



STARS AND STRIPES

www.stripes.com

Max D. Lederer Jr.

Publisher

Laura Law

Chief Operating Officer

Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman

Commander

Scott Foley

Revenue Director

Chris Verigan

Engagement Director

Marie Woods

Publishing and Media Design Director

Chris Carlson

Publishing and Media Design Manager

Eric Lee

Revenue Manager

Kentaro Shimura

Production Manager

Rie Miyoshi

Engagement Manager

Denisse Rauda

Publishing and Media Design Editor

Publishing and Media Design Writers

Shoji Kudaka Hyemin Lee

Luis Samayoa Takahiro Takiguchi

Layout Designers

Yuko Okazaki Kayoko Shimoda

Yurika Usui

Multimedia Consultants

Max Genao Doug Johnson

Hans Simpson Chae Pang Yi

Benjamin Yoo Gianni Youn

Robert Zuckerman

Graphic Designers

Mamoru Inoue Kazumi Hasegawa

Yukiyo Oda Kenichi Ogasawara

Yosuke Tsuji

Sales Support

Naoko Asato Ji Young Chae

Tomoyo Hoshino Dong Ju Lee

Yoko Noro Yusuke Sato

Kanna Suzuki Saori Tamanaha

Toshie Yoshimizu

For feedback and inquiries,

contact Customerhelp@Stripes.com

To place an ad, call DSN 645-7419

okinawa.stripes.com/contact

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Zukeran Elementary School

2nd Grade • Ms. Pruemer and Mrs. Gorball

Being a Military Child

By: Cadley

I like being a military child. Being a military child is easy, fun, and sometimes hard. First, a military child has an easy life. Because my mom gets to play with me. Another reason I like it is because I can have a lot of fun. I can get ice cream and go to playgrounds in different parts of the world. Lastly, a military child can sometimes have a hard time. One time my dad had to leave for 6 weeks. It can be hard. That is how I like being a military child.

me

Me

I like to be a military child. Reason 1 my family has a home to sleep in. Reason 2 because we travel to Japan and my dad works in the military hospital. My dad and mom, my brothers and I can travel to Japan and other places to go. In the country we went to, my family stayed and slept on a big ship. It had a hot tub. My dad, my brothers and I had fun in the hot tub. We were on the ship for 3 days. I like traveling to different places. I have been to Pennsylvania. We are going to Texas in 2 months in the United States. I like to travel to new places and fun places. The military gave my family a home to stay in. I like to be a military child.

my Dad and Dad and brother

Me

I love being a military child because you can travel to different places. I have been to California, Osaka, and New York. You can get good food. I like soba, rice balls, and french toast. Also I love their uniform color. They can blend in the jungle. That is why I love being a military child.

Me

It is fun to be a military child. First, you can go to a lot of places like Osaka, Okinawa, and Tokyo. You can go on base. You can go to the commissary or bowling. You can try cheer or play soccer. You can learn different languages like Nihongo and Elgo. That is why it is fun to be a military child.

I Love Being a Military Child

By: Scott

I love being a military child. One reason is that my dad is a leader of a team. That is what he told me. Another reason is I get to travel. I went to New York! I might next year too. I also get to move to new houses. I like my house, it has a second floor and a third floor. That is why I like being a military child.

I Love Being a Military Child

By: Alana

I love being a military child. I can get picked up from school in a cool car. The military moved me to Japan, so we drive Japanese cars. Being a military kid means we get to travel to new places. I have been to California and I live in Japan. One other reason is that my dad protects the country and he is a Warrant Officer. I love being a military child it is soooooo fun I love it.

SEE MORE ZUKERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON PAGE 4

(We are open this month please check our website for April business hours and details.)

Open 9:00-17:30 (Last entry 16:15)
Tel. 098-965-3400
961-30 Ishikawa Kadekaru
Uruma City Okinawa
www.bios-hill.co.jp
Please check our calendar
(https://www.bios-hill.co.jp/price/)

Bios Orchids Garden Bios no Oka

Map showing location of Bios no Oka (Bios の丘) near Nago, Okinawa, with landmarks like Nago, Ishikawa I.C., Kin, and various roads.

*Please check the QR code for rates.
*Discount for Okinawa residents only.

QR Code

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Japan Campus

Use Your GI Bill to Earn an American Degree in Tokyo

Admissions Counseling Office

1-14-29 Taishido, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154-0004, Japan

E-mail: ac@tuj.temple.edu Tel: +81 (3) 5441-9800

www.tuj.ac.jp #TUJapan

f

HAMAGAWA LODGE

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS!

Friendly English speaking staff

(098)-936-7139

Office 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., closed Sun.

72hamagawa@gmail.com

★ Fully Furnished Living & Dining Room and Kitchenette.

★ Free large parking area, Cable TV and Pets always welcome.

★ Conveniently located near Kadena Air Base, Camp Foster.

Free & unlimited internet (Wi-Fi) access

Attention contractors, Long-term stay OK!

Kadena Gate 1

23

58

Camp Foster

Family Mart • KFC

Hamagawa Lodge

San-Ae



Book Us Directly!

E-mai :booking@streetkart.com

TEL: +81-80-8899-8899



Booking QR Code

We at Street kart has our own reservation center in Japan. Please book us directly through our QR code or email us at booking@streetkart.com or call us at +81-80-8899-8899. It is faster, to book directly and easier to find a date and time that will best fit your schedule. No hassle going through a third party such as travel agents or travel websites.

TOKYO 14,000 yen/ 1 hour and 17,500 yen/ 2 hour

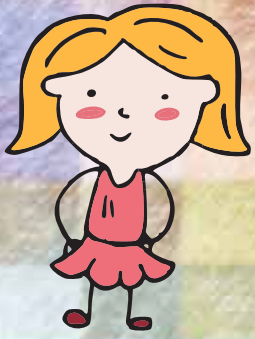
OKINAWA 6,500 yen/ 1 hour and 8,000 yen/2 hour

※Okinawa price is a special US Armed Forces pricing ※full coverage insurance not included in prices above

To enjoy our wonderful tours
all you need is a valid SOFA license
OR a ACTIVE MILITARY ID and STATE SIDE
DRIVERS LICENSE!!

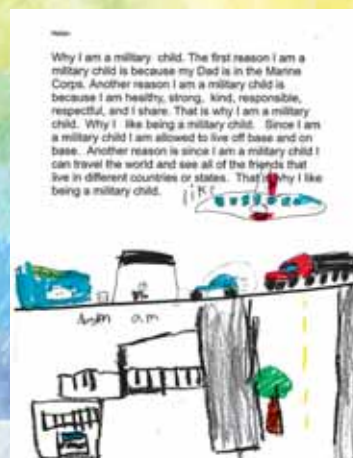
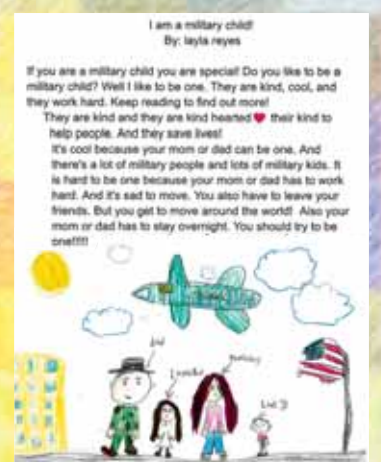
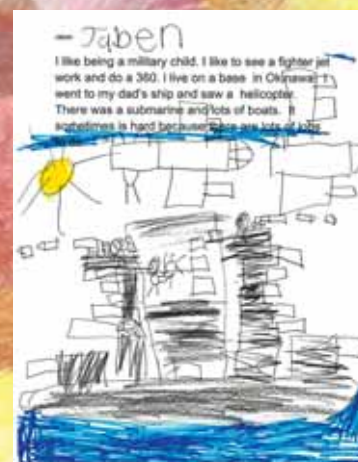
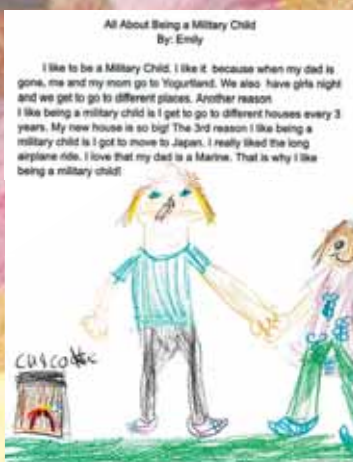
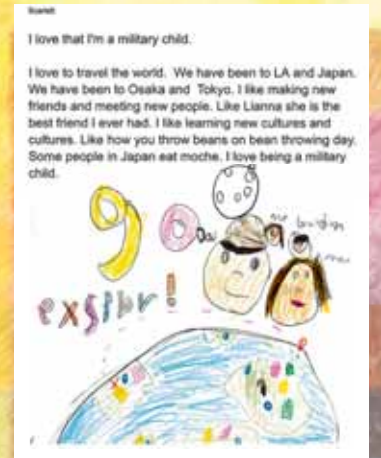
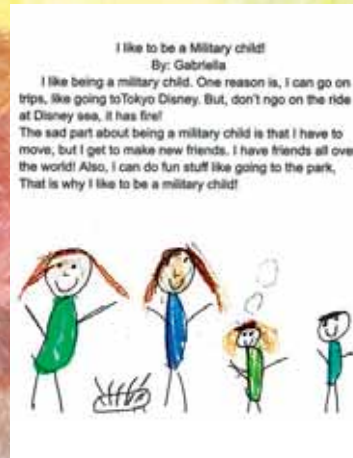
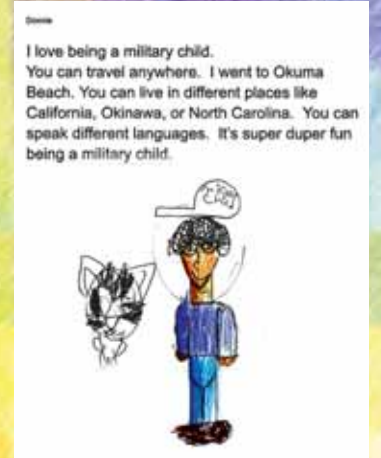
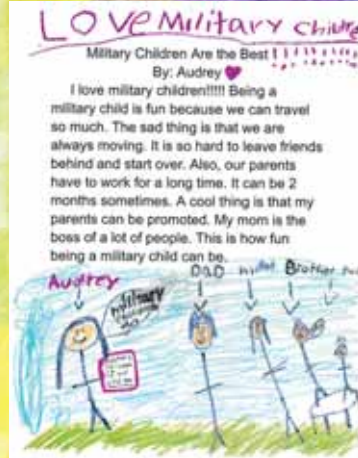
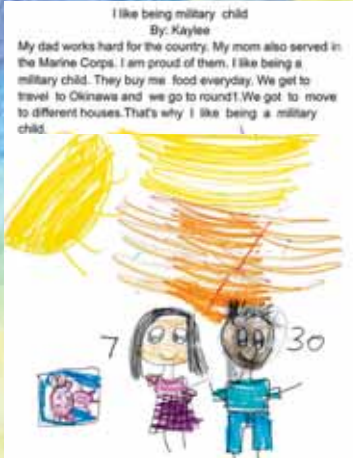


CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



Zukeran Elementary School

2nd Grade • Ms. Pruemer and Mrs. Gorboll





UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

GLOBAL CAMPUS | ASIA

University of Maryland Global Campus Asia

COMMENCEMENT

2025

Congratulations Graduates!

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
OKINAWA, JAPAN

<div><div>Master of Business Administration</div><div>Roose Alexandre Michelle Allen Joseph Peter Andre + Jonah Allie Arkinson Godsgift Arerebo Arokaraewi Kiwamu Asai William Bailey + Teresa Tan Beckett Justin Billingsley + Christi Ann Brent + Viki Valerie Brings + Jason Diez Calata Rico C. Cameron David Mark Camp Hector E. Campos Diana Tanishia Marie Carter Justus James Casino + Gianpierre Castagneto Astrid Castro Rodriguez Erin Delancey Charles Amanda Shadden Chavez Allan Ladia Chua Christian L. Collins Bailey Counts + Raeven Marie Cox + Lawrence J. Coyne Mary Cathryn Cronk Berome S. Deceus Jr. Everett A. Dees Joseph Matthew Downen Jennifer Ann Engeberg Ryan Joseph Eugene Philip Franzoni Gregory Lynn Funk Francis Garcia Jazmyne Garcia Brienne Garske + Olivia Akua Asamoa Gawu Junia Georges-Vaughn Joel Anthony Gil + Lance Kyle Gogue Nick Gordon Barbara Grant Gary William Grant Christina A. Grantham + Mark V. Hahaj + Jarneec Halsey Junyeop Han Alexander Grate Harbeson Michael M. Harris + Terence S. Harris Benjamin Harrison Grace Dahye Higdon James O. Holder + Rachael Ann Jacinth + Rebecca Lara Jaurigue Jayson Bigay Javier Virgil Francis Mlave Javier + Jaël Jo + Valeria Denisse Jones Michael Carlos Juarez + Ricardo Joles Norihoro Kawate + Carter Khoury Jihwan Kim + Tae Young Kim Won Kim Yoon San Kim Bonniekeya Kelly Kliest + Paul E. Koch Roland Si-Yuan Kwan + John Robert LatINETTE + Troy Britain Drew Lawrence Byung Hoon Lee + James Thomas Lee III + Kiara Shinice Levenson Daleina Alo Lizama Alexander Eduardo Lopez Katherine Lopez Antoinette Manderson Kavita Maniram + Paul Singh Mannino Bridget Rena Marcantel Krista Michelle McGraw Carol McMullen Evan Mellick + Osiris Mendoza Heriberto Mercado Rodriguez + Preston Kale Miller Brian Yong Min Timothy James Minchew Jr. + Julie Morishita Zierler Aiko Mucklow + Yoshitaka Nagase Janina Nucum Narciso Carissa Negron Rivera Lavelle Andrae Nettles Kevin Huu Nguyen Ar-Bell Bugayong Obosa Shinji Okada Uliser Ortiz Lopez On Chun Pak Franklin Palfy + Marcel Hinabe Blas Palomo Michaela Panglilan-Gogue Michael Joseph Panza + Inwood Park Kevin Pelaez Adrian Pineiro Leon Pinto James Keith Pyeatt II + Joseph Idolor Roque Christopher Rotzinger + Julainah San Nicolas Anfernee Sanchez Estrella Anna Rizza Baluyot Savares Megumi N. Savoy + Ray A. Savoy + Kaede P. Serzhantov + Sidney Ming Shimomura Caleb Smith Amanda L. Snowden + Austin Reed Sommer + Edward Jay Song Hyeonbi Song Vichien Sornchan + Lawrence Corrie Stewart II + Krissey Streed Joseph LaRell Stroud Jr. + Drew Edison Sturgeon Julie Marie Sutton + Daniel Scott Thomas Emeline Sioson Toole + Donny Truong Anna Uehara + Severino Jose D. Urbano Krizia Bautista Valenzuela Haley Velez Charnita Walker + Christopher Lee Williams Nathaniel Williams Arlyndria Chantrell Wokeme + Cristina Wood Zhan Yang Min Chae Yi Pom Chun Yi Emi Yokota Ryan Jaehyun Yoo + Chunghan Yoon Kwang Su Yoon + Kozue Yoshida Rinka Yoshihara Shannon Zintgraff</div></div> <div><div>Master of Science</div><div>Carolina Angulo Graham Deans Ricardo Gonzales Yessenia Celene Greene David Izaguirre + Kevin Kim Jenkyin Kittrell Dominique G. Laboy Michael Loomis Marie Marino Antonio Rios Neil Raymond Rissling Masaki R. Sudo Booker Tallaferro Washington</div><div><div>Bachelor of Arts</div><div>Dylan Michael Beaver ● Larina Vanessa Bergman Kenneth M. Briones Matthew Castellini Ryan Lee Chelf ● Jordan M. Cribbs Leroy Louis Culley III Eric Zane Davis Isiah J. Dawkins Naose Dominguez Jaqueline Dorton Lucas Michael Drenth Collin Avery Eddington John Joseph Elliott II Lorna Sophia Ellis Mario Fali James Kinsey Faught Mitchell Finney Zen Fulton Carter George ● Radway Go Maria Hadden ● Evan Martin Haney + Christopher Huston Jessica Jaime James John Kennedy Michelle Hyejung Kennedy Adyn Kust Hyejin Lee ● Andre Jerome Mcdendon Kyle Morris Donald Eugene Newell Jr. Dylan Joseph Newman Kaitlin Pineda ● Ruben Bayotas Pineda Jr. ● Emily Morgan Timms Romo ● Nathan Cruz Sanchez ● Anthony Philip Scoma + Eric Julian William Sierra Xristion Smith Aaron Deonte Stephens Nobukazu Tanaka ● James Tyree-Williams Yuka Uezato ● Trent Christian Vert Lavonne A. Watkins ● Tori Williams Ta'Niqua Ta'Sha Ball Williams ●</div></div><div><div>Bachelor of Science</div><div>Alexander Abel Casey Tran Abella-Scott ● Patrice Acoff-Williams Krystal Acosta ● Akwasi Ampomah Adom Jordan Alacca Felix Andres Alachan-Monzon Jonathan Elijah Aleman Elgin Fitzgerald Alexander Moharam Khaled Ali Gordon Stanley Allen Prudence Lera Moon Allen Annistazha Marie Alston ● Lionel Richard Alvarado Jr. Nghia Viet An James Eseau Anderson Jr. ● Kyle Edward Anderson Jason Christopher Andrews + Van Lawrence Ang Allyson Suyun Angell + Miguel Alejandro Antivero Socorro Tracy Marie Anunciacion + Joseph G. Arakaki Michael Philip Anthony Prejean Atoigue Noel Angel Auliveld Andrew Bartholomew Auxier ● Taylor Michelle Avila ● Wyao Awesso + Xiomara Taimanao Ayuyu Michael G. Bacon ● Keanu Baez Scott Gregory Bailey Jose A. Barragan Tristen Baylis Matthew Beets Robert Brandon Belcher Leanne Joy Belmonte Crystal L. Belton-Clark Valerie Lynn Benoit ● Brandon Benton Robert Berry Adrianna McKenna Berry Kirara R. Blessett James Phillip Bonin Enrique Borrego ● Christopher Thomas Bouchie ● Rosa Bravo Bravo Kailani M. Brialles Brenda Haro Brown + Jeffrey Richard Brown ● Samanta Deonko Brown Grace Bryant Eriko Burks + Christiane Cachero-Xiao Carlos Jean Cadet Sr ● Glenda P. Calisay Gabriel A. Caliz Armando Campos Adamaris Laisha Cardona Gregory D. Carter Keana Kaori A. Castro Kiofy Weia Ceasar Andrea Cercone Ryan A. Cerra Collazo Jessica Champion Mia Chang Sabrina Chavez Ming Hung Chiu Christiane Christofferson Corinne Divilles Chua Ki Tae Chung Joshua Perrin Cignarale ● Kayla Clark Andrew Cohen ● Vincent Coker ● Christopher Sean Cole Brandon Scott Jones Jr. Keith Joyner ● Aaron Juarez Brandon Ty Juarez Mary Claire Panis Jundis + Matthew Steven Kahler Zackery Kaiser ● Sofia Kasten ● Taqualla Kiara Kendrick Jamison Kidd ● Angela Youn Kim Danny Kim Taehoon Kim Yong II Kim</div></div><div><div>Angel De Jesus Cruz Kieil Cruz Winston Charles Torio Cuison Seiya Dal Pezzo Alonzo Hunter Davis Deqavioun Deshon Davis Erica Davis + Justine Ann Davis + Patrick Davis Goddiosya Pacheco De Arce Faith Danielle Delaney Axel Deleon Jeovanna DeLeon Nicole Cruz Delgado Ardrell Artique Dennis Jr. Nicholas Di Dominicus Adam Diaz Angela Diaz Julio Cesar Diaz ● Kaytlyn Rae Dibble Cory James Dinger ● Rebecca Dolan Randy D. Dollente Jose Enrique Domenech-Alvarado Alberto Donayre Devin Downs Alexander Keith Dubois ● Samuel B. Dunn Alena Marie Duran Quantaya Easterling David Edson Cody Edwards Andrew Elliott Sr. Ukeet C. Engelke Derek Raymond Epps ● Steve A. Etheard Arianna M. Eustaquio-Malveaux ● Anthony Evans ● Ashley Michelle Evans John Amir Lonny Everette-Domino Zachary Ezekiel Kiara Mahealani Anne Farm Jeffery Fauver ● Laura Lynn Tass Fernandez Amber Ferro Brea Fields-Payton Kevin Lazaro Figueroa Ortega Jonathan Jermaine Fleming Roberto Flores Baylon Chiara Florio-Phillip + Lawrence Floril Fatima Ford Shayne Curtis Franklin Zachery Steven Franklin ● Darlene Fraser Donald Henry Freel Eddie Fuller Adeleha J. Funes ● Carlos Funezasanchez ● Brionna Gaillard Jesse Franklin Gaines Alexandria Lynn Tajeron Garcia Andrew Damien Garcia Zina Belle Ocomen Garcia Andrew GarigMeyer Matthew Charles Garrett Taylor Garrett Alex Gawaran Catherine Elizabeth Geiger Carlos Fabian Gervacio ● Albert Gibson Sean Gill + Montrell Antwan Gipson ● Benjamin Glenn Jameson Patrick Golden Jeffrey C. Gomez Tracy Marie Gomez Adrian San Gil Gonzales Oscar Jesus GonzalezRamirez Ean James Goodwin Zsawy T'najeeraa Kykora Gordon Kobe Charles Graham Keith Grant Sean James Grantham Edward G. Graybill IV Joshua Scott Greear ● Peter James Griva ● Pablo Manglicmot Guarnes Roland Guerra Jr. Lillian Opena Guerrero Bella Rose Guzman ● Richard Guzman Tithina Meshesha Habtemariam + Robert E. Hames + Kevin Han Hunter Hansen Aimi Hanson Semaj Nicole Hardy Andre Antonio Harris Hugo Lucero Villanueva Hart Kazuki Hase ● Kharise Lillie Hayes Jacob Paul Hayhurst Alyssa Heffelfinger Matthew George Henderson Christopher Norman Hendricks Julius Herard Carlos Alberto Hernandez Christopher Hernandez ● Jonathan P. Higdon Wendy L. Hill Cadedra Lazell Johnson Hines Brendan Lawton Hirsch Tuan Hoang ● Donald Matthew Hoobler Jennifer Hope Shamar Lee Hope Irina Howard + Ayumi Hubbard ● Tyler Huber ● Aidan Huffman Alexander Hurst Ignacio Hurtado Reyes Danielle Leigh Hutchinson Brandon Hwang (Henry) Dudley Innocent June Komura Melissa Ines Ito Kapeli Tepa John Iuli Jonathan Ruiz Jonathan Dale Rumbolt Thomas Ray Runnels ● Kanta Saito Moka Saito Emily Salas Ken Salyer Dionna Patria Alexis Sampsonwatts Christian Sanchez Laura M. Sanchez Tiffany Marie Sanford ● Rosmyre Santana Fernandez Karen Leon Santiago + Zariah Sargent ● William George Spraktes ● Eboney O. Sawyer Michael David Sawyer Jr. Gage Scanlon ● Michaela Schwartz + Reden Bernard Sese Steven Red Sessoms Alham Shadan Travis Keonta Shine Jody Deepak Simpson ● Tristan Manaloto Sison Howard Skotterud Kyle Robert Slater ●</div></div><div><div>Hannah L. King ● Trenton Lee Kinworthy David James Klauck Nadica Smith-Green Donna Crystal Klunder + Matthew R. Knox ● Tsuyoshi Kochi Michael Xavier Koder Dustin James Kings ● Tykien D'Angelo Kudsy Hiyori Kurino ● Jonathan Escalona Lacondazo ● Alexandria F. Lanni Tracey Sushila-Persaud Latchman Raymond Lau Fredrick Allen Lee Jennifer Lee Alfred D. Lewis Antoine Lewis Bradley James Lewis Michael Keone Logan Juan Carlos Lomeli ● Diamond Symone Long Christopher Robert Looper + Carina Lopez David Armani Lopez Lezli Lou ● Robena Ali Love ● Jordan Alexander Loyola Arcos Zaid Lozano Wendy Lucia Allan DelaPena Lugue Sofia Luke ● Miriam Idalia Luna Garcia Aaron Todd Lynch Averlie Joy Madrellino Giovanni Madrigal Madonna Magpali ● Mary Elizabeth Marable Christian Marasigan Tajia Marc Nicole Martinez Vanessa Mason Heba A. Matar Benjamin Matheny Christopher May ● John Mark Robeson McBroom ● Anthony McKenna Jessica McKinnon-Dux Jimena Aisleen Mendez-Scott Kendrick Ray Mercer Jan Paul Artiaga Meregillano ● Samuel Mielke ● Nathan Michael Miller ● Shannon Nicole Miller Rene Dela Peña Mina Jr. ● Jaimie Miranda Rushwan A. Montalvorivera Ashelyn Montgomery Amy Elizabeth Morales Marc Matthew Morgan Scott Allen Mueller Alejandra Munsinger Jesús Javier Murillo Brian N. Murray Diana Cecilia Murrell Lance Nabors + Ayano Nagashima Willem Kristoffer Naguit Kioh Nam ● Cameron Neely Malinda M. Ngin Francisco Antonio Nieves Jr. Seung Gi Noh Jael Nicole Nunez Jose Ocana III ● Isaac Ochao Shayne Thomas O'Connor Shelton Corley Olguin Emmanuel Roque Oliva Gildardo Olivas Jr. Kevin Ordinario ● Adrian Ortega-Matta ● Meagan Pacenza ● Tyronne Deshaun Packnett Neil Arence Atas Palbusa ● Gregory A. Palermo Joohyeon Park + Joohyeong Park + Sky S. Park Jeqwai Parker ● Tenzin Passang Siddharth Patel ● David James Patterson Joanna Kamille Takai Peralta Anthony D. Peterson Justin Aaron Petty ● Khanh Vu Phan Diana Philpot ● Ashton Joseph Picket Eddie Picens ● Hadassa S. Pierre Kemar Omoto Pinnock Marvin J. Polanco Kevin Anthony Polidan Sarah Porrazza Joshua Ryan Proctor + Henry Puente Jose L. Punzo Matthew A. Purul Keita Alex Quirk-Arakaki Gabriela Ramirez ● John Luis Ramos Jr. Autervious Randell Julian Dwayne Ransom Ryan William Rasmussen Ryouka Rasmussen-Olsen ● Danika Lynn Renwick Lena Christine Reyes John Reynaldo Danton Shota Robinson Miriam Haruka Robinson Enrique Manuel Rodriguez Jr. Nicholas Rodriguez Seung Hyun Roh ● Erica Rojas Sergio Omar Rojas Felix Guillermo Rosario Acosta Matthew Augustave Eneaz Jr Auguste Dujon Jhon M. Augustin David Awodi Alphaeus A. Baker Jared Daniel Balbag William Baranoski Ashley Nicole Barrera Sandoval Julian Ross Barreto Maria Guinevere Orié Basa Shanzi Aamirah Bashir Chipman Michael Lee Bauer Kenny Bautista Brandon Kyle Beaudoin Erick Becerra Larra Jen Salamat Belmonte Linelle Benatart-Sanchez Andrew Anthony Camacho Benavente Kristen Louvenia Bennett Ravyn Berlioux Camil Bigbee Jonathan Bingham John Hudson Blacketer Edmarie Bonhorst Madison Haskell Booth Garrett Blake Borzea Antonio S. Bradley Amanda Breen Jody Deepak Simpson ● Breanna Elysium Bridgwater Joshua Broussard Curtis Kyle Brown</div></div><div><div>John Smarr Jr. Kristopher Dwight Smith Kyle P. Smith Jazmin Brownlowe Daniel Scott Buckley Zachary Sparkman Justin Sprinkel + Ralph Andy St. Louis Michael James Stath Jr. + Anthony Steven Stauffer Hofer Zachary D. Steagall Tabitha Kylie Stegall ● Andrew Joseph Steiner + Thomas Kent Stejskal Peter G. Stephenson David Craig Sterling Sakiara Stevens Isis Saqgara Stewart Taliaha Stewart Joshua Hiroto Stirling Mario Antoine Stokes Tierra Elizabeth Strickland Koles Stvil Joel Tancinco Subang Jr. Masha Sukkur + Sean Michael Suppa ● LaDera Swiger Adam Joseph Tackett Annalisa Ordonio Takazono Paul Michael Takita Benjamin T. Tamasang Renee Tamez Jr. Sayaka Tateishi Libby Melissa Castrejón Anyaston Castro Angelica Alicia Cedenó Gonzalez Daniel Chaboya Jr. Mary Chan Quintin Chapman Ying Chen John H. Chilton David Choi Jasmine Christy Austin Chunn Cameron Clark Abbey Clark Janiah Clark Monica Satiko Yoshida Clemente Tiffany Nana Yoshida Clemente Lydia Coburn Monshabe Dumon Coleman Alexis Loucks Jovani Lucas Elesah Luckie Richard Luna Heidi Majano Imanda Sineida Makseja Tristan James Cota Daniel Crefled-de Guzman Maliba Crockett Angela Crowley Yuki Crowther Justin Thomas Cruise Nathan Cruson Micaela M. Cruz Matthew Antonio Cuevas Jontrell D. Curry Aaron Darnell Crystal Davis Joshua Davis Joshua Davis Brian Shane Dawson Jr. Terrence Alfred Daye Edwin Debelbot Ivan Gerardo Del Rosario Castillo Abraham Demotta Thomas DePaul Ralph Desrosiers Sheldon Godfrey Dias Hany Diaz Omar Diaz Jose Jaime Diaz Eric Dye Jaime Orcino Domenden Luis M. Dominguez Guzman Monterrell T. Dudley Destiny Durouch Shawn Ross Ebner Georgio Elkhoury Cassidy Elliot Kareem Epps Raul Espailbat Recinos Mauricio George Espinoza Michael Daniel Faas Brian Fendley Joshua John Ferrer Derek Austin Mooney Joshua Paul Morales Morgan Moran Alex S. Moreno Roberto Moreno Cabreja Braeden Morgan Ashinique Morrison James Rutherford Morrison Jr. Roberto Carlos Mota Shaquille Munroe Cheyenne Murphy Kenneth Murray Zaria M. Nachlas Daniel W. Nachlas Dylan Nauman Gloire Ngani Hao Nguyen Long Nguyen Melanie Katia Norman Luis Adrian Nunez Shelby Nicole Nunnaelley Christopher J. Nyanti Brendan OBrien Jennifer Ocasio Paul O'Dacre Justin Oikle Olivia La Vie Olibrice Elyah Olivier Tyler Ollis Pablo Olvera Nehemiah Omokoku Ryan Paul Ortiz Kayla Danielle Ostrander Purity Uwamose Owie Frank Eugis Padilla Julien Paglinawan Cesar Palma Campos Daniel Parker Destiny Parker Arthur Raul Parra III Shrey Patel Ian Patubio Lily Groszmann Berryns Gumsinki Andi Gutierrez Jesse Richard Hall Ashley Halterman Theresa Hammon Steven M. Hanrahan II Tanner Hardy Kelley Harrell Henry Allen Hayes Josue Hernandez Tiffany Hernandez-Bryant Estevan Hidalgo Alton Hightower Marquis Pierre Hill Robin Tich Ho Dalton Hofeldt Frederick Gottfried Hofmeister III Renee Holly Rachel Hoppe</div></div><div><div>Jamonda Brown Julius B. Brown Lekane Dayna-Leigh Brown Aarin D. Humphrey Bradley Wayne Hurd Gabriel Hutchins Richard Hwang Thomas Taehwan Hyun Jezale Ichinohe Brandin Jackson McKenzi Kara-Sherel Jackson Erin Jackson Mikalet Jean Sarah Ayaka Jeans Minwoo Ji Alexander Jimenez Alysha Jimenez Tovar David Johnson Jerron Quenton Johnson Carys Jones Lilium Rain K. Jones Xavier DeShawn Jones Julissa D. Jordan David S. Jungblut Christopher J. Kassnerwright Yessenia Geraldine Keith Mallory Paige Kelley Samuel Anthony Ross Daisy Yvonne Kelly Destiny Kennedy Liam Austin Kilbane Cilin D. Kim Dahyeon Kim James Kim Austin Kleinfeld Nicole Knox Vanessa Tanja Kozak Michael Krug Daishiro Kuriaki Matthew LaGrone Terry Lauguatan Mattie Larsen Adrian Michael Lassiter Cole LaValley Quoc Long Le Chelsea Leach James Lee Peyton Thomas Lemmons Connor Leventon Wanshan Liu Baylee Lobo Alexis Loucks Jovani Lucas Elesah Luckie Richard Luna Heidi Majano Imanda Sineida Makseja Tristan James Cota Daniel Crefled-de Guzman Maliba Crockett Angela Crowley Yuki Crowther Justin Thomas Cruise Nathan Cruson Micaela M. Cruz Matthew Antonio Cuevas Jontrell D. Curry Aaron Darnell Crystal Davis Joshua Davis Joshua Davis Brian Shane Dawson Jr. Terrence Alfred Daye Edwin Debelbot Ivan Gerardo Del Rosario Castillo Abraham Demotta Thomas DePaul Ralph Desrosiers Sheldon Godfrey Dias Hany Diaz Omar Diaz Jose Jaime Diaz Eric Dye Jaime Orcino Domenden Luis M. Dominguez Guzman Monterrell T. Dudley Destiny Durouch Shawn Ross Ebner Georgio Elkhoury Cassidy Elliot Kareem Epps Raul Espailbat Recinos Mauricio George Espinoza Michael Daniel Faas Brian Fendley Joshua John Ferrer Derek Austin Mooney Joshua Paul Morales Morgan Moran Alex S. Moreno Roberto Moreno Cabreja Braeden Morgan Ashinique Morrison James Rutherford Morrison Jr. Roberto Carlos Mota Shaquille Munroe Cheyenne Murphy Kenneth Murray Zaria M. Nachlas Daniel W. Nachlas Dylan Nauman Gloire Ngani Hao Nguyen Long Nguyen Melanie Katia Norman Luis Adrian Nunez Shelby Nicole Nunnaelley Christopher J. Nyanti Brendan OBrien Jennifer Ocasio Paul O'Dacre Justin Oikle Olivia La Vie Olibrice Elyah Olivier Tyler Ollis Pablo Olvera Nehemiah Omokoku Ryan Paul Ortiz Kayla Danielle Ostrander Purity Uwamose Owie Frank Eugis Padilla Julien Paglinawan Cesar Palma Campos Daniel Parker Destiny Parker Arthur Raul Parra III Shrey Patel Ian Patubio Lily Groszmann Berryns Gumsinki Andi Gutierrez Jesse Richard Hall Ashley Halterman Theresa Hammon Steven M. Hanrahan II Tanner Hardy Kelley Harrell Henry Allen Hayes Josue Hernandez Tiffany Hernandez-Bryant Estevan Hidalgo Alton Hightower Marquis Pierre Hill Robin Tich Ho Dalton Hofeldt Frederick Gottfried Hofmeister III Renee Holly Rachel Hoppe</div></div><div><div>Mitsuaki Horikawa Stephanie Howard Odalis Crystal Huerta Aarin D. Humphrey Bradley Wayne Hurd Gabriel Hutchins Richard Hwang Thomas Taehwan Hyun Jezale Ichinohe Brandin Jackson McKenzi Kara-Sherel Jackson Erin Jackson Mikalet Jean Sarah Ayaka Jeans Minwoo Ji Alexander Jimenez Alysha Jimenez Tovar David Johnson Jerron Quenton Johnson Carys Jones Lilium Rain K. Jones Xavier DeShawn Jones Julissa D. Jordan David S. Jungblut Christopher J. Kassnerwright Yessenia Geraldine Keith Mallory Paige Kelley Samuel Anthony Ross Daisy Yvonne Kelly Destiny Kennedy Liam Austin Kilbane Cilin D. Kim Dahyeon Kim James Kim Austin Kleinfeld Nicole Knox Vanessa Tanja Kozak Michael Krug Daishiro Kuriaki Matthew LaGrone Terry Lauguatan Mattie Larsen Adrian Michael Lassiter Cole LaValley Quoc Long Le Chelsea Leach James Lee Peyton Thomas Lemmons Connor Leventon Wanshan Liu Baylee Lobo Alexis Loucks Jovani Lucas Elesah Luckie Richard Luna Heidi Majano Imanda Sineida Makseja Tristan James Cota Daniel Crefled-de Guzman Maliba Crockett Angela Crowley Yuki Crowther Justin Thomas Cruise Nathan Cruson Micaela M. Cruz Matthew Antonio Cuevas Jontrell D. Curry Aaron Darnell Crystal Davis Joshua Davis Joshua Davis Brian Shane Dawson Jr. Terrence Alfred Daye Edwin Debelbot Ivan Gerardo Del Rosario Castillo Abraham Demotta Thomas DePaul Ralph Desrosiers Sheldon Godfrey Dias Hany Diaz Omar Diaz Jose Jaime Diaz Eric Dye Jaime Orcino Domenden Luis M. Dominguez Guzman Monterrell T. Dudley Destiny Durouch Shawn Ross Ebner Georgio Elkhoury Cassidy Elliot Kareem Epps Raul Espailbat Recinos Mauricio George Espinoza Michael Daniel Faas Brian Fendley Joshua John Ferrer Derek Austin Mooney Joshua Paul Morales Morgan Moran Alex S. Moreno Roberto Moreno Cabreja Braeden Morgan Ashinique Morrison James Rutherford Morrison Jr. Roberto Carlos Mota Shaquille Munroe Cheyenne Murphy Kenneth Murray Zaria M. Nachlas Daniel W. Nachlas Dylan Nauman Gloire Ngani Hao Nguyen Long Nguyen Melanie Katia Norman Luis Adrian Nunez Shelby Nicole Nunnaelley Christopher J. Nyanti Brendan OBrien Jennifer Ocasio Paul O'Dacre Justin Oikle Olivia La Vie Olibrice Elyah Olivier Tyler Ollis Pablo Olvera Nehemiah Omokoku Ryan Paul Ortiz Kayla Danielle Ostrander Purity Uwamose Owie Frank Eugis Padilla Julien Paglinawan Cesar Palma Campos Daniel Parker Destiny Parker Arthur Raul Parra III Shrey Patel Ian Patubio Lily Groszmann Berryns Gumsinki Andi Gutierrez Jesse Richard Hall Ashley Halterman Theresa Hammon Steven M. Hanrahan II Tanner Hardy Kelley Harrell Henry Allen Hayes Josue Hernandez Tiffany Hernandez-Bryant Estevan Hidalgo Alton Hightower Marquis Pierre Hill Robin Tich Ho Dalton Hofeldt Frederick Gottfried Hofmeister III Renee Holly Rachel Hoppe</div></div><div><div>Linda Rosmyre Ramirez Guillermo R. Ramos Yessenia Gissel Ramos Mallory L. Reed Jazz Reid Jinxiang Ren Edward J.M Reyes Justis Reyes Ashley Mariel Reyes Duran Cheyenne Ayerlin Reynolds Madison Reynolds Daniel Lee Rhine Laurengregg E. Rimalos Breanna Rios Jalyn Rivera Desiree Rochet-Mcconnell Nicholas Rockabrand Dewayne Rodriguez Jacob Ernest Rodriguez Jaël Rodriguez AnnaLeah Rodriguez Cabeza Stephanie Lynn Rojas Darian Roman Jazmin Alexandra Romero Martinez Logan J. Rooney Coraliz Rosa Lopez Lacresha Rose Samuel Anthony Ross Antonio Rossi Shannon Elizabeth Ruddy Adrian Ruiz Adora Jean Ruschman Nicholas Russell Zachary Isaac Sakuda Michael Salas Alejandro Juan Miguel Sammarco Anna Gabriela Sanchez Citalli Sanchez Nelson Sanchez Shalom Sanchez Peter Sanesanong Myra Saplot Nick Sark Maycile Satterwhite Devin Harold Saunders Daouda Savadogo Tony Savage Gage Scanlon Ethan Cody Schaal Azzizi Johari Schofield Elana Maria Del Carmen Schrackcarrillo Alexis Schuldt Allen Penn Scott Bryce Anthony Seaton Steven Tyler Seitz Kona Serban Tyler Richard Shumaker William Sili Hana Sloss Joshua Hans Small Aliya Smith Antonio Jamar Smith Justin D. Smith Reese Smith Sara Mary Snidauid Deonte Solomon Brian Son Rowillande Soriano Abraham Aguilar Soules Arisa Souza Julien R. Spurlock Takara St. Laurent Salvatore Stassi Jeremy Steede Behret Steinbauer Christopher Stone Travis Antonio Stringer Faith Ilei Luquin Strouse Emily Suhr Ta'Shavia La'Tierra Surgeont Mari Taguchi Micah Taira Daniel Nyumah Tamba Mario Diego Tamez Ethan Taylor Marquise Taylor Ronald Zeak Terry II Rianna Thacker Ayumi Thompson Kimlon Tindugan Jasmine Toll Isabel Manuela Torres Torres Alexis Tovar Joseph L. Towle Hau Tran Carlos Trapalamagana Aethela Tsuchiya Rajiff Tugman Amelia Tuttle Jose Angelo Umali Ratsanee Uthipratum Joseph Richard Vachon Jaheim Valentine Abigail Kay Van Zullen Omely Vargas Odsela Vasquez Carlos Alberto Vazquez Monica Vela Oscar A. Villa Sara Villarreal Jay Vinehout Tevin Michael Vinson Michael Roman Walker Katherine Wallace Victoria Waters James Watkins III Shawanda Watson Jordan Webber Antonio M. Webster Sr. Andrew Michael Weingartner Eisel Welch Benjamin Wells Victoria Wells Christopher Wheeler Kaili Vaughn Wilkins Derrick Williams Kelli Williams Michael L. Williams Allyana Wilson Ashton Wilson Zion Wilson Marshal Cody Winn Victor Manuel Yanez Jr. Soua Yang Rea Yanto-Tucker Yayano Yoshida Terrance Troy Young Julian James Zamora Rylan Zamudio Christopher Zewatski</div></div></div>
--

● Cum Laude

✦ Magna Cum Laude

✂ Summa Cum Laude/President's Liste

✦ President's List

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

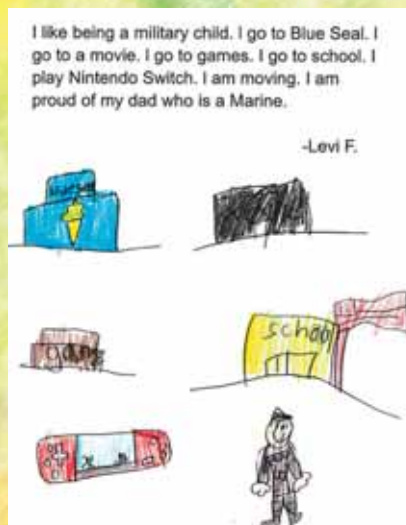
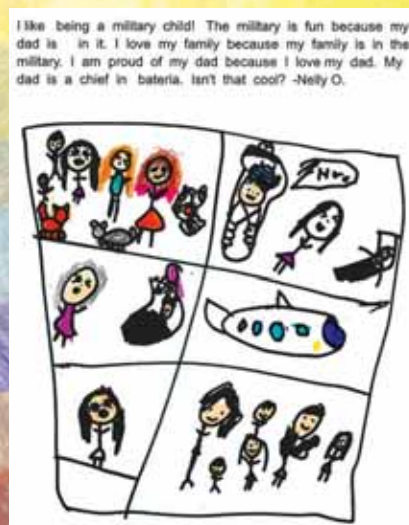
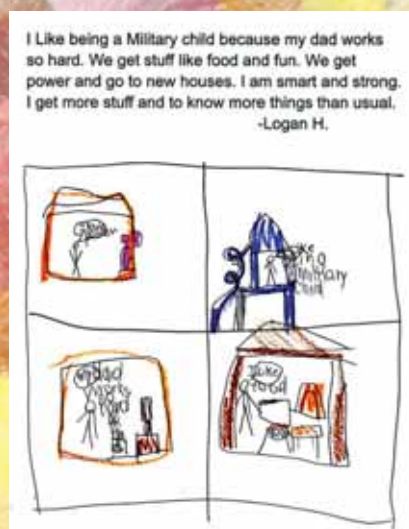
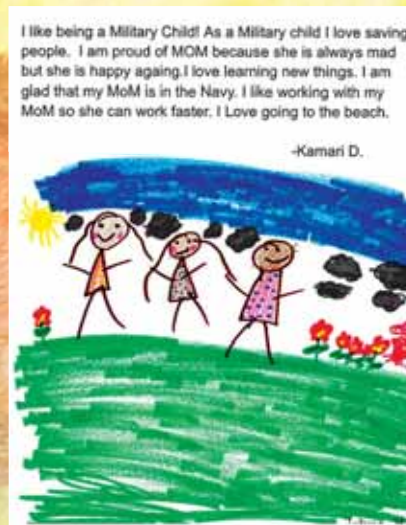
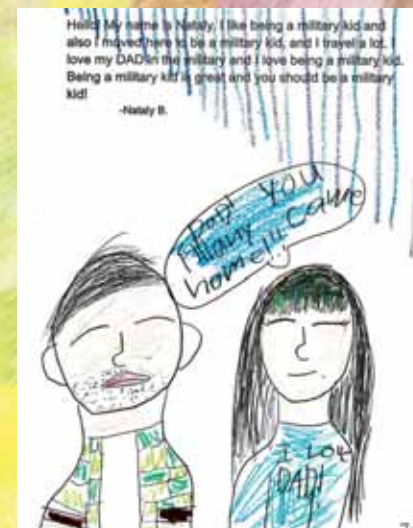
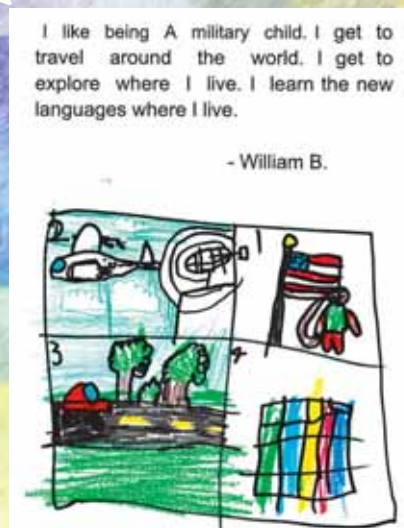
Zukeran Elementary School

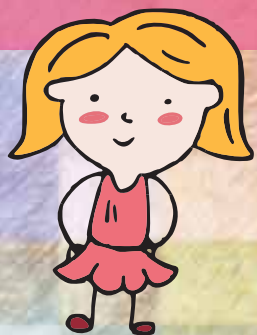
2nd Grade • Ms. Pierce



I like being a military student. I get to review, learn, and, ofcourse, play!! Friends like to play with me. I LOVE SCHOOL! I get to read at School! EVERYDAY is fun!! I never wanna leeeeeeave!!!

-Akari W.

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



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

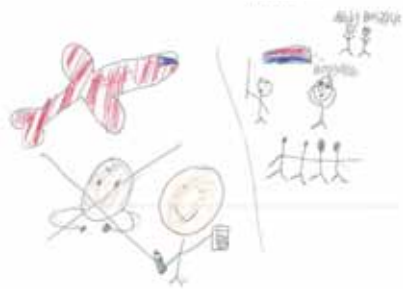
Zukeran Elementary School

2nd Grade • Mrs. Allan



I love being a military child! I can move to places over the world! Just what my mom wishes. I love having Friends, family, teachers, and school! All of them are AMAZING! And classmates! School is amazing! just like whatever I said. It's just everything is AMAZING! School, classmates, teachers, friends, family. NOTHING IS BORING! Everything is FUN!

-ALEA A.



I like being a military child because My Dad works hard for his kids and wife and we work hard for the bills. We all are smart. Are going to different places and it is fun you should go to. when i go places we meet new friends and family. We are all smart and strong. I Will see you later.

-Rosalia C.



I don't and do like being a military child.

As a military child, my dad is in the military. I usually miss him. At this school, students and teachers have a good heart. At least my dad doesn't usually have work. Going to a military school is FUN! Dad sometimes shares. I.e. if he goes to Hawaii or Guam, he tells about the trip.

-Calvin E.



I love being a military child! As a military child, I get to travel to new places. I have been to two different schools. My dad is a PA and I am very proud of him. My parents think that if I am successful, I will have a better future with my family. My dad and mom work very hard, but sometimes I feel like they just left me but... I am very very lucky to have an older sister! She is like my best friend and more! And big shout out to all of my family I love you!

-Alisa Kai



I love being a military kid/child! I have always loved to go on airplanes. Mainly because they let me drink, eat and watch shows/movies. I was born on an American base on Okinawa. It's awesome. My friends are military kids like Malaki, Eli, and Lincoln. I love it! I love traveling! I want to live in Tokyo when I'm older. Now that is not the only place! I've gone fly solo so I have no distractions!

-David F.



I like being a military child. Military children travel the world! We go to different schools with different friends inside. And learn new things, like cultures and what we learn at schools. New experiences are what I love. We go to different parks, activities, etc. in different countries. Being unique is best, not all kids are military, that makes us unique!



Being a military child is amazing but it is hard. School is very very hard, but I think it will still be fun and I have a lot of friends and I am sad that we are gonna leave next year. But I might visit soon. My dad left. He will come back!

-ABIGAIL



I like being a military child. I can go off base and on base all the time. I'm going to Hawaii. I went to Singapore. I went to Thailand. I go to different places. I get to go to festivals.



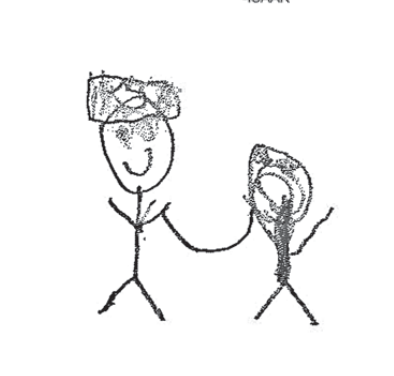
When I was a military child I liked it when my mom would come back from work! I got to help my mom at the hospital! But the best part was... the events! But when we go to fun places it is fun too. I get to go to her work! I even went to her office before!

-Amare M.



I like being a Military child. We get to have more jobs when we are in college. When we grow up we can have some jobs even without doing College. We get to do more stuff together. We get to have some stuff that we want and if we are grateful we can have a lot more stuff.

-ISAAC



I like being a military child! As a military child I get to travel to a new school. I have been to 2 different schools. My dad is a marine and I am proud of him. I am happy for him. He works so hard every day. He is so tired. I love being a military child because we get to go on planes and go to new schools and make new friends. I like being a military child because my dad is home just in time for dinner.

-Brynlee M.



I like being a military child because I like military events like the fun fair and cookie competition. My dad teaches me about the human body like my mom. I like moving to different places because I learn new things and I get new friends. I like going to my mom and dad's work because I can hang out with my friends. My parents work for us and I'm grateful for it. I make a lot of friends because I am a military child. I love being a military child.

-Lincoln M.



I like being in a military school because most of my friends are from the US, but some are from other places. I have met so many friends. I get to visit places in Japan and there are so many places and stuff to see. I go to museums and learn about Japanese culture. It is so much fun being in a military school and being on base and I love my teachers.

-Nia



I like to be a military child.

It is fun to be a military child. The military cares about us. I love the military. The military saves peoples lives. It is sad when they leave. I love my dad.

-Damian S.



I like being a military child. As a child my dad keeps moving for work. I am so annoyed but he has five jobs so I am so happy because he makes so much money! Also at least I am learning something. Being a military child means fun like sports. I did soccer and baseball.

-Eugene



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



Zukeran Elementary School

5th Grade • Ms. Guillen



Hi, my name is Addison and I am 10 years old. I have a cat and a hamster. I am a military child, and I will tell you the hard and good parts. My dad has been in the military for 30 years, so I have lived in a lot of places like California, Germany and North Carolina. Some of my fun experiences have been Great Wolf Lodge, Disneyland, Disney Sea and Disneyworld. A couple of good things are when I get to see new places and get to travel. Also, when my dad gets a promotion, we celebrate. Some challenges are making and leaving friends. I only get to have friends for about 3 years. I also have not seen my family for 2 and a half years. Here is some advice, get out in the neighborhood, join clubs and try to make friends at school and be nice.

Hi, my name is Allison! I am a Military child. I am 10 years old. And I'm going to tell you the good things and the bad things about being a Military child. For starters, being a military child is hard. Because if you have to move somewhere, you have to leave your family and your closest friends behind for more than 3 years! The good thing about being a Military child is you get to explore the world which is really fun! You also get to learn new languages and meet new friends. The places I went to were Washington D.C, Mexico, Japan and a lot more places that I don't remember. In the future I'm going to a lot more places. In conclusion, being a Military child is cool and fun!

Hi, my name is Damian. I am 10 years old, and I am a military child. I am going to tell you about my life as a military child. As a military child you have to go somewhere and move, but it is fun to try something new. Also, your new experience may be a plane if you have never been on one. I have lived in California, North Carolina, Japan, and Georgia. All of those states are really fun. The positive thing about being a military child is you make a lot of friends. Also, when you move you may meet extended family that you haven't met before. That is the positive thing about being a military child. Military children also have challenges to face. These challenges are like your mom or dad leaving for deployment. Also, another challenge is leaving your aunts or cousins that is sad. If I had to give some advice to other kids, it would be if you are going to be a military child, understand that challenges are always going to face you. Another piece of advice is that if you have any traditions, do them before it's too late. Because if you do them early you can do those traditions before you move.

Hi, my name is Alex. I am 10 years old and I have 1 dog in the states and a snake. I am a military child. I am going to tell you all about my life as a military child. I have lived and moved to Arizona, Mexico, Okinawa, Hong Kong Japan and California. My favorite place I lived is California because I had a lot of friends there and they are nice. I also like California more than Japan because it has stuff that Japan doesn't like spicy chips like hot Fritos and chick fil a. Also, I like California because I have been there longer, and I am more familiar with it. Three things I like about being a military child are that I get to move a lot, make friends and explore new places. I can also go to famous places in the world like Tokyo Disney, Osaka and Tokyo. When I celebrate, I get to celebrate my dad's promotions and put badges on his uniforms. Some challenges I face are when my dad leaves for deployment, leaving my friends and moving to new schools. My advice is to be friends with your neighbors so you can be friends with them at school and they can introduce you to their friends.

Hello, my name is Michael. I am 11 years old, and I am a military child. I will tell you what it is like being a military child. I have lived in a lot of places. I have lived in Iowa, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Illinois, and Okinawa. Those are the places I have lived in so far. The good things about being a military child are you get to live in cool places like Japan and get to go to cool places for vacations like Bali, Vietnam, South Korea, Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka. But there are some downsides also, like everywhere you go you leave friends behind at the last place. Sometimes your parents go on deployment for a while. Being a military child is fun, but it can also be sad having to leave things behind.

Hi my name is Ellie. I am 10 years old and I'm going to tell you about my life as a military child. I have only lived in two places, California and Japan. Some benefits of living in different countries is that I get to celebrate my birthdays in unique places. For example, I celebrated my 4th birthday in Okinawa. The good thing about being a military child is that I get to see cool things in different places that I have lived in. I also have visited Disneyland and Legoland. The hardest thing I have to face when moving is having to leave all of my friends behind. Another challenge is having to pack up my room every time I have to move. When you leave a place or move, get your friends' contact information so you can talk to them even if you are all the way across the world.

Hi, my name is Taka. I am a military child, and I am 10 years old. I was born in Okinawa. I'm going to tell you about my life as a military child. I was born in Okinawa so that means I'm part Japanese. My Dad is a Master sergeant. I moved to Michigan from Okinawa. My Dad stayed in the military for 24 years. I went to Michigan when I was 5 years old. I stayed in Michigan until I was 8 years old. And then I went back to Okinawa. The bad thing about Michigan is that I couldn't understand anyone because I was speaking Japanese but by the time I was in 1st grade I was finally able to speak English, and I was able to understand everyone. Then when I got back to Okinawa I started on base schools. The challenges I faced as a military child is that I had to leave my best friends from one place to another. And my advice is that you should try really hard to learn things so that you can get better.

Hi, my name is Samantha. I am 11 years old, and I am a military child. I am going to tell you all about my life as a military child. I was born in New Jersey, and I lived there for 2 years. Then my family and I moved to California because of my dad's work, and we were there for 3 years. Now I have lived in Okinawa for 6 years of my life, and because of that I don't remember much of my life in New Jersey and California. But I am glad I have been in Okinawa, Japan for so long because I love it here. The highlight of being a military child is being able to go to so many new places, meet so many new people and also make new friends. There are also challenges like leaving friends and family behind. Also, there are challenges with communication because it is hard to learn new languages. And for me it is the flights because they hurt my head. But the good thing is that you get to celebrate your birthday in so many different places. I have experienced cool places like Disneyland, Legoland, and Universal Studios. I know it is hard to be a military child, but it is ok to be afraid to go to new places. But the good thing is that you can make new friends along the way.

My name is Caleb and I'm a military child. I am ten years old. I'm going to tell you all about my life as a military child. I live in Okinawa right now. Okinawa is a pretty nice place. Other places I have been to are California and Iwakuni. Some good things about California are the beaches because they actually have big waves. Some good things about Iwakuni is that it snows. The good thing about being a military child is meeting new people. Another highlight is finding out about new foods and finding new restaurants. Some new foods that I have discovered are kimchi and a restaurant called Yakiniku. Some challenges I have experienced are losing a bunch of great friends and having to meet new people. Another challenge is getting used to time differences and figuring out the places that I have moved to. Some advice I would give to military kids is to stay in contact with people. If you don't have a phone, ask your parents to get the other parents' phone number. This is what my experience as a military child has been like.

Hi, my name is Daniel. I am 10 years old, and I am going to tell you all about my life as a military child. Today I am living in Japan, and it has been a lot of fun. I have traveled to many other places too. For example, I have lived in Florida, Virginia, and Quantico. I have gone to Universal Studios and Disneyland too. The best part of being a military child is making new friends and experiencing new places. You get to go to new schools and make lots of friends and enjoy the time you are there. The hardest part of being a military child is leaving your family and friends. You won't get to see your family for a while. For advice for other people that are reading this, be nice to people.

Hi my name is Jhaon! I am 11 years old and I'm going to tell you what it is like to be a military child. I live in Okinawa and I've been to a lot of places like North Carolina, California, and Florida. I have also traveled to a lot of places like Tokyo, Tokyo Disneyland, Disneyland, Sesame St., Yokohama, and Las Vegas. The good things about being a military child are traveling or even going to parties for my dad's work, even after school. Sometimes we can play at my dad's work. He even shows me cool things from his work. The challenges you may face are leaving your friends, close friends, or even your family. It is really tough to move but you could make new friends. Here is some advice! Life as a military child is hard, even heartbreaking, but I want you to remember to always smile and love yourself.

Hi! my name is Willow. I am 11 years old, and I am a military child. I am going to tell you about my life as a military child. I live in Japan but I have also lived in 29 palms in California, a different area in California, Iowa, and Georgia. My favorite place I've lived is Okinawa but I miss Iowa because it snowed. I also explore many places. I've been ziplining, Legoland, and hiking. One of my favorite things about being a military child is getting to experience new places and making new friends. One of the really hard things is my dad leaving or going on deployment and leaving all my friends. Have you ever missed your parents or older brothers or sisters when they had to leave for a trip? I think being a military child is hard sometimes, especially when you miss them. But the good part is getting presents like I got money from Taiwan then we went to Taiwan to experience what my dad felt like, and it was pretty nice. That's what I think about being a military child is like. When you're a military child you have to be brave and never scared.



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Zukeran Elementary School

5th Grade • Ms. Guillen



Hi! My name is Alexander. I am 11 years old, and I am a military child. I am going to tell you all about my life as a military child. One fun thing about being a military child is moving to new places. Two places I have been to are California and Washington state. I have also been to Japan. Some challenges about being a military child are leaving friends and family. It is for your moms or dad's job. One fun thing about moving is trying new foods that are my favorite. Some advice is to stay in contact with your friends and family when you move, that is something I did not do, and I regret it.

Hi, I'm Ellie =^). I'm 11 and I'm a military child. I'm going to talk about being a military child. I have been to 4 different places-South Carolina, Japan, California, and Virginia. Right now, I live in Okinawa. I have moved around maybe 5 or 6 times. I have been to Universal Studios and Disney World. I have made a lot of friends and been to a lot of places. But being a military child is hard =^(. Clearly, you have to move around a lot. I'm actually moving this year, and I don't look forward to it. You have to leave all of your friends behind. Also, you will see your family less. My dad is in the military, and he is often on an overseas business trip, or somewhere else, so I see him a bit less. There are some good things about it, too! I am interested in lots of things I may have never known about if I never moved. You can meet all kinds of new people and explore lots of new places. It can be fun sometimes =^). If you are afraid of moving, don't worry too much about it. It will be hard at first, but you will get used to the new place quickly. Personally, I don't like being a military child, but you could love it. Bye <3!

Hi, my name is Daniel. I have lived in Okinawa for about 1 year. I'm in the 5th grade, when I got to Okinawa, I was in 4th grade. I have also lived in cities like East Lake and Temecula Valley. Those are both in California. The good thing about being a military child is that my dad serves his country and will survive for his country. My brother went to school for the military. He is 20 years old, and he loves the military. The challenge for me has to be leaving my friends, pets and my home country. I also can't see my dad that much. I can see him for 5 hours a day. When he was at war training I couldn't see him the whole day. My advice is that you should have a party when your mom or dad comes back from deployment.

Hi, my name is Zoey. I am 10 years old, and I am a military child. I am going to tell you all about my life as a military child. I live in Okinawa, Japan and it is the best!! You can go to so many places to try but my favorite place to go in Okinawa is Yakiniku. You can cook your own meat and it is the best! I have also lived in Arizona, Michigan, California, North Carolina, and here in Okinawa, Japan. My favorite place I have lived was Arizona and Japan because that was where I made my closest friends. The good thing about being a military child is that wherever I go I make a lot of new friends. The advantages of being a military child is that you can move to new places and you can move to new places and learn new cultures. Before we moved here, we stopped at family's houses and said our goodbyes. I have experienced going to Disneyland, Disney World, and Universal Studios. I had to fear a lot of challenges, but the worst one was leaving family and friends back home. It was very hard leaving them because we were very close. Some advice I would give is that if you move to new places like Okinawa, you should always learn their languages and their cultures.

Hi, my name is Adrielle. Do you know what it's like being a military child? Well, I am a military child. I will tell you what it's like being one. I have one younger sister. I live in Okinawa, in Japan, and I have lived in other places. The other places I have lived in are California, Virginia, and mainland Japan! I have traveled to Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, and the Philippines! The best thing about being a military child is that you get to explore new cultures for each place that you move to. You can also make new friends! I have experienced places like Tokyo Disneyland, Universal Studios, and many other places! When my mom got promoted in the Navy, my sister and I attached badges on her shoulders. Also, when my dad retired, I wore a pretty dress for the retirement ceremony. On the other hand, the challenge you face being a military child is that you have to leave your friends, even your best friends! I had good friends for almost four years, and then I moved to a different place. A piece of advice for military children is to get your friend's contact information so you can keep it touch and remember them. Being a military child is challenging, but it is also so fun!

Hi, my name is Isabella and I am 10 years old. I was born in North Carolina. I have two dogs, one here and one in the states. I have three siblings, and I am a military child. Do you want to know what it's like to be a military child? Read this essay to find out. Right now, I live in Japan. I lived here for three years. I love Japan. I get to go to a lot of cool places such as the Mall, Pineapple Park, American Village, and more. I have also lived in California and North Carolina. A couple of advantages are getting to live on base and going to DoDEA schools. Some highlights are the gas stations, car rides and the mall. An experience I had was when I went to the mall, I saw a Great Dane that I could pet. A celebration that we did is to go to Okuma for my birthday. A challenge is my dad would always get deployed and be on duty and not only that, but I would always have to move away from my friends. Some advice I would give you is don't be scared to meet new people, be social, and be nice to everyone. In all, I am proud to be a military child you should be too. I used to be sad to be a military child but now I am loud and proud. I feel joy in being a military child.

Hi, my name is Eliza. I am 11 years old. I am so grateful that I am a military child. I have 4 sisters. I have been in Okinawa, Japan for almost 9 years! My family is from Guam, but I was born in North Carolina. Sometimes, it is really hard being a military child. Because, your mom or dad, or even both, have to leave for war, or training. When I was about 5 or 6, my mom had to go to Thailand for training. I don't really remember how long she was gone for, but she was probably gone for a really long time. It is also hard sometimes when your mom or dad goes on duty. To be honest, it is also really fun being a military child because you can travel to different places. For example, the places I traveled to (that I know of), are Thailand, Taiwan, Universal, Disney World, Disney Sea, Philippines, Guam, Tokyo, Kyoto, Fukuoka, and South Korea. Also, when you move or PCS, you get to try new foods and activities. It is also fun moving to different countries and meeting new friends. Well, I barely experienced moving because I only moved here when I was about 2 or 3. It is fun meeting new friends and teachers because I have wonderful friends and teachers here in Okinawa, Japan. I really hope you understood my experiences, and I really hope I feel empathy for yours when I read your essay.

Hi! My name is Mia and I am 10 years old. I am a military child. I have a 6-year-old sister and no pets. Have you ever had one ??? I live in Japan, and these are some of the places I have been to Ukraine, Tokyo, Virginia, North Carolina, California, and even more I like learning about the history, cultures, and seeing all the beautiful scenery. Sometimes moving can affect you so much and if I am right almost every military and military connected child has at least moved once in their life. Yes, it is hard that you are leaving your friends and family but is that all you're worried about when you should focus on making new friends and learning about the new culture. Have you ever been to Disneyland, Churaumi aquarium, Tokyo, pineapple plantation, magic mountain? Some of the places you go to you can find them. Have you ever been to a Marine Core ball before? They are so fun, and you can dance, hear cool speeches, and eat some very good food. You will always make new friends wherever you go.

Hi! My name is Brezlynn I am 10 years old. I am a military child so I will be telling you about my life as a military child. I am a military child, so I am able to move to a lot of places. I have lived in Hawaii, Ohio and Okinawa. Some of the experiences that I have had are new cultures and other things like Pineapple Park, Dino Park and I have seen the Cherry blossoms festival. I have also learned new languages like Hawaiian and Japanese. I also celebrated my birthday at Round 1. I have also gone Four Wheeling/ ATV. Some of the challenges there are to being a military child is that sometimes you need to leave friends and family behind. Some advice I have is that you need to be ready to make new friends.

Hi, my name is Asher and I'm 10 years old. I'm a military child. And I will be talking about my life as a military child. I have lived in a lot of places, like Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Illinois, California. I have also traveled to Virginia and Texas. The good thing about being a military child is living on base and being protected. Also, making friends. The challenges I faced as a military child are moving away from friends and family and waving goodbye. I was very sad. Also, I faced my dad going on deployment and I missed him. It's ok to cry when you move and miss people. Just know they miss you too. Some other stuff I got to do since I am a military child is get taken to my dad's work which was at the hospital and the court food there was so good.

Hi! My name is Gian and I am 11 years old. I am going to tell you what it's like being a military child. Being here in Okinawa is cool because you can get stuff that you can't get in America. Like when I leave to somewhere I have stuff you can get only with Amazon Japan. There are also some bad things about being a military child too. Like moving every three years. Some stuff can get lost when moving. As long as it's not your phone, I guess. I mean... you can blame losing stuff on moving...But that doesn't matter! Like has anyone reading this been to Costco in another state or country? I have! And Walmart. And a Pokémon center too. Like, it's so cool. If I were to give advice right now, I would say "Download Battle Cats on mobile because it's free!"



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena High School

Journalism class • Ms. Mendoza

I am From

I am from bright green grass
and forests,
And the strong smell of
hand sanitizer.
From stuffed animals
littered on my bed,
Toys scattered all over the
floor.
I am from the goodnight
rituals with my parents,
And the Golden Rule.
I am from eating pozole
every Christmas,
And every pet I've ever had.
I am from a sandy desert



with mountains,
And dingy school uniforms.
I am from a family that always loved and supported me,
From all of my ancestors from Mexico,
And the military that took me all over the place;
All the multiple different cultures and states.
I am from those moments in my childhood,
And the memories I've made,
All the memories, all the everything that made me me

– Ayanna Gonzalez, Sophomore

My Journey Around the World

Being a military child is an experience like no other. It's a life of constant adventure, change, and adversity. At 17 years old, I have already lived in more places than many people will in a lifetime. My journey began in Texas, but since then, I've moved to Arizona, Misawa (Japan), Wyoming, Hawaii, Mississippi, and now Okinawa, Japan. With my dad being a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, my family has never stayed in one place for more than three years. However, with this, I have been blessed to travel all around the world no matter where we are stationed. While this lifestyle comes with its hardships, it has also provided me with countless incredible opportunities that I will forever cherish.

One of the biggest blessings that comes with being a military child is the exposure to many different cultures, environments, and people. I have experienced life in multiple states across the U.S. as well as overseas. Living abroad has opened my eyes to how vast and different each part of the world is. I've tasted new foods, seen breathtaking landscapes, and immersed myself in cultures that I would never have otherwise experienced. This constant movement has made me adaptable and given me so many qualities that I know will benefit me for the rest of my life.

Travel has been a huge part of my childhood, especially during the years when I was homeschooled up until 6th grade. I was blessed with my mom taking full advantage of our flexible education, giving me and my three brothers countless opportunities for adventure. Whether it was visiting castle ruins in Malaysia, hiking to the peak



of Hawaiian mountains, boating through the caves of New Zealand, or simply spending time with my family on a small island in Thailand, I've had an education that's extended far beyond textbooks.

Of course, being a military child isn't always easy. Every few years, just as I start to feel comfortable somewhere, it's time to pick up and move again. Saying goodbye to the home I've built, leaving friends, schools, and familiar places that I've grown fond of, is one of the hardest things a child in this lifestyle will go through. It's difficult knowing that, while I'm adjusting to a new country, my past friends are continuing the life I grew to love without me. Starting over in a new place means navigating a new school, making new friends, and adjusting to a new environment. It can be overwhelming at times, but throughout the years, I've learned how to adapt quickly and embrace change. Each move has taught me resilience, the ability to embrace change, and how to be excited about new beginnings rather than anxious.

This is my last duty station with my family, as I prepare for college and the new life that will bring. I know that, with this, more moves, goodbyes, and new beginnings are ahead. However, I also know that with each transition—growth, adventure, and so many more opportunities that will continue to shape who I am are

ahead of me. The military life hasn't been easy, but it's a life filled with adventures and opportunities I wouldn't have experienced otherwise; and for that, I am forever grateful.

Despite the difficulties, I wouldn't trade the experience of being a military child for anything. The adventures, the lessons, and the memories will stay with me forever. The life I've lived has taught me to cherish the moments I have with my family, to remain resilient in the face of change, and to appreciate the world for all of its diverse beauty. It has given me the chance to see the world, build connections with people from all areas of my life, and develop a level of independence that many my age haven't yet had to face. The military life has truly been a blessing, and I am filled with gratitude for everything it has brought into my life.

– Aisley Coleman, Junior

A unique experience and a privilege

Being a military child is like living in a world with two sets of rules. There is the normal life, with school and friends, and then there is the military life, with its own rhythms and expectations. I lived in the Philippines for 17 years of my life so far, and this is still pretty new. I have only been part of this world for two years, since my stepfather came into my life.

One of the biggest things I have learned is that change is constant; it is inevitable. Before, things stayed pretty much the same. Now, I know that things can change quickly like a snap of a finger. My stepfather taught me things I did not know and became a way for me to be open about what life throws at me.

Sometimes, it is hard to understand the military side of things. There are terms I do not know, and rules that seem strange. I am still learning about the sacrifices that military families make. I see how much my stepfather cares and values his job and his country. It makes me proud, but it also made me realize that being a military child means sharing your parents with something bigger than just your family.

Even though it can be tough, there are good things too. I have learned to be more adaptable and resilient. I managed to keep up with the people, the new environment, and the language that people speak. I have learned to cherish friends, because I know they might not be around forever. I have also learned to appreciate the time I have with my family, because it is precious, especially now that I am moving to another country to study college.

Being a military child is a unique experience and a privilege. It is a mix of challenges and rewards. It is about learning to navigate a world that is both familiar and different. For me, it is still a journey, and I am still learning. But I am also growing stronger and more understanding because of it.

– Julia Yoko Cruz

A Worthy Sacrifice

Growing up as a military child, I never understood why my dad had to leave for such long periods of time. These long assignments would last for days. From days to weeks. From weeks to months. It would always end up just being me, my brother and my mom. Being a military child has all kinds of sacrifices, but the largest sacrifice has to be the temporary duties my dad had to attend.

When we had moved to Okinawa, Japan, my father was sent out on a mission for an entire year. This was the longest TDY he has ever been to in my whole life at that point. I could not understand how the three of us were going to grow as a family when we had such a large piece of our family missing. Nothing could ever replace that piece.

Without my dad around, it was easy to notice the silence around the house. From the loud conversations my parents would have in the living room, to a quiet living room that didn't have the same spark as before. Even if he would bother me sporadically barging into my room, it only became empty when my dad was not always knocking on my door and checking in on me. Everything felt brighter with my entire family together. His being gone for such lengthy missions were the hardest times in my life. I knew exactly what I was missing, and yet I had no way to bring him back no matter how much I wanted to.

Despite him disappearing, my dad would always make the effort to be present in my life. He would teach me how to color inside the lines, give me the toys I always wished for, take me to places I have always wanted to see, he did it all. Even from miles away, he would send me presents and gift boxes full of all the little things he knew I would enjoy. For a dad who could never be there for me, every day of my life, he left the largest impact on how I have grown as a person. Throughout my life, I could not imagine a life without my dad right by my side, even if it had to be through video calls and text messages. He was always thinking of me, even in his toughest of military days, taking time out of his day to make sure to call me just to know how my day went.

Even if I was given the opportunity, I would not change a thing. If I were to change the assignments my dad was sent off to, he would not have been able to come back home as a hero. A hero who has all kinds of stories all around the world. A hero who would bring home awards and presents. A hero who deserved recognition for all of his hard work fighting for this country. It

is a big sacrifice to make, yet it is a sacrifice I would willingly go through again as a military child.

– Vianca Baez-Lugo, Senior

Where are you from?

Where are you from? It's a simple question for many, but for me, it's a journey. I've moved around often—never staying in one home for more than four years. By the time I was nine, I had already lived in five different states, and I embraced a new adventure when I moved to Japan at eleven. While it may seem daunting to some, it has shaped who I am. I've learned to make new friendships quickly and say goodbye without much pain. I've never been on a quick road trip away to see all my family. The comfort of familiar faces and laughter has followed me wherever the military requires.

Hearing my dad come home from work and announce, "We're moving again," was difficult for me as a kid. I would start to feel overwhelmed at the thought of being the new kid at school and leaving all my friends behind. So many questions would flood my mind! Sooner or later, I would find myself sleeping on an air mattress in the empty living room of what had once been my home but was no longer.

People often dream of moving far away from their hometown, leaving their families, and starting over in a new place, but it's the opposite for me. Sometimes all I want is to be able to go to a place I've known my whole life with people I know and love. The welcoming feeling of seeing friends and family I haven't seen in years and catching up on all different things sounds like a distant dream to me.

One year, when I was a kid, we had to spend Christmas Day in a hotel room without most of our belongings. We didn't have a Christmas tree, stockings, or even a kitchen to bake cookies in. For our Christmas breakfast, we ate cereal from the hotel's breakfast buffet. Eating a big breakfast with my family after opening all my presents was one of my favorite traditions, as we usually made cinnamon rolls. Being a military child has taught me to rarely complain.

Being a military child has allowed me to experience different parts of the world and meet many diverse people, despite all the stress and hardships. I have traveled more in 15 years than most people do in their entire lifetime. I have caught glimpses of many different and diverse cultures. I am extremely grateful to be a military child and for all of the experiences it has brought me.

– Aubrey Chafey, Freshman

The Military Lifestyle

When I was 7 years old, I found out my mom was in the military. I didn't know because I didn't go to a military school or live on base. So, when we had to move from Georgia to Alabama, I was ecstatic. I was going to live in a house that had an upstairs and downstairs! There was a park within walking distance of my house instead of the woods that you weren't allowed to go in by yourself. There were kids my age who lived in my neighborhood and went to the same school as me. These were all things that I had never experienced before. It had even snowed! And I was only an hour away from my family in Georgia. It couldn't get any better than this. Then, we had to move again.

When I was 11 years old, I found out my mom could fly planes. I didn't know because I thought she was just a doctor. So, when we had to move from Alabama to Hawaii, I was ecstatic. I lived in a house that had a ginormous backyard. It was warm outside every single day. I could go to the beach any day I wanted! There were so many new fruits and vegetables to try because of the yearly tropical climate. A shaved ice truck came to my school every Thursday! All things I had never experienced before. So, although I was no longer an hour away from my family in Georgia, it wasn't half bad. Then, it was time to move again.

When I was 14 years old, I found out I was moving to another warm climate area. I did miss the cold weather but finding out it would be in another country was not what I was expecting. I was scared that I wouldn't find anyone like me or relate to me but thankfully that wasn't the case. As military children, we often think that we'll be detached from the people around us, but we're actually all the same. We're all kids who have had to move at some point, leaving behind our family, friends, and memories. Yet, it doesn't always have to be that way.

As a military child, you can't speak for everybody and say it's great. There are ups and there are downs. But, I think that the benefits can outshine the detriments if you let them.

– Reese Camp, Sophomore

Friends Around the World

Being friends with a military kid means always having a reason to send birthday cards all over the world. Every year, I say goodbye to someone I care about, but I also get to hear all about their new adventures in different states or even different countries.



It's not always easy, but I've learned that just because someone moves away doesn't mean the friendship has to end. In a way, I have friends all over the world, and that's pretty cool. Even though it might be hard to say goodbye. There are times when life gets busy, and we don't talk as much as we used to. School, sports, and new friends can make it hard to keep up with old ones. Sometimes weeks or even months go by without a single text. But that doesn't mean we're not friends anymore. When we finally do catch up, it's like no time has passed. True friendship isn't about texting every day and it's about knowing that no matter how much time goes by or how far apart we are, we'll always have each other's backs.

At the end of the day, being friends with a military kid has shown me that distance doesn't change a thing. Yes, the goodbyes are hard, but the reunions are always worth it. And I think that having friends all around the world is something pretty special. Every time I hear about a new place my friend has moved to, I get excited to learn about it, almost like I'm experiencing it with them. I've also realized that having long-distance friendships has taught me how to communicate better and appreciate the time we do get to spend together. It's not always easy to keep in touch, but the effort is always worth it. No matter where life takes us, I know we'll always find our way back to each other.

– Tiffany Ferguson, Junior

Two Homes, Two Countries

Two homes, two different countries. For those who get it, get it, and for those who don't, don't. My life as a military child! Hi, my name is Kenadee Carter, I never would have thought of myself as a military child until my Dad (Conor M Shannon) announced his new job in Okinawa, Japan. The whole family was in shock. Moving and change was very scary and is still taking my family and I time to get used to it. I have moved only a couple times in my life. I was born in North Carolina, then moved to Washington state, then Maryland and now Okinawa, Japan! I will always have two homes, North Carolina/ Maryland and the place I'm living (Okinawa)! North Carolina will always be my home! With having been born there and visiting for long periods of time every year, on top of the fact that all my family live there and I feel so welcome in the small town in which I am from in North Carolina. The sweet southern families and generous actions within the community are what makes my home feel so very special! Maryland will also always be looked at as a "home away from home". I lived there for five years. During those five years I made plenty of lifelong friends, memories, and experiencing new things, even trying crabs for the first time!

With Maryland and North Carolina being my home, Okinawa is my house that will eventually become my home. I've only been here for two months but within those two months I have started school, soccer, and made plenty of friends and great memories with them! Even though I might get sad from time to time, I love being surrounded by the military community where everyone can relate on all levels to one another. So once again even though each home is thousands miles apart I will always have "Two Homes, Two countries"!

– Kenadee Carter

My Life In Boxes

As I stood in the garage directing movers left and right, signing for boxes, and sweating in the Okinawa humidity, overwhelming waves washed over me. As the last pieces were rushed out, I looked around and crumbled. "What's wrong?" My little brother asked as he looked at my mom.

"She's seeing her entire life in boxes," She replied sympathetically as she reached for me.

Being a military kid, or a Marine brat, shaped me in so many ways over the course of 18 years. Living in North Carolina, California, Virginia, Louisiana, and Okinawa gave me so many opportunities that I would have never imagined myself having without the lifestyle that came with being a Marine child.

The first quality that arose from my experiences was high independence. Starting at a very young age I began to work for what I wanted on my own and became efficient in figuring solutions in situations presented to me. While this may sound typical for many driven adolescents, in my situation this was heavily influenced by those around me in the military. Seeing my dad work for promotions and higher education tirelessly pushed me. Additionally, having not only my dad, but also my mom involved in military positions to help Marine Corps Community Services, I also felt the need to start taking jobs at the age of 14 working to provide services to other military families and gain valuable training available for these positions able to be taken further than just one job.

Secondly, exposure was a key component in my life. Living overseas in Okinawa, I got to experience many different cultures, people, and places. Traveling around Asia, I received the opportunities to practice new languages, try new foods, and see new things. As a result, openness to the unknown became a second nature to me. When you're open to new things, you tend to see similarities and repetitive patterns found through exposure. Experiencing the lives of others without judgment with willingness to learn and enrich in exposure gave me qualities I don't believe I would have ever fully gained without this experience.

The most basic quality, but arguably the most important, that arose due to my military lifestyle was kindness. Knowing the struggles that friends and families face due to moves, changes, and crises, made me realize how much a little kindness can go a long way when you have no idea what someone is going through. Luckily being a Marine brat always centered me in groups where I could empathize with others with similar struggles, but being aware of what goes on in a person's life highlighted how incorporating kindness is necessary not only for the people you see struggling, but for yourself to remember how your beginnings shaped you.

Individual lifestyle experiences have a way to shape its impact on the person experiencing its effects. In mine, being a military child emphasized independence, exposure, and kindness above all else. Throughout the years of constantly moving and facing new challenges presented I became a stronger, more determined, and well rounded person. The lifestyle in being around the military gave me qualities that I, without a doubt, believe would not be the same away from these experiences.

I looked back to my mom and accepted her embrace. Through the emotions I was attempting to work out in that new garage I finally got a reply back to her,

"It's a lot, but we've done it before, I'm ready."

– Naomi Jaime

Red And White, But Also Blue

I've spent nearly my entire life on the small island of Okinawa, Japan. Half Okinawan, half American, I'm immersed in both Eisa dancing and hip-hop — red and white, yet also blue. But despite living a military-affiliated life while preserving my Okinawan heritage, I often felt like a visitor on both sides—never fully belonging.

With my father who is a retired U.S. Marine, I have watched as friends and peers came and went, moving on to new chapters in new countries. My mother, an Okinawan, raised me with the customs and standards of this land. Yet, while I experienced the same military life that many of my American peers did, I also found myself standing apart, feeling different. I had not traveled to the many countries where my American friends had been stationed, and the features of my face and the last name I carried were a constant reminder that I was not entirely like my Okinawan friends either.

For a long time, I struggled with this sense of being "in between." It was only over time that I realized I couldn't ignore one part of myself to fit into the other. I had to learn to embrace both sides—honoring the unique blend that makes me who I am. I had to become a bridge, standing between two cultures that don't always see eye to eye, but both of which make me whole.

I am proud to be a military-connected student, just as I am proud to be Okinawan. I've come to understand that I am both the cherry blossoms of Japan and the fireworks of an American Fourth of July—each worthy in its own way, but both belonging to different skies. And in the space between, I've found my place.

– Nicole Williams, Grade 12

Resilience and Adaptability

Growing up as a military child, I became intimately familiar with the experience of loss and longing. Remaining as constant in each location, I would witness friends and neighbors leave, resulting in an unrelenting cycle of goodbyes. These emotions, once overwhelming, became something I became accustomed to at a young age.

For most military families, the average time spent stationed at any given base is usually two years, rarely any more than six. However, my experience was different. My father's assignments often lasted anywhere from six to eight years, giving me a bit more stability than many of my peers. But while this allowed me to adjust and settle in, it also meant that just as I began to form close friendships and create a network of support, those connections were always inevitably pulled away. My friends would leave for their next "home," and once again, I would have to start building my close circle all over again.

It wasn't easy to understand or relate to the constant movement of my friends who were given a new station far more frequently than my own family. I struggled to comfort them because I could not fully grasp the weight of their transitions. While I only had to endure two major moves during my childhood, some of my closest friends experienced seven or more before even reaching middle school.

In the early years, the impact of relocation didn't fully hit me. I was only six years old when we left McChord Air Force Base, and in my young mind, I thought that every trip we made to the city of Seattle (located just about an hour away) was my family traveling to an entirely different country. My naive view made our first move a relatively easy process. It wasn't until my final year of elementary school that I truly understood the gravity of change. At that point, we received the news that we wouldn't just be leaving Hickam Air Force Base, my home for the past six years, but that we would be leaving the country entirely, headed for Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa Japan. I would not only be attending a new school, but experiencing a completely unfamiliar culture, in a place I had never imagined living. The dream of spending my middle and high school years in Hawai'i with my closest friends vanished as we boarded a plane to a new life.

While the instability and rapid adjustment may have caused me great pain while growing up, it also fostered a sense of resilience and adaptability in me from a young age. These are qualities which I feel are beneficial to me, especially as I approach possibly the greatest transitional period in a person's life: leaving home and proceeding to college. Saying goodbye to friends, family, and the only home I've ever known will never be easy, but I feel a quiet sense of confidence in knowing that I've done it before, and I can do it again.

– Amara Challinor

Exposure

The sun illuminates the roadway, casting sharp shadows on a cold Pompeii morning. The kind where although the air was brisk, the sun hung lazily in the sky, bathing everything in a harsh, relentless light. I followed a path, an uneven pavement arranged with basalt stones; marked by grooves left by ancient chariot wheels. The crisp air carried hints of fresh citrus from a nearby fruit stand, mingling with the earthy scent of ancient stone. The atmosphere was still with the occasional chattering of tourists and calls of tour guides—a unique blend of languages and cultures around the world met in this historical place.

Moments like these reminded me of how my life is shaped by movement, adaptability, and exposure to cultures that are different from my own. As a military child, I have had the privilege of traveling to places others dream of, witnessing not only the beauty of the world but also its raw realities. With every move, I gain a deeper understanding of history, the interconnectedness of people, and the cultural heritage that shapes societies.

Walking through the streets of Pompeii, I felt the weight of history beneath my feet and through my fingertips as I traced the ridges of ancient walls. The ruins stood as a testament to a city frozen in time, offering me to imagine how Roman life must have been before the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. I recall standing, behind the railing, in front of a preserved kitchen, admiring the stone countertops and ovens where bread was once baked. Later on the tour, we passed through an archway, and the grand amphitheater was there. The guide explained how this place used to echo with ancient spectacles. It was in those moments that I recognized the immense privilege I had—to not only read about history but to experience it.

Growing up in a military family, I have learned that travel is more than a change of scenery; it is an education in itself. Before moving to Okinawa, I was stationed in Germany, centrally located in Europe. The convenience of the location really shined when my family realized how convenient and easy it was to travel around Europe using military affiliated RTT tours. During the three years there, I was really able to see the remnants of war throughout European museums and memorials, the artistic triumphs displayed in galleries, and the quiet perseverance of people rebuilding their communities. Every place I have lived or visited has left an imprint on me, shaping my world view. I have learned that culture is not something that can be fully understood from screens alone—it must be felt, tasted, and experienced in daily life.

Alongside all the beauty, I have also seen the struggles that exist across borders. I have witnessed poverty in its many forms, from the quiet desperation of a struggling street vendor to a child playing in an alleyway, not put off by hardship. These experiences deepened my appreciation for my family, my friends, my privileges, and the responsibilities that come with them. Growing up, my parents have given me a front-row seat to both the wonders and the challenges of the world, inspiring a motive to not only witness but to engage meaningfully.

Being a military child has given me more than just stamps in a passport; it has given me a lifelong curiosity, a deep respect for diversity, and an understanding of our complex world. I do not take these experiences for granted. Instead, I see them as an invitation—to keep moving forward, to seek knowledge, and to embrace the vast, intricate world that I have been fortunate enough to explore.

– Marie Mano, Senior

Benefits of a military child

Being a military child can be tough sometimes, but it also comes with many benefits. Some of these benefits include residential stability, educational opportunities, healthcare, and more. Residential stability means that a child and their family are provided with a good home to live in. This is important because children need a stable home to ensure they are healthy, happy, and safe. It's also important to realize that home isn't just a place—it's a feeling. These benefits contribute to a child's emotional and physical well-being.

The educational benefits include the GI Bill, access to DoDEA schools around the world, and opportunities for travel that can enhance a college application. The military also provides 24/7 educational support. Moving frequently can positively impact a child's education by exposing them to new languages and teaching them how to adapt to different situations. Additionally, military children interested in joining the armed forces have access to resources that help prepare them for enlistment.

The social benefits of being a military child are not always easy to recognize, as many children dislike moving to different countries and leaving their friends. However, traveling is a valuable life lesson. It allows children to meet new people, experience different cultures, and see new places, all of which can positively impact their social skills. Traveling also helps children develop self-control and resilience in challenging situations, including learning how to stay calm during stressful times. Although making new friends can be difficult, it teaches military children how to build strong relationships and communicate effectively with different people.

Emotional well-being is also crucial for military children. Not all children feel comfortable talking to their parents, siblings, or even friends about their emotions. Fortunately, the military provides various support systems, such as child health centers, youth and teen centers, and school counselors, for those who need someone to talk to. These emotional support services help children cope with feelings of sadness, anxiety, or the difficulties of frequent relocation. Having access to mental health resources ensures that military children can develop healthy coping mechanisms and feel supported no matter where they are. Many of these benefits shape the person they will become in the future.

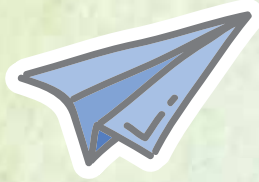
– Mya Luke, Freshman

Kindergarten
Ms. Strickland

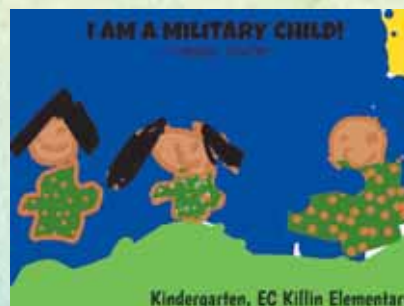
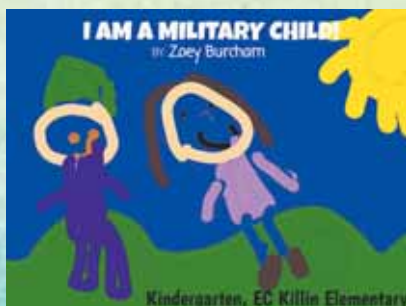
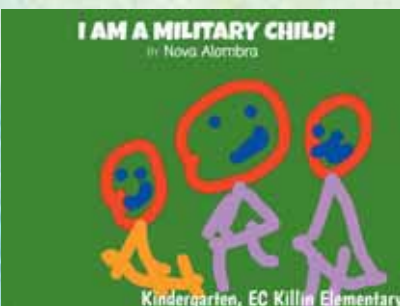
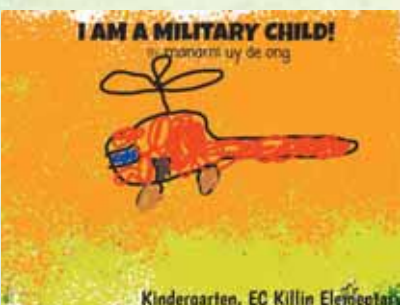
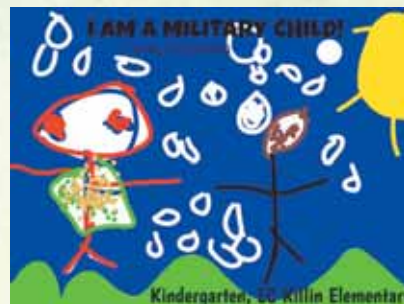
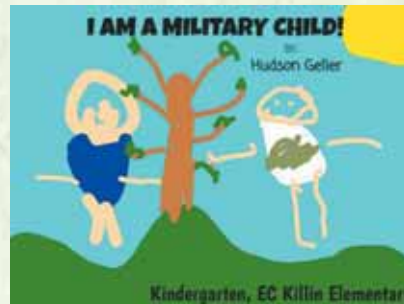
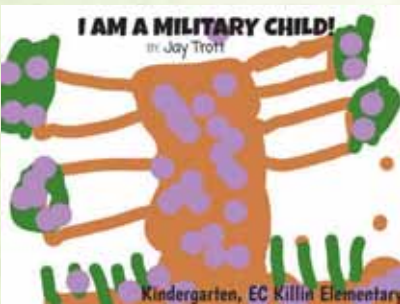
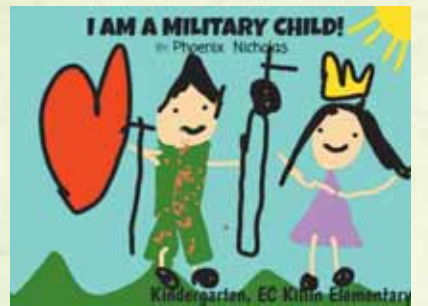
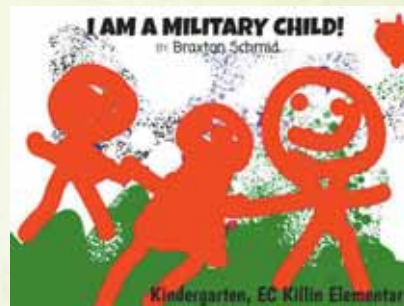
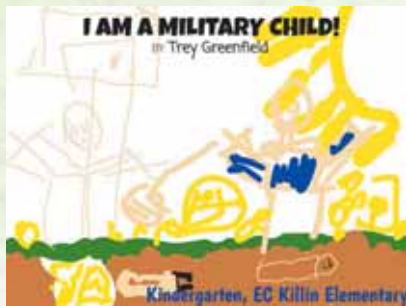
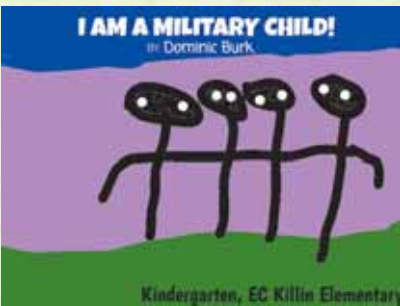
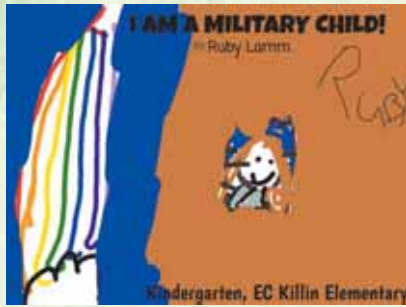
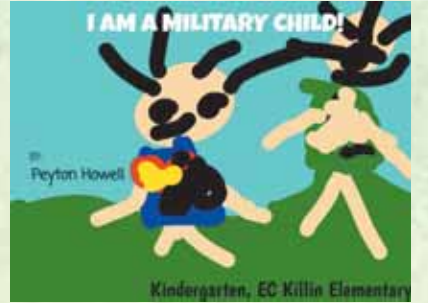
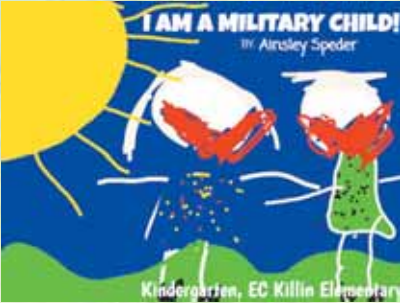


celebrating Month of

Killin Elementary



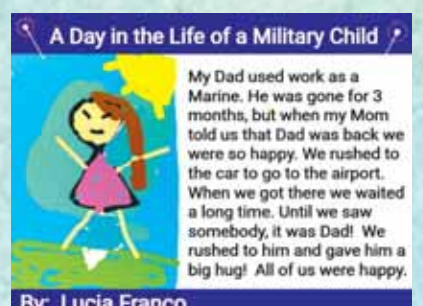
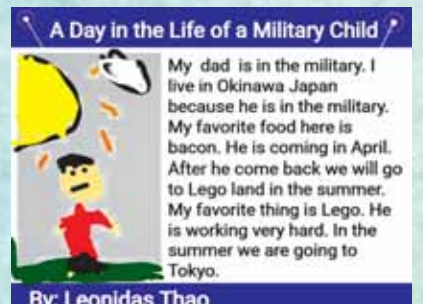
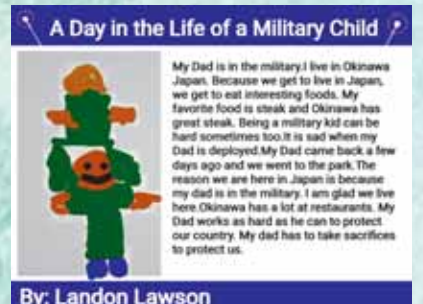
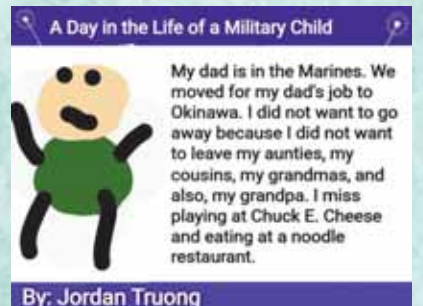
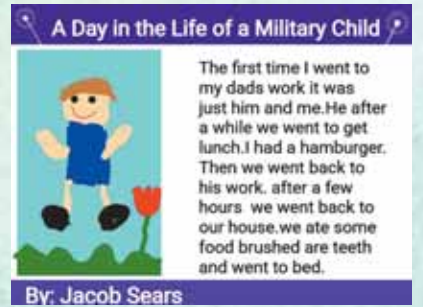
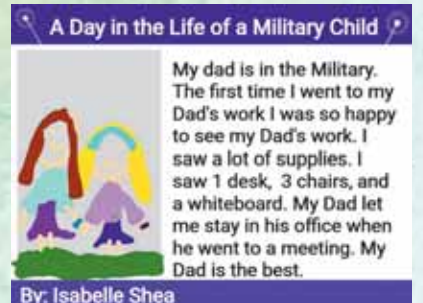
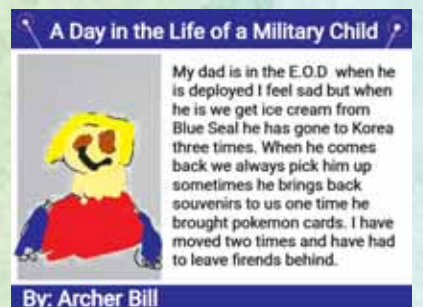
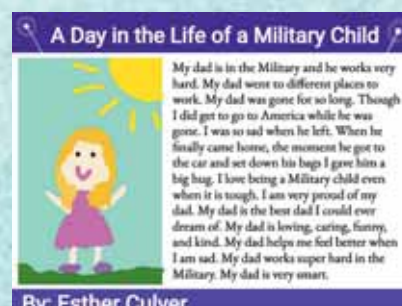
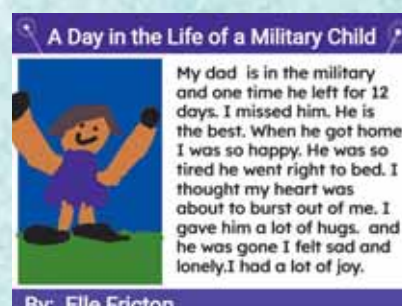
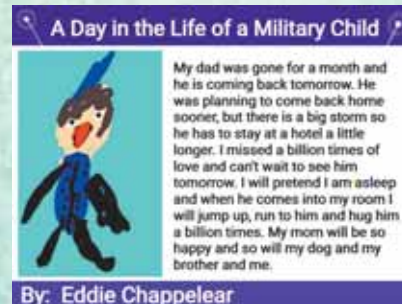
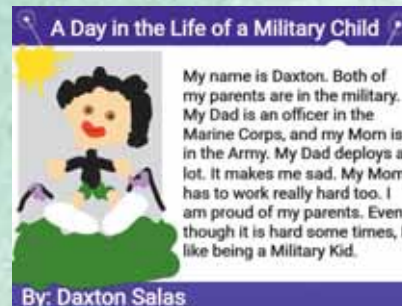
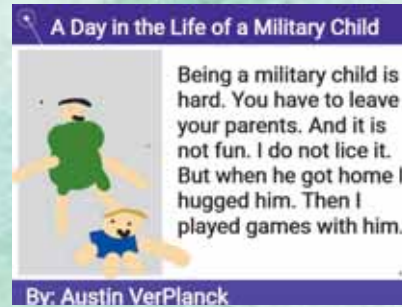
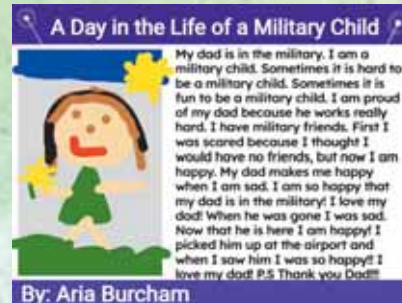
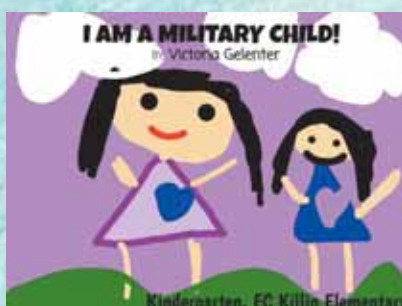
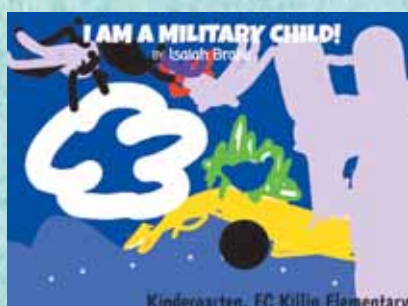
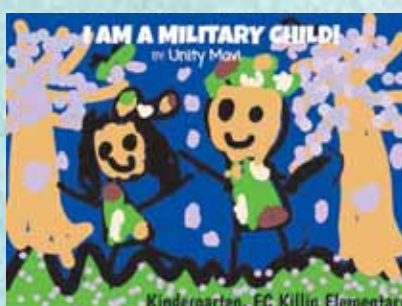
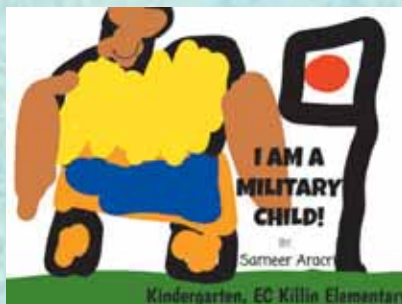
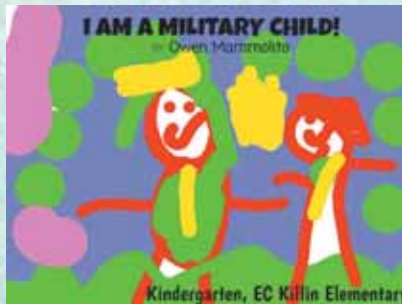
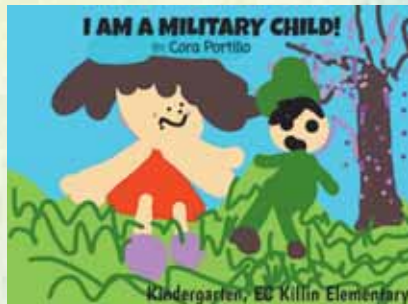
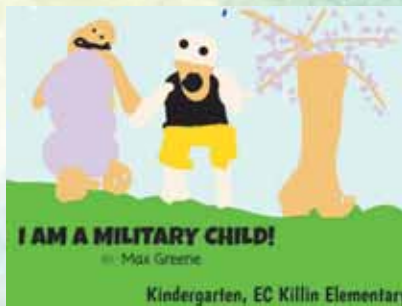
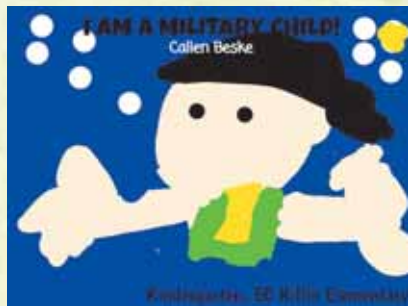
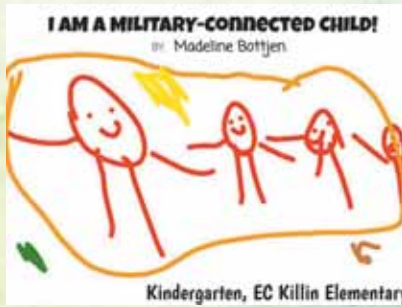
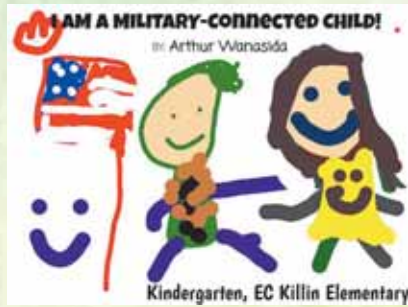
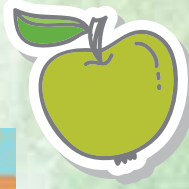
Kindergarten
Mr. Meza



of the Military Child Kindergarten School

Kindergarten
Ms. Pipkin

2nd Grade
Ms. Smith





celebrating Month of the Military Child Killin Elementary School

2nd Grade
Ms. Sparatta

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



One day when I was in kindergarten I met my first friend named Lennox. It was so random. Because when me and Lennox were going to first grade I was so sad we had to go to a different class. But then it was so random we went to the same class. But then we had to move. But before we had to move. Luckily one night I was eating dinner I didn't know he would call me. I was playing 3008 and other stuff on Roblox.

By: Flynn Strother

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My dad went to South Korea, to city and it is Busan. I missed him so much. He was gone for 2 days. When he came back I was so happy. I hugged him. He was so tired he went to sleep. That is the story of my dad.

By: Gaffin Konneh

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My family is going to Taiwan. It is a nice place. They have good food in Taiwan. We are leaving when it is spring break. The hotels are pretty cool. I have been to Taiwan. The dumplings are so good.

By JOEY Miller

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



On my first day of ECK I was 6 years old and scared. I made friends quickly, my first friend was Nora. I was the oldest kid in my class. I thought I wouldn't make friends so fast. My teacher was Ms. Byrom. I was so glad to go home and tell my Mom and Dad. My favorite class is PE we play so many games.

By: JOSEPHINE SINGARAJU

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My dad was gone for 7 days in Hawaii. My dad needed to do work. My Dad was gone for 4 days in December. My dad and I went to a baseball field. My dad is gone now. He left on Monday. He is coming home this Monday.

By: Julian Galvan

A Day in the Life of a Military-Connected Child



It is going grate in Okinawa. I get to go to American schools. I love Okinawa. I think it has the best foods I have ever eaten in my whole life. I am lucky that I live in Okinawa. On the first day of school I was so excited for the first day of school. I love Okinawa because it's a safe place for me. That's why I love Okinawa!

By: Kaito

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



It was a sunny and windy day and we went to the airport to pick up my dad Daniel. He gave all of us big hugs. One time we were in Hawaii and when my dad came home from Australia he said he has babies for me and my sister Kyleigh and they were stuffed animal kangaroos. We were so happy one time he went on a trip to North Carolina and went to this bad gas station called Munchies. It's a gas station where bad people hang out. My dad's GPS took him there because it was the closest gas station. The gas station is where people harm other people so be careful. I get happy everytime he comes home. Good day so good by.

By: Kayla Rhodes

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



In Okinawa beach there are things called hermit crab. Some times I find fish. Sometime I find big fish and small fish. One time there was a dead pufferfish. And I found a dead crab. And I also found a sand spider. I got trap in the wave.

By: Luther

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



It was a warm summer day when my dad was getting home. Me and my sister went to the airport to get him. We got in the car and drove to Naha Airport. When we got there we went to the place to pick him up. When we got there we waited and waited. Finally the people started coming out. Then we saw my dad and me and my sister ran to hug him. Then my mom hugged him. Then we drove home. When my sister and brother got home they were so excited.

By: Molly Harris

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



One day it was my birthday but my dad was deployed and I was really sad but when my dad came back I was happy to see him. Me and my dad played and had a good time. I even tried sushi in Okinawa I didn't like it but it is good to try stuff. For Christmas he got me my favorite Pokemon stuffed animal I was so happy. Me and my family went to the movie theater it was a good movie. Me and my dad play a lot we play outside we. Me and my dad love each other.

By: Morgan Crampton

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



When I was 6 my Dad was coming home from a work trip. Me and my older brother went to the airport to pick him up. We drove around for a while and then finally my Dad came out. Then he got in the car and we drove home. He told us about his trip. He had gone to Hawaii, Australia and maybe even more than that. He brought me and my brother souvenirs. That was my favorite day of living in Okinawa.

By: Nora Hassell

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My mom got back from New Hampshire. She was gone for 6 months. She worked at the Navy hospital. I was so sad while she was gone. When she came back I was happy. I gave her a hug. I went to get ice cream.

By: Ryker Mammolito

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



Being a military child is tough. When I was 3 years old my Dad was on a deployment. When he came home I didn't even know how he was because he grew a mustache. My little sister Ruby was still one she thought he was a total stranger. But my oldest sister Hazel, she was three years old and she was so happy! because she knew who he was. She looked up and said DADA? and then yelled out DADA! She was so happy! I still did not know how HE was but I just went along with it.

By: Scarlett Lamm

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



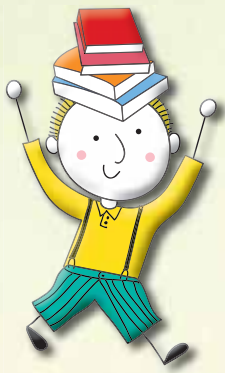
In 2024 my dad left and he is still gone. He will be gone for three more months. I will get to visit him on Spring Break. I am so excited. My dad is in Guam. It is very hot in Guam. I have already visited him once. I miss him a lot!

By: SHAY STELLER

Check out more
military children
stories at

militarychild.stripes.com





celebrating Month of the Military Child Killin Elementary School

2nd Grade
Ms. Bill

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



I am proud of my dad for protecting our country. It is our duty as a military child some time your parent has to go. But it is fun to go to work with your parent one time I got to see their rooms. And your mom or dad will maybe give you something. It is fun being a military child because you get to go to events. And if your a military child you get to go on base. And not only on base but also off base. Amn you so glad your a military child you get to do a lot of things.

By: Alina B. Madrigal

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



When my dad deployed for 1 month I was super sad because I love my dad. we used to always play Fortnite but then he had to go so when he got back I cried and drew him a picture. when he was gone I wished he could come and play soccer with me. I was proud of my dad for doing that because its hard to be a marine. that was the way he wanted to get money because he wants to explore all around the world. I was scared for him to go because what if a war started their and he died. I would be sad.

By: Ashton Portillo

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



The best day was when my dad came home from a long work trip to Texas! I missed him so so much I love him a lot! We called a lot of times! Then when he got back I was so so happy! And me and my mom made a gift for him. And he loved it so much he said thank you I said you are welcome! <3

By: Brianna Miller <3

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



One of the best days of my life was when my Dad came back from a month deployment. We went to Blue Seal and I got brown sugar ice cream. As we were walking home I saw a bat but it just flew away into the galaxy of stars overhead. When we got home we all brushed our teeth and went to bed. I dreamed about the day I just in other words the best day of my life. And then at that exact time I realized how lucky I really was.

By: Cormac Ross

A Day in the Life of a Military Child

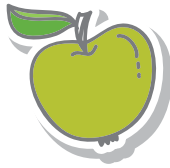


It was fun to move to Okinawa but it was also hard because I had to leave two of my best friends. My dad had to go on deployment. It was hard because he missed my birthday. But my mom made it work my mom facetimed my dad and they both decided what to get me. So my mom facetimed my dad.

By: Eli Luna

Check out more
military children
stories at

militarychild.stripes.com



A Day in the Life of a Military Child



It is fun being a military child. Let me tell you about it. You have to move a lot like Okinawa, Germany and other places. It fun ya but also sad, and takes a long time to get places. Ya but you can get a t.v. You get to meet new friends. Sometimes you don't get to see them again. You get to eat new foods. Some tasty. Some not. Sometimes your dad goes on deployment.

By: Colin Stroud

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



Being a military child is very hard. It is very fun but also very hard. My family has moved about 5 times, including times when I was not alive. I think moving is kind of fun, but it is a little hard getting used to the time of night and day. I think trying to make friends is hard when you move unless you have messages on an app and can talk to them. We used to have move during the summer break 2025, but my dad chose to extend and stay here one more year before moving. It makes me feel good because I won't have to do all the stress moving and making friends again.

By: Eric Buehner

A Day in the Life of a Military-Connected Child



Life on Japan is great because I fond my favorite food. It is shoshy. And I like going to piarit park. I even have a story so I wase playied in the park then my brother got lost my mom fond him and he said you left me.

By: Evie Cruz

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



One of the best day is when we move here because my dad's friend help us by buying all types of food and breakfast and a holtell. Inside was bread, cereal one bed and a couch/bed. I sleep on the couch/bed. The next day I ate cereal the day after that we ate the breakfast place near our holtell called tera. The next day we were looking for houses.

By: Elliott Pres

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My dad was gone for 80 months because he had cold so he went to the hospital. We will call him every 3 seconds we love him. My dad would say baby cupcake. My dad is a military because he checks people's hearts. It is his job to see if kids' hearts or big kids. My daddy helps people who are sick. He works. My dad loves me a lot.

By: Gianna Aracri

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



Being a military child is the best. because I get to go to festivals but it is also the worst because my dad has to go away but he comes back but it is also best because I always get to do BBQ!!! but this is the best part. I get to help my dad...CORANATE!!! and I also get to eat ice cream so much because he earns a lot of money.

By: Jolene Snyder

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



When my dad was deployed I was super sad because he was gone for six months. Me and him. We had so much fun together. I cried when he left I didn't know what to do without him. I wanted him to come back on the first day. But he had to be gone. Then I learned some times you have to let someone go do what they need to.

By: Leonardo Mathie

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



The night that I left home. I was very sad I did not want to leave home. But we had to do it. It was hard leaving home. we had to say good by to our friends. it was a 10 hour flight. My family and I love it here. The food here is so good and the people are so so nice. I love my school it teaches me so much.

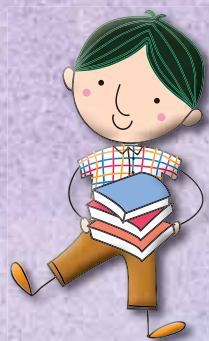
By: Owen Analin

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



When I was little my dad was in the military and it was hard because I did not like to see him get deployed. After 4 years we moved to Japan. We had to stay inside of a hotel on base. We had to stay in for my sister's birthday. We could only play in the parking lot. We could not even go to a park like 30 feet away. Its hard to be a military child.

By: River Fenwick



celebrating Month of the Military Child Killin Elementary School

2nd Grade
Ms. Hatcher-Pagan

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



It's hard being a military child because you will have to move a lot. Also you don't get time to play with your mom or dad. It can be hard to have parents who are in the military or Navy. It can be awesome to have moms or dads in the military because you can see them go to work and come with them. They try to make your life happy and make the best of it. The best part about it is that when they go away you can face time.

By: Arlene Cruz

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



A life of a military child is great. But, sometimes my Dad has to deploy. My Dad is a marine. He works hard. One time, my Dad had to go away to another state. He left from February to April. My Dad even missed my birthday. I was sad. When my Dad was gone, he called us and I really wanted to hug him. When my Dad came home I hugged him super tight. Days later, we moved to where my Mom was born Okinawa. I was born in Okinawa. 1 year later I met my friends Sora and Hendrix. So even though being a military kid is hard, I still like being one because I meet great friends and my Dad is saving America.

By: Clay Williams

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My dad is a psychologist in the navy. I am proud of him. My dad is a hero because to me and I love him. He is the best dad ever. he fought in a war I don't know one tho I missed him.

By: Jack

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



One, time my Dad was deployed. He went to California. He was gone for a really, really, really long time. For one month! My Mom was really, really, really sad because she had a lot of work to do. I slept with her for one night. After, he came back to the airport we picked him up and I said, "You were gone for ever!"

By: Adeline.

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My dad is working so hard because he is working so hard in the Marines. I love being a Military child because it is fun. Every day is a good day. My dad is working so hard as being a Marine. I love when my dad works so hard in the Marines. My dad is so smart. I love my dad so much. I have the best dad in the world. I love my dad so much because my dad is so smart, so funny, so creative, and doing so good in the Marines and doing so good at his homework. My dad is so sweet and funny.

By: Caleb Cruson

A Day in the Life of a Military-Connected Child



My mom works at a military school and being a military-connected kid is amazing for these reasons! I get to eat new foods, see my Japanese Grandma and my Japanese grandpa, and experience Okinawa. But sometimes its hard being a military-connected child because missing cousins or family is hard like thinking of all those memories makes you want cry or missing holidays because every holiday you celebrate with your American family. I am happy to be a military-connected kid!

By: Delilah

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My dad works at the military. He work so hard and he loved me. I hope he have a great day. When I go to Osaka I missed my friend's. Some time my dad go to a airport by his self he was gone for 59 day's he work so hard. My dad leave at night sometime. My dad works at night sometime.

By: Jun Yarborough

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



I was so happy when my Dad got promoted. I came and I watched him, and my Grandma watched on face time. I like to move because if I did not move then I would not have all these friends. I love being a military child because you get to move and see all these places and countries. I feel really sad when I have to move to other places because I love my friends and I don't want to leave them. I don't like when my dad has to leave to go on work trips. I don't like to be home with my mom because it is kind of boring with out my dad. I like being a military child because I get to do all these activities.

By: Chloe Geller

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



Being a military child is fantastic because I get to try new foods like sushi. I also get to see a palace in Okinawa too. Palaces are very pretty and special. Being a military kid can be hard because my Dad deploys some times. One time he deployed for six months. When my Dad was gone, he said that when he came back, he would bring toys if we were good. It is also hard at times being a military child because my Dad has had to go to war with lots of people. I am very proud of my dad.

By: Eleanor Spencer

Check out more
military children
stories at

militarychild.stripes.com



A Day in the Life of a Military Child



It is hard to be a military child because when move to a new school it is hard to make new friends, introducing yourself, and working on new stuff. Also you can be shy but when you are in school longer you have more friends, and more. Also someone can deployed when you are in school. It is good to be a military child because your parents can be in the military and protect your country. Also if your parents are in the navy give you good health. If your parents are in a coast guard they can save you from drowning. It is good to be a military child!

By: Luke

A Day in the Life of a Military-Connected Child



I'm a military child and my name is Ophelia and I live with my sister and my mom. my dad is at the u.s.a. and I miss my dad but we are moving to u.s.a and I'm happy to move back to the u.s.a. to see my dad. I don't know when I'm leaving. but I'm leaving soon.

By: Ophelia

A Day in the Life of a Military Child



My Dad used to be in the navy. He worked hard for my family. After a lot of years my Dad got a new job. It was in Okinawa. It was really hard for me because I needed to say bye to my best friends Eric and Paul. When it was the first day of school I was nervous but after some days I got used to my new school E.C.Killin. Also, I made a lot of friends in E.C.k. and one of my friends name is Clay.

By: Sora Id-deen



celebrating Month of the Military Child Killin Elementary School

3rd Grade
Ms. Honnold
&
Mr. Wurdinger

By Anaiya Chiang

Have you ever seen a military child before? Well you have now because that's me Anaiya! And you're going to learn how I'm feeling as a military child. In my opinion, being a military child is magical, exciting and unpredictable.

It is magical because I can explore different places. I can explore different restaurants and different malls. I can also see different stores like Kanehide. I can also go to different Places like Tokyo and Ishigaki. Keep reading to learn about me being a military child.

It is also exciting because I can make great and awesome friends.

It is exciting because I can go to amazing schools and have awesome teachers. It is exciting because I can see different beaches and see the new stuff here. It is exciting because I can try different foods and games here. Keep learning about my last reason Unpredictable on the next page.

It is also unpredictable because you don't know what's going to happen. It's unpredictable because you don't know when you're About to go to a new school. It's unpredictable because you don't know if you're going to move. It's unpredictable because you don't know if you're going to a new school.

Those are my three reasons why being a military child is magical,exciting and unpredictable.

By Austin (AJ) Lawson

Woosh echo, echo, echo, echo imagin you moved and you swung open the door to your new house what do you think it would look like would it look empty would have stuff in it Keep reading to find out and more.

This is challenging because it is hard to move away from people you know and love and some people don't speak the same language as you. The reason I said moving is because you have to pack everything up and that is super duper stressful and hard. Why I said people speak different languages is because it can be hard to make different conversations with other people. Why I said saying bye to people you know and love is because you might never see them again. and that is why I think it is challenging to be a military child, keep reading to find out why it is adventurous and unpredictable.

Being a military child is adventurous because you have to move to different places and explore. It is such fun. I said move because you might learn a different language. It is so fun to explore. I said explore because it is so fun! I said different places because it is fun to go to places and meet new friends. Keep reading to understand why I think being a military child is unpredictable.

Why I think being a military child is unpredictable because you don't know when you will move or make friends. Why I said when you move is because you do not know where or when you're going to move. Why I said make friends because you can make friends easily or hardly. You will almost not know at all what school you are going to when you move. Waiting to see my conclusion! ☺

If it hurts you can tell me and that is why I think being a military child is challenging adventurous and unpredictable. Why I said challenging because every military child knows it is really hard to move away from people you know and love. It is adventurous because it is fun to meet new friends and explore. It is unpredictable because you don't know when you will make friends or move. And that is what I think being a military child is all about.

By Berome Deceus

Hello my name is Berome and today I am going to share with you my opinion of being a military child. I hope you enjoy. In my opinion being a military child is adventurous, beautiful, and challenging. It is adventurous because I go to different places so I see and hear new things. It is beautiful because I have a wonderful family to look after me.

It is challenging because I get to hard situations often. Now you know that for me being a military child is adventurous,beautiful,and challenging.

It is adventurous because I go to different places so I can see and hear new things. It is adventurous because I went on a hike to look at stuff and it was cool. It is adventurous because the time I went to ECK it was like an adventure. It is adventurous because one day I went to Okinawa world where the bats were it was like I was in a cave. As you can see, that's why it is adventurous. Go to reason 2 to see beautiful.

It is beautiful because I have a wonderful family to look after me. It is beautiful because when I see Ms. Honnold every school day she looks so beautiful the way she is. It is beautiful because everyone is kind to me and it makes me smile. It is beautiful because

My friends and family care about me and I really like it. As you can see,that is why being a military child is beautiful. Go to reason 3 to see challenging.

It is challenging because I get to hard situations often. It is challenging because when I was doing legos it was challenging to make it. It is challenging because one day I had to do a hard equation and it was really challenging. It was challenging because on Tuesday March 18th 2025 it was I was trying to catch everyone playing Sharks and minos but it was challenging. As you can see, that is why being a military child is challenging so go to conclusion to see other stuff.

In my opinion being a military child is adventurous,beautiful,and challenging. It is adventurous because I go to different places so I see and hear new things. It is beautiful because I have a wonderful family to look after me. It is challenging because I get to hard situations often. If you are a military child this is good for you so go to someone elses to learn more about them. That's all bye and thanks for coming to mine.

By Emily Colores

Imagine an empty house with nothing other than a blanket and you are about to move. That is what it is like being a military child. However, being a military child is also joyful, emotional, and full of wonders. It is joyful because you can travel to new places and have fun. It is emotional because sometimes you have to leave a friend or they have to leave you. It is full of wonders because you never know what may happen next. Keep reading to see what I put next.

It is joyful because I can go to new places, make new friends, and go to a new school. I can go to new places because my dad is in the military and has to move a lot. I can make new friends because it will be a new school and I will see new kids. I can go to new schools like when I came to Okinawa and ECK was a brand new school. Read more to figure out what being a military child is like.

It is emotional because you might have to leave a friend or they might have to leave you because your mom or dad got orders. Just knowing that you won't see them in a year or two is sad because you might not see them again. Your mom or dad might go to war and that is sad because they might die and you will not see them again. Keep reading to find out my 3rd reason.

It is full of wonders because you travel to new places, go to new schools, and make new friends. Traveling to new places is wondrous because you do not know what there is to explore. You go to new schools and your mind will wonder what the school is like. Making new friends is full of wonders because you might not know them that much of how they are. Keep reading to find out about the rest of my writing.

Being a military child is joyful, emotional, and full of wonders. It is joyful because you can travel to new places and have fun. It is emotional because sometimes you have to leave a friend or they have to leave you. It is full of wonders because you never know what may happen next. So let's just say, keep on traveling.

By Gabrielle Reese Gador

Have you ever met a military child? Now you have ! It's me! Gabrielle Reese B Gador and I'm going to tell you all about being a military child. Being a military child will be complicated because we need to say goodbye to our friends and family. When we say goodbye to our family members it will be a hard time for them to say goodbye. It will be complicated being a military child because when we go somewhere else we need to go make new friends. It will be complicated because sometimes you actually move 1,000 miles away from family and friends. Stay tuned so you can learn more amazing things about being a military child.

It is exciting because we get to see different places we've never been to. It is exciting to be a military child because we get to see different places and we get to learn about their culture. It is exciting because we get to try new food,wear kimonos, and go to special places. It's also exciting because we get to make new friends. Stay tuned for the last one! I am watching you!

It will be unpredictable because we don't know where we are going in the future. It is unpredictable because if you're new to the country you don't know their language at first. It will be unpredictable because you don't know their traditions, what they eat, and even what shrines are! I have learned so much about being a military child!

Now you have learned being a military child is complicated, exciting, and unpredictable. If you wanna see lots and lots of kids being a military child come to ECK Elementary school! Thank you for reading my essay and have a thoughtful, most humorous day!!

By Griffin Harris

When was the last time you moved? Was it challenging, complicated or even inspiring? I'm here to tell you all about why being a military child is all those things. Being a military child is challenging because you have to move away from friends and friends have to move away from you. It is also complicated because sometimes you have to move away to a different country and you don't know what everybody is saying. Being a military child is also inspiring because when you go to a fair or a traditional dance you can be inspired to do something like it. As you can see, being a military child is challenging, complicated, and inspiring. Keep reading to find out more about being a military child and how it's challenging, complicated ,and inspiring !

Being a military child is very challenging, complicated and inspiring in my opinion. Being a military child is challenging because you have to move away from friends and friends have to move away from you. It is also complicated because sometimes you have to move to a different country where they don't speak English and you don't know what everybody is saying.

Being a military child is challenging because you have to move away from friends and friends have to move away from you. I had to move away from friends to come to Okinawa from Florida. Also my friends had to move away from me to Virginia.

It is hard to adjust to life when friends move away from you. Keep reading to find out more about being a military child!

It's also complicated because sometimes you have to move to a different country and you don't know what anybody is saying. One time it was very complicated because when I got to a restaurant and I had to translate everything on the menu. Moving to a different country is also complicated because the side of the road that you drive on might be switched. You can turn into the wrong lane and block traffic it's horrible!

Keep reading to find out why being a military child is inspiring too!

Military child is also inspiring because when you go to a fair or a traditional dance you can be inspired to do something like it. I went to a traditional Japanese dance one time and I was inspired to make my own dance.

One time I made my own ride because I was inspired to do something like it when I went to a fair. It easy to get inspired when you are a military child! It was fun telling you about why being a military child is challenging, complicated and inspiring. Being a military child is very challenging, complicated and inspiring as you can see in my opinion . Military child is very challenging because you have to move away from friends and friends have to move away from you. It's also complicated because sometimes you have to move to a different country where they don't speak English and you don't know what anybody is saying. Being a military child is also inspiring because when you go to a fair or traditional dance of their country you can be inspired to do something like it. Thank you for listening to How being a military child is complicated, challenging and inspiring.

By Hazel Lamm

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be connected to the military? Well read this and you'll know. In my opinion being a military child is complicated, emotional, and exciting. It's complicated because you have all these mixed feelings when you move like sad, happy, mad, excited. It's emotional because you have to move away from your friends and family and you might miss them. It's exciting because you don't know where you are moving what it looks like or how hot or cold it is. Read some more if you are interested.

It's complicated because you have all these mixed feelings when you move like sad, happy, mad, excited. Moving is kind of sad and frustrating because you'll miss your friends and you have to settle in another house and you're already comfy. Sometimes moving is happy and exciting because you can meet new friends and settle in a new house. You might just like it. The feelings being mixed together isn't so bad once you get over it. Seeing new houses, friends, and schools isn't so bad once you get used to them. If you want to read more go to the next page to explore!

It's emotional because you have to move away from your friends and family and you might miss them. You might have some close friends you have to move away from sometime and you'll miss them. You might have to move away from family too and you'll miss them but you can still call and text them. Minus all of that, you'll still have your memories and you can keep those forever. If you want to read more about my life as a military child, go to the next paragraph.

It's exciting because you don't know where you're going, what it looks like, or how hot or cold it is. When I moved to Okinawa I didn't know how hot it was going to be because I moved here in the summer. When I moved here I didn't know how beautiful it was going to be. When I moved here I didn't know it was going to be super cold in the winter. If you want to read more look down to explore!

In my opinion being a military child is complicated, emotional, and exciting. It's complicated because you have all these mixed feelings when you move like sad, happy, mad, excited. It's emotional because you have to move away from your friends and family. It's exciting because you don't know where you're moving what it looks like or how hot or cold it is. So as you can see being a military child is complicated, emotional, and exciting.

See more from
Ms. Honnold &
Mr. Wurdinger's class
ON PAGE 18



**CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 17**



By Jane Lowenborg

Have you ever moved from place to place? I have if you have, wait you have. any who let's get back to talking about being a military connected child.

You might look at me and think I'm just a regular Smart One of a Kind chance but really it's much more than that I'm on the way I can make your child so the next time you see a person that looks like me make sure to ask them if they know a person named Jane Lowenborg. I think they are pregnant child is unpredictable wonderful and beneficial.

Being a military connected child is unpredictable because you don't know where you're going to move or who you're going to meet. It's unpredictable When you don't know if they're going to be Japanese or English or if you're going to be friends or not. It's unpredictable when you don't know where you're going to go because it might be a totally new place like Mexico ,Japan ,England, Washington And so many other places. Keep reading to find out some More awesome and beautiful facts.

Being a military connected child is wonderful because you get to have wonderful teachers like Mrs. Honnold and Mr. Wurdinger.

It's wonderful because you get to see so many beautiful Places like Osaka, England and many others. It's wonderful to go outside and feel the breeze against your skin and the bright sun will shine down on you while you drink a cup of lemonade, tea, or juice.

That was about wonderful. Now we can move on to beneficial things. Also we can learn about some more cool facts that are waiting to be discovered.

Being a military connected child is beneficial because you don't have to buy a lot of stuff some things you don't have to buy is your house a doctor and food it's also beneficial to get to go to a lot of cool places and see amazing sites Like the Golden Gate Bridge and the clock tower in England and many other sites. You've been my opinion about the emails I connected child and you can't read about other people who are military connected.

By Jaxon Cortes

Do you know Eck and a military child? Well that's me Jaxon! This military child writing will blow your mind! In my opinion being a military child is imaginative, fun and funny.

Being a military child is imaginative because when me and Johnny were playing baseball we imagined 1,000 people were watching us. Being a military child is imaginative because it is fun to imagine when you are alone. It is also good to imagine when you were playing outside because when I was playing Cricket I imagined my mom and dad were watching me. And being in Japan helps me be more imaginative because I went to a shrine and I imagined ghosts were at the shrine. Keep on reading to see how my life is fun and funny.

It is also fun because we get to watch and play all day. My life is fun because I get to play Pickleball with my friends. It is also fun because you can play all day outside with your friends like on a trampoline. It is also fun because I can play baseball with my brother. So that is how my life can be fun now you will see how my life is funny! It is oh so funny because my family talks about funny things. All the time.

My life is funny because we get to tell knock knock jokes with my family at lunch on the weekends. It is funny because the jokes that we tell are really funny! My jokes are the best. My favorite is knock knock. Who's there? No one get out!

You have seen all of my writing so I have a fun imaginative and funny life. But I am a nice person in real life now you know how my life is.

By Jorge Maldonado

If you want to find what it's like being a military child then read this book. Being a military child is challenging, rewarding and painful.

Being a military child is challenging because you have to go to different places. You have to go to different places, meet new people and learn languages from places like

Okinawa or Hawaii. Also, you have to learn new words and states and you have to learn a lot at military schools like ECKillan or Zukeran. Finally, you have to try new foods like sushi, fish cake, and ice cream sandwiches. Keep reading to find more information on military children!

Being a military child is rewarding because you have to go to different places. At the new places you get a free house, free hospital support for any even get lots of money for working there. You get to see things that you might have never seen or tasted that you might have never tasted. You get to meet new friends, people and animals that you might have never seen. If you want to learn even more then keep going!

Being a military child is painful because you have to lose a lot of friends. You have to lose a lot of friends and family because you have to move away from them. You might have to lose a pet like your dog or your cat or even your pet crocodile. Your parents might move away from you a lot and you might have to have a babysitter. If you really want to learn even more keep going I can't control you.

I really think that being a military child is challenging, rewarding and painful. Being a military child is challenging because you have to go to different places, meet new people and learn new languages from places like Okinawa or Hawaii. Being a military child is rewarding because you get a free house, free hospital support, and you get a lot of money for working there. Being a military child is painful because you have to lose a lot of friends and family because you move away from them.

By Kyla Mancuso

I think being a military child is colorful, peaceful and magical. Read more to see the reasons about my colorful, peaceful and magical life as a military child.

Being a military child is colorful because when you first arrive the first thing you see is beautiful colors. In Okinawa I like the beautiful beaches, green nature, the fish, the coral reefs, everything is colorful in Okinawa. Everywhere is colorful but Okinawa is like the most colorful island I ever saw in my life. Other Places are colorful but in my opinion Okinawa is the most loveliest Island in the world. But in my opinion. Flip To the next page to learn more about me being a military child.

It Is peaceful being a military child because when you are quiet you can hear nature everywhere. It is really hard being peaceful because when you're mad it is sometimes really hard coming down so just count and You will become peaceful. It is sometimes hard to be a military child so I find peacefulness at the beach and forest. It is really nice but sometimes you need to be peaceful and the forest and beach is really peaceful. Keep reading for more about my opinion about being a military child.

Lastly, being a military child is magical because everywhere you go is incredibly magical. Being a military child is magical because everywhere you go is magical such as the beach here in Okinawa because it is really magical and pretty. Okinawa beaches are really beautiful and magical because the sunset looks really magical. Everywhere is magical but in my opinion that Okinawa beaches are beautiful and magical. Flip to the next page to the introduction.

I think being a military child is colorful, peaceful and magical. Read more to see the reasons about my colorful, peaceful and magical life as a military child. I hope you learned more about me being a military child and how it is peaceful, colorful and magical.

By Otto Ronish

Imagine being a military child. You get to see Air Force Planes and so many cool things. I think being a military child is sad, lucky and adventurous.

Being a military child is sad because I can't see my family and I lose friends. I can't see my family because I have to move every 3 years And my dad works most of the day. I Lose my friends because I move away and they forget me. Even though I can't see my family and I lose friends I can make new friends and I can still call my family. Keep reading to find out more of my opinion about being a military child.

Also it is lucky because the military buys all your needs. It is lucky because the mili-

tary bought many things such as my house, trip to Japan, healthcare, my cat, dog, and my fish. It is lucky because My mom and dad both work in the military. It is lucky because the military buys most of our things so we can save money. Keep on reading to find out more about my opinion about being a military child.

Finally it is adventurous because I get to move every 3 years to explore new places. It is adventurous because I get to learn new languages like Japanese and Spanish. It is adventurous because I get to go to different countries like the USA, Japan, Mexico and Canada. It is adventurous because I get to try a lot of different food.

As a military child it is lucky to save money, it is sad to move away from family and it is cool to be adventurous but all of it together is amazing!

By Royce Vollstedt

Do you want to know about being a military kid? In my opinion, being a military kid is hard, confusing, and adventurous. It is hard when you leave your friends. My dad works a lot. I have to leave my family. It's confusing because I have to learn a new language, go to a new school, and learn new Japanese customs. It is adventurous because I get to see new places, meet new people, and try new food. Stay tuned to learn more about being a military kid.

It is hard because I have to leave my friends, my dad works a lot, and I have to leave my family. I had to leave my friends in Maryland and it is hard to make new friends in Okinawa. Since my dad works a lot I do not get to see him as much as I want. I do not get to see my family in Okinawa because it is too far for them to travel and stay tuned to learn more about being a military kid.

It is confusing because I have to learn a new language, go to a new school, and learn about Japanese customs. It is confusing when I have to learn a new language, because I have to know new words. When I came to ECK, it was confusing because I had to learn new stuff. It is confusing when I had to learn about the Japanese custom of Sumo. Keep reading to learn more.

It is adventurous because I get to see new places, meet new people, and try new food. I get to go to new places and it is very fun. I get to play with new people and get to see new people. I get to try cool food that is new to me. If that is cool, read if you want to see more. Go to the next paragraph.

In my opinion being a military kid is hard, confusing, and adventurous. I have to leave my family which is hard. It is confusing because I have to learn lots of new things and I have to learn a new language and learn very new words that were different than the words I used to know. It is very confusing because I have to learn new Japanese customs like Sumo. It is very adventurous because I get to see new places, new people, and I get to eat new food. Now you finally know what it's like to be a military kid.

By Shirley Susanna Strawn

Do you know what it's like to be a military child? Well now you do because I am!

I believe being a military child is challenging, exciting and lively.

Being a military child is challenging because it's hard to move away from friends and family. Being this way is hard because a certain family member is away and you don't get to see them very often. It's challenging because you have to move away from places that you love like your home. Lastly it's hard because life changes happen a lot like going to a new school and getting a teacher. Go to the next page to find out more about me being a military child.

It's exciting to be a military child because you get to see cool places like Tokyo. It is also exciting because you can meet new people and sometimes you can make friends. I met a friend in California. Also it's exciting because you can go on adventures like going through Forests and exploring beaches. Lastly, it's exciting because I can get new things from different places and I get to try new things such as BJJ. Go to the next page to find out more.

Lastly life as a military child is lively because you get to see so many lively things like wild life outside bases. It's also lively because you see so many people making the community bigger by making buildings for people to move into. It's also lively because

you can relax in the forest that sustained us for a long time like food. Last of all it's lively because I have fun with people, family, friends and fun places to go.

So that's why I believe that being a military child is challenging, exciting and lively. Have the loveliest of lovely days.

By Vincent VanNorman

I will be telling you about how it feels to be a military child. I think it is joyful, adventurous and extraordinary. It's joyful because you can make amazing friends and have fun and you can have fun together. I think being a military child is extraordinary because I can explore different places and I can learn new languages from the places I've been to. Please keep reading to find out about military children.

I have always been happy to learn new things from the new places I go, like the time I learned a new language in China. Being a military child is not just extraordinary it's also joyful and adventures keep reading to find out more!

I have met many friends over the years like my best friend Caleb I made when I came to my new school. Ever since I met Caleb I have had so much so much fun. Every day me and my friend Caleb catch grasshoppers. And every day we have so much fun studying together. Keep reading to find out more to find out why being a military child is adventurous.

Being a military child is adventurous because you get to ride a lot of airplanes and you can go on lots of adventures

I like going on great adventures like when I went into a forest and found fire salamanders. I like taking a nice airplane ride to see many amazing animals. One time I saw an octopus while traveling and it changed different colors.

I think being a military child is extraordinary because I can explore different places and learn new languages. Being a military child is joyful because you can make amazing friends and you can have fun together. Being a military child is adventurous because you get to go ride airplanes and you can go on great adventures.

By Zoe Sze

Have you ever heard of some facts of being a military child? Well, now you have! Today I'm going to tell you three reasons about being a military child.

I believe being a military child is challenging, exciting, and unpredictable.

First reason for being a military child is challenging because I have to move away from friends and family.

Next reason why it's challenging to be a military child is that when we move to a new place you don't know what's going to be there.

Another reason why it's challenging to be a military child is that you don't know how to speak that language when you move.

Last reason why it's challenging to be a military child is that you don't know what food there will be and if you will like it.

If you want to find out more about being a military child, then read more down below!

Second reason for being a military child is exciting because you get to travel to new places, try new foods and much more!

Next reason why it's exciting to be a military child is that you get to make new friends and explore new places and get new things!

The second and last reason why it's exciting to be a military child is that you get to see beautiful sights in the history of that place.

If you want to see a third reason of being a military child then read more down below!

Lastly, being a military child is unpredictable because you don't know who you will meet and what food they will have.

Next reason why it's unpredictable to be a military child is that you don't know when you will move.

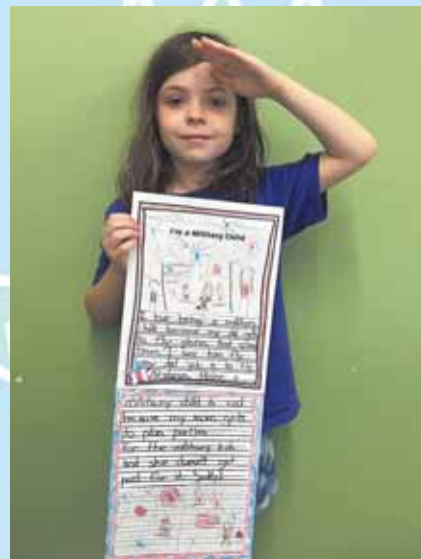
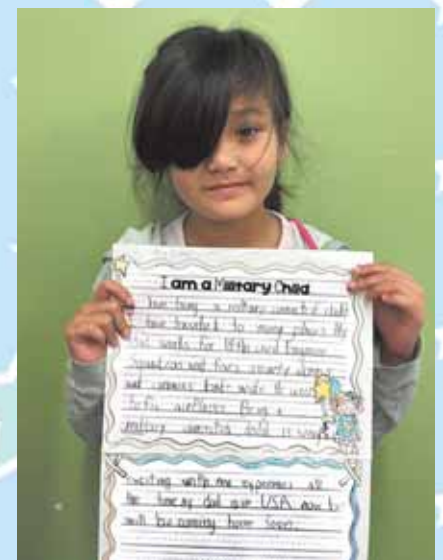
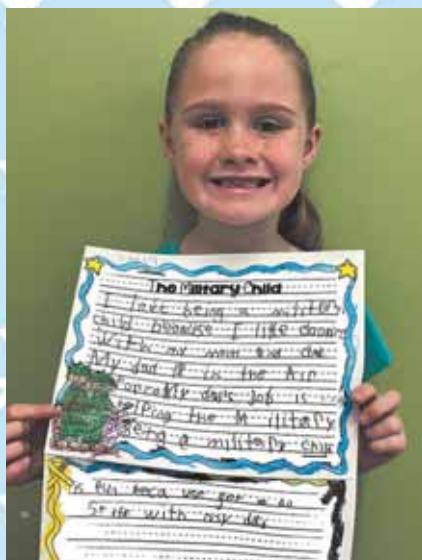
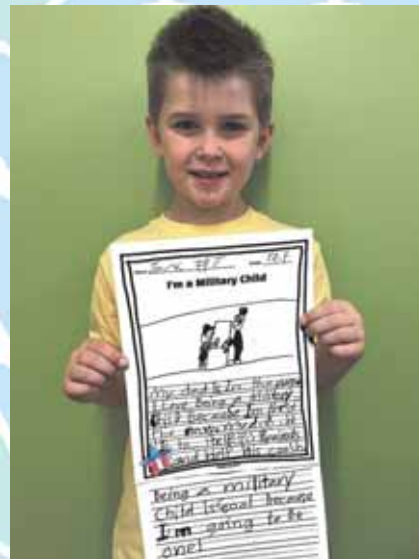
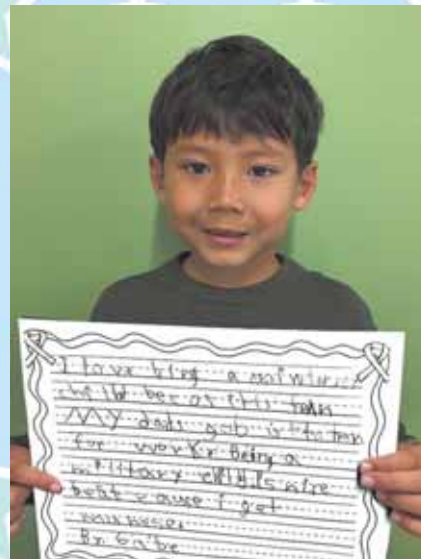
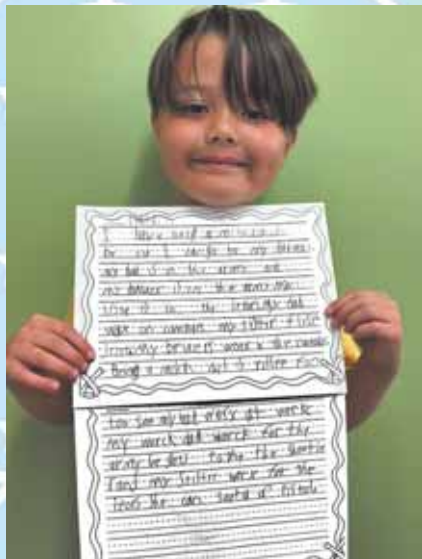
Another reason why it's unpredictable to be a military child is that you don't know when your friends are going to move.

Last reason why it's unpredictable to be a military child is that you don't know what people are saying since you don't know that language.

Thanks for reading my opinion writing about being a military child. You should check out more about being a military child or a military connected child in the Stars and Stripes magazine! Bye!

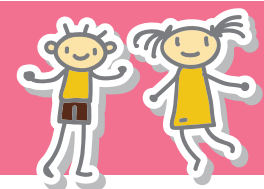
CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD Bob Hope Elementary School

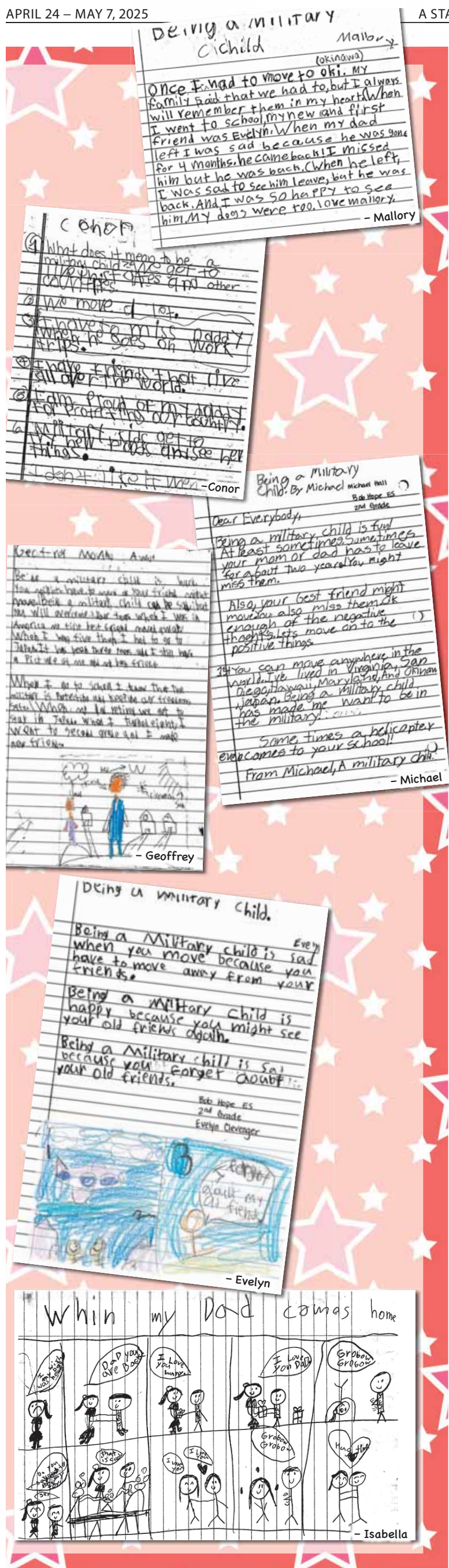
1st Grade
Ms. Farrell



Check out more
military children
stories at

militarychild.stripes.com





The 47th Ocean Expo Park Fireworks Festival

Ready to light up the sky!

July 5²⁰²⁵ (Sat.) | 20:00 - 21:00

- Limited entry to Emerald Beach.
- Canceled (no postponement) in the event of bad weather.

**OCEAN EXPO PARK
EMERALD BEACH**

Ocean Expo Park will host the 47th Fireworks Festival as part of its Summer Festival 2025.
Details will be on the park's website when available.

OCEAN EXPO PARK 🔍

<https://oki-park.jp/kaiyohaku/en/>



Sunflower Field and Exhibition

Joy in Bloom

Play with Sunflowers at Tropical Dream Center!





Tropical Dream Center

April 26 [Sat.] - May 6 [Tue., public holiday] 8:30 - 19:00

Adults: 760 yen
high school age and over

Children: free
junior high age and younger





OCEAN EXPO PARK

TROPICAL DREAM CENTER

OCEAN EXPO PARK

<https://oki-park.jp/kaiyohaku/en/>



Apr. 26 and May 4, free admission to the Oceanic Culture Museum and Tropical Dream Center.
Entry to Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium is not free.



Stripes Okinawa is A Stars and Stripes Community Publication. This newspaper is authorized for publication by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stripes Okinawa are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. Pacific Command. As a DOD newspaper, Stripes Okinawa may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote and

isolated locations where overseas DOD personnel are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of those products by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes. Products or services advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Ralph Stearley Primary School Pre-K Ms. Pegel-Olden

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Lydia Ahlers



I am Lydia .
I can dance .
I like to eat .

Robert Anaya



I am Robert .
I can climb .
I like slime .

Daneal Williams



I am Daneal .
I can play .
I like books .

Emery Barker



I am Emery .
I can color .
I like my mom .

Faolan Smith



I am Faolan .
I can swim .
I like carrots .

Giselle Ash Banks



I am Giselle .
I can jump .
I like hamburgers .

Jocelynn Raynor



I am Jocelynn .
I can dance .
I like my cat .

Zoey Curato



I am Zoey .
I can draw .
I like school .

Millie Moulton



I am Millie .
I can read .
I like tomatoes .

Clarktown



I am Clark .
I can eat .
I like strawberries .

Greta Iwin



I am Greta .
I can draw .
I like zebras .

Quinn Aduon



I am Quinn .
I can plant .
I like play .

Jameson Vahleer



I am Jameson .
I can paint .
I like apples .

Lexa Aiarcon



I am Lexa .
I can play .
I like toys .

Raymundo + Idolina



I am Raymundo .
I can draw .
I like meat .

Landon Tran



I am Landon .
I can play .
I like food .

Hart Etzler



I am Hart .
I can walk .
I like flowers .




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


Stripes Sports Trivia


After many years of the namesake himself on the cover of the Madden video game, who was the first player to grace the cover?


Answer
Eddie George


FOLLOW STARS AND STRIPES ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM OF YOUR CHOICE!


facebook.com/StripesMedia
facebook.com/StripesPacific

[@StarsandStripes](https://twitter.com/StarsandStripes)
[@StripesPacific](https://twitter.com/StripesPacific)

youtube.com/StripesChannel


[Stripesphotography](https://instagram.com/Stripesphotography)
[@starsandstripespacific](https://instagram.com/starsandstripespacific)

[@StarsStripes](https://facebook.com/StarsStripes)
[@StripesPMD](https://facebook.com/StripesPMD)


pinterest.com/Stripesnews


Find local restaurant reviews,
travel information,
community news and events in


STARS AND STRIPES OKINAWA
Community Publication



Submit your own reviews, articles
and organization's information at
okinawa.stripes.com









STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

The #1 source
of independent news
and information serving
the U.S. military community.





Kanji of the week

雨
Ame [rain]

Language Lesson

Cheers!

Kanpai!

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Giant bugs in "Them!"

5 Tiny pests

10 Riyadh resident

14 Pixar fish

15 R2-D2, e.g.

16 Jewelry chain founder

17 Type of shark

18 Lists one by one

20 Blameless

22 Nurses take these

23 Custom-made

24 Numbskull

25 Many a cable co.

26 Test subject

31 Dislikes intensely

33 Photographer Leibovitz

34 Excitement

35 Budget rival

36 Tour of duty

37 Dirt clump

38 Man of the cloth, slangily

39 Hotel upgrade

40 Black-tie events

41 Boating item (with "life")

43 Poetic sphere

44 Arborist's concern

45 Uttar ____ (home to the Taj Mahal)

49 Vail trail

52 Legitimate target

53 Fixed limits

55 Kind of code

56 Jet black

57 Sudden burst

58 Butcher's stock

59 Sad ending?

60 Nymph chaser

61 Goofs up

2 "... said ____ ever"

3 Type of verb

4 Brief reviews

5 Athens native

6 Positive, as numbers

7 Be up against

8 Holland or Hardy

9 "Hurry up!"

10 Spring bloomer

11 Charlie Brown expletive

12 Toward shelter

13 First lady before Mamie

19 Calcutta coin

21 Heat in "The Heat"

24 Social event

27 Join together

28 Lifter at a funeral

29 Matinee hero

30 Mount Olympus dwellers

31 Angelic strings

32 Say it's so

36 Certainty

37 Old maid, e.g.

39 Truth ____

40 Male swine

42 Pound critters, usually

46 Stair part

47 Bad-mouth

48 Qualifying races

49 Quick trip

50 "Citizen ____"

51 Exasperates

52 Achievement

54 FL airport letters

Copyright 2025 by The Puzzle Syndicate

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:




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

Large or small, standard or custom, we have a wide range of printed products to suit your project!

STARS AND STRIPES DoD authorized printer

PRINTSHOP
printshop.stripes.com

Get a quote or place your order
at printshop.stripes.com
or call (315)229-3438






A REWARDING RETIREMENT IN A TRULY SUSTAINABLE HOME

ARTHALAND is reshaping community living by making life easier, greener, and more connected for Filipinos. With modern developments bringing homes, work, and leisure closer together, long commutes are a thing of the past. Designed for convenience and well-being, these sustainable communities offer green spaces and walkable areas, giving you more time for what truly matters—family, health, and a better quality of life.



RESERVE YOUR UNIT NOW!

CHARMAINE SAN PEDRO
cdavid@partners.arthaland.com | +639201107971 (WhatsApp/Viber)



ARTHALAND
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LEGACIES

LUCIMA: DHSUD LS-R07-21-061 Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City | Date Issued: 05 July 2021 | Completion Date: 30 September 2024 | Project Owner and Developer: Bhavana Properties, Inc.
UNA APARTMENTS: DHSUD LTS No. 0001681 (Tower 2) | Sevina Park Apartments Midscale 1 | Location: Brgy. Biñan, Laguna | Date Issued: 24 November 2023 | Completion Date: December 2028 | Project Owner and Developer: Cazneau Inc.