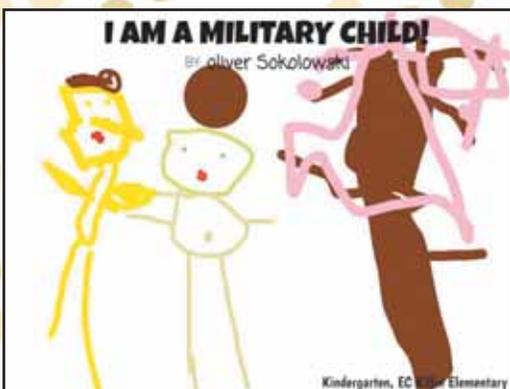
Killian Kelly



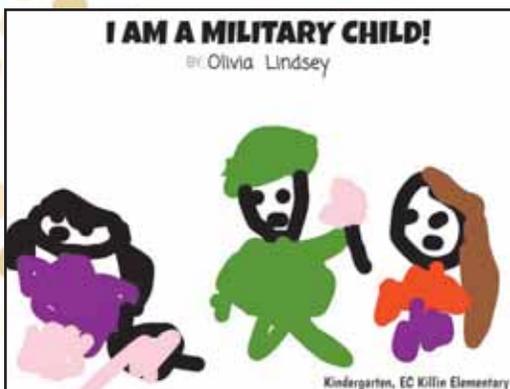
Liam Parker



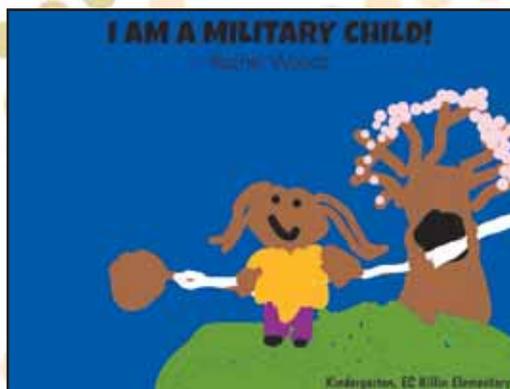
Macrae Bannister



Oliver Sokolowski



Olivia Lindsey



Rachel Woods

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



E.C. K Elementary

3rd grade

Editor's Note
Dr. Nellis' clever students submit
and a little bit about their lives
Love it!

I am a Military Child



To be a military child I have to adapt to all the cultures and moving friends and family. I can make more friends but that also brings the downside of having to leave or them leaving me. I have to learn to let my dad leave on deployment. I love to find new places that not many kids can go. I miss my grandparents but I love to find new places. That is why I love being a military child. I love being a military child (sometimes).

By: Alana Habecker

Alana Habecker

I am a Military Child



Being a military child means lots of moving. Next, it means making lots of new friends and meeting new people. Last, it means that I get visit many military bases. Seeing new things like new homes. Going all over the world and missing friends.

By: Alex Nelson

Alexander Nelson

I am a Military Child

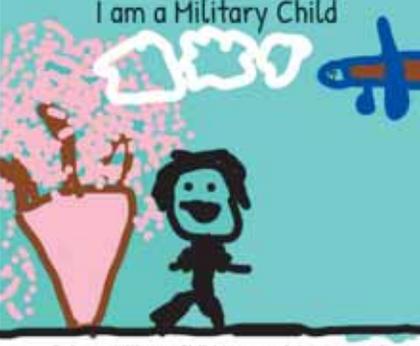


My Mom and Dad are both in the Military. I have moved three or four times already--and I'm only in third grade! It means I have to leave my old friends, but I get to also make new friends. I still miss my old friends, though. I like living in Okinawa. I really like going to the Trampoline Park. I play on the "Coconut Tree" and sometimes fall off when it rains.

By: Wyatt Tjerina

Wyatt Tjerina

I am a Military Child

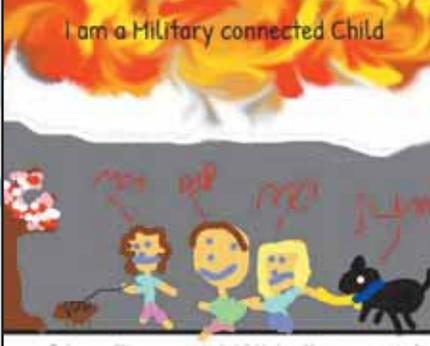


Being a Military Child has punishment and benefits because you have to be working hard. You meet new people in the military and you want know them and they can work with you to get stronger in the military. getting different school rules they will be lots of rain and you can work very hard cuz of the rain it's muddy and rainy. The punishment is that you need to do what the boss tells you or else you might get faired. Your parents helps the world by working hard and getting payed and the parents helps the world by doing what the boss is doing.

By: Benjamin Wong

Benjamin Wong

I am a Military connected Child



Being a military connected child is hard because most of my friends are military children. Its some times good to not be a military child because you can travel and not worry about moving. I've lived in Okinawa for almost 7 years and I've had lots of friends move away. Its nice to get new friends when my old friends move away. I moved to Okinawa, Japan when I was 3 years old and had lots a friend since.

By: Freyja Vanderbloemen

Freyja Vanderbloemen

I am a Military Child



Military children get to see the work of very important people. They get to see new places and have new friends! We can get things from America on base. Sometimes there are some challenges. There are people who have to leave their friends and amazing places because they had to move to another place. If you go back to America you likely won't get things from the place you moved from. I am in Okinawa, Japan because of my Dad who works as a doctor in the Navy, and my Mom volunteers as an ombudsman who helps people who have just moved to Okinawa. It's not easy to have to stay away from your other family, but you can find people who feel like family. That is why I enjoy being a military child.

By: Grace Rockwood

Grace Rockwood

I am a Military Child



In my opinion being a military child is great. I love it he is a great Marines. Wend I am a marine I an going to jump off a plan. I do not think I am going to be as good as my dad. I love being in Okinawa. I am thankful for my dad to be alive. The food is different here. I love to go to the beeches. Some times I like meting new people. But some time I do not want to meat people. A thang I like in Okinawa is the cherry blossom they are beautiful.

By: Holden Rys

Holden Rys

I am a Military Child

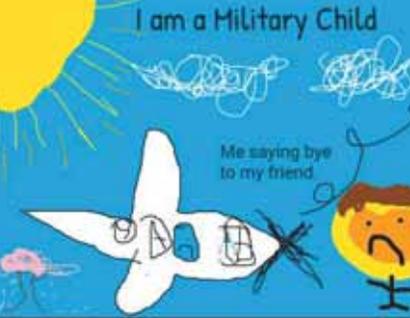


YOU CAN GOOD THING AND BAD. A GOOD THING IS THAT YOU GET TO GO TO NEW THING. YOU CAN GET NEW THING TO EAT. YOU CAN GET ON BASE AND LIV IN COOL HOUSE. YOU CAN FLY ON COOL PLANS. YOU CAN GO TO COOL BEACHES. YOU CAN GET NEW PETS.

By: Jacob Langham

Jacob Langham

I am a Military Child



Being a military child may have good stuff in live and bad stuff in life. One stuff that happens being a military child is that you have to move away from your from if your dad or mom goes to a bigger rank. The 1st reason why being a military child is good cause your family would be brave cause your family is in the military. The 2nd reason the military is helpful in many different way cause you get to go to the best schools! It does not matter if your family is not in the military. The 3rd reason why being a military is good cause you get to explore the world. The hardest part of being a military child is that you'll have to move away from your cousins, uncles, and grandparents.

By: Jeremy Franklin

Jeremy Franklin

I am a Military Child



Being a military child has benefits andpunishments' .To began with for a benefit you get to see places that other people don't get to see and some of those places are famous for something that was invented in that area like Tokyo Nintendo was invented there and Ireland invented Golf .

For a punishment you could meet new friends but then you or your friend would move away and you or rely your parents half to pay for your plane tickets and your new house .

By: Kaiden Griffitts

Kaiden Griffitts

I am a Military Connected Child



Military Childs get to go to cool places
go to new school
Family moves often/new house/new friends/send more money
more goodbyes
EAT NEW FOOD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By: LILY ANDREW

Lily Andrew

I am a Military Child



I'm glad to be military child because my dad is a marine and he works hard. My dad works on Foster I'm so proud of my dad and when I'mscared , like when I was scared of the Hansen haunted house . My dad is helping the world. I would not be in Okinawa if it wasn't for my dad. I have been in Okinawa for 3 years. I love the beaches here in Okinawa. I have tried many foods here in Okinawa the Cherry Blossoms are which my mom LOVES.

By: Maya Mendiola

Maya Mendiola

I am a Military-Connected Child

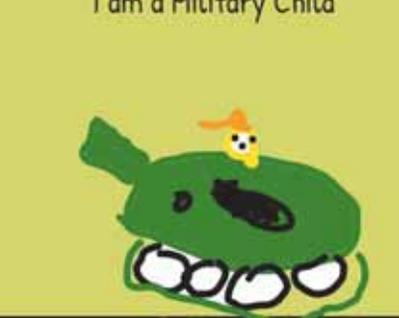


Military children have good consequences and bad ones. We get to meet important people, make new friends, go to new schools, and get new teachers (I don't actually need any other teachers as long as I have Dr. Nellis.) I love going to new restaurant's to get fooooooooooooooooooooooooooooood. Sometimes moving can be fun but not all the time because you move away from friends.

By: Mayna Pope

Mayna Pope

I am a Military Child

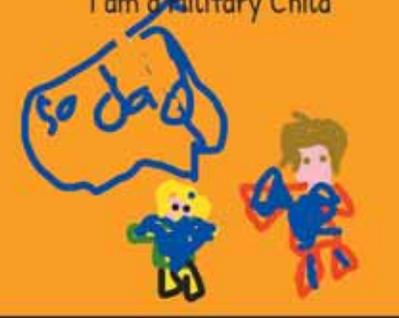


I Get to live on base and go to cool schools and going on vacason and go to the beahs and and go to bases and move to stats and get very good food :D

By: Michael Butta

Michael Butta

I am a Military Child



There are bad things and goodthings about being a military kid. you live a way from your family. you move often and moving cost a lot of money You can learn new languages. There are lots of beaches. you can experience new things.

By: Reed Larick

Reed Larick

OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Killin ry School



3rd grade

Ms. Hansen

Dr. Nellis

mitted awesome art
as military children.

Editor's Note:

Ms. Hansen's creative 3rd-graders share some of their talents through art and writing. Great work, kids!

I am a Military Child

Being a military child is kind of good but also bad the good thing about being a military child is that you get to go to new place's like Taiwan, Okinawa place's like that and meet new people discover history about that place and meet new friends the bad thing about being a military child is that almost every year you have to say good bye to your friends because you have to move to a new school or move to a different country or house.

By: Audriana Mominee

Audriana Mominee

I am a Military Child

Being a military child is good and sad because your parents are saving the world because the military fought war. You get to try new foods getting new teachers away from family and friends learning about new culter new places spend more money.

By: Izabell Estrada

Izabell Estrada

I am a Military Child

A military child get to go to work. My dad lets me go to work. When you are in the military sometime you have to move. You have to make new friends. Try new foods and experiences. Go to new school. Getting to learn a new culture. Learning about a new culture. Getting to go to school rules. Family moves to other places new house/new friends/spend more money. You move often/lots of goodbyes.

By: Maci Masteller

Maci Masteller

I am a Military Child

My dad is in the military. It is hard to be a military child because I don't have anyone to play with. My mom is busy the time. Sometimes I feel like I'm alone. School is boring because it helps me to learn. My cousins have fun playing together back in the United States. My dad used to be able to watch me when I was a baby back in the United States. I go to the beach with my mom. I make sure that I bring my goggles. I'm sad because I cannot go to Chuck-E-Cheese where they have pizza.

By: Samara Wilson

Samara Wilson

I am a Military Child

Your far from family. You give people lots of goodbyes. Being a military child is kinda good kinda bad. Your leaving lots of family and friends. You get to eat different kinds of food. You get to go to places made in 1800's. You get to see many different cultures.

By: Bianca Hurley

Bianca Hurley

I am a Military Child

I like being a military child because I can go to dodea schools live in military housing. I have 100 friends because I move a lot I have lived in 4 places in my live I can speak 3 language's.

By: Greyson Cole

Greyson Cole

I am a Military Child

Look if I am in a news paper or some thing don't expect me to write grown up stuff. If I was a military child, I would go to the beaches and look for beautiful shells. I would use my metal detector to find other stuff from beaches. I would go SCUBA diving and see fish I haven't seen before. I am a military child because my dad sometimes plays jokes on me and sometimes I like it, but sometimes I don't. I love family more than the world itself.

By: Liam Mosser

Liam Mosser

I am a Military Child

I like to be a military child because you can do fun stuff like visiting new place's. You can also make new friends. my favorite part of being a military child is that you can eat different foods from different culture. But my favorite food is Japanese food. I have moved in four times.

By: Mia Sanchez

Mia Sanchez

I am a Military Child

It cool to be a military child because we get to explore every like castles and we can go eat like ramen! Some time we have to move like me I have to move in six or five months. I have to said goodbye to Madelynn Mia Ava Tiffny Raina Josiah a lot of people. Some time my dad has to go work some where far. Some time my dad has to work all night.

By: Chloe Bledsoe

Chloe Bledsoe

I am a Military Child

A Military child like myself has to go through different things then a child who is not a Military. In Okinawa, Japan there are many different things to do such as swim in crystal clear water that is not polluted water and a non smoggy sky unlike Los Angeles. So all in all Being a Military child is pretty fun!

By: Julianna Aubin

Julianna Aubin

I am a Military Child

It's AWESOME to be a military child because: My dad earns money so we can go on trips around the world, but sometimes my dad gets deployed. When we move, we get to experience new things and try and learn new things. In Okinawa, I like to try something called sushi, and also Ramen/Soba. When my dad's boss tells us to move, I have to say goodbye to all my friends. But the good news is I get to make new friends! Sometimes my dad works all day, so I like to say hello after (sometimes even a month) to him. Some of the bad news about moving: Sometimes I get bored living in the same place for years, I'm always far away from my grandparents, and we only visit them like, every 2-4 years.

By: Lukas Nelson

Lukas Nelson

I am a Military Child

It is awesome! What is fun is that we can me the most famous friends to teachers. But we have to say good bye to our old friend. And say hi to our new friends. And learn new languages.

By: Mya Sanders

Mya Sanders

I am a Military Child

I am a military child because my dad works in the military. My dad loves the military. My mom used to be in the navy. She was in the military. My mom met my dad in Tokyo while they were in the military. My mom loved the navy. My mom and my dad skipped college and went to the military. My mom finished college. my dad is still working in the military. my dads boss said we are going to Arizona.

By: Eli Ortiz

Eli Ortiz

I am a Military Child

Being a military child menes you mit not see your peres for a long time. And you get t o travl and you get to make new friends .you get to try new food. See thing you never saw.

By: Julius Beard

Julius Beard

I am a Military Child

I am a military child ,it is hard but fun. I get to do a lot of things . Sometimes my dad has to leaves on deployments it is hard I usually cry. a lot. I get to do fun thing like eat sushi and go camping. My dad sometimes doesn't even get to eat dinner with me. It is hard and sad with mydad working. Sometimes my dad works for hours. He doesn't get to sleep at all. It is hard to be a military child.

By: Madelynn Reinhardt

Madelynn Reinhardt

I am a Military Child

Being a Military child is fun. You move a lot. When you move you have to say good bye to your friends it is some times hard. When you have a new food it will take a little bite see what you like. You get to do a lot of advancer's you can go snorkeling, hiking, go to Cassels. When I first tried ramen I was like omg this is good. I only like so many tips of sushi.

By: Riley Mahaffey

Riley Mahaffey

I am a Military Child

Being a Military child is fun in times. But it is sad to my dad was on a deployment and I missed him but he is back and I am happy. We spend some time together. We can go to cool places like Tadoki falls. Being a Military child gives me the opportunity to go to interesting places it also lets me play and see exotic animals. Being a Military child is purity cool.

By: Grayson Garcia

Grayson Garcia

I am a Military Child

The thing I like to be a Military child is that I can go to a DODEA school. The sad thing is that I miss my old friends. But I get to go to the cheery blossom in Nago. And we get a one dollar shop which is Daiso. And I get to go to Pizza hut. And I get to a Waterfall in Nago.

By: Krithik Krishna

Krithik Krishna

I am a Military Child

I am a military child ,it is hard but fun. I get to do a lot of things . Sometimes my dad has to leaves on deployments it is hard I usually cry. a lot. I get to do fun thing like eat sushi and go camping. My dad sometimes doesn't even get to eat dinner with me. It is hard and sad with mydad working. Sometimes my dad works for hours. He doesn't get to sleep at all. It is hard to be a military child.

By: Madelynn Reinhardt

Madelynn Reinhardt

I am a Military Child

I am a Military Child I think its fun to be one because... You can travel around the world like a airplane but also you have to say goodbye to your friend. You can also go on base but its kind of boring. If your dad is in charge of his work you can go into the staff only. My dad is very busy even on sat. he goes on his computer like all day. So I miss him kind of when he's busy. I can never have no pets no more because we move all the time.

By: Sienna Lane

Sienna Lane

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

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

E.C. Killin Elementary School

3rd grade

Ms. Fason

Editor's Note:
The students in Ms. Fason's class sent in some neat artwork and writing. Thanks for sharing, kids!



Aiden Busby



Alaric Cruz



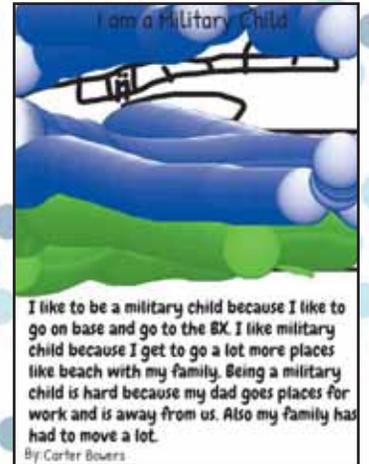
Andres Trujillo



Bettie Dalton



Cai Bemis



Carter Bowers



Daniel Skelton



Elias Randall



Jackson Castaneda



Joseph Ulloa



Lainey Van vGent



Lauren Love



Logan Watters



Mia Edmisten



Mya Farnsworth



Noah Boyd



Olivia Gonzalez



Jacob Hollifield



Marcos Silva

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



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

E.C. Killian Elementary School



I am a Military Child
Being a military child can be hard sometimes. When you have to move every four years. Going to new schools, making new friends then having to leave them. The good things are learning a new culture. Eating yummy ramen and living so close to the beach. Exploring caves, new beaches. It's so fun and a little hard being a military child.

By: Aubree Fugazzi

Aubree Fugazzi



I am a Military Child
Being a military child can be hard. You have to move away from your friends or family. It can also be fun. you can travel to new places. I am very happy because if I was not one I would not have the friends I do now. when your dog dies you can not were he died. Now you know what it is like being a military child.

By: Brady Bagley

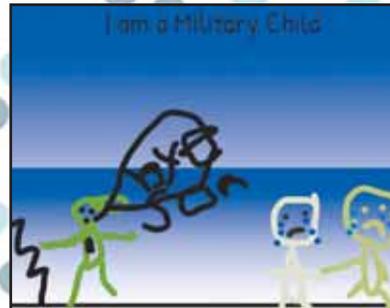
Brady Bagley



I am a Military Child
Being a military child is AWESOME because...
-Our parent have to go and get a new job in another place and we get to go with them.
-You get to meet new friends!
-You get to meet your new teacher!
-Explore your new environment!
-Get a new house!
-Find a location that is your favorite

By: Brooke Eskew

Brooke Eskew



I am a Military Child
We are Military children we go through a lot but it awesome to explore new places in new stats it fun to met new friends and met a friend his name is Jacob we became best friends so you see its so fun to be a Military kid if you don't like to be a military kid i hope you see this story about i am a military child.

By: Charles Bach

Charles Bach

3rd grade Ms. McCarty

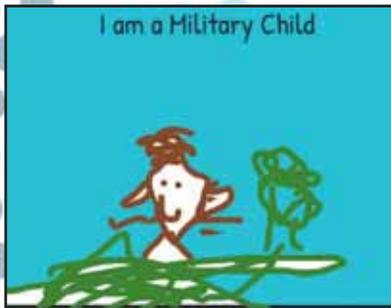
Editor's Note: Check out Ms. McCarty's class submission. We're so proud of you and thanks for sharing with us, class!



I am a Military Child
Being a military child is fun and sometimes sad since I can make friends with my dads coworkers sons and daughters, but my dad goes to deployment. Something else is that I have to move every three years but I can meet new people and go to more schools. When I make friends I would soon leave and maybe never see them again but at least I still have many amazing friends.

By: Christian Morones

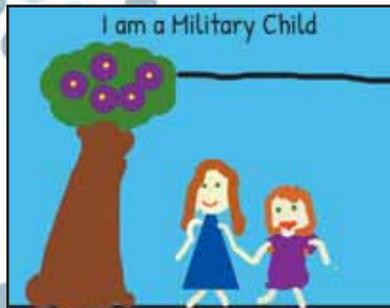
Christian Morones



I am a Military Child
Being a military child is awesome you get to do so many things as a military child, you can meet friends, have fun doing fun games, help each other. we can play tag, and play soccer. I love being a military child because it is awesome, and cool.

By: Deion Stewart

Deion Stewart



I am a Military Child
Being a military child is really fun, but sad at the same time. I get to live here on a tropical island and I get to see cherry blossoms. My dad has to go on deployment and I miss him a lot when he does. But, there is still really fun things like seeing temples with my family and friends. I get to run barefoot with my friends at the parks. I love being a military child I got to do a cookie - drop and seeing the marines faces light up filled my heart. I also got to deliver breakfast to the marines in the barracks.

By: Emma Psolka

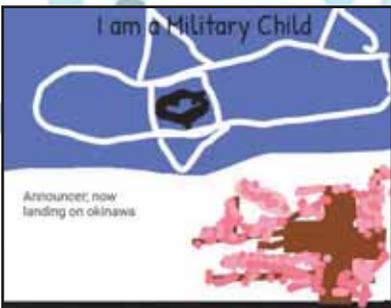
Emma Psolka



I am a Military Child
Being a military child can be stressful, but it is worth it because you can learn all sorts of cultures like the Japanese culture and language. If you like to explore you might like moving because you can explore places you never heard about. Sometimes a military child's life can be hard as well you might leave your family members but at least you can visit them. Sometimes it can be rough but it is all worth it.

By: Hailey Einhorn

Hailey Einhorn



I am a Military Child
As a military child the perks of being one is. You always get to see brand new places. Making brand new friends and you can always see brand new people. Brand new places to explore. Here are the bad things about a military child. You leave your old friends. You also cant get a forever home until your parent/guardian quits that job. Here's some things about being a military child. you get to see some brand people and getting brand new places to se and sometimes climb. seeing brand new parks. Getting into brand new schools. Getting new houses and finding new stores with brand new items.

By: Jacob

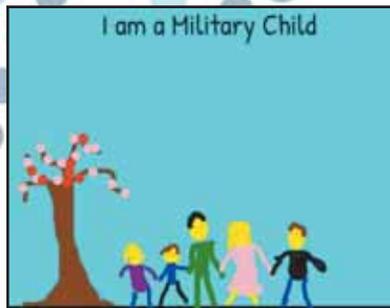
Jacob Smyth



I am a Military Child
One of the best parts of being a Military Child is acting like you can ride tanks but one of the worst parts is you are never in control. Most of the time it is homework chores brush teeth go to sleep. My dad wasn't there my mom to they both had work I was only with her mornings and nights cus my dad was deployed for 1 years he came back when I was 6 and thats my story of being a Military Child.

By: Jessie Trinidad

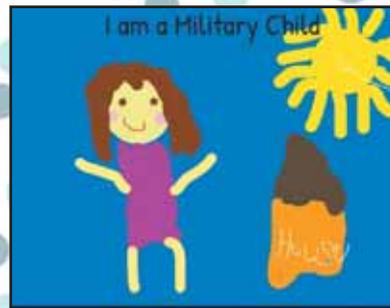
Jessie Trinidad



I am a Military Child
Being a military is great but sometimes it's sad. Because you move alot so you you have to leave your friends and family but it's fun here in Okinawa. we can go to caves, castles, mountaintops there is even cherry blossoms. my dad has to go on deploymentsometimes and it's sad. Besides that it's great.

By: Jonah Hoewing

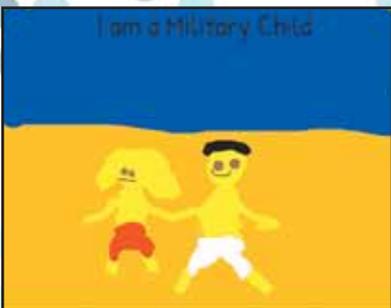
Jonah Hoewing



I am a Military Child
Being a military child is not so bad. You get to move to different houses and make new friends. You get to go to new schools. It is so fun! You can explore new things.

By: Mia Skandalakis

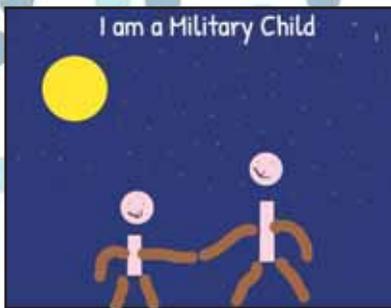
Mia Skandalakis



I am a military child. My dad is on deployment and I am very sad because my dad is not here. I want him to come back. Being a military child is moving you never get to see your friends again but you get see new places.

By: Owen Marquet

Owen Marquet



I am a Military Child
I have to move a lot and I have to deal with my dad going on Deployment. It is sad for me and my friends. I have to move ever 3 years and I don't git to finish a grade.

By: Ren Perez

Ren Perez



I am a Military Child
Being a Military Child is sometimes sad and great because...
I have to move a lot.
I have to leave my pets and friends.
My dad always leaves early.
My dad comes back to spend time with us.
I have great schools.
I have amazing teachers.
I get to taste new food from the places culture.

By: Rosemari Dearing

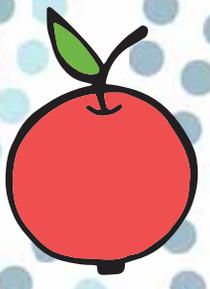
Rosemari Dearing



I am a connected military child
I am not a military child but my mom and dad are retired air force so I am connected to the military a little bit. When I was young well, I don't remember this because I was just born but my mom told me that when my dad was a pilot he did not meet me until I was 2 years old so I'm lucky that was when I was young. Now I'm living in Okinawa my since my dad is retired he stays home but my mom works for DODEA. I like it in Okinawa. now that I'm at EC Killian I don't have to work online any more I moved into Okinawa in December 2020. One thing look forward to is snorkeling, because I love the ocean and I like looking for fish and super cool sea creatures.

By: Sepp Killian

Sepp Killian



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

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

My dad has been in the military for over 20 years, which makes me a military child. Some things I like about being a military child are.. One, I get to be overseas here in Japan. Two, I get to lots of amusing things on base, like bowling and watching movies at the theatre. Lastly, I move often which can be a good and bad thing. It can be good, if I make friends in the new area I live in, and /or make new friends. It can be bad, if I have lots of friends in my area and have to leave them all.

Some bad things about being a military child are that.. One, since I'm overseas due to being a military child, I'm used to eating food in America but can still try new foods here as well. Two, I had to leave friends and family in Florida because of constantly moving. Overall, I love being a military child, and the pros definitely beat the cons by far.

- Ally Swanson

Being a military child has many pros and cons. Like one pro is traveling around the world. An example of a con is being far away from family and your home county. But there are more of my pros and cons of being a military child, so let's see what they are. One pro is meeting new people from around the world and trying to make new friends. Another pro is eating new food and making new food (like sushi, nan-ban chicken, and ramen).

Now that we have talked about the pros of being a military child let's talk about the cons. Another con is not having the same restaurants to eat at like Chick-fil-a, Moe's (mexican restaurant), and Papa Johns(pizza place). One last con is not having the same places to shop at like Walmart, Publix, and Barnes and Noble (but my favorite is Walmart). So these are my pros and cons of being a military child. Although there are cons I do like being a military child because I like meeting new people and seeing new places.

- Coleman Petrie

Some people might think that being a military child is all fun and games, but in reality that's not always the case.

For example, we get to explore and visit new places. Like now, because of my mom's job we are in Okinawa. Another great thing about being able to travel and see new places, is that we get to experience new cultures and other great things that different countries have to offer. Being Okinawa, I have had the chance of seeing how the Okinawans live and what they do to honor their culture. I have also gotten the chance of being able to explore new foods.

But, as well as there are good things to being a military child, there are also a lot of downsides to being a military child. One of my least favorite things about being a military child is that we are constantly having to move. Whenever we move, I always have to face the fact that I have to leave my friends, family and other important people in my life. The worst part though, is that whenever you move to a new destination, you have to redo the entire process all over again.

- Eveley Dekinderen

My dad has been in the military for 22 years. As a military child I have a lot of thoughts. Some have good, some are not so good.

Something I really like is seeing different parts of the world. I get to experience so many different cultures and languages. I also get to make new friends around the world.

Some cons are that I always have to say goodbye to friends and family. It's hard to contact my friends and family in a different country or continent, because of the time difference. Another thing I don't like is switching schools. Being a new kid is hard, whether it is making friends or just getting used to the school. These are my pros and cons about being a military child.

- Shaun diin Mendoza

Being a military child has pros and cons. I will now tell you about my struggles of a military child, and the part that comes out to be good. You may feel different about my struggles or you may feel the same.

The pros of being a military child is like when my dad earns money to buy food and shelter and even get us really great gifts when we don't really need them. I have to say that the "BEST" part of being a military child has to be moving around, I Love to go places I've never been before and learn new cultures and meet new people, and definitely the food(I love the food everywhere). The last thing is that my dad gets to show us his work all the time and i love to go get lunch with him because he lives in Kinser which I used to live in so i get to see it all again.

There are a lot of cons of being a military child, For example: When we leave we have to leave all of my friends and family behind

- Brynlee Horton

E.C. Killin Elementary School

5th grade

Mr. Silvas

Editor's Note: The thoughtful students in Mr. Silvas' 5th grade class shared the downlow of being a military child. Check it out!

Being a military child has some pros and cons. I will start with the pros

It is exciting to learn about military history first hand. Also the sports leagues are better because they follow more professional rules.

I like hanging out with my American friends on-base because the playgrounds are more fun. I think non military schools are awful and dodea schools are better because the teachers are better and so far I have been learning more.

There are some cons though such as the heat and humidity on Okinawa is terrible because I can't do anything in the summer. Living on base can be disappointing sometimes because I am sometimes not experiencing the Okinawan culture. The language is confusing because I can't understand it. The last thing is a con is that I am scared of the big seafood dishes that the locals eat.

- Grant Stortz

Being a Military Child is fun but sometimes there are non fun times though, today I'm gonna go through my pros and cons of being a Military child. One of my pros is I can go to different places I haven't been to see what there is there or what they have. Another pro is I get to learn different stuff in different places when I am stationed somewhere else. The last pro I have is I can make new friends and neighbors when I am stationed somewhere else every time I'm stationed. These are my 3 Pros for being a military child.

Now I am gonna go through all of my cons. One con is I have to leave friends that I like to play with when I am stationed somewhere else. Another con I have is I have to leave somewhere I am familiar with in culture and money. The last one I have is I would have to leave Family and food were I was just before being stationed somewhere else. These are my 3 cons of being a military child.

- Jesiah Pena

Ilove being a military child and all, but it is hard to be away from family and friends. In this writing I will give two good things and two bad things about being a military child.

One of the two good things about being a military child is that I get to make new friends! Making new friends is fun because you can't exactly be blamed for not knowing or remembering their name, and it is pretty funny to see their faces when they are trying to remember yours. The other one of the two reasons I love being a military child is that you get to try new food. And then they can't exactly blame you for not liking or knowing what or how to pronounce the name of the food, and it is kind of silly and heartwarming the face they make when they notice that you like it. That is what I like about being a military child.

One of the two bad things is that you have to adjust to the place that you are living in. You have to start getting to know the area if you don't exactly know where the nearest gas station is or you can't find the bus stop or you don't even know who to trust you can easily get lost. The other one of the two bad things about being a military child is that you have to leave food traditions and when you think that something will taste like one of the other food traditions you feel surprised and not prepared for the different taste of that food.

That was all I had to say about what I think about being a military child.

- Chloe Thompson

Being a Military Child has a lot of pros and cons. I'll start with Pros first, making new friends is great everytime my family moves. On this island there are fun sports activities like MCCA. I like camping here but it's very hard to sleep, you get all sweaty without a fan, and you get anxiety thinking about bugs crawling all over you. Plus my Dad's friends try to scare me by telling me scary things. MCCA Sports is a fun program right now i'm in a soccer season currently in the Semi-Finals. Let me tell you it's a lot of competition.

Now with Cons, first off moving constantly leaving friends gets really annoying. The weather in Okinawa gets seriously hot, I like cold and snowy weather. Going to the same places on Island gets a little boring. These are my Pros and Cons about being a Military Child.

- Ethan Ruelas

As a military child there are some things I like and don't like. Some things I like is that I get to see things that not all kids get to see and I get to see new things around the world. I like seeing new places because it's wonderful to see things like landmarks and other interesting things around the world. It's also cool to see and learn about culture and history.

There are also a lot of things I don't like about being a Military child. One of the things is being away from family that live in the states. It's hard to call them when there is a time difference. Also after 3 or 4 years we have to move to a new state or country and it's sad to leave friends. Being in Japan there are lots of things we have in the states that we don't have here like walmart and lots of other stores. But overall I really like being a military child.

- Jasmine Garay

The pros of being a Military child are, you can travel to new places. I have loved exploring the different places I have lived. Another pro is you can meet new friends. I have met about 20 or more new friends while moving. You can try new things at the different places you live. Another pro is you can go to school with other military children.

The cons of being a military child are that you move every 2-3 years, sometimes every year. When you move, you are leaving friends and maybe family behind. You are always on base with small housing, especially in foreign countries. Another con is that you never have a choice in where you move. Sometimes you get what you want, and sometimes you don't.

- Ella Knudson

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

This report is about the pros and cons of living in Okinawa as a DOD Dependent Overseas.

A few pros about living in Okinawa are that I get to live and be a part of the culture where my mother grew up, I get to see my family on my mothers side, and I get to make new friends. Another great pro is that I am able to have Mr. Silvas as my teacher. My adventure in Okinawa is thrilling, but I miss America.

The cons about living in Okinawa are that I miss my friends in America and it's difficult to keep in contact with them, I don't know how to read and write in Japanese, and it's very hard for me to remember what I've been taught. My final con is that it's very challenging to visit or see my family on my fathers side, especially since Covid-19 is still affecting our lives.

I have given a full informative report about the pros and cons of living in Okinawa as a DOD Dependent Overseas.

- Ayana Golonka

Hi! My name is Jeremiah. I'm a military child and being a military child is rough. Though, there are some fun things about being a military child like Moving every 3 or 4 years or having to help your parents with their job. Those are some examples of Pros and Cons. The pros of being a military child are moving to different countries, having new things to try. Also, making new friends. Though there are also some cons to it.

Cons are the things that are not fun about being a military child. Like your parent(s) being gone or leaving friends when moving to different places. Or going to a place you might not want to go like South Korea or Scandinavia or having to adapt to different landscapes or even laws. You'll also have to adapt to different weather conditions(tropical storms, earthquakes, etc.). Being a military child takes some time to understand. But military parents risk their lives to keep you safe so no matter what I trust my military parents.

- Jeremiah Reese

My life as a military child is mildly crazy! If I'm being honest, I could go on for hours about pros and cons about being one. So here are some!

It feels like you move 24/7, but that's really only when you find a place you really enjoy. If it's a place that seems horrible then you're there for what feels like forever! Sometimes you find out really cool things about the place you're moving to, and before you know it, you've done all of the "cool stuff." When you find out that you're moving in the first place, it really makes you sad. Considering you'll be leaving everything behind! Friends, family, and having to deal with the moving process, which is stuff like finding a house, packing everything, and worst of all, having to say goodbye.

Some pros I have to admit, is getting to see new places and explore really cool sights that a normal person wouldn't, it's a privilege to live like this and frankly, I love it! Eating new food, meeting new people and their culture, and going on new adventures. Meeting new people In my opinion is amazing because everyone comes from different backgrounds and experiences. Thinking about it now, moving isn't as bad as people picture it.

- Giovanni Hinojosa

I have been a military child for 11 years and through those years I have found both pros and cons of being a military child. Many reasons why I like being a military child is because I get to meet others that look like me and other races. However I enjoy learning different cultures and languages, and enjoy being able to change schools every couple years while having the opportunity of meeting different people.

I love being a military child but in my childhood I have found that there are some cons too. While being a military child there are some situations where you are forced to leave home. Or when I have to be away from family. Being away from family and leaving home are both cons of how a military child constantly has to live every couple years.

- Madylin Sugcang

Life as a military child can be the best thing ever, or your nightmare. For example every time you make good friends, you then have to leave again. Another thing is you can't see your other family a lot like your grandparents. Even your mom or dad might have to leave for some time. Something, what is really hard about military life is When you move it might be hard to adapt to your new home. It's hard to be a military child, but it's not all bad.

Being a military child can be fun. Like you might get to see snow, see landmarks, and much more. You can see the world, go places, around the world! You can try new foods, in new places, you might even like some of the places you lived in. It can be so much fun Just to fly on an airplane, travel on a boat, drive for hours. It can be so fun or not it's your opinion.

- Ryan Reschke

The pros of being a military connected child is that I can go on base and get good deals on gas and store goods and go to different places around the world and you can go on base school.

The cons about being a military child is that you can not meet your family if you are at a different place then them and you have to leave your friends and family if you have to move or stay long enough to see your friends leave and you can not live on base because you are a military connected and not military.

- Joseph Ulloa



The life of being a military child is fun because you get the chance to work out from time to time. I really like it because you can learn more meanings of words or letters like Nato Phonetic Alphabet. Being a military child is fun because you might get a good guard. Once my guard dog chased away a pitbull that hopped over a small brick wall.

The bad thing about being a military child is that you might have to leave your dog(s) and move. You might make really good friends and then have to move. Being a military child you might have too much pressure on yourself. You also have to work hard.

- Graylin Jamerson

Hi, I'm Isa. I want to tell you about my life as a military child. Here are some pros and cons. First I want to tell you three pros. My first pro is that you get to move and see new places such as France, Okinawa, Texas, California, Florida, Paris and More! Here is my second reason: you can move, see new cultures and make new friends. Here is my last pro. You can see new landmarks and eat new foods that you never had in your life.

And now for the cons. Here is the first con. You have to move away from friends or family. Now for my second reason. You also might move away from a place that you love and you might love that state. And now for the last con. You probably move pretty often and you can't really settle into a new house. Thank you for listening to my life as a military child.

- Isa Curtis

Being a military child has pros and cons. Sometimes struggles will come and sometimes good and exciting things will happen. We get to explore new places and get to try new food.

Here are some pros of being a military child. One is that I get to see new places in the world. For example I have moved to 6 places. The second is that I get to meet new people and get to try new things. For example I get to try the food and I can learn the culture. Also I can make new friends.

Here are some cons of being a military child. One is that we move away from friends. The second thing I move away from family. When I move from family I don't see them for about 1-3 years. Also move away from my school were a made a lot of memories at.

So those are the good and bad things about being a military child.

- Kinleigh Farnsworth

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

I like my life as a military child, but there are pros and cons about being a military child.

One of the things I like about being a military child is going somewhere new. If you're lucky enough, you could end up in Hawaii like I have, or anywhere else in the world. Another pro about being a military child is meeting friends at school that have had a variety of experiences. I had a friend that had been to Guam and what he liked about it was there was a wide variety of hikes he could do with his family. Although, most of my experiences as a military child are positive, there are some cons.

A con about being a military child is you can't stay in certain places that long. Usually, military families only get to stay at a location for three years. You may not end up in a place where you want to be. For example, some people may not want to go to a foreign country or to the desert in 29 Palms. It is always good to be open to new experiences even though you may have to leave all of your friends behind. Overall, I am happy to be a military child and I look forward to new experiences in the future.

- Hugo Powers

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Photo courtesy of Forest Adventure Onna



Break a sweat ziplining in Okinawa

BY SHOJI KUDAKA,
STRIPES OKINAWA

On a sunny winter day in Okinawa, I made my way to Onna Village for my first try at something I had considered a bit of an extreme sport: ziplining.

All I was expecting was a few exhilarating rides from platform-to-platform. My first try at this, however, turned out to be more challenging than that.

After signing in at Forest Adventure Onna's reception desk and getting fitted with a harness, I was guided to the foot of a launching pad for a safety brief. An instructor showed me how to use two kinds of hooks: carabiner and pulley.

A carabiner is a metal loop, one portion of which is spring-hinged to connect it to another hook or a wire. I had seen mountain climbers use this tool. The pulley, on the other hand, came with wheels, which was supposed to let me glide on a wire. There were two carabiners and one pulley attached to my harness. The carabiners are magnetized for safety reasons to prevent the hooks from being detached simultaneously from the wire.

After the safety brief, I climbed up to a launching pad to start my tour. For the first time, a sense of fear spread over me. Looking at the forest down below, I became aware of how high up I was. Still, the ocean, which shined in vibrant blue ahead and beyond, had a calming effect.

This adventure was supposed to take about 2.5 hours and since I had another appointment after, there was no time to procrastinate or delay any longer. I sprang off the foothold and my mind went blank. ↗



Photo by Shoji Kudaka, Stripes Okinawa

Photo courtesy of Forest Adventure Onna

Photo courtesy of Forest Adventure Onna



Photo by Shoji Kudaka, Stripes Okinawa

Photo by Shoji Kudaka, Stripes Okinawa

Doki Doki

Make plans

- GPS COORDINATES:** N 26.434081, E 127.760541 (parking lot)
HOURS: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Reception/sign-in between 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
TEL: 090-4739-9140
WEBSITE: <https://fa-onna.foret-aventure.jp/eng/>
- *Reservation recommended. There is no cancellation fee. A visit without a reservation can put you behind a large group on the wait list and possibly make you miss a tour opportunity.
 - *In case of inclement weather, the park can be closed.
 - *Participants need to be 4'7" or taller, or a fourth grader in elementary school or older.
 - *The maximum acceptable weight per person is 285lbs/130kg.
 - *Junior high school students and under must be accompanied by supervising adult (18+).
 - *One adult (18+) can supervise up to three children.



Forest Adventure Onna



View Video!

→ As I was gliding in the air, I couldn't feel anything but the tremendous speed. Before I could feel anything else, I was sliding on sawdust at the landing point. After this first portion, I was hooked and in search of the next zip-off point.

The Forest Adventure Onna's "Zip Trip Course" involves ziplines and suspended bridges to navigate. Though I had only anticipated the ziplines, the suspended bridges were an unexpected challenge.

One step onto the first suspended bridge and my body started to bounce on a wire as if I were on a mechanical bull, making it difficult to advance more than several feet at a time. The slow progress was opposite to the speedy ride on the zipline. As I struggled on the bridge, my mind could not wait for the shaky time to be over so I could enjoy another exhilarating zipline ride.

A test of balance, the course included several suspended bridges with different features. Some were equipped with footsteps tied to the wire, while others required a walk on a wire less than 1-inch-thick.

The deeper I got in the course, the more challenging even the ladders leading up to the launching pads became. At first, it didn't seem

like a big deal, but I was getting tired and the climbs were becoming more daunting. More often than not I had to rest for several minutes before reaching a launching pad.

The last portion of the tour was called "Adventure Course," featuring a "Tarzan Swing." This swing meant I had to hold onto a rope and swing in the air in a pendulum movement to reach a climbing net on the opposite side. My sense of fear was renewed with this different challenge. I recalled some Spider-Man movie to simulate the move in my head. However, once I threw myself in the air, I was reaching the climbing net before I could summon any superhero power or courage.

This portion took a lot out of me and there were still a few more suspended bridges and one last zipline to go!

One of the remaining bridges involved gymnastic metal rings and my legs started to cramp. Luckily, there was another bridge with steady wooden footholds, which, I guess, the park installed to help those, like me, who were too tired to go for any more challenges.

After the last zipline ride, I was relieved to learn that I'd made it to the end of the course. All-in-all, this feat took me about 1.5 hours to complete. Although I struggled with suspended bridges and ladders, my racing mind toward zipline rides seemed to have quickened my pace.

After weeks of working from home, my lack of exercise and balance perhaps made me sweat more than necessary at the Forest Adventure Onna. However, I felt very much refreshed and alive in nature. It was totally worth my sore arms and legs.

kudaka.shoji@stripes.com

SEE SPEAKIN' JAPANESE ON PAGE 21



Photo courtesy of Forest Adventure Onna



Courtesy photos

Animation inspiration

Explore scenic Japan with Laid-Back Camp!

BY DAVID KRIGBAUM,
WWW.WAYFARERDAVES.COM

Who needs fantasy escapism when Japan's natural beauty is pretty amazing already? With all the COVID-19 travel restrictions in place, it's a good time to watch TV shows to help distress while you're stuck at home. And, an added bonus is if you can watch something that transports you to fantastic corners of Japan you can see for yourself once we can roam free again.

Laid-Back Camp ("Yuru Camp" in Japan) is an anime about Yamanashi girls who love camping with majestic views or at picturesque hideaways in their home prefecture, Nagano, and Shizuoka. Every episode plays out like a travelogue and tutorial for camping and sightseeing as we follow the adventures of two groups of campers. Both groups enjoy their journeys and outdoor time differently, with many stops for sightseeing, tasting local specialty foods and relaxing in onsens along the way. (This setup basically describes all the road trips I've ever taken with my wife, minus the camping) Practically every location is real and they make it look like a lot of fun to go see.

Rin is a solo camper, she enjoys solitude as she travels and the alone time to read and be introspective. She instinctively distances herself from people and her horrified flinching at being invited to a group activity made her too relatable. She's glomped onto by airheaded newbie camper Nadeshiko who's excited for everything and can make eating cheap ramen look delicious. She bridges the story over to the other group (camp?), their school's Outdoor Activities Club ("OutClub") who enjoy their camping trips as an opportunity do something fun together. They're all funny, light characters and through the episodes we see them learn from each other and share their experiences to become better campers.

The stories all have a very relaxed pace and vibe, whether a scene is set against a faithful rendering of some of Japan's most beautiful scenery or just in a way to make viewers appreciate

the mundane. Every peaceful moment is visually savored and makes each episode feel like the TV watching equivalent of sitting under a warm fuzzy blanket and drinking cocoa.

There's no artificial drama but they deal with the real struggles of progressing in an expensive weekend hobby. As they do, they also show the audience how it's done as they plan out trips, purchase gear on a budget (they price out everything from gear to camp fees) and make decisions that anyone visiting these places or wanting to camp may come across. Most shows encourage you to stay in front of a TV and watch more, but this one also feels like it's encouraging the audience to get out and try all of this for themselves.

The other beautiful aspect beside the scenery is the food. Whether it's cooking nabe (hot pot) over a little camping stove or trying out local specialties in a shop, which every prefecture and town in Japan proudly has, they make food look as impressive as Fuji itself. Watching them make and explain camp cooking is like a mini-cooking show within a travelogue and adds to that "you should try this" feeling.

Now whenever things open up again I'm looking forward to seeing that 1,000 yen view of Mt. Fuji over Lake Motosu, watching Fuji-san from in the Hottarakashi Springs, and seeing the Takabochi view of Mt. Fuji from Nagano Prefecture (Some places like the hot springs bath had their names changed or omitted on the show, but fans have found all the real places and shared them online). Though, thanks to the show's popularity these destinations are going to be a bit more crowded than they used to be. In the second season they mention a real world first season campground has now expanded and no longer offers free firewood. This is the only time I've seen a TV show feature in-show repercussions for the show's real world success.

The first season aired in 2018 and the second season is currently airing. It can be viewed with English subtitles on US Netflix and Crunchyroll, Netflix Japan also has it but in Japanese only.



Photos by Shoji Kudaka, Stripes Okinawa

Speakin' Japanese

Zippin' away

"Zipline ni itta-koto wa arimasuka?"
= Have you ever gone ziplining?

"Doko-de zipline wo taiken dekimasuka?"
= Where can we try ziplining?

"Kono zipline kousu wa dore-gurai nagai desuka?"
= How long is this zipline course?

"Youi wa iidesuka?"
= Are you ready?

"Hai!/Kowai desu/Kinchou shite imasu"
= Yes!/I'm scared/nervous.

"Shougai butsu kousu wa muzukashi katta desu!"
= The obstacle course was challenging!

"Watashi wa totemo tsukare te imasu!"
= I'm so tired!

"Zipline ni waku-waku shimashita!"
= Ziplining was exciting!

"Haanesu" = Harness
"Karabina" = Carabiner
"Poorii" = Pulley
"Herumetto" = Helmet
"Doki doki surukoto" = Adrenaline rush

– Shoji Kudaka, Stripes Okinawa

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



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GSA in Okinawa

GSA Global Supply® is now storing and delivering approximately 750 high-demand National Stock Number (NSN) items formerly stored in and shipped from the continental United States. The change reduces delivery time to a few days from weeks or months.

Customers can order using GSA websites (GSA Global Supply or GSA Advantage!®) or via existing customer logistics platforms (e.g., GCSS-Army). GSA's systems recognize the items stocked in Japan and fulfill orders locally. Other items will ship from the mainland. An electronic catalog is available.

The new program does not replace existing retail stores managed by GSA in Japan. For more information, please contact your local Customer Service Director Cynthia McKeague at cynthia.mckeague@gsa.gov.

Scan this QR code to view GSA's 2021 Japan catalog.

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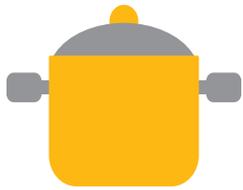
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5 kitchen products you'll wish you had sooner

LIVE JAPAN

People are spending more time at home and in their kitchens these days, but when was the last time you bought

something new to brighten your kitchen? Cute and colorful items can bring joy and fun to a part of your home that gets a lot of use. Read on to find new kitchen items that will liven up your kitchen with a touch of kawaii Japanese charm!



Animal glasses from goodglas

Goodglas creates unique double-walled glasses that transform when filled with liquid. Made by traditional glass-blowing techniques, the glasses feature animals, fruit, or flowers that come to life when filled with a colorful liquid. This series of cute animals shown above includes dog, cats, ducks, and bears. The mugs shown below feature adorable rabbits. The glasses can be used for hot or cold drinks, so you can enjoy them all year round. As hard as it is to choose between such cute glasses, the next decision is even harder – what will you put in them?



Goodglas glasses are available at Loft and Tokyu Hands shops, or through the website: <https://www.r-kj.com/>



Cute items featuring macaron sketch cats

Macaron Sketch Cat is a series of delightful cat drawings by Swedish artist Lisa Larson. Big cats, small cats, fat cats, thin cats — all kinds of cats in soft, muted colors are sure to make you smile. The Macaron Sketch Cat series includes trays, coasters, and a thermal bottle for hot or cold drinks on the go. There's also Macaron Sketch Cat stationary, such as masking tape, to bring a little extra cuteness to the office as well.



Macaron Sketch Cat items are available from the Tonkachi Store site: <https://shop.tonkachi.co.jp/>



Enjoy a cup of tea with Japanese-themed cats!

Up with a hot drink and a feline friend is a great way to relax your cares away. These unique tea bags let you bring a little of that cat café charm into your home or office. The tea bags contain green tea and are held on the edge of your cup by cute cat characters. These charming felines feature Japanese culture themes: a ninja, a maiko (apprentice geisha), and a maneki neko (welcoming cat). Visitors to Japan will be familiar with the maneki neko, who sits in front of shops, beckoning people in with a raised paw. This set of 3 tea bags makes a great souvenir or gift for the cat lover or tea lover in your life!



The Japan Cat Café tea bag set is available from Tea Boutique: <https://www.tea-boutique.jp/>



Everyone's favorite cartoon cat and mouse!

This set of kitchen and lunch goods features Tom and Jerry, the iconic cat and mouse duo that has been loved around the world for 80 years. Featuring bright colors and food-related scenes from Tom and Jerry cartoons, these items are sure to brighten up your kitchen with color and humor. There is also a full selection of lunch items, including bento boxes, cutlery sets, thermal drink bottles, and insulated tote bags that will make your lunch time much more fun!



Tom and Jerry kitchen items are available at 212 Kitchen Stores throughout Japan, or online at the following URL: https://store.world.co.jp/s/brand/212kitchenstore/search?so=NEW&link_id=wos_brtpo_N38_newarrival_more

We hope you enjoyed this look at some cute and unique items for your kitchen! Happy cooking!



The cutest sandwiches ever!

When is the last time you looked at a sandwich and thought, that is so cute! Well now that is possible with this unique sandwich maker set. The set includes 4 sandwich molds in different shapes and edible decorative stickers. Simply put your favorite toppings between 2 slices of bread and press down the mold. Use the edible stickers to decorate your sandwich and make it truly one-of-a-kind!



The sandwich mold set is available here: <https://feli.jp/s/pr200410/1/>

Stripes Sports Trivia

With one of the most successful programs in NCAA men's basketball history, Duke has had some of the biggest names in college hoops. From Zion Williamson most recently, to Bobby Hurley, Grant Hill and Shane Battier, the list is endless. But, with all the stars to shine at Cameron Indoor Stadium, which one is the Blue Devils' all-time leading scorer?

Answer

J.J. Redick



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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Urban pollutant
- 5 "Silly" birds
- 10 Spic-and-___
- 14 Burglar's take
- 15 Northern helpers
- 16 Window glass
- 17 Forerunner
- 19 Aware
- 20 Moore of Bond fame
- 21 Play host
- 23 Serve a summons on
- 25 Board partner
- 26 Not the former
- 29 Quick bite to eat
- 32 Take for granted
- 35 Cartoon chipmunk
- 37 Old TV knob
- 38 Amorphous sci-fi villain
- 39 Melancholy verse
- 41 Cracker spread
- 42 Slice (off)
- 43 Barber's job
- 44 Weasel's cousin
- 46 Community spirit
- 48 Spot on a horse
- 50 October stone
- 52 Doctor's signboard
- 56 Afraid of being shot?
- 60 Title for von Trapp
- 61 Unknown author, briefly
- 62 Persevere
- 64 Like a desert
- 65 Seaweed-wrapped fare
- 66 Church area
- 67 Washstand item
- 68 Beginning stage
- 69 Wanton look

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| 67 | | | | | | 68 | | | | | | 69 | |

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- 3 Expenditures
- 4 School singers
- 5 "___ whiz!"
- 6 Firstborn
- 7 In a dead heat
- 8 Put in the mail
- 9 Fragrant compound
- 10 Perfect
- 11 Summer suit accessory
- 12 One opposed
- 13 Night light?
- 18 Type of cheese
- 22 Kennedy matriarch
- 24 Do the driving
- 27 Fluid accumulation
- 28 Maid's cloth
- 30 Adorable
- 31 Eager
- 32 Fit to serve
- 33 Vegas coin-eater
- 34 Second-year student
- 36 Kind of node
- 40 Pot cover
- 41 Before birth
- 43 Autocrat
- 45 Cover story?
- 47 First act
- 49 Analyst's concern
- 51 Calf catcher
- 53 Feel blindly
- 54 Despicable one
- 55 Sign above a door
- 56 Four six-packs
- 57 From the start
- 58 Leave speechless
- 59 Blow off steam?
- 63 Hobbyist's buy

Answers to Previous Crossword:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | L | E | A | F | A | R | B | A | R | G | E |
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| | | | T | A | R | E | G | L | A | N | D | |
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| A | L | I | C | E | D | I | S | B | E | L | I | E |
| L | A | T | H | E | U | V | E | A | I | S | N | T |
| E | T | H | Y | L | P | E | S | T | S | E | T | S |



DID YOU KNOW?

For many Japanese, celebrating flower festivals in the spring is more important than Christmas. On April 8, Buddhists celebrate the birthday of Sakyamuni, founder of Buddhism by commemorating the compassion and enlightenment of Buddha (literally, the Enlightened One). Buddhist temples in the nation place the statue of Baby Buddha in a small chapel decorated with flowers and visitors pour sweet tea over the statue with a ladle.

Kanji of the week



Tsubaki/chin (camellia)

Language Lesson

Can you help me find [name] station?

(name) eki wo sagashite iruno desuga?

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Previous Sudoku:

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

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

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