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FREE

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
PAGES 2-32



Why I am special

I am special because my whole family has to leave Okinawa sometimes because my dad's work needs him someplace else like California. I hope we can go to where I was born! California.



– Alea, 1st grade,
Zukeran Elementary School

More from
Ms. Baker's class
ON PAGE 22

Annie

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

Sender's name

Congratulate
a 2024 grad!

Our annual Grad Tab highlighting Pacific DODEA high schools and their graduating classes will appear in the May 23 edition of Stripes Okinawa.

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- A photo of the graduate
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- The graduate's high school

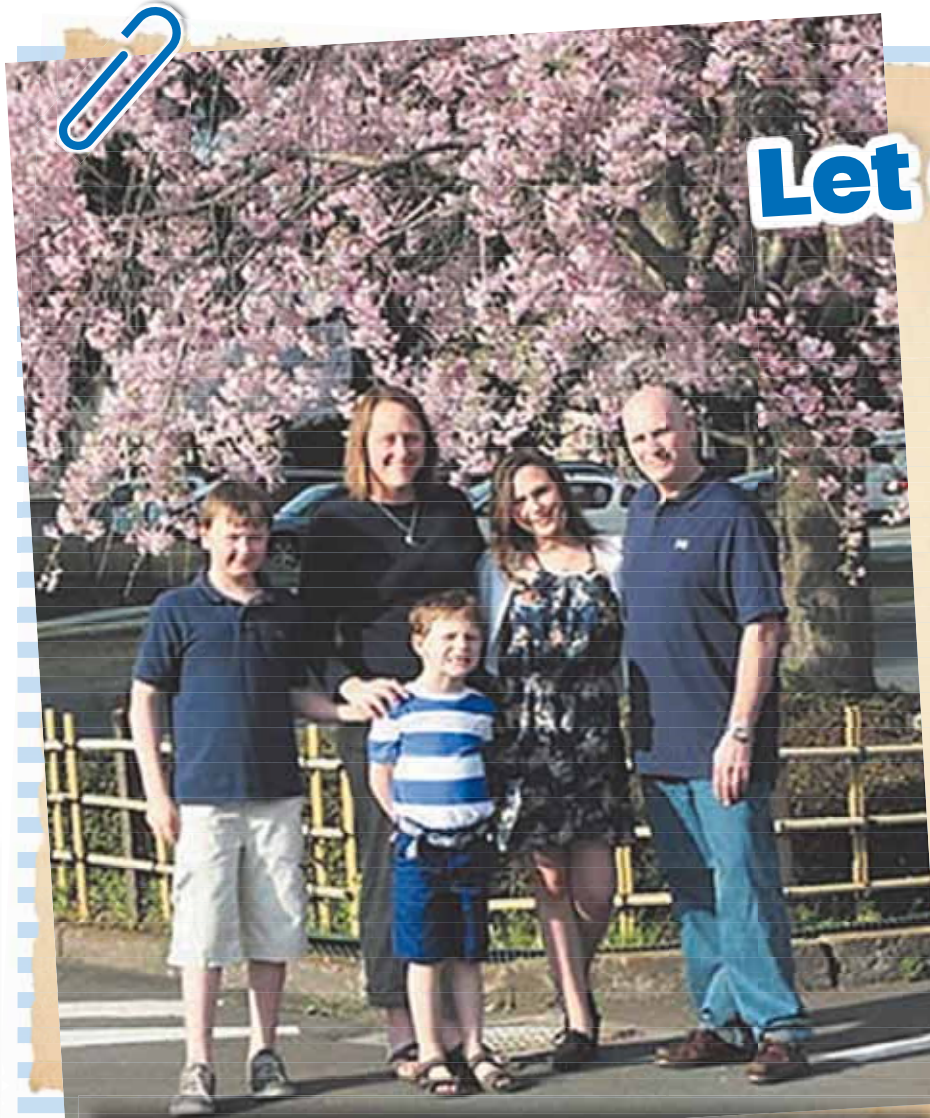
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Let experiences
guide you

BY 2D LT. CLARE CATHERINE HARTNETT

The military child is faced with a unique experience full of challenge and opportunity. This experience is different for every child, and I am grateful for the one that I had. I was lucky to experience a childhood in the Pacific bouncing between Korea, Alaska, and Japan where I learned a lot about myself and the world around me. There was much expected and demanded of my brothers and me because of the regular moves. I remember there was a mixture of excitement and heartbreak every time I had to pack my life into a box and move away from everything I had worked to build. While not the easiest thing to do, it taught me that with an outward appearance of confidence and calm, an open mind and some understanding, I could walk into any situation knowing I could get through it. It also taught me that change can be good and as long as I was determined and worked hard, I could accomplish anything I set my mind to.

SEE EXPERIENCES ON PAGE 2



Family photo during cherry blossom season in Japan. Photo courtesy of Clare Catherine Hartnett

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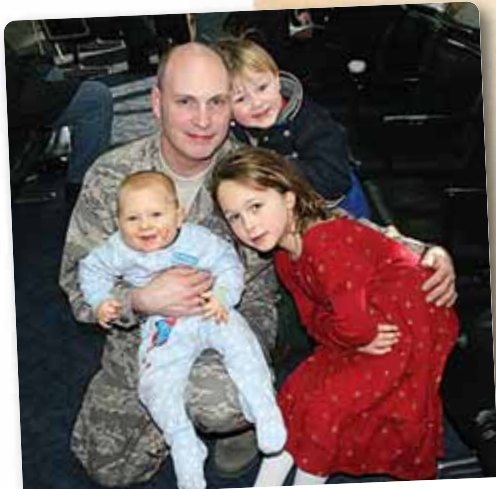
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EXPERIENCES: Strive for your dreams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Trying on dad's hat in Korea.



At the airport in St. Louis before deployment.

Being surrounded by, and fascinated with, aviation my entire life, it wasn't a surprise to anyone when I decided I wanted to fly as a career. As I entered my teenage years, I was given the opportunity to begin flight training with incredible instructors who donated their time to teach interested youth. I was fortunate to have a line of military aviators as my instructors and that's when I knew that I didn't just want to fly - I wanted to fly for the Air Force. With the support of my family, friends, teachers and mentors, I pursued an appointment to the Air Force Academy. I was once again thrust into the unknown when I began my four-year college experience in Colorado Springs. I was challenged mentally and physically while there and had to dig deep and overcome obstacles thrown my way. A memorable challenge came freshman year when I had a roommate who, on the surface, could not have been more different than I was. Having to learn how to get along with people with different backgrounds and a wide range of personalities growing up proved incredibly valuable. We were able to work past our differences in personality and life experiences and developed an incredible bond that contributed to me successfully graduating from 'The Zoo'. She is still my best friend and someone I cannot imagine not having in my corner for the rest of my life. Together, we arrived at graduation with orders for flight training, and, once again, we'll jump into a new adventure.

Just like I looked forward to the challenges and opportunities a new home would bring as a child, I now look forward to the adventures I'll find in my own military career. I encourage all those children who grow up with a well-used backpack to hold onto their well-earned pride and strive for their dreams - their experiences as a military child will help see them through!



Flying with my brother in Alaska.



Liz and me post commissioning as second lieutenants.

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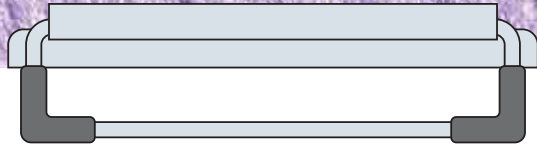
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celebrating Month of the Military Child

E.C. Killin Elementary School

3rd grade
***Ms. Honnold *Mr. Vallis**
***Mr. Wurdinger *Ms. Hansen**

Being a military child

Do you feel stressed when you move? Because I do. It is hard when you need to move all the time. I am moving all the time. I am moving in 6 and a half months. I am moving to Washington D.C. It is a big city. I am scared because it is a big place (and the president lives there. And we are going to be confused. But at the same time I do need to move. I moved here when I was 5. So I lived here for a long time. And another reason why I like Oki is that I can see most of Asau. Another reason why I like Okinawa is that I went to Taiwan and met a girl named Cissie. And now we are pen pals. And I have not seen the states but I am still happy to be here. And we love the beach here. That is why we like Oki.

- Adeline Van Rooy

Sometimes it's Hard to be a Military Child.

Sometimes it's hard to be a military child. I had to fly a long way to get to my family a couple months ago. When a family member comes to visit, it can be a short visit or a long visit. I felt sad because I want to have more time with my grandma. I am also sad when my dad has to go on a trip and has to leave our family. I want to have time with him and I want to go with him because I miss him.

It can also be fun to be a military child. I feel happy when I make new friends every day and everywhere I move to. I like it when I go to a new country and learn new languages. When I am moving I feel happy but my friends miss me.

- Adrian

What it's like being a Military Child

Do you ever think about being a military child? I do that's why you should read this now!

A bad thing about being a military child is that we have to leave our friends and family because we are leaving or going on a trip. Once our dad had to get deployed also sometimes my dad had to leave, like when my dad had to go to Taiwan to work for a week. Another bad thing about being a military child is that we have to leave places when you like it there. Keep on reading to learn more.

The good thing about being a military child is that we experience new places and when you get to move to New countries and new States you get to go on the planes and when you get there you get to check out the cool houses. Like once we went to a house in California and we could hear our echo in our really big house. Another good thing about being a military kid is that you get to go to our family and hang out with them.

Being a military is hard but also fun do you agree?

- Amelia

Being a Military Child

It is sometimes hard to be a military child because you have to move and leave your friends. It can be hard for me and it can make me cry. Your parents can deploy for 6 months to 1 year like my dad did. It was so sad. Another reason why it's hard if you have a pet you have to leave your pets. And if it is so sad you can't stop crying to your mom or dad. If it is a big dog like a golden retriever it has to go with your luggage in the bottom of the airplane and it can get very hot like 90 degrees. It must be very hard for the pets.

But being a military child can be really amazing too! I can see cool planes like when I went to Hawaii and I went to an aircraft hangar. It wasn't crowded but there were like three families in it and it was very fun because we got to stay in the military hotel. My dad let us go into his work. It was pretty cool but it took us like 13 hours to get there but it was worth it because we couldn't go to the beach. It was so fun because we got to go to the beach every single morning! Then we went with our friends but they were playing and it was very crowded. It had like I would say nine families. When you were coming back we went on a regular flight but it took us three flights to get back to Okinawa. The first flight went to Taiwan and the next flight was to Tokyo and then the next flight was to Okinawa.

- Andy Gray

I'm a Military Child

My life as a military child can be tough because when my dad has night shift, I don't get to see him at all. And when he has a day shift I barely get to see him. That is why being a military child is tough. There are also some good sides to being a military child. I get to make new friends, go to new places and even try new foods! That is my military life.

- Annabelle Baptista



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

Being a Military Child

My name is Autumn Miller and I am part of a military family. I have had so many good and so many bad experiences being a military child, but I think I'm pretty lucky to be able to call myself a military child. There are probably more pros than cons that I can write about, so please learn about how it is to be a military child.

Part of the pro is you go to new places. You get to try new food.

I also made new friends. What I mean is you go to different restaurants. you get to try new food like rice balls. like at my school I make friends at my table. What I mean is I will make friends either way. Now I am talking about food. When we go to different food places like burger places.

Now I am talking about having to leave my family which is definitely not a pro. you might be thinking about what is a con well it is something that is sad to you a con is something like when you have to leave a friend or being the new kid at school and every kid looking at me oslo getting bullied

- Autumn Miller

I Am a Military Child

It is sad when your Mom or Dad leaves you with your grandma or grandpa.

- Lyla Rooth

The Pros and Cons of being a Military Child

Hi I am Arya Greene and being a military child is awesome because it is fun when you move, it is super fun. And I mean awesome. you get to make a lot of new friends. I think when you make a lot of new friends it is going to be so much fun so make lots of friends!!

PROS

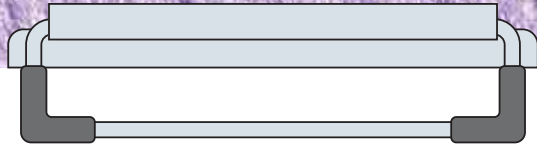
You can make new friends in different places and in different ways and making new friends is really fun because you can have the same interests. you get to learn different languages like Japanese, or Spanish, or Filipino. You go to different types of schools and you can do arts and crafts and write and do spelling tests. you can go to fun new places that you have never been before you can also get lots of stuff there.

CONS

My parents have to separate and if that happens to you it is really sad and it makes me really sad. It's hard when you have to say goodbye to someone you love. You have to say goodbye to your old friends and when you move somewhere your friend is not there. I have to leave my pet named Chewy and I left him in the states. He was my best friend but now we're miles away from each other.

- Arya Greene





Celebrating Month of the Military Child
E.C. Killin Elementary School

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What it is Like to be a Military Child

Imagine packing up all of your things, and waving bye to your family to move half way around the world! Being a military child can be fun, but it's also a bit hard.

Sometimes it can be a bit hard being a military child. You have to leave people behind. For example, when I moved to Japan, I left my family behind in America so I could move to Okinawa. You might feel sad when you leave your family behind. I felt bad because I couldn't get in touch with my family easily. But you also get to meet new people, learn about yourself, and if people have a bad impression of you, you get to restart every time you move. For me, I met Kristoph when I first came to Japan.

But it can also be fun being a military child. You feel better when you meet new people, you feel better, but a bit worse. You have to change the bad parts of yourself that make you who you are, to get more friends, but sometimes you don't, because you think you could be great with just who you are, and it sometimes works! For example, I met my first friend in Okinawa because I was myself. A military child is unique, and that's what makes them special.

- Joel M.



A Piece of my Mind Given to You

Howdy my name is Catherine .P. Aubin, and I'm here to tell you my story about my life as a military child. In other words what I love, and what I hate about being a military child. So read my opinion essay and you will see what it's like to be a military child.

My Joy ...

You get everlasting friends and that lets you stay happy forever. In my opinion a friend is someone you can sit with and still have the best time.

Continuing My Joy ...

I love being a reunited with my family, It makes me feel like 1,0000 fireworks are exploding in my chest like I'm immortal like there would be no other sad moments in my life and it feels great .

My sorrow ...

I hate being a military child because I have to move and leave all of my friends and that feels like a dagger going through my stomach like I'm having the worst headache ever like I could drop to my knees and cry forever.

Continuing my sorrow ...

When I say goodbye it's so bad I could cry forever like I'm being pulled away from all of my good memories like I had no life at all.

- Catherine A.

I Am A Military Child

It is sometimes difficult to be a military child because if you move then you have to leave all your friends behind and family members. You might also have to miss your parents when they leave for work. For example, once my dad had to leave and it was my birthday and he was gone for like a month and we had so much fun but it was still hard for me and when he came back it felt like a butterfly landed on me. So it is so hard to be a military child like that. Another thing that is hard is moving. When I left North Carolina it felt like I was going to die. So my life felt like it was burning and I missed him fairly badly so don't be sad if you are not a military child it's hard to be one like that. Here's another reason I left the usa and I had to leave my friend behind and it hurt my heart so bad! But do not be afraid of what is coming in the future. If you are going to leave soon you're probably going to make a lot of friends especailly if you are kind and sweet!

It is amazing to be a military child because you can travel to like a million places. Example you can travel to North Carolina and South Carolina, Texas and maybe even Dallas Texas. You can also do amazing things like go to Okinawa like if you're reading this report that means that you are in Okinawa right now! You're especially going to miss your friends but you can make new friends and maybe even better friends. But do not be sad because guess this if you're sad and people don't really like sad people so be happy instead of sad and if people see you sad then they might not want to be your friend. So be happy and you might earn more friends and you will probably love it so much!

- Ciara Orelie

I Am A Military Child

Sometimes it's difficult to be a military child because you have to leave friends behind. And sometimes your Dad or Mom deploy to war and you never know if you're going to see him or her again, and for me I don't remember anything, but all that I know is that I got to see him again, and he went on four seven month deployments. And we only got to see him 32 day's out of the year.

But if I never moved here, I would have never gotten to see Australia, Korea, Vietnam, Tokoy, Koyoto, Keramas. And if I never got stationed here I would have never hiked Mt. Fuji a week before my birthday! And if my Dad would have never been stationed here I would have never seen cool coral reefs, cool hikes, and the awesome views you get to see when you get to the top!

- Rockett Michalk

My name is Cristabelle Perez soza and I am part of the military family.

I have had so many good and bad experiences being a military child. But I think being a military child is lucky because you can make new friends.

There are probably more pros then cons.

Being a military child can be hard, like when you move you have to make new friends,new house,new country,and there are nice places and bad places like in Japan there are a lot of nice people but in Texas there are a lot of bad people.

When you move just be yourself and people will want to know you and when you move be kind and grateful for the friends that had your back.

Pros: When you move to a new school you can make new friends and be loved.

You can also meet a new teacher named Miss Thomas.

- Cristabelle

I Am a Military Child

I like being a military child because you can go to different places and try different foods.

- Perseus Camacho

I Am a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun because you can eat a lot of different foods for example; spicy ramen, curry and sushi plus different cultures like Japanese. You make new friends and meet people and go to fun new places. And travel the whole world when you're in a plane and you look out the window and you can see the world and sometimes you can see the ocean and sometimes you can figure out how to speak different languages.

But sometimes stuff is not fun because some of the plane flights are super long and sometimes all you do is sit the whole time. Sometimes the hotels are uncomfortable and the beds are hard to sleep in. Some things are super boring and if you're trying to do something it can be hard.

- Daniel Grounds

Being a Military Child

When you have to move in a different house and see when it's all empty you have to put all of it inside. When you move to a new school you get to see everything inside of the school and make new friends. It's kinda easy!

Things can be lots of fun too. Moving to a new house. Second, moving to a new school. Lastly, meet new friends. Lastly, Moving to another state and saying bye to friends.

- Earnest

What Being a Military Child is Like.

In my opinion, being a military child is hard . You can lose all your friends and your favorite homes that you played in. Also, you can lose your BFFs and you don't want that to happen to you. One time I had to leave my bff. Because my dad works in the military and he needed to go to Okinawa. So that is why I needed to say bye to my bff but we promise that we are always going to be bff s.

Sometimes being a military child is good .You can eat a lot of new foods .Like you can try new sushi and my dads favorite restaurant is Hama Sushi and my mom's favorite ramen place is Volcano Ramen and she loves it too and my sister's favorite food place is McDonald .

And another reason being a military child is hard is saying goodbye to family. You have to leave your pets and family . You can lose your grandma .so i have to say goodbye to my grandma and cousin.

In conclusion, this is my life and opinion about being a military child.

- Dayanara A.

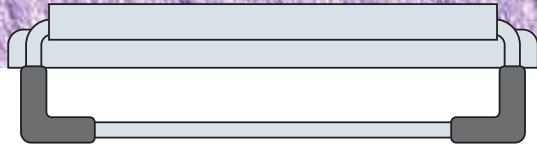
The Military

When your parents have to goa it is hard because you miss them and you worry about them. That is one way it is sad to have a parent go on a trip. That happened to me once when I was born, he was gone when I was born and that was sad. You also have to leave friends behind and that is sad because they might have been a super good friend. Leaving friends is so sad because you had good memories with them. That happened to me, I had to leave my friends and I had very good memories. Lastly, you have to leave pets behind, and you could have had that pet for a while and that would be sad to let them go. Because that happened to me once with my hermit crab and one of my dogs.

Some amazing things about being a military child is you get to experience new houses, and that can be very fun because they can be big, they can be medium sized, they could be quite small and they could have a cool basement with big rooms and there's lots of other ways it can be cool. Because once I had a huge house with a huge basement and lots of rooms and a huge upstairs and I would always play up there and I'd be running around because it was such a big space. Another way that is amazing to be a military child is you get to meet new people and it is good because you might not have any friends with you and that can be disappointing. If you don't have any friends you don't know what to do if you're bored. Because once when I moved I did not have a friend but then someone invited me to come play with them and we became best friends. Lastly, another way it can be amazing to be a military child is you can go on an airplane and that can be very fun because you can get special food and you get to watch TV and you are up in the air and that could be cool. That happened to me when I came to Okinawa. When I was on the plane I had a good time because I watched TV, ate special food, and I was in the air.

- Dorothy Culver

SEE MORE E.C. KILLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON PAGE 6



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Being a Military Child

My name is Hunter and I'm a military child. Being a military child is fun because of all the cool things we get to do, but there are some bad parts too.

We have to leave all of our friends and go somewhere new sometimes. One time when I had to leave kindergarten with a lot of friends.

Our parents have to go or we have to leave a different state or leave our cousin's or Grandparents. We have a favorite food and we have to leave. One time my dad had to stay in Japan.

We have to leave our teacher and go to a harder grade. One time I had to leave my teacher and went somewhere new without my friend's.

When we move we sometimes have a good teacher and we can travel to different places. One time when I was in California I had to go to Japan.

We can go visit our cousin and visit friends and family. One time I could get extra money from my mom and dad from being a military child.

- Hunter Sun

Being a military child

Hi my name is Layla and I am a military child. Being a military child is fun but hard. The good part is that when you go to a new school you meet new friends.

When someone is alone you can cheer them up. And you can be friends with them. Or you can join a group and be friends with your new group. And if you don't know who to chat with who is right next to you. But, don't chat too long or else you will get in trouble!

You can play with your friend at recess.

- Layla Pruneda

Apart of our Military Community: DOD Civilian Child

This is my first experience being a part of the military community and the DODEA school system.

So, this is a little difficult for me to talk about. However, I think it would be difficult to have to move every few years and to leave friends I have made and then have to make new friends wherever I go. I also miss my family back home where I grew up.

I think being a military child is amazing because you get to see new places and travel all over the world. As a military child you also get to meet new friends, eat new foods, and learn about different cultures.

- Jack Burton

I Am A Military Child

It is hard being a military child because you are far from family.

When I first moved to Okinawa, I moved from California, and my Grandpa stayed in California. It made me sad to be far away. It is also hard because you sometimes have to sell pets and you have to leave friends.

But, it is also pretty awesome being a military child because you can go to other countries and like them. For example, coming to Japan was awesome because the food is great. My favorite is shrimp sushi. And you can make new friends like Rockett. Rockett is my friend, and we play together at recess. That is why I think being a military child is great!

- Garrett Hubberstey

Celebrating Month of the Military Child
E.C. Killin Elementary School

3rd grade
*Ms. Honnold *Mr. Vallis
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My Military Story

Hi, my name is Everett and my dad is in Military. There are some pros and cons of being a military child. You get to have fun and see new things but you have to say bye and it's very hard because you have to say bye a lot.

What I like about being a military child...

You get a lot of new friends, like you get to meet your neighbors and you can become friends and it is nice because you are next door to them and they show you cool places.

You get a new home, like when you get a new home it could be bigger than your last house. You can have a house that is 2 storeys and then 3 storeys like I lived in a 2 store home to 3 store home.

There are new things to experience, like you get to meet new people from all over the world and you get to see new beaches and languages like I have met so one that was from Italy.

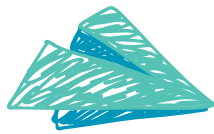
What I don't like about being a military child...

Leaving your family is hard because when you stay at your grandma and grandpa's house for a long time it is hard to say bye and move far away like I stayed at my grandma and grandpa's house for a long time.

Moving to a new place is hard because you have to say bye to your friends, family, and classmates and you don't know what the new place is like so you get scared and you are scared because you stayed with them for so long.

As you can see sometimes it is very cool to be a military child but it is also very hard and sad to say goodbye to friends and family like moving and meeting new people and it is hard to say goodbye to your old friends.

- Everett Petersen



I Am a Military Child

One reason why it's hard to be a military child is that parents leave for work. When my dad goes on a deployment I miss him a lot but I know he will come back in my arms. Another reason why being a military child is challenging is because my mom has to work really hard while my dad is away. For example, she has to take care of 3 kids and do the dishes! That's a lot of work.

But the benefit to being a military child is that you get to go to many places like Hawaii and Okinawa. Hawaii is amazing because when I was there I saw dolphins and beaches. One of the places in Hawaii is Hawaii Falls. It is a waterfall that might not be a place that you have gone to before.

- Emery Staffenson

I Am A Military Child

Being a military child is tough, it is not fun losing friends or family needing to go on deployment. The fun thing about being a military child is you get to see new places, make new friends and see and travel the world! Being a military child you can move and board a plane. I personally haven't moved many times but if you look out the window it is a great sight to see.

This is why I think being a military child is tough and fun!

- Finn Baker

Being a Military Child is hard because you have to move a lot and sometimes when you are overseas your family in the states can leave the earth. For me, when my family and I moved to Japan that same summer my Grandpa, great Grandma, and my other Grandma died. It was so sad to be far away when that happened. Another reason why being a military child is hard is because you have to leave your pets behind. I had to sell my dog Ginger. Another reason being a military child is hard is because you have to leave your friends and they have to leave you too. For me I had a friend named Olivia but I had to move and leave her behind.

- Finley Bill

Month of the Military Child

It's hard leaving pets behind because they are your friends and you love them. Going to a new grade is hard because you miss your old classmates and your teacher. You miss your old house because you got used to it and might feel uncomfortable with your new house. Far away from family because you love them. Leaving old school because you were comfortable with it.

Sometimes being a military child can be fun. Making new friends is great because you can learn new stuff about them. You can travel and discover new things. You can do new stuff like playing new sports. You move into a new house and you can decorate it and make it like your old house. You can try new food like sushi and ramen and more. And you can buy new things. You can even get new pets.

- William Galvan



A life of a military child

My name is Caiden. I have a military family I love my family. I have some cons and have so many pros. I get to go to new places and get to have new restaurants and get new food.

I get to see new people and get new friends and play new games. I get to get new schools and new subjects and new teachers. I get new houses and new hotels and new experiences.

My best friend moved away and my and then other best friend. Forth and fifth graders normally bully me. People say I'm a first or kindergartener and say I'm small. People run away when I try to play with them normally.

I've played with Jr and James for 2 years and we did everything together and we barely fought. Every time I got back from school I would play with him. Every day I would play with him. Every week I would play with him. Every month I would play with him. This is why I like military live.

- Caiden

The Sunset of the military child

Introduction:

I am going to be talking about my life and I can give you a hint. This is a military child writing So pay attention in my life if you want to learn about me.

The first Pros: Yayy I like Exploring places because I can shop and get something that I like. There is like toys Lectronics some pens that have a eraser on them and ice cream.

That is why I like Exploring places that have fun stuff. That is why I like begging a military child.

The first Con: Aww I will be sad that my dad will have to leave and all of the fun things we did together. The fun things that me and my dad did together was going to the pool a Restaurant and the food there was so good I almost fallen in love with the food and my dad was laughing I said that in public and we went there on christmas and my mom cant do those stuff with me and my brother because she has a baby in here hand.

The second Pros: I like reading new books because books have fun and cool facts in that amazing book and amazing books have cool pictures to show what they are telling you in the book with words.

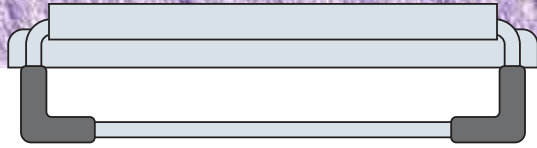
The second Con: I will be sad that my friends will have to leave because all of the fun that we did together made me feel lonely on the plane and the fun things that we did together was going into our houses and going to fun places together that day.

The third Pros: I like visiting new places for the holidays like Christmas and Valentines day and I get to have parties at my house and my parents let me invite my friends. We are all lucky to have a parent or both that is why I like being a military child.

The forth Pros: I like being a military child because I get to eat new kinks of food and I really mean it like new kinds of food. BUT this is the best reason why I like being a military child because I get to invite my friends because my dad is the nicest dad in the whole entire world just saying. I am saying that the food in Okinawa is the best food I ate in my life.

- Annabella





Being a military child has its ups and downs

Sometimes it's hard being a military child. But sometimes it's good to be a military child. Is it good or bad to be a military child? I think it's both! Here's my story.

It's not such a bad thing. There are good things and bad things but the good things don't make the bad things too bad. For example I'm always changing friends or changing schools but on the good side I get to make new friends and be in new schools. But on the other hand there's a little bit of sadness like your dad has to deploy you or your mom .

And as a matter of fact your dad has to move and it's kind of difficult to move away from your friends. But sometimes you get to start a new life in a different country and everything is new to you. I don't really like traveling that much because of the jet lag that comes with it, and it makes you super duper tired in the day! It has its ups and downs and flops and mops. But it's not so bad. Have you ever been a military child?

- Cash:H # 20

Being a Military Child

It can be hard to be a military child. My first reason is because you move a lot. One time I moved from Florida to Okinawa on a plane for more than 15 hours! It's also hard to leave your best friends. One time, I had to leave my best friend in Florida to move to Okinawa. It was hard because I had to say goodbye to someone I knew and had so much fun with, and it's kind of hard to leave friends.

But, it can also be fun being a military child. You get to experience different cultures like Japanese and more! You can also make new friends like one time I had to move to Japan and I made a bff in school! Another reason why it's fun is that you get to move to new places and experience the whole world and see places that other people don't get to see for their entire lives. You can also eat new foods like Japanese foods, such as sushi, which I love. If I had never moved to Okinawa, I would never have tried "hambagu" steak sushi!

That is why being a military can be challenging, but also a lot of fun!

- Holden Ren Kerekyarto

**Celebrating Month of the Military Child
E.C. Killin Elementary School**



3rd grade

***Ms. Honnold *Mr. Vallis
*Mr. Wurdinger *Ms. Hansen**



THE MILITARY

Being a military child is kind of hard and kind of fun. I'm going to talk to you about how it is to be a military child. There are three things that I like about being a military child. One thing that I like about being a military child is that you get to experience countries. Experiencing countries is good because sometimes people don't get to experience countries. Plus you get to look at a new house, and when you get to look at a new house you get to sometimes pick out your room and that's fun. Last but not least, going on the plane is really fun because sometimes you can watch movies and they will sometimes give you food and then you just get to relax on the plane and that's really fun.

But sometimes, there are bad things about being a military child. The difficult things about being a military child are that sometimes my Dad gets deployed and that's kind of sad. Also, it's sad when you have to leave your friends and move away from them. Plus it's really sad when you have to move away from family like your grandma or grandpa and that's really sad and hard.

Don't you agree that it's sometimes hard to be a military child and fun? Once my Dad was deployed, and he wasn't there for me to be born and that was kind of hard. But it's sometimes fun when you are at a military party. Plus you can sometimes see friends at the parties that you go to.

Being a military child is sometimes fun but sometimes not fun. So If you think that you really want to go to the military and be a military child sometimes that might be hard. Because sometimes it's easy and sometimes it's not easy. Don't you agree?

- Julianna Bryant

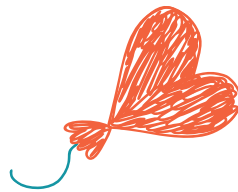
Being a Military Connected Child

I am not technically a Military child, but I am part of the military community because I go to a DODEA school. Most of my friends get to go to places that I can't go to. That makes me kind of jealous because that's fun. But I'm still a little bit military because my dad works in a military base. But neither my mom or my dad is military.

What's good about not being full military is because my dad doesn't need to leave for a long time like 6 months. My dad still works, but I'm glad that he doesn't leave for a long time. Another thing that is good about being military connected is because my Dad is connected to the base I get to on and off the base, and I get to learn about American culture and Japanese culture both! And since I've been in Japanese school for 4 years, I know Japanese AND English. Isn't that cool?

Those are reasons why I like being a Military connected child. Do you think it's cool?

- Elizabeth Makinney



I Am A Military child

It's hard to be a military child because you have to restart your life all over again. When I moved to Okinawa from Virginia USA, it was hard because my family had to wait in a line for a long time before getting into the airplane. and also, we had to wait in the dallas airport for 10 whole hours before getting in the next airplane. then, our next flight was delayed and we had to stay in a hotel until it came again. After that we had to wait in the next airport for 1 hour in Alaska. Then there were some technical problems and I slept for another 1 hr in the airplane. Finally we got to Okinawa on an 8hr flight. And we booked a hotel and moved into my current house. And that's how I got on okinawa! The end.

It's awesome to be a military child because you can see the world! When I Was moving to Okinawa I also saw the cool and beautiful mountains of japan. And also, it was a little not that, VERY, VERY bright light but luckily we can close the windows and I can taste airplane food, actually airplane food isn't that bad, right? And in the hotel we were in was close to the commissary. We also went to Seattle Washington on the way to Okinawa and that's where our flight was delayed, but...the hotel was so cool I wished to stay there forever, but I couldn't, but my house is the best house I can ever ask for!! The end.

- Bintu S. Konneh

Month Of The Military Child

Being a military child is hard, sometimes your parent gets deployed or your parent has to leave, sometimes you even have to leave your family. When your parent gets deployed or has to leave it's hard because you don't want to leave them because you always have fun with them .

Now for some pros, sometimes being a military child can be pretty fun because everyone has a job so we can get more money and so we can afford stuff there is lots of new friends when you go to new places and because you can afford lots of food and money so you can buy yourself a house or just Feast everyday all day.

- Eli

Military children!

Being a military child is fun because you can visit other places and eat different foods. You can also meet other families and people. Some of the friends I've made are Eli, Ciara, Riley, and many more! I also get to see many places like Chiagao, Virginia, Tori beach, Okinawa, Maryland, and Okuma!

Being a military child can be hard because you have to move away from some of your family members. And you have to leave pets behind sometimes. I had to leave my pet dog behind, Macy. It was really sad.

Even though it's hard being a military child, it's sometimes really fun too :)

- Lia

Things That are Good and Bad About Being a Military Child

The bad thing about being a military child is when my dad leaves because I love my dad and it makes me feel very sad when he leaves for work. Another way it is bad being a military child is when I move to a different country and I miss my old friends. The worst part about being a military child is when I have to move to a new school and I don't know anybody.

A good thing about being a military child is learning new languages because I think it is really cool if I get to learn languages. Another good thing about being a military child is experiencing new countries because I think it is really cool learning about new cultures and how they celebrate their holidays. My favorite part about being a military child is getting to meet new friends because I think it is really cool getting to have a Japanese friend or Chinese friend.

- Lillian C. Ross

Being a Military Child

Sometimes when you move you miss your old friends. You may also miss old climates like it used to snow for me but since I moved to okinawa it does not. Your parents also leave when they are in the military.

You get lots of new friends and their parents might be in the military so you could talk about moving in a new house. Also you can experience new languages like japanese, german or even spanish.

- Khristiana R.

Pros and Cons of a Military Child

The cons of being a military child is when you have to leave your pets behind. My dog's name was June and we had to leave her with my mom's parents because they didn't let her because when I left my house I was super sad. When you leave new friends behind her on the airplane to japan when you have to leave your old house. Leaving your old house is hard too.

The pros of being a military child is when you make new friends you will be super happy. Seeing new places is great. Seeing new places is fun. My mom and dad have a job. I am lucky for my mom and dad to have a job.

- Koby

I am a Military Connected Child

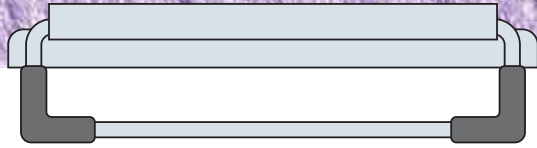
Being a Military Connected Child is hard because you have to leave friends when you move and also you have to go through many changes and you might miss family from the U.S. You can also have a hard time in the plane/car.

Being a Military Connected Child is good because you can meet new friends and meet new people, learn new things, learn new languages, and learn about traditional clothing such as a kimono. New places as well like the Okinawa Zoo or American Villaget. Those places are great places to visit.

- Lael Park

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ON PAGE 8**



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

I Am A Military Child

Sometimes it is hard to be a military child because your parents deploy. That means they are gone for a little bit. When my dad deploys, it's hard because my mom has to do everything, like take me to soccer, and school, and cook, and go to the store. I try to help her by doing some of her work. Another reason why it is hard to be a military child is because you have to move and leave family behind. When I moved from North Carolina my Gigi and grandpa stayed behind. I missed them a lot. It's hard to leave somewhere you know so much.

It is amazing to be a military child because you can see new places like Japan, Okuma, Disney land and Disney sea In Japan, I like to go to new places. At Disney Sea I went to Splash mountain. I also had popsicils. You can learn new languages like Japanese.

- Quinn Bostick

It's Hard Being a Military Child

It's hard to be a military child when your parent get deployed for work. That can be hard because you miss you your parent. You get scared. You're sometimes far away from your parents. Moving to different schools can be hard. You can be behind grade levels. You don't know what you are learning about. You don't know anybody so it's hard to make friends. And you are far away from family because you move. You miss your family.

- Logan

Month of the Military Child

It is hard when your dad has to leave because you can feel worried that your dad is going to get hurt. When you leave your old friends behind you feel sad, worried, and unhappy because you loved your old friends back in the days. When you go to a new school you could feel nervous and scared and afraid because you think people are going to bully you but they are not.

The nice things about being a military child are experiencing new languages because you can talk to Japanese people Or Arabic and Chinese. You can make new and kind friends because if you meet new friends you could feel. You can be thankful that they are being your friend. Everyone loves you no matter who you look like.

Changes can be good because you can meet new friends, learn new languages, and experience new cultures.

- Lourdes Mitchell

I Am a Military Child

Being a military child is hard. For example, my dad went on a deployment when I was about to be born. I was really scared . Another example is when we moved we had to leave our dog there and I was really scared that we would not find a good home for him. We did but I was still sad. It is hard when you move and you have to leave all your friends because it is hard to make friends because you don't know anyone.

Being a military child is also really cool. For example, you get to move around all over the world and it is so cool.

- Sydney Halsmer

Celebrating Month of the Military Child
E.C. Killin Elementary School



3rd grade
*Ms. Honnold *Mr. Vallis
*Mr. Wurdinger *Ms. Hansen



My Military Life

Hi my name is Lydia Rodriguez and i live in a military family and there's some good and some bad things about living in a military family.

PROS

You get to meet so many new friends. When i made my new friend it was so special to me and now that we know each other we love to make fortune tellers on our bus,we ride the same bus

You get to experience new cultures. When me and my family move to new houses ,cultures and places I love to try and learn new hobbies and try to be more organized.

You get to go to new schools and meet new teachers. When I moved to my new school I was very nervous but when I released all my classmates where very nice in clouding my teacher I new It was going to be the best school year ever

CONS

You sometimes have to say goodbye to friends and family. When i had to say goodbye to my best friend it was so sad and heartbroken it was the worst day ever,and we loved to play with each other and now can't

You have to move to new schools. When I moved to my new school I didn't think it was that bad. Some people think that it's bad but I've realized that this is my life and I'm going to be moving.

You have to move away from places you love. When I have to move from places I love I get so sad because me and my family always get good houses and boom a couple years living there we have to move.

All in all these are some pros and some cons about living in a military family.

- Lydia Rodriguez

Military Child Ups And Downs

It's sometimes difficult being a military child because you have to move away from your friends. For example my bff is in America and I was too, but we had to move to Japan. That was a sad thing, leaving my bff. Also when you move you might have to leave your pet. It's hard to be happy. For example I moved from Boston and I had two cats Lucky and Acie. It was sad when we had to move and leave them behind.

It's sometimes fun being a military child, because you can learn different languages when you move, and you can eat new foods that are cool. For example, I was in Boston and I moved to Okinawa and I learned Japanese. And then I tried ramen and I loved it so much. Another thing that makes being a military child is that you can go on vacations so you can relax. These are just some of the reasons why it's fun being a military child!

- Lilyana Anahi Cano

Month of Military child

First you will miss your friends, You will be tired of moving,And you will miss your old house.

If you move, you can't play with your old friends, You will travel to a lot of places, And you can't go back to your old house.

You could have a lot more friends, You could experiment with the world, And you could move to a lot of houses.

If you move you could get more friends because you go to a different School,If you move to another you could experience the world, And if you move you will go to the house and if you move a lot then you will go to a lot of houses.

You will miss your friends because you can't text them or you can call them, You can't spend load of time in the airplane, You can't go back to your old house so you have to stay new house.

If you go to new school you could make friends. If you move a lot of places you could experiment with that place, and you could experience that house too if you move a lot.

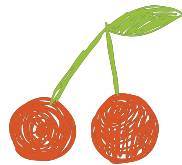
- Maria Soderlund

Being a Military Child

Sometimes it could be difficult as a military child. One way it is difficult is leaving friends. It was sad When I moved to Japan. And another way is leaving teachers It was sad too. And another reason is leaving family It was sad too. Moving from Colorado was hard.

Sometimes it is good to be a military child because you can make new friends. Another good reason as a military child you get to moving. And another good reason to be a military child is to try new things.

- Gavyn



Being a Military Child

My name is Mike and I am a military child and I like to play a lot. I don't really like fish and I play soccer and I kinda like school.

Because I am a military child I get to make lots of new friends because i am a military child and i also get to learn new cultures and I might learn new languages

I get to go to new places because I'm a military child and I get to try new foods and also I get to go to new schools but I have to leave countries but I still like to go to new places.

I have to leave my pets so it is very sad for me but I still am happy that my pet got a new owner. I like to go to school because I get to learn how to do division.

So being a military child is great.

- Mike Truong

Being a military child

It's challenging being a military child. It's hard being a military child because your friend might have to move somewhere else. It's harder if you move because you know your friend is sad because he or she misses you. And you will have to make more friends and miss your old friends at the same time.

The things to be happy about being a military child is that you can make new friends, try new food, learn more cultures and experience a new life, meet new people and lots more. I had a spanish nanny and she gave me and my sisters candy every friday. She let us watch tv all the time. It was so fun when I was in spain. I miss spain I wish I was still there. I know I was born in pensacola but I don't remember a thing ☹️.

- Nathaniel Deskin

Month of the Military Child

I get to make new friends around the world. We could travel all around the world ! I will miss my teachers that I like but Ms. Honnold is the best!

I'm sad whenever my parents are deployed I feel scared for them. I'm also really sad when I have to leave my friends behind. I will be really sad whenever I have to leave Ms. Honnold's in two more years! I will be really sad.

- Rosalyne

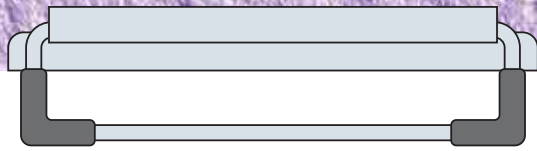
I Am A Military Child

It is difficult to be a military child because your parents go to deployment and it's really hard for the parent that's with you. It is also hard because you might cry while the parent that is deployed is away. It makes me heartbroken because I have a deployment dad that isn't gonna be here for 6 months and he will miss my sister's birthday. It's really hard to live with a deployment parent. The things and attitudes in my house have changed because my dad isn't here and it's time for my mom to take control of three kids. It's also hard because my siblings are crazy! They will run everywhere if you take them somewhere. That's why I don't like my dad being deployed!

It's amazing to move and go on airplanes but moving way too much isn't for me. I love exploring new places and eating new stuff! But I want to only stay in one area. Rather it's Okinawa or the USA or somewhere even newer than those. I cannot pick because the USA and Okinawa are really good places to live but here are my examples that are completely different. First of all, Okinawa is a beautiful place to stay and different types of food, books, plushies, clothes and even cultures! Okinawa is also a safe place for kids to grow up and be independent. They can go grocery shopping, walk to school/walk back home, go to your friend's house. But the USA is kinda scary to me. First my mom said there is too much freedom which is true but it's not like Okinawa. The USA is dangerous. I can't pick because there is DISNEYLAND in the USA and Okinawa World in Okinawa, obviously! Those are fun and you can learn lots of things from those two places. This is why it's kinda amazing to be a military child.

- Sofia Ferraro





I'm A Military Child

When you're a military child there are lots of challenges that we have to face. Some are changes some are leaving something or someone. Here are a few changes I had to face. I had to leave my dog. I wish he could experience what I did and that was hard. I needed a dog to take care of, I wanted to teach him some tricks, what I needed was him. Another challenge for me was leaving my friends. When I got here I was always crying. I wanted my friends back. I loved walking around with my two BFFs. I wanted them back badly. I also had to leave a lot of stuff behind because we did not have enough room. I also had to leave my family behind instead of Christmas with family we had it at Okinawa.

But, It's also an amazing experience. Here are a few examples, you get to taste new food like, tofu, sushi, ramen, and more. You also learn about other countries' cultures. For example, Japan's Culture is wearing kimonos for parties and other important things, and baseball is really famous there so if you built a baseball stadium you want to put it in Japan and then you're rich. You also get to see new stuff like cherry blossoms, familymart, new restaurants, like, gen, maybe anthony's pizza, and more. That's why I think being a military child can be an amazing experience!

- Olivia G. Morrow

Being a Military Child

As a military child I have gone through many struggles. You have to leave wonderful and loving family and friends. When I had to leave I was so sad because that was my first elementary and I could visit my family often. Now I have to fly all the way to america to see my family which is so far away that I barely get to see them. Also that's only one of my reasons. It also is hard to make new friends when your old ones were so good. Even throw you can make new friends it's hard to feel welcome at first and it's hard to not miss your old friends. Now here is my last reason about my struggles as a military child. I can only visit my beloved grandparents once a year or sometimes not even all in a year because my grandma is in a wheelchair so she can't visit us so she has to visit her but to get there we have to take three flights so I barely get to see them.

There are also so many good things about being a military child like this you get to learn new and interesting languages. When I first moved here I had to learn a new language and I got to learn the story 's and now I really like learning. You also get to make new friends it's so nice to be able to come back from school and play your friends and laugh and have fun together also know that wherever you go you'll always have friends. Now for my last reason of why I love being a military child is that you get to see beautiful and amazing new places like when I moved here we visited so many places like Okumu were the water is so clear and com also there are so many fun things to do. Also at Murasaki Mura where there are so many lanterns that glow so beautifully in the night sky. As you can see there are so many good and bad thing about being a military child.

- Riley S.

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E.C. Killin Elementary School

3rd grade
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My life as a Military Child

Being a military child is fun. I think this because when you move it's usually somewhere you've never been. Like I was born in California but now I'm in Okinawa, Japan. And you can see the WORLD!!! You can also travel in special planes.

Also, you can make a lot of new friends and see different cultures! But being a military child is also not fun. I think this because when your parent gets deployed it is very sad. And when you get an extension, lots of your friends leave.

It is also really hard leaving my friends and family, like when I left the U.S. It is also hard to make friends sometimes.

So being a military child can be good and bad sometimes. I hope you liked it.

- Vivian N. Bowman

It is sometimes difficult to be a military child because I have to go to places I don't want to go. For example, I left New Mexico, where I ate ice cream for breakfast at my grandma's house. and California where it was nice and dry. and Arizona where I went to the grand canyon.

I like being a military child because I get to Hawaii. Because there is a snack shack near a pool where I can get a tan. There's also Pearl Harbor and I've been there. And there's the Hale Koa hotel where McDonald's is near. And the best is there's a hot tub near the pool.

- Nicholas

I Am a Military Child

It is really difficult being a military child because sometimes your dad has a deployment and it's really hard for the other parent because they have to take care of you, so it's hard for them. Sometimes you cry because you miss them so much and you want them to stay. But being a military child is good because if they leave they will come back. But then your mom or dad has to take care of you alone. My dad has to go for two months and he always misses our birthday. Now my mom has to do everything. But when he comes back I only have one more month until I have to leave Okinawa and go to Naples, Italy.

But being a military child can be good too. Because you get to travel to different places. For Example like Spain, Japan, Asia, and so much more! You even get to try so many different foods. For New York City (NYC) they have all the foods. So being a military child isn't so bad. I get sad too because my dad has to go on the boat for so long and i can never wait so that's why i cry when my dad leaves. But my mom says that time goes so fast but i don't think so and you can even get Books and other things. But I like being a military child because I get to celebrate lot and lot's of holidays. What holidays do you celebrate? There is so much to pick. I celebrate a lot of things. But i reality I want to stay in Okinawa because it is a safe place for kids and parents. But then i want to go to america because there are plushis called me meows and they are my favorite.

- Seneca Cano

The Military Child Life

Being a military child can be challenging for everybody, it's hard for me and probably for you too. For example, I have to leave my one of BFFs, Ally, in the states! I also had to leave my grandparents in Georgia when I moved to Okinawa. It was really sad. In fact, I still miss them and I also had to get used to where I moved like when I moved to Okinawa, it felt weird when I got to my new house. It started from Hawaii, to the U.S, to Okinawa! I honestly don't like moving around too much. My dad also has to leave for deployment sometimes when I was about four or five when my dad had to leave on deployment for a long time! My mom and I missed him a lot.

I know I told you the downs of being a military child but now let me tell you the ups now! One of the reasons it's great to be a military child is you get to travel the world more than some people, some people can't travel the world until they're adults. For example, I have traveled across to places all over! Hawaii, to the U.S, and to today in Okinawa. Another reason is because every move they have different cultures that are fun to learn about, like the Japanese and Hawaiian. You also have a chance to make new friends. When I left my friends in the states, I was able to make new friends when I moved to Okinawa. My friends and I are having so much fun now! You could also try new foods, my personal favorite Okinawan dish is the ramen!

So you see, being a military child can be hard and fun. There are ups and downs to being one. But the ones I listed are only a few, some people have more challenging experiences or more amazing ups. If you are a military child keep it up out there and be strong! You got this! Your life might be hard, but power through it, think of all the good that could happen.

(V)
(o.o)
(v v)



- Paige Zheng

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The military child

When you're a military child like me and my sister, sometimes we have to go through many challenges. Like when my dad had to deploy, we were crying every day and all night for two years! I also had to move away from my freinds and restart my life five times! It's super sad. Also if you're shy or bad at making friends then it's really hard to move. When I was little, I was super shy and bad at making friends. I didn't have any friends. It was super hard, especially during the pandemic. Oh my poor mom she had been alone without Abby and I just re-OKi with my dad for FIVE YEARS!

There are also lots of fun and nice things when being a military child too! You can try new foods for example: sushi, tofu, Okinawa soba, soba, ect. You can also see the world! It's so fun being a military child!

- Sofia Hansen

Being a Military Child

It's difficult being a military sometimes. I don't like moving a lot. Planes give me a really big headache. I miss my family and friends in the states. I REALLY miss them. It feels weird especially when you just move in. It's SO empty. It's hard getting used to new schools. You may think you understand, but moving is complicated. Also when your parents go on deployment it just really makes you sad.

Being a military child has its upsides too. When you move you move you experience new things. When a parent comes back from deployment, you become so happy. The happiest person in the world. When my dad came back, I was so happy I cried. You may have to leave friends behind, but you make new friends too. I am having so much fun with my new friends. Now you Know the upsides and downsides to being a military child.

- Sofie Burcham

I Am a Military Child

Being a military child is difficult because when your dad is gone you will miss him so much and if your mom has work you're going to be all alone (if you have siblings then you're not alone) and you don't know how to cook your breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The saddest part is you have to leave your friends and family behind. It is also really scary if your dad goes to war. That is why I think being a military child is difficult.

But being a military child is also fun because you can see new places like the cherry blossom parade and learn new cultures. For example, kimono clothes and seaweed with pasta. If your dad brings you to their work, you can see all the fighter jets, helicopters, ATVs, and other cool vehicles. You might also see them fly fighter jets, helicopters and ATVs. That is why I think being a military child is fun.

- Noelle J. San Antonio

SEE MORE E.C. KILLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON PAGE 10

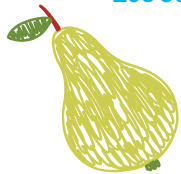
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

THE OKINAWA MILITARY KIDS!

It is sometimes hard to be a military child because of deployments. For example, one day my dad went on deployment and I am pretty sure that that was the worst day of my life and then he was gone for 118 days! That is like forever! He went on deployment twice. It was hard on my mom. Another reason it is sometimes difficult to be a military child is because of moving. Moving is hard because you sometimes move away from family members and you move away from your school and your friends! It is sad but I am good at making friends so it is not as hard for me!

However, it can also be an amazing experience to be a military child because you get to see more places than most kids do. I've been lucky enough to go to Bali, Taiwan, Universal Studios, Super Mario World, Legoland Japan, Disneyland Japan, Disney Sea, Hiroshima, Ishigaki, and Okuma., as well as many other cool places! It is cool and sometimes when my family members come to visit I can show them our life in Japan. For example when my nana and papa came to visit we showed them Okinawa World and we went to Disneyland Japan and Disney Sea and we showed them our life!

- Zoe Jayne St. Clair

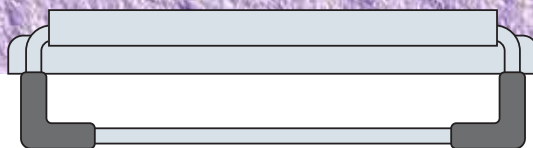


I Am a Military Child

It's a difficult experience to be a military child to me because I have to move away from friends, my parents go on deployment, and many, many, many others. I have some examples. One is the day when my dad got deployed to Yokota AB. He had to stay there for three days. It was hard on my mom because she had to do all the work for nearly a week, and she had a tight schedule! I was bummed because me and him usually play fun games together. Another time is when my mom had to stay in the US for her medical boards. She had to be there for 6 months! I was really sad because she is really fun to have around. During the half year, me, my dad, and my sister moved here. It was hot at the time, and we didn't go outside a lot. Finally, later in November, my mom came here. By that time I was already here. That is why it's a difficult experience to be a military child.

It's an amazing experience to be a military child because I can make new friends, go to new places, grow up in different environments, and many, many, many others. One place is here! At school I have my best friends, Paige, Finley, Olivia, Lia, Ciara, Lily, Daniel, Ballack, Sofia, and others! And at my home base I have Henry, Neo, Max, Harris, Steven, Rye, Robert, Isah, and others! That is 40 friends total! So when one friend isn't there, I have 39 more to play with! And I love it! It is the thing that comes naturally with being good at making friends! Also there is food like ramen, soba, tempura, and others! The Japanese also have an amazing culture and they are so nice to us! That is why it's an amazing experience to be a military child.

- Warren Kachur



Celebrating Month of the Military Child
E.C. Killin Elementary School

3rd grade

*Ms. Honnold *Mr. Vallis
*Mr. Wurdinger *Ms. Hansen

I'm a military connected child

It is sometimes difficult to be a military child because you miss family. For example, all of my family lives in the United States and to visit them my mom and I have to ride an extremely long airplane. Another reason it is hard to be a military child is because friends have to move often. For example Rockett is leaving this year. He's one of my good friends and I'm going to miss him. Because friends leave often, you also have to be good at making new friends.

Even though it can be hard, being a military child can also be pretty amazing! For example, you are able to travel more frequently. Just this year, I went to Australia for Christmas, Hokkaido in February, and Yokohama just last week! One of my favorite parts about Australia was I got to ride on a cruise. Also, in Hokkaido I got to go skiing

And you get to meet lots of new people from around the world.

- Ronin Xavier Jones Alrick

Being a Military Child

It is hard being a military child because you have to leave your friends behind and you can really miss them because you may not be able to see them again. You might be able to see them on Facetime but you don't really get to see them in person. Leaving friends behind can be really sad. Also when your dad leaves it can be really sad because he can be gone for a really long time. I experienced that myself. Also when you leave pets it can be really sad because you might not ever be able to see them again. When that happened to me I was really sad. This is why it's hard being a military child.

It is fun being a military child because when you get a new house it can be super fun because it could be big or small. Also, you're in a new neighborhood so you get to meet new friends and that can be super fun because you miss your old friends. It could be really fun going to a new school and meeting new friends there and maybe they live in your neighborhood too. Also when you're in a new neighborhood, maybe you can learn new cultures from a friend there. Learning new cultures can be fun because you get to learn their traditional outfits, their meals, and tons of other things. Also when you have new friends they can invite you to go to their house and play with them. This is why I think it's fun being a military child.

- Marley Garrett

My Military Life!

Hi, I am Kazin Staffofd and I am glad to be a military and I have a story to spill. I am writing about the ups and downs in being a military child. If you would like to know about my military life please read the next paragraph.

PROS

You can make new friends and have playdates/sleepovers like how I made new friends, for example Easter, William, Lorduse or clementine. You guys whoever your with can play right after school. My mom and dad always say I'm good at making friends and for me its fun.

For my 2nd pro I am going to talk about exploring the new place around you. You could go hiking or maybe go on a bike ride to see views or just to have fun and get exercise. I have a (close) park near me and that's where I will usually play I can just walk there! More new places where I live (Okinawa, Japan) are team lab (play place) or blue seal (icecream area).

For my last reason I'm going to talk about the cool culture and languages you can learn about for me I am in Japan for three years so I have learned about japanese phrases and numbers like inchi nee san and so on. The food tastes really good for example sushi, ramen, guosa and fried rice and it might turn into one of your favorite new foods.

It's hard when you have to leave good friends or even best friends. You also have a bad chance you will ever see them again. When I was younger I missed my friends Ella, Jeddy and Charlotte so much. Even on the last day of first grade I cried a lot.

If you move out of America for lets say Japan it's hard to know where you are going if you are in a Japanese airport. Once I got even got yelled by a japanese person in japanese. I felt really sad. These are just some of the bad things that can happen to you.

Sometimes you can have a bad experience with a friend they could choke you like a person in my class last year choked me. She is in my class this year as well and we are still not friends. Hopeful that will never happen to you or has happened to you.

So these are the PROS and CONS of my military life. Did you like it? If you did great if not that's okay too. Thanks for reading seriously P.s. I hope you thought it was nice!

- Kazin S.



Life of a Military Child

Hi, I am Celine Williams and being a military child is awesome because it is fun when you move around the world. It is extremely fun and awesome to see different places. I am able to meet new people, make new friends, and get new experience. I think when you make lots of friends, it is going to be exciting to know about friends so make lots of new friends!!!!!!

PROS

First, when you go to different countries, some people want to learn that language. Learning different languages is really fun because you can talk to different people and enjoy their language. With me being in Japan, I want to learn Japanese. For example, when meeting a new person, in English I would say "hello," but in Japanese, I would say "Konnichiwa." Saying hello is a start to making new friends. Hooray!!!!

Second, being able to go to different places means we get to try different types of food. Some foods I like after I try and some foods I don't. One time, my family and I visited New York City. New York is famous for its pizza. When we visited New York, we went to a famous pizza place and there were so many different pizzas. It was hard to pick which pizza I wanted for myself because there were too many choices to choose from. The pizza slices were so big!!!!!!

Third, being a military child means we get to explore. We get to see different places, see different styles of houses, restaurants, people and views. When I go to see different places, I always like to take pictures, especially if I have my tablet. I always keep the memories in my tablet. When we lived in Virginia, we explored Virginia, we visited Washington D.C., New York, New Jersey, and Florida.

Fourth, I also like to try new things. For example, when I lived in Virginia, my parents surprised me to go to Great Wolf Lodge. It was my first time seeing a huge indoor pool. I will never forget about that experience.

Last, being in a military family is a great opportunity because I can make new friends. I would like to meet new people because I am interested in making new friends and we get to know each other and it might be my other best friend

Cons

One thing that is not great in being a military child is that you have to leave friends. I left some great friends in Virginia. I was sad that I had to leave my friends. We did so many things together like playing, going to birthday parties, being partners, and being silly. I have a lot of friends but sometimes I have trouble making some friends.

Another thing that's not great about being a military child is that sometimes my dad has to leave. One time my dad had to leave home for a while and I really missed him. I missed him because he was not at home. He was not there to play with us, read to us, take us to the park, give us a bath and cook his favorite food.

Leaving the things you know is another thing that's not great about being a military child. For example, when I left Virginia I had to leave one thing that I loved which is flag football. I was hoping that Okinawa would have that same flag football like Virginia but it does not. Leaving my school is another thing that I had to leave. I knew where everything was at and where my friends would be.

- Celine Williams

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Being a military child.

Being a military child is hard. Like leaving the ones you care about, like pets, family, and friends. But it can also be an amazing experience to be one! This is what I think about being a military child.

It's hard because you have to leave your friends. Leaving your friend is really, REALLY hard. Before I moved here I had to leave my best friend, Lyrick. You also have to leave your pet(s). Leaving your pet(s) is just like leaving your friend(s). When I left my pets, Max and Brody, I had to because my brother had allergies to fur. I miss them. Another reason is because you have to leave your family. Sometimes you have to leave your family such as your grandpa, grandma, and many more. I had to leave my whole other family.

But it can be amazing because you can make new friends! Making new friends is fun, and you get to play, talk, and hangout! One time when I moved here I was looking for a new friend, and I found one named Oliver. You can also learn new languages! Learning new languages can expand your mind! When I first had culture I learned Japanese and it was awesome! You can also learn about the culture! You can learn the country's traditions, clothing, language and so much more! When I kept having culture, I learned all of Japanese traditions! As you can see, being a military child can be really hard, but it can also be a fun experience! That's what I think about being a military child.

- Jace C.

Moving is Fun!!

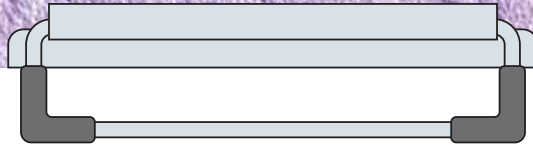
It is sometimes difficult to be a military child because moving made me miss my old friends over the summer.

It is hard when my dad goes on a business trip, and sometimes we have to leave our pets because they might not be healthy enough to move.

It is amazing to be a military child because you get to live in new different types of countries, try new different types of food and explore different cultures.

That is why moving is fun!

- Riley Cruson



Celebrating Month of the Military Child
E.C. Killin Elementary School



3rd grade

*Ms. Honnold *Mr. Vallis
*Mr. Wurdinger *Ms. Hansen



I'm a military child!

My name is Henry and I'm a military child. Being a military child is wonderful.

Pros

You get to see new places like mainland Japan if you are a military child.

When you are a military child you get to see the whole world sometimes. Once I Advencherd half of the whole world.

You get to make new friends that can speak a different language. if you get to meet

other military children that can share their story with you and you can share your story.

You get to do things you've never done like seeing a habu snake. Or learning how to speak a different language like spanish.

COon

The hard thing about being a military child is sometimes people might forget that other people exist and it's sad.

- Henry



I am a Military Child

It is difficult to be a military child because you need to leave your friends and family. You also miss your last school and the kids there and your teachers.

It's a good experience to be a military child because you can meet new people and kids. You go to different schools and learn about other cultures. You can try out different foods. You can also go to different places. That's what I like about being a military child.

- Arabella Hope Alberto

I Am a Military Child

I think it is difficult being a military child because every 2-4 or 5 years I have to move from my home we have worked so hard on.

I also think it is hard because moving into a new neighborhood can be hard.

The last reason being a military child is difficult is because I sometimes have to go to a new school I may not be used to it.

I think being a military child is amazing because I move and see new places and try new foods like when I moved to Okinawa I did not want to try Okinawa soba but when I did try it I really, really liked it. I also think being a military kid is fun because we see new homes.

- Carver Sears

My name is Katerina Lopez and I am a military child. There are things that can be amazing and some things that can be hard as a military child.

It is hard to be a military child because you will leave your pets with someone else to take care of. When you leave someone part of your loved family you will miss them alot. Leaving a friend that you didn't get to know alot about. When you leave a country that you love but have to leave it. Leaving a best friend that you know alot about and miss them

When you go somewhere new you get to learn other languages to speak to other people. When you make new friends, you can have fun with your new friends. Trying new food to find new tasty stuff. Getting new pets so you don't be lonely and bored. Doing new stuff to have fun in a new place you didn't know about.

I love being a military child because I get to see new places to learn new stuff and to do fun stuff at a zoo or a park or other places.

- Katerina Lopez



I am a Military Child

It is sometimes difficult to be a military child because your dad sometimes goes to different places for weeks because of work and you miss him so much. And you get separated from your friends for years. And you are so far away from your family.

It is an amazing experience to be a military child because you get to go to different places, for example Okinawa, or even places in the USA! To eat different foods such as spicy ramen, tofu, and more plus you learn about different cultures like sorobon. You can go on planes and play video games. You also go to different places and make new friends.

- Ballack Becker

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

5th grade
Ms. Bauman &
Mrs. Tissandier

Kadena Elementary School

I have been a military child for three years in Japan. My dad started when he was nineteen. Before we came to Okinawa Japan, we were in my home town Yuma, Arizona. I was there when I was born, so my whole life. Then we got orders to Okinawa for three years so we packed and went on the plane. Then we were in Okinawa.

When we got here, I was sad I had missed my family back in Yuma. Then I got used to it, then my dad got stationed in Korea for six months then he came back then we had one more year left.

Now I have just been chilling in Okinawa. Sometimes I miss Arizona but I'm lucky to be in Japan. Sometimes I get sad about leaving Okinawa because I have great friends in school and in my neighborhood. Now today I have 80 days till I leave the island to go to Yuma, Arizona.

– Presley Armer

The most difficult part of being a military child is moving away from your friends because when you move you feel really sad and miss your friends. Also, when you move it is really hard to say goodbye. It is also very hard to adapt to the new place. Finally, it is hard to adapt to new people.

One of the good parts of being a military kid is meeting new people because when you do you can see if they are your friend or not. If they are your friend then you will be able to have fun times with them. Also new friends mean new opportunities. Finally new friends make us happier to have moved.

The final good part of being a military kid is going to a new place because new places also have new opportunities. Also, when you go to a new place you can go to different places. If you go to a new place you get to try new food. Finally, if you go to a new place, you can celebrate new festivals and holidays for example Japanese new year, Japanese children's day, and Japanese cherry blossom festival.

– Adonis Aparicio

Being a military child is very lucky for some people. Life as a military child means that your parents or someone in your family works for the military. I live in Okinawa and go to Kadena Elementary school. If you go to this school, you are a military child, the only reason why you can't go to these schools is because some people in the world don't have parents that are working for the military.

My parents work for the military and do something for the military or help the military. My dad is a marine and retired after 30 years and now he works at the hospital. Being a military child includes being able to travel anywhere. I've traveled to many places such as Mainland Japan, Germany, Spain and many other places. I have been to this school for almost 6 or 5 years and I have been to this school since I was in kindergarten.

People in the around the world aren't so lucky as us which can be very sad for children that are not military children which can lead that they can't go to the types of schools I go to and

can also lead that they can't travel around the world sometimes. I am grateful and lucky for my parents being able to be a military worker and especially my dad. Being a military child is the best!

– Levi Bakke

Being a military child is pretty hard and sad because I would have to move each and every 2, or 3 years, and I would have to switch schools when we move. My dad is a military sergeant and he would be working all day and would come back at 5:49 or 6:00. And he would buy a lot of groceries just to keep my family safe. I also have a stepmom that cleans way too much and has a baby.

How I feel as a military child is sad because I feel like I would only be able to stay in one place for a specific date. I was born in 2013 and named after my dad. My dad and mom were divorced so sometimes I would meet my mom and sometimes I would meet my dad. And my mom is in the USA and me and my dad are in Japan. I would also miss my mom sometimes because it's really hard for me to be happy at home without my mom and dad. But now I am in Japan and soon I will be moving in 2 years.

– Kevin Bland Junior

There are many changes that come with being a military child. I have to adapt to a new life, make new friends, and start over. These changes are hard. It is also fun, because I get to meet new people and see different places.

Adjusting & adapting to new places is hard, because each place has something different about it. For example, in Okinawa I am learning Japanese culture & language. At first, the language was hard to understand and remember. Now I love to learn new things, and share information with my family and friends.

Going to a new school means making new friends. I'm shy and it takes me time to get to know new people. I love making new friends, but sometimes I get nervous when I am a new student. I met my best friend in Okinawa, and we plan to stay in touch wherever we go.

Moving is hard because I can't bring all my loved ones with me. I try to call my family, but sometimes the time difference gets in the way. Not seeing my grandparents is hard, but talking to them makes me happy. I miss my family but knowing that they love me is enough.

Being a military child can be a mix of emotions. I know I can adapt, make new friends, and start new. My family may be far, but I know they love me. I am brave wherever I go.

– La'Niyah Calamease

Being a military child does have its perks, but sometimes there can be difficulties. Since I am a military child, I move around a lot. Moving to different places is cool at times, but sometimes I can be upset. The reason why is because I have to leave all of my old friends behind and move to this new place where I don't know who anyone is and no one knows who I am. It can be hard trying to adjust to my new environment, but going to different places like Japan is an opportunity some kids don't get to have. So, whenever I am upset, I try to think about how blessed I am that I get to experience

meeting new people and going to different countries and states. When my parents get deployed, I'm sad and upset because they are gone, but I just try to think about how they are going to come back, and how happy I will be. And when they come back, I'm super happy. I love being a military kid.

– Mallory Camp

Being a Military child is great, but it can also suck. Being a military child is great because you get to go places that other people might not be able to go like Japan, England, Germany, and many other places. You also get to learn the culture of where you live whether you're living in Asia, Europe, Australia, or Africa, it doesn't matter where you live you still get to learn the culture and traditions of the place. Being a military child means you move a lot which sucks because then you have to start fresh at a new school or place, then you're become the new kid and everyone is staring at you because you're just standing around instead of doing what the class usually did before you had transferred there. It also sucks because one of your active-duty parent or parents have to go on deployment which either leaves staying at a friend's house for a long period of time or you're with one parent for however long your other parent is gone for. Being a military child means you get more opportunities that other people don't get. Being a military child is something really special. I lived in California until I was 6 years old, Then I moved to Oahu, Hawaii, then I moved here, to Okinawa, Japan. I never knew I was a military child until I moved to Hawaii, were we celebrated Month of the Military Child, in April.

– Analyse Carrejo

My dad is a hero. He has been in the military for almost 22 years. He is very happy to have 2 military children. He gets to work in a purple van. He has a few friends at his work. Even if my grandpa was in the military my dad doesn't come from a military bloodline, he is the first to serve a full military career. My dad loves his job being in the Air Force. He has no bad days, only busy days. And I like being in the military because I can go to my dad's work and see every one that my dad works with. And when things are too tiny or old my dad brings them home and me and my brother get to look and see which ones we want and which ones we don't. And then the ones that we did not want we give them to are mom and she donates them to the thrift shop. I do not like how in the military our friends move away or we move away. But at least we go to places all over.

– Cora Coolidge

Life is fun as a military child because I get to go around the world and make lots of friends. Now I'm in Japan and it's super fun with my amazing teachers. In Japan right now I am able to go on base and able to go off base with the amazing events. Off base can be very crowded and it has all the good fruit and not the commissary. I have my best friends here in school with me. I get to have fun and also get to play Pokémon go which is super fun.

In Spain it was very fun with the house that

I had and the friends that I had. But in Spain we had to wear school uniforms which was cool. There were beautiful views and food and when we went out, we went to the mall which was kinda big. Also, I got to have a lot of smoothies and burgers. But I only stayed one year.

In Oklahoma I stayed 4 years and had one of the best times in my life. I always went to the museum on field trips and the bowling alley. I had my best of friends there. We always had sleepovers on the weekend and hang out on our skateboards. Sometimes we have parties and hang out on my trampoline.

– Aurelio Cruz-Lopez

Life as a military child is rough because you have to move a lot and go places. Another difficult aspect as a military child is that sometimes your mom or dad must deploy, or go to work. Sometimes, even getting deployed to conflict.

We move to an area where we settle, spend time with family, and make new friends. After every three years we need to give up that lifestyle, move to a new location and start all over again. Sometimes we need to say goodbye to family and friends, sometimes even pets, which makes me frustrated and sad. I often wonder, 'why do we have to move so much?' It's difficult to maintain my long-distance friendships when we are in a different time zone.

There are benefits of moving. The first reason is because you get to make new friends. The second reason is that you get to start fresh and make new memories. The third reason is that you may have the opportunity to go to a different continent altogether.

Saying goodbye to family and friends is one of the hardest things for me. Also, another thing that is hard for me is that when your family member visits it's hard to say goodbye when they leave. In total, I've moved more than five times. Which is crazy, in my opinion. Many families have not moved that much, but it is guaranteed for the life of a military child.

– Leland Duke

My life as a military child feels normal. I think that my life as a military child is normal because it feels like my life in Hawaii. The only benefit of being a military child that I know is being able to come to Kadena Elementary School and being able to have an education. There are only some things that are different that have happened to me because I have only been in Okinawa for a little less than 2 years. One thing that is different is that there are camps, and on base and off base. Being a military child is good because there are different kinds of food I have never seen before and they taste great.

Okinawa also has beaches I have never seen before. Sometimes I see a rock bridge going into the ocean and just ending and sometimes there is a line of water in the middle of it. I kind of like Okinawa more than Hawaii because of where I live. In Hawaii I live in a neighborhood near a basketball, baseball, and tennis court. But in Okinawa I live near a beach, basketball court, park, vending machines, and a big grass field next to the park where I could play soccer.

– Jayden Estelita

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



I love my dad, and enjoy spending time with him. My dad works all day and I don't get to see him until bedtime. When you are a military child, your parents will most likely get deployed. My dad did, for a few months. I missed him a lot. Some of my friends have had their parents get deployed for a year and sometimes several. Talking about friends, when you are a military child, you move a lot! I have had to leave behind a lot of my close friends.

Even though there are some sad things about being a military child, there are a lot of good things too. A cool thing was that my mom got interviewed on the news because her cheer team set up a surprise party for my dad coming home. We also get to move a lot! This part can be a disadvantage but moving is also really fun. You get to pack up all of your stuff and see everything leave your house, which will definitely give your mom some peace with the messes (especially MY mom).

When I first got here, which was 5 years ago, I had a hard time making new friends. But the advantage about being a military child is that you make new friends really quick. I also get the advantage of trying new things like food. Here I can try sushi and other Japanese foods. That is what life is like for me being a military child.

– Ellisyn Edick

Being a military child is really fun because I get to move to a lot of different places like Germany, Tokyo, Okinawa, and more. I'm glad I'm a military child but sometimes it's hard too because if your dad or your mom are in the military they might have to deploy to Korea like my dad did, or somewhere else. Those times can be really sad, but luckily, they get to come back after months or years.

Life as a military child is really amazing and fun because you also get to go on incredible vacations. Once my dad surprised me on my birthday and took me and my mom to Tokyo. I was really excited because I always wanted to go there. When we got to Tokyo my dad surprised me again by taking me to Tokyo Disneyland and Disney Sea. I was really happy and excited. That was one of my favorite memories.

Being a military child is sometimes hard because if you really love your hometown, you might have to move somewhere else which is really sad. I'm grateful for being a military child because some kids can't afford to move somewhere else and go to Disneyland and other new places. My dad works really hard for our family and keeps the world safe. I love being a military child!

– Hailey Felicitas

As a military child I have moved around a lot. I don't like moving so often but it's good to move more to make new friends. It's hard to move around every 2-3 years but it's nice to travel and see a lot of new things. I was born in Okinawa so it wasn't that bad to move back. I didn't have to adapt a lot because after I lived in Okinawa for 3 years, I went to Florida which is around the same climate. Three and a half years later my dad got orders back to Okinawa but he had to go to South Korea for 1 year before we moved so me, my mom, and my brother were really sad but it was worth it. About 2 and a half years ago we landed at the Naha Airport. My family has been exploring almost every Sunday

since then. My uncle got orders to Okinawa 1 year before we did so we got to hang out with him and his family. My family sometimes comes over to visit sometimes during the summer. I'm really glad I get to experience a lot and move around because not many kids have that so that is the 1 of many reasons that I am grateful to be a military child. I'm lucky to be in the military.

– Isabella Fernandez

I am a 5th grader and I am a Military child. Being a Military child can be hard but there are some good things about being a Military child. Some things that I like about being a military child is getting to travel to new places but the hard thing about moving so much is that you have to leave friends and family which can be hard when you are close to them.

I can give you some examples of where I have been and the experience I had in that place. I live in Okinawa, Japan. I have lived here for 3 years now. A great thing about Okinawa is that the food is really good here. Not just the food but their culture is very interesting to learn about. When you live in Okinawa there are lots of people that speak Japanese so you might want to learn how to communicate.

I lived on the mainland for 4 years and it was so far the best place yet. Mainland is pretty small but it felt like the perfect place for me. Mainland has snow most of the time so a fun activity we would do is go to Mount Fuji with friends. If you don't know what Mount Fuji is then let me tell you Mount Fuji is like a mountain of snow where you can go sledding and snowboarding which I went sledding way more but if you want you can also climb the mountain for the day.

– Fiona Flaherty

Being born as a military child is different than being born as a normal child. If you are born as a military child, then you get to meet new friends and try new experiences. I have had a lot of friends and I have had to leave them most of the time. When you leave a place where you have been for years, it feels like you are not going to make any friends in the new place but then you make a lot of new friends. You have to go to new places constantly which can be hard because in the first place, it can have hot weather and rarely any rain. But in the second place, it can have freezing cold weather and constant rain.

Being a military child makes you used to traveling and plane flights. Being a military child can make you have to adjust to different things like new foods, traditions, time, etc. Being a military child is interesting. It makes you feel different from other children in a good way. There is a lot of change as a military child. To be a military child, your parents or parent need to be in the military or they used to work in the military. Being a military child makes you the child of a person who helps the country. When you are a military child, you know that your parents or parent are heroes of the United States of America.

– Connor Hoban

I am a military child, and it is great! As a military child, you get to travel a lot. That means that I can go to different places all around the world and I can make new friends from around the world. But that means that

sometimes when you travel you have to adapt to what is around you. My favorite place I've traveled to so far is Japan. In Japan you get to eat so many good foods like sushi, ramen, curry, onigiri, and more. Not only that but most stuff is cheaper than America. There are also some fun places to go like Disneyland, Universal, and more. But back to talking about being a military child. There is one thing that I really dislike and that is that sometimes your parents have to go somewhere for a long time to do certain work-related things. But overall being a military child is great, besides some minor things. But also, I'm going to tell you some places that I've been. Missouri is pretty good and I liked living there mainly because when I lived in Missouri, I had a HUGE backyard and a trampoline, pool, and a swing set. Not only that but, there were some pretty fun things also like a water park, Silver Dollar City (which is a theme park), a big tractor that my dad let me ride, and also some pretty fun friends.

– Luke Hodsdon

Life as a military child is amazing because you get to try new foods like ramen or soba. You get to learn about new cultures and there are so many different stores and shops in Okinawa. Being a military child has so many great things but there's a bad part too. You get to travel the world but you have to leave good food or friends. But you can make new friends like Japanese friends or you can make friends anywhere else in the world. I have been to three different places in the world and spent four years there at a time where you can try new things and play new sports. Being a military child is awesome. Without it I would be living in the same place for most of my life. Traveling around the world is the coolest thing you could do. You can go to different schools and my favorite school is Kadena Elementary School which is filled with great teachers and staff. I think being a military child is the greatest thing ever. It's the best thing for meeting new people and cultures. It is the most awesome thing being a military connected child.

– Elliot Ireland

I have been a military child half my life. I lived in America for 5 years then I moved to Sasebo, Japan and stayed there for three years then I moved to Okinawa and have been here for two years. When I heard that we were moving to Sasebo I got very sad and cried saying bye to my preschool teachers. Before I had moved to Sasebo, I thought my life was not going to be fun or happy, but I was very wrong. In Sasebo I had a fun time and went to many places around Japan. In Sasebo our neighbors became very close to us, as well as a lot of other people which made it even harder to move on and say goodbye to them. Even though it is sad to leave people and to say goodbye, it is also good to make new friends and new relationships so everywhere you go don't think about leaving, think about meeting new people. Also, in Okinawa we are making good relationships with our neighbors so when we leave, I will miss them.

– Gunner Jackson

Living in new places
In more than one place
Finding new things to do

Exploring unfamiliar places

Always traveling
Stationed in many places

Always trying our best

Meeting new people
Understanding
Learning about new cultures
Amazing
Trying new things
Always moving
Ready for anything
Trustworthy

More Cool places and kids we haven't met and seen before

Help new people make friends
Interesting new places
Leaving our old friends behind
Determined to do our best

– Allyson Lovasz

As a military child it is great if you like moving and exploring the world because that is what it is as a Military child. You're always moving from place to place and you only get 2-3 years at that place and you will miss your friends a lot, trust me, so some people want to be military children but not all because sometimes you can really be attached to someone and you just have to leave them behind with all your feelings and emotions because after you move a couple times you might not even remember them anymore and you always feel sad when you have to leave a friend. My first ever move was when I was 3. I had very nice and kind funny friends but then I had to leave them in the past and I had to do this a couple times but it's okay sometimes because you make new friends and you get to be in a new place and most of the time you miss the place but instead of worrying about your past, worry about your future it always helps. But I stopped counting after 11 moves and that was when I was about 8. I didn't get a lot of time at places. It's been a long time since that day. I had to leave a lot of supportive, funny, and nice people and it was hard but then I had to let go but I got new ones.

– Cody Lutz

When you are a military child, you are stationed in a place for up to 3 or more years. There are certain places that you are going to be stationed at depending on where your mom or dad works. I have been a military child for 11 years. I have moved 3 times, first to Las Vegas, next to Okinawa, and last to Georgia. It can be fun to travel if you are a small family. If you are a big family like me, it is not so easy to travel. Traveling with a small family is a lot easier because there is less money that you have to spend. Traveling with a big family is a lot harder than traveling with a smaller family. When you are a military child, you have to travel a lot.

– Skylar McGlinchey

See more Ms. Bauman & Mrs. Tissandier's class on Page 14

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

5th grade
Ms. Bauman &
Mrs. Tissandier

Kadena Elementary School

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

I have been a military child my whole life. Every time I move, I have to start all over again with making new friends and living in a new house. Sometimes I have to spend days overseas to head to the next country. Sometimes if I'm lucky, I'll get to go somewhere I've already been, I'll be reunited with old friends and it'll feel like home again. For me, it is always fun to go and travel somewhere new and learn the culture. The good thing is that I get to make new friends. I also get to go to new schools. Soon I will go to a middle school in a different state. It does take time to get used to. Like getting used to the time, or even not trying to speak Japanese to someone. Every time I leave a place, I love I will remember what it was like.

– Emersyn Lester

So, we travel a lot to about 16 countries, 4 that I lived in and 12 for special events. We went to the US once to visit my grandma and cousins and because we have not seen them in 4 years.

We are in Japan now which is cool IDK if we will stay here on an island or just go to mainland Japan or the US. We can't have pets or any animals right now, maybe next place we move. I think the next place we move we will get a pet dog or cat.

– Jax Houseman

Look, ever since I found out I was a military kid, nothing's changed too much. Really one of the only differences from a military kid's life, and a normal life, is that you get to hear all these stories about battles during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and even the midnight chow, where soldiers get chicken wings every Friday.

I was born one day. I knew nothing. Come to think of it, I didn't know I was a military kid until one day in like first grade. And that's when I started hearing the stories.

Deployments were rough times. Every time my dad had to go fight in wars, I could picture him. Putting on armor, doing push-ups, strapping a gun to his back. Sometimes I worried he'd never come back. But our family was all born with the courage to keep moving forward. Dad made it.

– Evan McMullan

Life as a military child isn't always the easiest but it's not always the hardest. Sometimes you have to leave behind lifelong friends or go to places you've never been to before and meet new people or be afraid of everyone and everything. My life as a military child has had its ups and downs but I wouldn't have any other way. Because of this constant moving I've had chances to be places I didn't even know existed. Sometimes it's hard to be a military child because the friends you make in one place you have to leave them and move to another place just to leave them again.

My life as a military child has been really good. I was born in New Mexico, a very hot, dry place. Then I moved to Okinawa, Japan which was a place with a whole culture I didn't even know

existed. Now Okinawa is my favorite place and I've met some really nice people that I hope to stay friends with. With the opportunity to go to different places it's given me the opportunity to try new things and things now I can't live without. So, the opportunity to go different places has been great. The military gives me and my family free housing. It also gives my parents more money to get stuff that the family needs or wants. So being a military child has been gifting and kind.

– Jaxon Tracy

What's it like to be a military kid is like you can go anywhere and you can have fun activities like the fourth of July and trunk and treat, and all of that stuff and you can play youth Kadena sports and you can make new friends when you move to a new country or state.

Some of the sad things are that you leave your friends and you don't choose where you go and you leave your family members and even your favorite places. One of mine is Round 1 and the big park off base. I don't really get to see my dad all the time and that makes me sad because I don't get to play sports with him. The good part is that you can learn a new language.

– Jayden Morse

It feels normal like a normal life just a little weird that I am in an American school because I was just in a Peruvian school. Sometimes I almost speak to teachers in Spanish and sometimes I speak Spanish to my friend by accident. I think better at this school even though I am practicing two languages and that can help me in the future a lot. I need to say thank you to my dad because he is in the military and he works hard.

– Mitsuo Nakamoto

I live as a military child. My dad has been in the military since before my mom and dad got married. When I was little my dad would get deployed for 6 months or more and my mom would have to take care of me. He would miss a lot of holidays but he has to work. He has no choice but to go to work. I grew up in Okinawa and lived there for 4 years but then I learned that we have to move. I was sad because I liked it in Okinawa. I hated meeting people because I didn't really like socializing. But when I started to get older, I started to like socializing. I like being a military child because my dad makes me feel safe but sometimes when he comes home, he's very tired.

– Camila Pantoja

I am 11 years old. I have been a Military Child since day 1. There are only two things I would change about being a Military child. One is how we are forced to move and how sometimes our parents have to go on deployment. It's hard to move from time to time and place to place. Back in Iwakuni I stayed there for 7 years before I moved here to Okinawa. It took a while to adjust but I did. But in my opinion, being a Military Child can get me a better education. Here at school, they teach us six main subjects. ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, writing and Health.

Check out all of our
Month of the Military Child
submissions at
militarychild.stripes.com



Here on base the food is delicious! My favorite fast-food restaurant is Burger King. One of the main reasons I love being a Military Child is because on base people make many activities for both parents and children to enjoy and have fun in. As a Military Child I learned that my parents serve the country and that's why I am here. But as a Military Kid I learned I can also serve my country too!

– Nickolas Ramirez

For a year and a half, I lived in North Carolina, Camp Lejeune, since I was born. I have no memory of it but my parents tell me about it. My dad is a marine. My mom told me that we went to Okinawa in December. I spent my Christmas in a hotel.

When I finished preschool, I started this school. After hearing every year that a lot of the students came from the US and they were new to Okinawa it makes me wonder how it's like to live somewhere else but it makes me feel very lucky that I get to stay for at least 15 years and others have to move about 2-5 years.

In 2022 my dad retired from the marine corps. I was proud but I didn't want to move. I didn't want to go off the island if my dad didn't find a job on Okinawa. My dad officially found a job.

– Mia Smith

I am a military child and there are some advantages and some disadvantages. Sometimes when you are a military child you do some stuff people can only wish to do like traveling. But there can be some disadvantages too. It can be stressful sometimes.

As a military child you will move to other places or countries. Which can be an advantage because you can travel to different places. Also, you can do some things you have not done before depending on the place or country. But it always isn't so good. You also have to change schools which can be hard because of friends and family. It can be hard to make new friends in a new school where you don't know anyone. It can also be confusing because of the people, classes, and the entire place/building.

It can also be hard because of the environment. It might be a problem to some but for me I'm fine. But right when I was born, we moved. There are some ups and downs but it is both fun and easy and hard and stressful.

– Victoria Tilley

My father is an aircraft controller and he works for the military. He used to be a Marine. We moved to Okinawa because my Japanese mother wanted to go to Okinawa and my dad found an opening to work as an aircraft controller in Okinawa. In one week, my dad has

a day shift and he leaves for work from around 5:00 A.M to 2:00 p.m. And next week, he has a night shift where he goes to work from 2:00 P.M to 11:00 P.M and he goes back and forth.

When we moved to Okinawa, we have eaten Japanese food a lot more often since we came here and went to Japanese theme parks and zoos like Okinawa World and Okinawa Zoo. I go to Kadena Elementary School on Kadena base as a fifth grader and my only younger sibling goes to Amelia Elementary School as a fourth grader. My teachers are kind teachers. I started to make both English and Japanese friends. I love my dad and my mom and my brother and I love that my dad is a hard worker and that he works hard every day.

– Jin Wimmer

My dad is in the Air Force on Kadena Air Base and I have attended schools there since second grade. My military dad is a hard worker and always looks after my family. Being a military kid is fun, but it also can be hard because we don't stay in one place for long. I have lived here in Okinawa for 4 years already. I have also been able to travel many times to other parts of Asia and the United States. Learning about other countries and trying different kinds of foods is the best part.

Another advantage of being a military child is that I have also been lucky to make friends from all over the world. Another thing I like about being a military child is that I feel safe where I live and in my school. While stationed in Okinawa, I have also been able to take piano lessons and gymnastics classes. I am grateful for all the opportunities that Kadena Air Base and the military have offered me and my family.

My dad will retire soon and we will be returning to the United States to start a new life in Atlanta, Georgia. I wonder what the future will hold for me and my family.

– Kaylee Xiong

When you're born as a military child life can be hard but fun. We get to experience different places all over the world. Even though it sounds fun it can be hard too. Every time we leave a place my dad is stationed at it's like leaving a part of your life behind. When I learned we were moving to Okinawa, Japan at first, I was heartbroken because I had to leave everything behind. I learned that moving isn't so bad either because I get to meet new people and try new things too.

When I moved here my parents enrolled me in a DODEA school called KDES which stands for Kadena Elementary school. At first, I was nervous but I made new friends quickly. Outside of school I tried new things like ramen, sushi, and curry. I started watching anime. I learned how to read Japanese books since they are read right to left instead of left to right.

Sometimes after school we go to Blue Seal, an ice cream place here. Since my dad works for the Navy, we can go on base where my school is located. We go to the youth center where kids can come after school to play games or participate in sports. This summer we will move up to Yokosuka, Japan! Then I'll get to go to middle school! At first, I disliked moving but now it's exciting and new!

– Chloe Young

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena High School

9th-12th grade • Ms. Mendoza

Growing up as a military child has been a whirlwind of change, an ever-evolving journey where home is more of a feeling than a fixed address. As I navigate my years after high school, the essence of being a military kid becomes a story of resilience, adaptability, and triumph amidst the transience that defines our lifestyle. The chapters of this tale unfold in different corners of the world, from the lively streets of Misawa, Japan to the vibrant landscapes of Okinawa. Yet, the heart of the story is not about these specific places but the broader theme of learning to dance with change.

In Misawa, Japan, traditional customs and the ever-present military vibe set the stage for my early lessons in adaptation. I learned that home is not a location; it's the ability to embrace new environments with open arms. The fluidity of military life became a canvas on which I painted my journey, not tethered to one place but interconnected with a myriad of experiences.

Transitioning to Okinawa only deepened the narrative of a military child. The blend of U.S. military influence and the rich traditions of the Okinawan people created a dynamic backdrop for adapting to the ebb and flow of relationships. Saying farewells became a ritual, but the story wasn't about goodbyes; it was about the enduring connections formed despite the transient nature of friendships.

In the midst of these global adventures, the echoes of my Chamorro heritage from Guam resonated. The "Håfa Adai" spirit of welcome and respect, instilled by my island roots, became a guiding force, reminding me that home is not just a destination but a feeling forged through the melding of diverse cultures and resilient adaptability.

Being a military kid is not about the lack of roots but the mastery of adaptation. It's about enduring the trials thrown our way and emerging stronger on the other side. The constant comings and goings don't define us; they refine us, shaping an identity rooted not in a fixed location but in the ability to thrive amidst life's unpredictability.

As I reflect on my life, the military child narrative becomes a tale of wandering roots. Trials are not roadblocks but stepping stones, and each adaptation is a brushstroke painting a resilient masterpiece. The transient nature of our lifestyle doesn't diminish our roots; it enriches them, creating a unique tapestry that tells a story of triumph through change.

In conclusion, my journey as a military kid is a personal saga of wandering roots, adapting to the rhythm of change, and finding triumph in the transient. The essence lies not only in the places I've been but in the resilience cultivated along the way, creating a story that celebrates the unique spirit of those who thrive amidst the dance of uncertainty, guided by the enduring echoes of Guam's traditions.

– Laiahna-Pearl San Nicolas

Over the course of 17 years, I have lived in a total of three places. Of the three places I have lived, I would say Okinawa has had the biggest impact on me. Living in Okinawa has forever changed my life. And that is why I will never regret that I was a military child because that would mean Okinawa wouldn't be as deeply rooted in me as it is now.

For most of my life, I've struggled with my identity. The question, "Where are you from?" always seemed to strike me. I didn't know whether to say, "I'm from California" or "I'm from Japan". I was born and raised in Japan for five years until I moved back to California which is where

my family is originally from. I lived in California for six years then moved back to Japan and have been living here for nearly seven years now. Even though I'm barely 18, these last seven years have been the most raw and beautiful moments of my life. Okinawa is where it all happened for me; This is where I've laughed, this is where I've cried, this is where I've loved. This is home for me.

A main core memory I have from Okinawa is my "friendsgiving". I celebrated Thanksgiving with my friends at the beach during my junior year. I still remember sharing a meal and talking about how wonderful our boring little life is together, I still remember swimming until the sun went down, I still remember watching the fireworks go off. It feels as if it was yesterday that I was creating memories and learning to grow in love. And although my experiences were my experiences alone, living them out in Okinawa made them more meaningful to me.

Living overseas has allowed me to experience so many new things. I learned, healed, and grew so much over the years. For most people, being a military child is almost a curse because nothing is forever. But for me, being a military child is a blessing in disguise. Ironically, for once in my life, I feel like I have a permanent sense of belonging. I belong here. And when I'm back in Okinawa, I feel it, another version of me, I was in it.

– Makayla Vilailack

All my invisible strings were tangled
When I moved states
Countries
Continents

Moving in toddlerhood,
My strings twisted and tangled
From South Carolina to Virginia.
Some cut,
Others traded,
Switching out Fruit Loops on dental floss for
funnel cake and braided pigtails.

Moving in elementary school,
My strings seemed to disappear
From Virginia to Japan.
Stranded overseas,
My line of bendy pipe cleaners and Fruit by the
Foot was hastily linked to soba noodles.
Growing strings connected state to state
And country to country.

Moving in middle school,
My strings bounced back with celerity.
Back to Virginia,
Some returned to their original orientation,
Some got caught on my past.
And once again my strings linked anew
Soba to straw wrappers,
Daiso yarn to event wristbands.

Moving in high school,
My strings were lead back to nostalgia
Returning to Japan with new perspective,
Acclimating to constant change,
My strings strengthened.
Now I tied my strings with care
To plane tickets and PET bottle wrappers.

A mosaic of my circumstances,
Reaching around the world,
Touching every corner of my past and my present,
My strings tie my life together like a tapestry,
Woven with emotion and experience.

– Haley Lanning

If I were to compare a military child to an animal, I would pick a chameleon. Being a military child is a unique journey filled with constant change, unpredictability, and resilience. Adapting is not only a skill learned, but a way of life as we go through relocations, relationships, parents getting deployed, and all the dynamics of being a military connected child.

Similar to a chameleon I have learned to adjust to new schools, communities, and culture. I can change color and seamlessly blend into my new surroundings and create new connections. As I get older, I think of moving as a fresh start. I take everything I learned from my last base, and use that to be a better person. I have created lots of friendships that helped me feel like I belong and help each transition become smoother. With this, I am able to adapt to change a lot faster. I am used to change, but change doesn't always have to be a bad thing; change can also be good. I remember not wanting to move to Okinawa because I didn't want to leave my friends, but I was able to create new friendships, and experience new things.

Both military children and chameleons exhibit resilience in unfriendly conditions. Being a military child means having a parent deployed, or just overall being away from your family. I am lucky enough to have such an amazing support system for when my dad is gone. But when he isn't we make sure to spend a lot of time together as a family and go on adventures and try new things all together. I have also been lucky enough to be stationed in Japan for 12 years, so traveling to the Philippines and visiting family isn't hard and it isn't very far.

But being a military child is not always negative; I have learned important life skills like being independent. I have learned to become self-reliant and resourceful, taking on responsibilities beyond their years. Whether it's managing household chores or supporting my brother during parental absences, military children demonstrate independence and maturity, embodying the spirit of resilience in the face of adversity.

My favorite part about being a military child is experiencing and learning about new cultures. Being stationed in Japan for almost 12 years, I have been able to explore the big cities like Tokyo and go to the more underrated places like Aomori. While living in Yokosuka I got to meet new people, create lifelong friendships, and hop on a train every weekend to go to Tokyo or Yokohama. I got to experience living in the snowiest city in the world when I lived in Misawa and explored the Northern part of Japan. We got to go on many road trips and got in touch with nature as we lived there. Finally, living in Okinawa was so different from mainland Japan. It is very tropical and filled with beautiful beaches.

In essence, military children mirror the characteristics of chameleons, embodying adaptability, resilience, independence, and versatility. Despite the challenges I have faced, I was able to navigate the complexities of military life with grace and determination, leaving an indelible mark on society.

– Moneen Jillianne Martinez

See more Ms. Mendoza's class on Page 16

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena High School

9th-12th grade • Ms. Mendoza

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I've lived in the same home for nearly 16 years. As a daughter of a retired marine, who's stayed in Okinawa for practically my whole life, I find myself to be a bit of an outlier in the trends that surround me. A trend where most kids I know don't stay in the same home for more than three years. My house was much older than the ones I went to on weekends to have sleepovers at, though the struggle of constantly moving and attending new schools was fairly foreign to me. I felt similar to how my dad was when he was a marine: a camouflaged soldier in the midst of commotion. My hypothetical green uniform hid me from first-hand journeys of new orders and new schools, yet I still was aware of how other military kids would experience it.

I was quick to familiarize myself with the word *sonder*, or the realization that everyone has their own complex story just as the next person. Watching my friends PCS to places across the world, I realized I was watching them embark on the next part of their story. Suddenly, something I once deeply dreaded, saying goodbye, became something a bit more beautiful. Although saying goodbye to friends before they moved is difficult, there is much for me to be grateful for in a world that is constantly changing. Not only has being immersed in the lives of military kids allowed me to view the beauties of other's stories, it has taught me to be more appreciative of things in mine. I appreciate my friends in great amounts, and am happy that I can be part of their stories, no matter the duration.

Growing up in camouflage is a unique, and rewarding experience. Being a military kid has taught me great amounts of appreciation. I am as eternally grateful for the house I have been living in my entire life, as much as I am grateful to have such opportunities that I have as a military kid, through meeting new people and learning different cultures. The calluses on my dad's skin and the many honors he has been gifted makes me understand I have my dad to thank for that. As a devoted marine for many years, he displayed true strength for me. As for my mom, who took care of me and my sisters while my dad was stationed elsewhere, she is someone who I appreciate infinitely. I hope to be as resilient and heroic as them someday. For now, I will continue to soldier on in my hypothetical camouflage, blending into the familiarity of my childhood home as my friends around me deploy into new horizons of their stories. And I'll appreciate every passing minute.

– Nicole Williams



The dandelion has been designated as the flower of the military child. Like military brats, dandelions bloom and thrive anywhere the wind takes them. For the past 18 years, I have embraced this mindset. I have moved numerous times, each time finding new footing and thriving.

After a lifetime of constant moves and new

places, my time as an active duty military kid is coming to an end. As the school year concludes, I will be graduating and leaving behind the life that I have known thus far. While this chapter of my life closes, there are certain aspects of being a military brat that I will carry with me forever.

Military life has shown me that nothing is permanent; change is inevitable. Being open to change and exploring new people and cultures allowed me to adapt to ever-changing situations and has helped me become well-rounded. While change can be scary, I have adopted the mindset that if you stay in one place, there is no room to grow.

The military has introduced me to people from all walks of life. I have made friends across the globe, all from different backgrounds, cultures, and religions. This has allowed me to remain open minded and has taught me not to judge a book by its cover. I have learned to respect cultures and beliefs outside of my own.

While this may be my last duty station, I will proudly carry the title "Military Brat" and the lessons I have learned on to my next adventure. As I say goodbye to this chapter of my life, I will take a piece of every person and place with me moving forward.

– Emilee Hamblen

"Where are you from?" It's one of the simplest and easiest questions you can answer when you meet someone. However, in my case, it is not as simple as it seems. It is actually one of the most difficult questions I try avoiding. Someone may answer this question with one place in mind, but it is a long journey for me that hasn't ended. Having been raised in different places of the world, growing up was different than the common family.

After traveling all over the world, and attending nine different schools, I have learned various lessons that last a lifetime. One important thing I learned about myself growing up was that I couldn't imagine myself anchored in one location. I was given the opportunity to experience different cultures, values, beliefs, and food. Being a military child and having the ability to call many places my home has affected me greatly in the best way possible. It has inspired my ultimate goal to become a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy and later become an Officer so that I can continue to travel.

Enduring a nomadic childhood has plenty of gains but it also has its disadvantages. The first time I learned that my family was moving from California to Texas, it was the most devastating and scary news a six year old could hear. The thoughts of having to transfer schools, leaving all your friends behind, and not knowing if you'll ever come back ran through my head. I felt puzzled and couldn't make sense of what was happening. I often became known as the "new student" who had a hard time making friends and fitting in. Over time, I realized that frequently moving can be a rewarding experience. I have built character, confidence, became well-versed, and have a broad worldview. I was exposed to diverse cultures and the countless ways of living it.

An important aspect of being a military child is that relationships are invaluable. At a young age, I began to quickly understand the pros and cons of making friends. At first, I tried not to get too close with my peers because my mind ingrained the phrase, "I would eventually move away from them." As I got older, I recognized the value of the people in my life. I found that when you know something is temporary, you should cherish

every moment. Many people have taught me to be open to friendships and to teach this wisdom to others. You never know when you'll cross paths with an old friend.

Lastly, a salient insight I have come to realize is that change may be hard, but change is growth. A few of the most recognizable growths I have been told have been noticed is my self-reliance, adaptability, maturity, and resilience. Maturity works hand-in-hand with being able to adapt and cope under different circumstances. I have become aware of holding honor, sacrifice, duty, discipline, and respect while living in numerous host nations. A good character means to uphold integrity, the quality of being true and having strong principles in the face of adversity. In my household, I was taught to make my bed every morning with precision because it is the first successful thing you can accomplish each day. To build structure and routines after every adventure allows me to strive for better morals and ethics.

The process of moving around trying to figure out an answer to "Where are you from?" will always remain an unanswered question. Despite the fact that it plays an important role as to who I am and that I can't answer it for myself, I was able to answer the question, "What did you get out of being a military child?" I was able to learn innumerable foundations about myself and will be able to continue discovering new things as I move forward. Not only was I taught valuable principles, I will be prepared to make a constructive impact and lasting impression on the peers I will lead, contribute to the community, and greatly enhance the society. The opportunity of being a military child has granted unimaginable experiences and allows my family to collect all types of magnets on every voyage we get.

– Adrienne Barawid

Being a military child comes with its ups and downs. Saying goodbye to friends and familiar places can be incredibly tough, but each move also offers the opportunity for a fresh start and the chance to build new connections and experiences. It's a chance to embrace change and to restart. And with each new place comes the opportunity to explore and discover new things, changing my life in ways I may not have imagined.

When my dad gets deployed, it's like a piece of our family suddenly goes missing. His absence weighs heavily on all of us, especially during the big moments – birthdays, holidays, and all those times when I just want him around. But the best part is when he finally comes back home. The joy and relief of having him back with us is amazing. It's a feeling that is hard to describe with words, a moment that is unique. We cherish every moment together, knowing that his return marks the end of a challenging chapter and the beginning of a new one filled with love and togetherness.

Growing up with a military family and being Filipino has meant lots of moving around. We've lived in the Philippines, Germany, the UK, Alabama, and now Okinawa. Each place has had its challenges and adventures, but the best part is always coming back together after deployments or moving to a new base. Some people don't like being a military child; however, I love being a military child as exploring the world is the best thing ever. Meeting new people and creating connections is a beautiful experience. Being a military child makes you realize that the world is a big place.

– D'Marco Costales

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

"All your life you're yellow. Then one day you brush up against something blue, the barest touch, and voila, the rest of your life you're green." – Tess Callahan

I've met many people from all around the world. That's the benefit of attending military schools. My parents are DoDs teachers, so, although I may not have the exciting opportunity to travel around the world and experience different cultures, I still have the exciting opportunity to become friends with the people that have traveled. I can't say how many of my friends have moved away ever since Kindergarten, but I can say how each one has allowed me to grow and become the lucky person I am today.

In Kindergarten, I made a friend named Fiona. She had golden curly hair, chocolate brown eyes, bright pink carnations blooming across her cheeks, and was from Spain. I had pin straight chestnut hair, dark chocolate brown eyes, with bright red hibiscuses blooming across my cheeks. I previously attended a Japanese preschool, so I struggled with speaking English. I barely spoke out loud in class, but Fiona, she was determined to talk to me. Everyday we would hang out by the playground and she would talk to me— knowing I didn't understand a word she said, but she didn't give up on me. She probably talked about her favorite color, favorite food, favorite TV show. I would nod my head yes and shake my head no randomly to show her I was interested in whatever it was she said, but she knew I didn't understand.

She invited me to come to her house one day, where I met her mom, who made us ham and cheese sandwiches with the edges cut off. Her house radiated a warm and cozy, caramel brown. Fiona's mom illuminated a dark yet caring forest green, full of nurture and gentleness. Fiona's mom asked for my mom's phone number, but I had so much trouble translating the numbers from Japanese to English in my head, that, although giggling, Fiona's mom understood it was easier for me to write it down. My face flared a cherry scarlet— I was so embarrassed! Not only did I struggle to speak in front of Fiona, but in front of her mom too! But that day, I decided she would become my best friend in the whole wide world.

After, Fiona's mom served us apple slices and peanut butter, but Fiona turned to her mom and started to speak a completely different language. I was appalled. Fiona knows two languages! She's so cool! I thought, the shock on my face was clearly visible, Fiona started to giggle— emitting bright bubbles of pink and purples which popped around her, making the whole house a priceless painting— speaking to me in English. I figured she told me she knew two languages to comfort me when we first met, but seeing I didn't know English, decided to show me at home instead. Ever since that day, I worked twice as hard in school, practicing English, so I could be as cool as Fiona and speak a different language. Fiona and I hung out almost everyday after school, and eventually, I became fluent enough that I understood most of what we talked about. One day, we were on the swings in the middle of the radiant rainbow playground, and she stopped. So, being her best friend, I stopped. I asked her with my broken English if she was okay, and she turns to me, asking,

"Do you know why I wanted to become friends with you?"

I shook my head.

"I struggled learning English too. I wanted you to know you're not alone." She said, grinning at me with missing teeth. Her tongue a sick, bright blue from the raspberry popsicles we had during lunch. I smile back, with missing teeth and also a sick blue tongue. I stood up to hug her, hoping she'd never leave.

Come end of Kindergarten, we're all dressed in our tiny graduation gowns with our tiny graduation caps. Our teeth have grown in. We're slightly taller, hair darker, skin more tan. Fiona and I run to the swings on the playground, claiming our spots before the other kids do. We swing until we feel like we're flying, laughing at

nothing but the feeling of the wind in our hair. We challenge ourselves to name all the colors of the beaming sunset. "Orange!" "Nooo! Sunset orange!" "Woah!! Pink!" "Golden yellow!" "Look!! Periwinkle!"

But Fiona, Fiona started to slow down. So, I start to slow down. She looks at her feet, so I look at her feet. Her bright, pink aura quickly drained away, causing the rainbow playground to also drain into a dull, soulless grey.

I called her name.

Pause.

I call her name again and ask if she's okay.

Another pause.

"I'm moving this summer. I don't want to go."

I felt sick.

She starts crying. So I start crying. She's lost all her color now. Even though her eyes were red and cheeks are rosy from crying, I couldn't recognize the sparkly pink that glowed all around her. I stand up and hug her. She hugs me tighter, hoping she'd never leave.

Maybe both of us thought that wishing she'd never leave the small island of Okinawa would miraculously work and she wouldn't go. But in the end, the stupid world decided we would be too powerful growing up together, and sent Fiona far away. We didn't keep contact, until my senior year of high school. I decided to search her name on Instagram and found her, and, in an instant, she added me back. Although she's made many new best friends, chosen a few more favorite colors, favorite foods, favorite TV shows, she's still the cool Fiona I knew from Kindergarten.

Now, both Fiona and I will be graduating high school with real-sized graduation gowns and caps, significantly taller, hair darker, and skin more tan. Although we won't be able to graduate together like we wished, knowing she and I will be opening a new chapter of our lives at the same time, just across the world, is just as exciting.

Little Kindergarten me couldn't have asked for a better best friend in the whole wide world, because I started Kindergarten a sunny, golden yellow. And her bright, vivid pink engulfed me, turing me into a beautiful, beaming sunset orange, just like the one we saw together on the last day of school.

And I hope that kids like her— kind-hearted, funny, silly little kids like her, who view moving as dreadful— understand the artistic, magical impact they leave on other kids like me.

– Mei Hunt

Usually when you think about military children, you think about the constant moving around from place to place. You think about the physical and emotional sacrifices families make to support their military members, but what about the small number of kids who don't move often? I am one of those kids. I have only moved once as a military child. I moved from Shaw AFB in South Carolina to Kadena AB in 2013. I was only seven at the time. Not only was it my first time moving, but it was to a foreign country about 7,872 miles away. There were a lot of mixed emotions that filled my head. It is a special opportunity to see the world and live in a foreign country like Okinawa, Japan. While this opportunity was exciting, it was also extremely terrifying because I had to leave the one place I knew my whole life. Being stationed overseas meant leaving my extended family and friends in the states. This sacrifice is what almost all military kids go through. That's what makes this community a strong and unique one. Every experience is similar but also distinct.

I have been the new kid who has moved in on the recent PCS season, so I know what it is like preparing to come into a new school and move into a new neighborhood. However, being in Okinawa for 11 years I've also watched many friends leave. I have been fortunate enough to have only moved once, but I believe it is just as hard to stay in one place like I have for so long while watching others leave.



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There are many advantages and disadvantages to being in one place. For example, some advantages are I know the island very well, I am exposed to a diverse community, my house is rooted as a comfortable support system, I have a couple of friends who have been here for as long as I have, and I get to help and make new friends who move here. On the other hand, many friends move from the cycle of PCS season. No school year is the same, and friends groups change because of the constant shifting of kids. It is sad to become close with people and have to say goodbye by the next year. Instead of feeling like you are moving on and leaving people behind you begin to feel like you're the one being left behind. Despite all the challenges I have faced, I wouldn't want to change a thing because it has molded me into the individual I am proudly today.

– Marina Sawyer

Constantly moving or watching people move from you isn't easy, but there's also beauty to it. I can travel the world and see and meet unique people. I don't have to experience life through a book; I can live it. There is a lot of anger that comes with being a military child but it also means I can travel to different places, experience different cultures, and tell better stories.

Living in Okinawa means I can travel to mainland with much ease and little worry. Traveling is expensive, but it's even worse when you live 16 hours from the destination. Seeing sites some only see in movies is a privilege I don't take for granted. The beauty of Japanese architecture should not be underestimated. It's truly breathtaking. I've seen a lot of historical sites and I only live in Japan. Those who live in Europe are seeing even more. Traveling with my family builds bonds and unique experiences.

Traveling means I also get to experience and appreciate different cultures. I've learned a lot about the different arts in Japan. Being here allowed me to unlock the true beauty of tea making, I used to be just a regular old tea drinker, but now, I'm a tea-drinking connoisseur. I can live the same life every day, never knowing the beauty of tea, and never caring to know what more the world has to offer. Or, I can try to experience as much as possible, so that when I'm 40 I won't feel like I missed out on life. I can't imagine how my life would've been if I didn't appreciate tea to its finest point, and I can thank it to Japanese culture.

One of my coolest moments with my dad is when he talks about his adventures as a kid or teen. I also want to take part in that. Boring people have to lie to their kids, but I won't. When I say I fed deers that bowed to me in thanks, it won't be a lie. I imagine that one day my future kids will find a photobook from when I was younger and see all these exotic sites, they will be so shocked. I can tell them these amazing stories of my childhood, and it will all be real.

I often feel left out when I realize I don't have childhood friends, and that I will never have a bond with my cousins that most people have. But I don't want to live in constant agony, that is so wasteful. If I'm going to have to constantly move, I'm going to do everything I can to make the most of it. The truth of it is, that the military has brought me a lot of things, like seeing different countries, experiencing different cultures, and giving me good writing material.

– Isabela Pena

See more Ms. Mendoza's class on Page 18

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena High School

9th-12th grade • Ms. Mendoza

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

The American Military is truly a worldwide superpower. Having troops in every continent, the US maintains its control over what happens in a relatively large amount of places. Due to the US being so global, it is hard to fathom how kids in the US can waste their lives away, stuck in the bubble of their country, how lucky us military kids truly are, and how much we can take it for granted.

Being non-military is both a blessing and a curse. You get the freedom to be who you want outside of the military, the privilege to be yourself and choose jobs you desire, yet you lose out on the power to explore outside of just your own culture. This leads to a lot of ethnocentrism within Americans, and is actively making us less aware about the world around us. Without being exposed to other cultures, Americans can become so self centered and foolish that we lead ourselves into a Nationalist spiral that we cannot escape. The belief that America is the best, and what's worse for younger people, that America is the only country in our world. The limitations America has put upon itself by not truly giving its people a chance to embrace other cultures only impede our power as a country, resulting in our title of global superpower to fade.

As a military kid, we are able to explore the world inside and outside the US. We are able to be surrounded by others, not limiting ourselves to the barrier that the US typically forces on others. If you are able to explore outside of America as a military kid, you get exposed to things most people who live there never get to see or experience. The military provides such a great opportunity to those who have it, and its ability to prevent ethnocentrism is not only great, but also it provides a fun and interesting way to be surrounded with other kinds of people. This is one of the greatest things about being a military child, the explorative feel you get when traveling from place to place.

Despite this, kids my age, older and younger are still able to waste their lives away, not experiencing everything that other cultures have to offer. I, for one, fall victim to this, as though I live in Japan, I have not yet fully embraced the culture of Japan, nor seen the sights I need to. It happens to be where people who have lived in most of this world's continents can still be so single-minded and weak to other cultures. If we are going to get experiences like this, we should use them to their fullest to explore other cultures and become stronger because of them, not refuse to strengthen ourselves when given once in a lifetime experiences that us military kids get almost daily.

In summary, don't waste your life when you have a life this incredible. You shouldn't lower your standards to be ethnocentric, you should enjoy the world you get to travel and explore, and never take it for granted. There is a reason you, as a military child are able to be here, wherever you are, and live your life, so you should take that to its fullest extent, and not miss any of what life has in store.

– Zion Barnes

Being a military child comes with a lot of perks. I get to meet lots of new people, I get to experience a plethora of different cultures, and I get to live in many new and exciting places. These experiences have opened my eyes up to the world and I've grown as a human being because of this.

I'm thankful for these opportunities and wouldn't trade them for anything. However there are certain times where I wish I wouldn't move

or that someone else didn't have to leave. There are plenty of times where I wish that I could stay in one place until I graduate or that one of my friends that moved had stayed with me.

But I don't like to think about what could've happened; I focus on what actually did happen. I've had to move away from friends, but I always made new friends at the next place, sometimes even better than the last. These changes have made me able to adapt to new places well. This trait will be especially helpful for when I go to college later this year. These are the invaluable lessons that I will use for the rest of my life. And for that, I can't be more thankful to be a military child.

The memories I've had in all these different countries are irreplaceable. I mean, I've lived in three different continents, which a lot of people can't say they've done. There are pros and cons in this life, but in my opinion, the pros significantly outweigh the cons by a longshot.

– Drew Eaglin

Being born into a military family has changed my life in many different ways. Although my dad retired when I was only five years old, I still dealt with the same emotions and changes throughout my life. When my family was stationed in Iwakuni, Japan, my dad was often away from home. My mom, brother, and I barely got to spend time with him due to his job.

When I was five years old, my family and I moved to Okinawa, Japan where my dad retired from the Navy. This new change was exciting to me since I could spend more time with my dad, but also nerve-wrecking. Growing up, I was extremely shy, making it difficult for me to make friends. Being the new kid at a new school terrified me. Over time, I had learned to be comfortable with my surroundings and with the people around me.

Even though I knew that I would be in Okinawa until I graduated high school, I didn't realize that the people around me would move away. From elementary school through high school, nearly every close friend that I made along the way would eventually move, leaving me to feel alone most of the time. Constantly having my friends move away from me made me feel like there was no point in creating close connections with new people, in fear that they would also have to leave the island.

As I got older, I realized that being a military child doesn't only include having a parent as an active duty member, but being surrounded by a military environment and facing similar changes. Even though this affected me when I was younger, I grew to make peace with what was going on around me. I decided to enjoy the time that I had with people, rather than dwelling on the past and being afraid of the future.

– Julia Illastron

I was told to write this exact article, just a year ago. For the last Military child assignment I wrote, it was more about the hard shifts, and not enjoying moving, and how I was new to this type of lifestyle that most military children grew up like, and how I thought it kinda sucked. This year I've taken a different outlook on the ability and opportunities of being able to live and experience new places most people will never be able to visit.

I'm so lucky I got to experience living in Japan, and not being stuck in one place my whole life. Hearing from my mom who was in Indiana most of her life until she was about 32, she always talked about feeling stuck there so she decided to make

a big move she always dreamt about doing, down south to either Georgia or Florida. Even though it was difficult to make a big move from her entire family and somewhere she lived her whole life, but look where that got us. To a beautiful island called Okinawa and many places after. That's just a small reason my mindset has been changing throughout this time being a military child.

I never imagined myself leaving and actually believing I can and am capable of exploring all countries around the world, but now I hope to explore the whole world as I live on. Changed my perspective more than I thought and made me envision my future so much differently and more positively. I even have been thinking about doing ROTC, just to get the experience on my own and being able to travel, but that's just an idea an option I've looked into just to get to travel and have the advantages of the military. I'm trying to look more into having a fun, adventurous life instead of sitting in an office or a hospital, because I used to be all about becoming a doctor, which would be awesome but my ideas and dreams are more different than they used to be. My dreams and aspirations aren't very difficult to achieve and have changed so much throughout the year, after having a new outlook to the military and moving around.

– Mackenzie

Being a military child is pretty fun if I'm being honest. It's so sad and depressing as every other military child makes it. Sure moving all the time gets repetitive, depressing, and boring. Making friends and leaving them in the next five or six months is demoralizing and crushes the hopes of making friends with people that last.

But, at the same time that's the fun part. Meeting new people and going to new places is always fun. The thought of going somewhere exotic is exhilarating, going to a different country or city or state or anything just gives a breath of fresh air. Personally, it makes me feel like a new season of Fortnite. There's now a new map, new loot, and new skins. It's just fun and makes me want to explore and see what's so different about this new place compared to the old one.

Moving to Okinawa was an exceptionally hard move for me. Especially since it was my freshman year of high school, I made all these friends just to leave them. I left everything behind basically. My friends that I've met since middle school, all the connections we made, and all my cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. I've never been outside the U.S. up until that point in my life. There was an insane amount of stress and fear moving around in my brain. It felt like my head was on fire 24/7. When we arrived in mainland Japan we were scheduled to fly to Okinawa in the next 3 to 4 hours. However, that didn't happen. There was a typhoon swarming over Okinawa; because of that, we couldn't go to Okinawa. We had to stay in a TLF, which wasn't the best experience. It was moldy, dirty, and all around unsanitary.

Despite all of this the move wasn't that bad when I arrived. The weather was beautiful, it had a welcoming heat that was exhilarating at the same time. Living in Okinawa puts another viewpoint on life and how I want to live it. Leaving the United States gave me a new interest in life and that interest is traveling and trying new things. Reasons like that are why I love being a military child and I hope more military children like myself will somehow see the same viewpoint I have when it comes to moving to a different place.

– Cedrick Dorelien

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Being a military child is an eye-opening lifestyle, as you are more aware and exposed to different cultures, religions, people, etc. Within this exposure, an acknowledgment of cultural barriers and a lack of belonging is natural. We, the military family, are obligated to constantly adapt to different environments and the need to fit in is essential to survive socially. It's a larger world that we're exposed to compared to those who have the opportunity to settle in one area for the majority of their lives. Yet, even when returning to our home country, the search for self-belonging continues to linger.

Despite returning to the country that our families continue to sacrifice and serve, home-like connection is absent. As for many of us, even with being inside American schools, and being taught American values, and allegiances, we have spent more of our lives outside of the USA than within. From a personal perspective, I spent the majority of my childhood in Japan for a total of 7 years before having to move to Panama City, Florida. Having grown up in DODEA school I assumed that America wouldn't be any different and expected to feel less foreign. It was to my realization that it was quite the opposite, as I felt more alienated despite literally being American.

Newly-made peers treated me as though I spoke a different language, such as when trying to connect with different subjects. It resulted in only disappointment for they did not understand as much as someone would back in Japan or the military alone. Furthermore, it was more prominent how close-minded specific individuals were, as the exposure to the outside world caused me to perceive society differently. I carried that outlook along with me, yet when sharing it others incompetently weren't interested or didn't understand. People who did understand were those who experienced the outside world and were other military children.

My family was then tasked to move back to Japan, where I was surprisingly happy doing so, as I was able to be around those who understood our differences and struggles. Amongst my fellow military child colleagues, we bonded over the mutual awareness of not fitting in. It was an apprehension that the belonging that I had longed for was within that non-belonging that I had been feeling all along.

– Alana Narcis

For most of my life I have been a part of the DODEA education system. While most people move away with their families to all the different parts of the world, I have stayed in one place called Okinawa, Japan. I lived on this beautiful island for all 18 years of my life and gladly call it my home.

Being in one place is very nice as you meet all sorts of people and find comfortability as you're used to the culture and the respectful people especially in Okinawa, but a struggle with being a part of the military system is seeing all the people you build bonds with leave. I have seen many of my friends come and go with people I met in school or sports seasons. It's hard restarting when people leave out of your life as you want to find new people and make more bonds with the likelihood of new friendships you make, can PCS as well. Even though it is tough seeing friends go, I cherish the moments and memories I made with them as that is what I look back on, and in this day and age you can still keep in touch as there is all sorts of social media to contact them through.

Personally though, I feel the education provided for military kids is very good and one of the unique aspects about being a military child is all the unique ethnicities people are from as it is like a melting pot of countries in one place and you learn the little things about people and their culture. Being in Okinawa there are a lot of people who are half Japanese as I am one myself and the way the education system has programs that help kids transition from offbase school into an

American education with language classes along with the ESL program to help learn English and become apart of the big melting pot which is American based schools.

I would say being a military child does have its ups and downs but taking the positives out of your experience will definitely outweigh the negatives of the constant change.

– Tyler Smith

I am not like other military children. I've been in Okinawa for 14 years for reference, I'm 18. My step dad, a retired marine, did 31 years in the military which is the reason I was brought back to Oki. I have only lived in the states for four years of my life starting at the age of four and leaving at the age of eight. Military life was hard when I first moved back to Okinawa. I wasn't used to my best friend leaving every other year, again and again on repeat. It was tiring having to figure out who is a good enough person to be friends with and then on top of that them moving in a year or so it didn't help much. To be a military child you have to get used to being alone.

Being a military child isn't all negative, I learned that family is really important. Although kids didn't have a choice in staying or going. We as military children sacrifice a normal life of a state's kid, however we are protected as military children. We're protected from school shootings, we're in a safer place from Covid-19 outbreaks, Japan is a safer environment for children to grow without worries. We sacrifice seeing our family members on a daily basis to gain safety and stability not just for us but for our country.

As a child of the military I am grateful for the benefits we gain, traveling around the Pacific, health care, college payments, and more. Although being a military child taught me to never get attached to people, it also taught me how to grow up quickly and be mature. I wouldn't change a thing about being in the military because I've got to experience things kids in the states have not and might never get to experience. I believe that being in the military helped me figure out I want to travel with my life, and never be stuck in one place. I've learned to love the people I meet until it's time for goodbye.

– Katelyn Wetherington

Growing up as a military child, I can't say that I've enjoyed every second of it but I can say that it's been an experience that I can appreciate. While it's definitely had its ups and downs, part of being a military child is learning to adapt to everything thrown at us, such as having to move and make new friends, dealing with deployments, and the late work nights our parents may have. Being a military child has taught me many lessons, and I'm glad to have been a military child, even with the difficulties that accompany it.

Keeping house items down to a minimum to ensure everything can be packed up and ready to move is something my parents have done for as long as I can remember. Being ready to get orders and trying to make the best of the situation, saying goodbye to friends, and feeling the terror of moving to a foreign place are all things I've grown used to, and things I once hated. As a child, I hated being told we had to move again because it filled me with sadness, knowing I would probably never see my friends again, and would never see the places I had grown so used to seeing on a daily basis. But as I grew older, I found myself enjoying the move and learning to adapt to new environments and schools, learning how to talk to new people and make friends. Starting over doesn't have to be a bad thing, and moving around allows for a fresh start every few years and teaches one to be positive even during tough times.

Another difficult thing about being a military child is dealing with deployments. My father has deployed a grand total

of 12 times, sometimes up to a year at a time. Having to go about daily life without my dad was difficult and sad for me, but even more so for my mother, who had to take care of both me and my sister at very young ages. I can only imagine how much stress and worry she had, but my mother always stayed strong for both me and my sister, never wavering and succumbing to the stress of having to keep the household running, working, and taking care of the house. As a child, I did my best to help my mom out by attempting to clean and cook, and because of that I now am great at household chores. That way I can still help my mother out. While the times without my father were tough, my mother and I did our best to stay positive and await his return from wherever he was stationed. I'm grateful for my mother, who was always there for me when my dad wasn't and grateful for the skills I gained while my father was gone, and incredibly grateful for the positive outlook that I gained from his leaving, something I'm not sure I would have had if he hadn't left.

Being a military child is not for the weak, it takes adjustment and a positive attitude to take whatever is given to you and make the best of any situation. It hasn't always been easy, but I'm grateful for the experience of being a military child and all the things I've learned from being one. If I wasn't a military child, I'm sure I would be a very different person today.

– Mia Bella Gonzalez

Growing up a military child has shaped my life in numerous ways. Most of my time has been spent in Okinawa, Japan therefore I didn't experience excessive moving around the world or the trouble of having to say goodbye to friends. Being able to grow up abroad has broadened my perspective of life because I have had the privilege to see the life and culture of numerous other countries. When traveling to other countries I not only got the opportunity to see the glamorous parts that are typically showcased to the general public on the internet, but the reality for some people living there in poverty.

Though we traveled as a family which consists of my mom, my dad, sister, and myself, there were times when my dad had to travel alone since he would have to deploy for work. During deployment periods when it was just my mom, sister, and myself at home, it did not feel the same. Being at home without my dad was hard for all of us. He plays a vital role for all of us and keeps us together as a whole. Whenever I am in need of anything such as advice or simply just comfort, I always go to him because he seems to always understand and sympathize with me. Deployment periods were also hard because I had a constant nervous feeling that something could happen to him when he was gone and we wouldn't be able to be there for him, which is another hard aspect of being a military child.

As lucky as I am to be living on a tropical island, there can be times that the island can make me feel trapped. When incidents in the states happen regarding family emergencies or when my sister moved there for college, there is not much we can do since we are not close enough to be around each other's comforting company. Family emergencies are always a haunting thought in the mind since you never know when you'll be able to make it back to make it back stateside. Altogether, I am grateful for the experiences I have encountered and look forward to my future as a military child.

– Alexandria Morales



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military children stories at:
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Zukeran Elementary School
1st grade
Ms. Elliott

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD CELEBRATING

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Being a military child is cool! First, they are so helpful. Next, they are happy. Last, they love to make people happy. It is so cool but it is important too.




Andrece

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



I like being a military child because it is fun. First it is fun to see new places. Next I make new friends. Last I love being a military child.




Lucas

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



Do you know why military children are the best? First, they get to live on base. Next, I am loved. Last, I get to have a lot. Now you know why military children are the best.



Andrey

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



Do you know military children are special? First, they live on base. Next, they love their mom and dad. Last, their mom and dad leave. Now you know why military children are special.



Theo

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



I am a good military child. First, when we make new friends. Next, we move to a different school. Last, I help people in my community. Now you know I am a good military child.



Mona

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

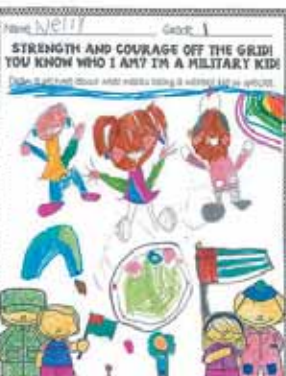


Military children are cool. First, they are loved. Next, they move now. Last, they live on a base. Military children are good!




Nelly

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



Military children are the best. First, they are so special. Next, they move. Last, my dad deploys. Last, my mom celebrates sakura. Now you know why I am a military child.




Elena

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




I am a military child. First, my military dad loves me. Next, military people move. Last, military kids make new friends on the base. Now you know I am a military child.



Cadley

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



I am a good military child. First, the kids move to different places. Next, they help other people. Last, military kids are loved. Now you know I am a military child.




Layla

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



Being a military child is special. First, military children live on base. Next, military children are loved. Last, their parents deploy. Now you know why being a military child is special.




Wyatt

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



I am the coolest military child. First, we move to a new house. Next, we make school. Last, we live on base. Military children are good and fun!




Jack

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




I'm a military kid. First, I go to a new house. Next, I go to a new school. Last, I eat new food. I love being a military kid.




Jimmy

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



I like being a military kid. I like my school. I like making new friends.




Connor

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



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

This is why military children are special. First, they deploy, and they help people and make new friends. Next, they move, and live on base. Last, they are loved. Now you know why military children are special.



Eugene

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




Damian
I am a military child. My dad is a Marine. As a Marine, he has to move to another place. Now you know why it is cool.

Nolan
I am a good military child. First, I was on base. Last, sometimes you help people. Now you know why I am a military child.

Hunter
Your mama dad be a branch. First, we would live on base. Second, you could be a military brat. Last, you love the branches. Now you know how.

Niviana
Can I tell why military children are special? First, they are loved. Next, they move a lot. Last, they live on base. Now you know what being a military child is like.

Mark
I am a military child. First, military children care. Next, they help people. Last, they love their dad. Now you know why military children are the best.

Amina
I am a good military child. First, my mom departs. Next, my dad loves me. Last, we move to America.

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

Tropical Dream Center presents

2024 Sunflower Maze and Exhibition!

April 27 [Sat.] - May 6 [Mon., holiday] 8:30 - 19:00

Adults: 760 yen
high school students and older

Children: free
junior high school students and younger

4/27 and 5/4 Free admission to Oceanic Culture Museum and Tropical Dream Center. (Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium charged)

OCEAN EXPO PARK TROPICAL DREAM CENTER

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

Let fun and good times roll!

Churaumi GW Special

Golden Week
Apr. 27 (Sat.) - May 6 (Mon.)

Enjoy great music, beautiful ocean, and magnificent sunset!

Churaumi Sunset Concert
Apr. 28 (Sun.) - 29 (Mon.) / May 3 (Fri.) - 4 (Sat.)
17:30 & 18:30 at Churaumi Plaza area (About 15 min. each)

"Mi-Iruka" is a soft and gentle illustrator of aquarium creatures. 30 persons per session. Numbered tickets first come, first served, distributed from 8:30 each day.

Drawing Class with "Mi-Iruka" at Churaumi Aquarium
May 5 (Sun.) & 6 (Mon.)
11:00 - 12:00 & 13:00 - 14:00 at Rest House

Live Painting by "Mi-Iruka"
May 5 (Sun.) 9:30 - 10:30 at Rest House
The finished picture will be used as a photo spot, so please take pictures!

Who is Mi-Iruka
The two-time (2022-23) winner of the "Art Creator of the Year" award at the TikTok Creator Awards Japan has over a million followers on social networks, and her capsule toys are sold nationwide.

Original Aquarium Trading Card Giveaway
Apr. 27 (Sat.) - May 6 (Mon.)
8:30 - 10:00; 16:00 - until closing
Near the entrance ticket gate on the 3rd floor of Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium
Each visitor is given one original Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium trading card introducing marine life.

Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium "Annual Passport"
Enjoy unlimited entry to the aquarium for a year for the price of two admissions with Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium "Annual Passport" plus free shuttle cart rides and other special benefits.

OKINAWA CHURAUMI AQUARIUM
The facilities are open until 20:00 (last entry 19:00) during the events.

OKINAWA CHURAUMI AQUARIUM <https://churaumi.okinawa/en/>

Zukeran Elementary School
1st grade
Ms. Baker

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD CELEBRATING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Name: Scarlett Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because my dad went to work overseas for 6 months and I cry a bit but I love my dad.

Name: Jaden Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I explore new places and make new friends.

Name: Haven Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I was born next to very scary things and I over come my fear.

Name: Tyler Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I am a smart kid.

Name: Brilee Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I am unique and I make new friends.

Name: Lillian Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because my dad is strong and I am too.

Name: Mac Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I'm a military child. I travel places like Tokyo, Lego and Hawaii.

Name: Avery Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I don't cry and I am strong. I make new friends and I love my dad.

Name: Penny Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I make new friends.

Name: Ethan Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I am brave.

Name: Danny Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I'm special because I like to explore places!!!

Name: Euan Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I am kind.

Name: Axel Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I find new places.

Name: Alisha Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because when my family leaves I am big.

Name: Olive Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I am a military kid. It is hard being a military kid because once my dad

Name: Tatum Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I am strong and kind.

Name: Talia Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I explore new places.

Name: Anna Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am because I visit my dad's work.

Name: Lincoln Grade: 1st
STRENGTH AND COURAGE OFF THE GRID! YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I'M A MILITARY KID!
I am special because I make new friends and see some of my old friends. I am special because I am brave.

made to love. I wish if your mom could have to go it is ok.




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MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD CELEBRATING

Zukeran Elementary School
 2nd grade
 Ms. Pruemer & Mr. Twilley

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I love being a Military child because I get to be safe and fly to other countries and make new friends. I can go to a new school and play. When my dad is gone for the war, I feel sad and when he is back I feel happy, warm and cozy and loved. I love being a MILITARY CHILD

- Hana M.

I like being a military connected child because I get to sometimes travel to different places and meet new people. It is so fun to travel. I get to go to Texas, Seattle, Okinawa and so many other places. It is so fun being a military connected child!

- Jane.Lowenborg



I like being a military child because we get to go to places like Texas, Massachusetts, California, Hawaii, Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Colorado, New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Mississippi, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Utah. And I like California because I've been there before.

- Jeremy N.

I love to be a Military Child because I get to go to lots of events and they are very very fun. I love all the very fun rides. The ride that I'm very scared of is Reckless. I get to be in a school ZKES teacher is Miss P. She's the best ever!

- Precious A.



I love meeting new people and making new friends and eating yummy food. I love being a military child because people sometimes are so nice and you can travel places. I have been to Milwaukee and Japan.

- Kayden E.



I LOVE being a military child. I can go to Legoland and Universal Studios. I like swimming so we might go to the pool or the beach. I can follow my dad to work sometimes. I just watch him work and I have lunch with him sometimes. When my dad retires I will go to Saipan.

- Carter C.



I love being in the military because you can travel to different places and meet new people or friends. You can eat new yum yum food like sushi. You can do a birthday in a different way! In Virginia I had this friend. His name was NIXON, my best friend. Oh in OKINAWA there is a lot of stuff in the aquarium like a huge lego whale shark! There are a lot of things you can do when you are a military child!!!

- Emmett F.

I love being a military child because my dad protects our country. I am in Japan now. We move a lot of times and we get a lot of stuff. We have so much fun here in Japan. But I miss my friends and I miss my dad because he has been gone for 3 weeks. That is a long time and we call him a lot. My mom and I go shopping for food for my dad when he gets back and we will get more food then my dad gets back.

- Mela A.

The best thing about being a military child. If you get to travel to places like Osaka, mainland Japan, and Kyoto. You get to move to new places and make new friends. But here is one bad thing about being a military child. You have to move away from your friends. And then you have to go to a new school and make new friends.

- Emily C.



I love being a military child because I get to travel a TON!! I love traveling SO much! Also I love to explore the world! Do you? I went to Batu Caves in Malaysia, and I got to feed monkeys. My dad touched one. It almost bit him. I also went to Thailand and I went to an elephant sanctuary. I also went to Vietnam and went to a beautiful park! I also went to Singapore. And went to a botanical garden. Then in Japan, Okinawa where we are now. I went to a waterfall and aquarium on the same day! Last but not least... the USA!!!! I went to my grandma's house every year. To be a military child, one of your parents has to be in the military. There's Marines, Army, Air Force, and Space Force. But I think that's all. Ok, goodbye!!

- Annabeth L.



I like being in an American military school. It is fun because in military school it is fun and it is good. I can go outside and have fun. I get to learn so much. I learn about science, rainbow writing, red and blue, and math.

- Izumi

P.S. I like Emojis 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌

I like being a military child because we get to go to many places. We can also learn different languages. We could live in different housing like towers aka apartments houses that connect together. Military children like me like to feel special. Places that are my favorite places to live Okinawa why? Because kids get to walk to school and teachers are nicer and schools are bigger. That is why I like being a military child.

- Zoey M.

I like being a military child because I like to help people. It is nice to help people. And being in the military is fun because you can do fun stuff just like going to the pool and spending time with your family. You can do other fun stuff too! Like going to Blue Seal and Coco's Curry! Oh I went to Legoland! And I am going to go to Tokyo Disneyland! I love being a military child because being a military child is fun!

- Amelia D.

I like being a military connected child because I am in Japan and I live off base. I live in a small neighborhood but I like it. It's fun being a military connected child. Are you a military child? If you are, I would be very grateful. Do you live in Okinawa? Well I do! It is fun being a military connected child.

- Cora S.

P.S. You can go to lots of places too!

I like being a military-connected child because I live off base in Okinawa and I live next to the beach, sea wall, food, friends, the sea, and two parks! I live in a neighborhood I like it because there is a lot of room to ride my bike, skateboard, and scooter. I can walk or ride my bike places. If you are a military child I would be so grateful if I was you!

- Eden R.

I'm a military child because my dad is in the military. I love to be a military child because my dad can protect the country. I can move anywhere. I want to protect the U.S.A. when I'm in the military, I will do what my dad does. I love my dad because he's in the military.

- Jon Almarino



I like being a military child because sometimes my Dad gets to come do special events at my school. But the bad news is I can't make any real friends or else I'm going to cry when we move. But on the bright side, since I move a lot I know 2 languages, English and Japanese.

- Roselynn S.

SEE MORE MS. PRUEMER & MR. TWILLEY'S CLASS ON PAGE 24

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Welcome to the ultimate Okinawa experience!
Fly 42ft over the ocean on Okinawa's exciting 800 ft MegaZIP zipline.
*Min. rider weight 55 lbs max 286 lbs. Weight restriction may be changed depending on the weather.




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**Zukeran
Elementary
School**
2nd grade
Ms. Pruemmer & Mr. Twilley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

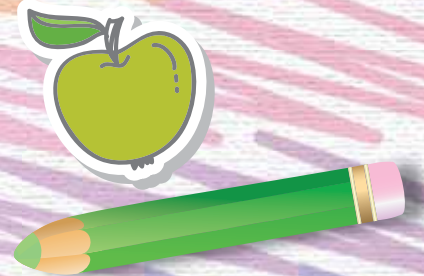
I am a military child, and I like that. Being a military child makes me an important kid, as well as my brother and sister. I like to travel and explore and meet new people. My daddy works in the military, and my mommy works at the blood bank, so that is why I am a military child.



- Saige J.

I love being a military child because it makes me feel loved, special, brave, strong, kind, respectful, sweet, and like myself. There are so many things it makes me feel like because being a military child is so much fun! How do you feel being a military child? I love it? You can do fun stuff like travel, swim, go to the zoo, and so much more. That's why I love being a military child!

- Kassie A.



I like being a Military child. I love traveling and learning new things. You should visit Japan. It has a lot of things that you can learn at Zukeran Elementary School. But not only Japan you can visit other places like Pennsylvania, Arizona, California, South Carolina, and more. So one of your family members has to be in the military to be a military child. When it comes to being a military child people have fun traveling. Oh did you know that if you PCS You can ask a military person to help you drive to the airport because a lot of people can't even drive to the airport when they PCS which means you are moving.



- Lucy N.

I like being a military child because you get to move all around the world. You can also learn different languages. It is fun to hear the bad news and good news. The bad news sometimes is that you have to lose friends. It can be sad. The good news is that you can make new friends and you get to fly on a plane. You get to go places people never went. That's why I like being a military child.



- Alessandra C.

I love being a military child because we get to go to a safe school. I get to speak different languages. We get to fly to our cousins. I also like it because our house is safe. I can also go to a flight to see Shibuya crossing. That is why I love being a military child.



- Ruth

Hi! I am a military child, so pretty much I get gifts when my dad comes back. So I am kind of special. You are still special and you should be happy so you could do even more. Military people protect their children and their families. That's what I do as a military child.



- Emery H.

Being a military child is fun! Because my mom and dad get to protect people and you get to travel around the world. I get to fly to different places, like Japan, Dubai, Bahrain, and the United States. I like Japan because of the food, and that it's not too hot, like Bahrain. Also Japan is the best place ever, well not the best but the 2nd best because Hawaii is better. I also get to go to Georgia and I see my cousins, grandpa, and grandma. This is why it is good to be a military child.

- Omari Bristow

Being a military child is good to me because my mom doesn't need a job, so I get to be with my mom more. I get to go to trampoline park a lot. It's free. I still love my dad though he is a hand surgeon. I can walk to his work room. My family and I went to DisneySea. When my dad is in the United States or something I get to sleep in my mom and dad's bed, I only like that because I get to be with my mom!! That is why I like being a military child.

- Penny

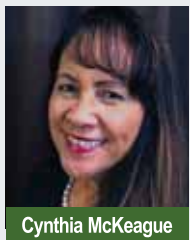


GSA in Okinawa

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



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



Cynthia McKeague

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

Check Out GSA's Japan Catalog!



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

Zukeran Elementary School
 2nd grade
 Mrs. Allan and Mrs. Gorball

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD CELEBRATING

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Martin
 I love being a military child, going to the states and meet new friends new places. I could be have some times, some times I could be sad. I am glad to play soccer when am 14 years old I want to go to Mexico and when I 30 years old I am going to play for Mexico in soccer.

- Martin

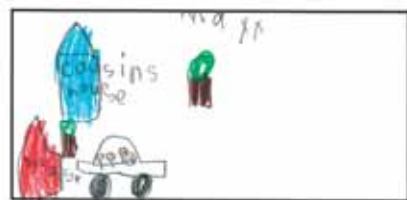


Azariah Asare
 So why I love being a military child, is in my life I'm always gonna experience new things like, Atchinos, and Ramen and I'm always gonna be with my family, my brother, sister and my parents especially my Dad. He was the one who got us here in Japan it's been different since I have lived in Italy and learned a lot there. But I'm thanking my Dad for this and every thing he did for us.

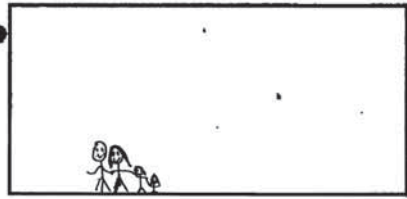
- Azariah Asare

I don't like being a military child

I don't like being a military child because I have to move from my friends. I don't like moving and it is scary. And I don't like moving to new places and I have to move from my cousins.



- Maxx



Being a military child we can't just have fun and play with them because they have to do work coming to Japan was kind of scary. I cried out last night in New York because I missed my dad. At last I am a lucky child.

- Victoria



Ella Merrell
 I like to be a military child because I get to make new friends it is fun to make new friends. I like to be a military child because you can go to new places you haven't went to.

- Ella Merrell



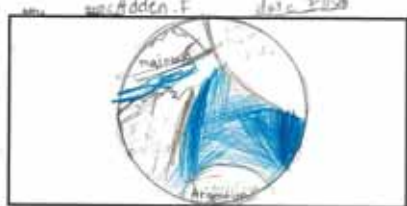
TJ is in the military so in a minute TJ is my mom's bf so they love it. TJ has a job in the military his job is to tell people if their date arrived by a jet or a plane. He has a mustache but my mom talks him to shave it off. That is how I am a military child. I also go to a military school with a lot of students and 2 of my friends Aden and Ella.

- Shella



Daniella 2-6-2024
 I like being a military child. My dad works for the navy. He is brave and strong. He goes to new places too. We go with him. I used to live in Maryland, now I live in Okinawa Japan.

- Daniella



05 Aden F.psd
 I have been a military child since I was born. I like it because I get to travel. I want to see my Mom's office. My dad and me want to see my cousin. We can play games together.

- 05 Aden F.psd



Sofi 2nd Grade
 I like being a military child because I like a new food.

- Sofi

Being a Military Child
 It's wild
 Being a Military child
 Lots of planes
 They're sometimes late.
 New places
 New faces
 Lots of moves
 sometimes grooves
 family away
 but that's okay
 I don't lack
 cause I'll be back.
 By Lilly

- Lilly



I like being a military child because I get to travel to new places, see new things, see new people, and have new friends. I love it. I love to go to a new school every year. I love to go to a new school every year. I love to go to a new school every year. I love to go to a new school every year.

- Dylan Krebsbach

Jaxson
 I was one when I came to Japan my dad is always working I never get to see my mom because she works only sometimes. I go to school every day.

- Jaxson



Alice
 As a military child I love going to different places like California. My life is very fun sometimes. I really love my parents so much. I like school kind of. My family is very fun and silly. I have cousins like a lot. One of my cousins name is Jenny. She is 9 years old. I live in Japan by the way. I like learning about math. I really love playing Roblox with my cousins, brothers, and friends.

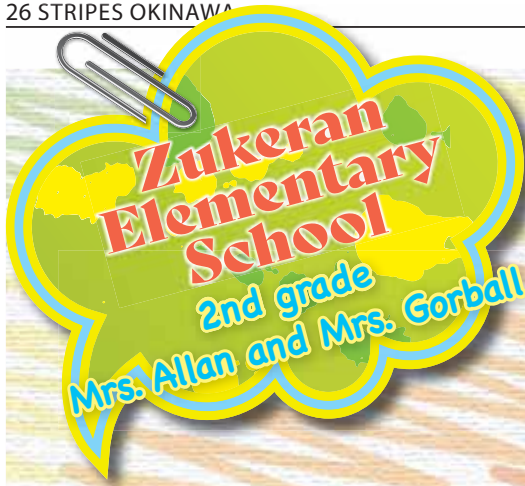
- Alice



life is boring and no fun. every day is boring and only weekends are fun. I like life there because being a military child is good because you can have pets and stuff and I can help take care of them. I can give them money in the bank.

- Athena

SEE MORE MRS. ALLAN & MRS. GORBALL'S CLASS ON PAGE 26



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

I think it is fun being a military child. It can also be sad to love your friends. But do make new friends. So yeah this is. My paper on the airplane. I got to sleep on the airplane. And it is fun to look out of the window and see whales. I looks cool.

- Xavier



I like being a military child because I get to play with my friends. My new house is so big. I also like going to my friends house because we get to play a lot of games. We also play with my sister. I like being a military child because I get to travel.

- Alyssa L.



When we were little... I like being in the military. Because it is exciting and you get to go to new places. And you get more friends. And when I moved here I had no friends. So I was lonely. I met a girl. She had black hair and she was white. So when I saw her we lived next to each other and we became BFFs. But then she moved away.

- Vivian



You get to move a lot. You stay in one place for a few years and then you leave. You have to take a few planes and trains. Sometimes it is sad because you can't take your pets. You get to go to your parents work some times. You have to be flexible and nice.

- Abigail

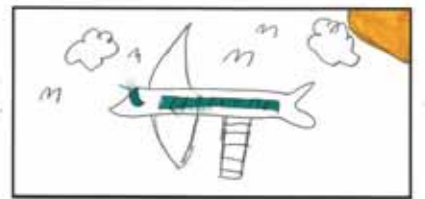
Shosh 3-5-24

I like flying on a plane. I like to meet new people. I like seeing new places. I like going to new places. I like to go to North Carolina soon.

- Shosh

I love being a military child when I got here on July 26th 2023, it was amazing! Thanks to my dad I got to move here! I love being a military child. P.s thanks dad!

- Addison



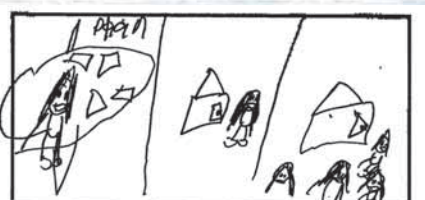
I love being a military child!!! because you get to travel around the world!!! you also get to go to nice places like Japan, Switzerland, etc!!!

- Silas



If I am brave I can fight a war. When I grow up, I will be smart for hard numbers. But it is hard for numbers to be hard. It will be good to get money for a job. I like going to new places. I will move back to the States with my family.

- Eevee



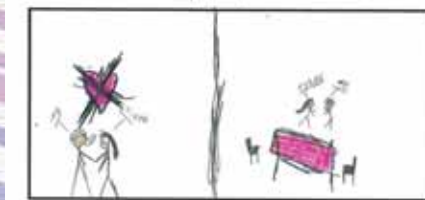
I love to be a military child because you can go to Japan and Mexico and Spain. But I miss my family. But they can come back.

- Ava

Alexa

I like being a military child because it's exciting and it's fun on an air plane. It's fun going to new places. It's also scary and hard. But I'm happy to move to the United States. But I'm sad to leave that is why I like being a military child.

- Alexa



Sometimes I don't like to travel but I do it anyway. Sometimes I don't like to leave or go on a plane. I don't like to go on any of those things. But I will tell you what I like. I like to meet new friends and to meet new classmates.

- Aria



and I am to move. I want to wait to go.

Ellie Being a military child and my worried and stressful survival story. by Ellie

Being a military makes me feel like I am brave, smart, worried, flexible, sad, and some time worried and stressed. I have a worried, stressful, survival story right here. This story is a true story. It actually happen to me and my family. Is it a true story or not?



My Dad had to go to Korea for two weeks. I was very very very sad!!! I waved good bye to my Dad and he drove away to a boat he needed to go on. I was at home crying. Mom came and said it's ok. I waited for two weeks. Finally I heard a honk honk. It was my Dad! That is a military child story for an example.

- Ellie

Annabella 3-5-2024

Being a military child is nice because it is the best. Being brave is being positive. A challenge that I faced is breaking my arm. It was hurting a lot. That is one of my challenges. Being a awesome military child, I am a awesome because I am a positive child, being great as I can be. I be

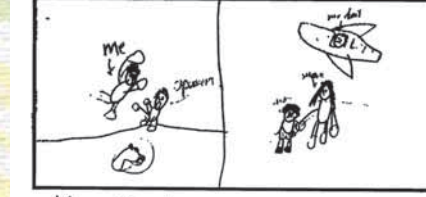


great as I can be is the best because it is what makes me positive and great. Being in a Military School is nice because I have friends in this Military School and the teachers are very, very nice. That is why I like to be a Military child.

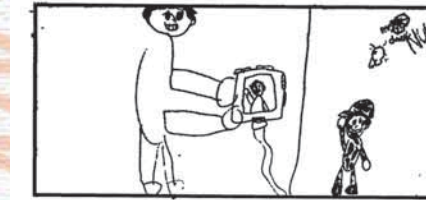
- Annabella



I like being a military child because I get to visit other countries like California, Japan, United Kingdom, Mexico, and Spain. I also like being a military child because I get to meet more friends and family around the world like my auntie Tessa, auntie Ann, uncle Renell, uncle Vinny, auntie Sahra, my cousin Valany and my cousin Keony.

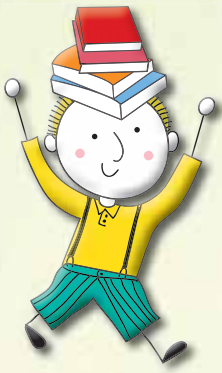


My third reason why I like being a military child is because I get to visit other wrestling gyms like my first gym Evans, Pacific Grapplers and Wolf Pack. I know it looks like I really like being a military child but I also don't. My first reason why I don't like being a military child is because it is always away from home.



Reason three why I don't like being a military child is because every time I call my friends it doesn't feel like talking to them in person. It feels a little bit different. And that's how it feels like being a military child.

- Keanu Castenada



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Bob Hope Elementary School

1st grade
Ms. Lanigan

Adelive DeGarmo 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. It is fun getting to see my new house. I like experiencing new foods. I get sad when

Meine DeGarmo 1st

I leave my dad in the United States. I like meeting new friends when I have

Eloise League 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I love to meet new friends. I like to go to a new house. I like to meet new people.

I get sad when I have to leave my friends. I don't want to move to a new house. I don't want to leave my mom. I don't want to leave my stuff. I don't want to leave my dog.

Michael Hill 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I can make new friends. I can move the places I want to. I can do new activities. I don't like that you have to have a lot to get in the base. I can

move to bases that people speak the same language even if your in a different country.

Aria Duarte 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is so fun but sometimes hard to get new friends. I like to get a new teacher and it is hard to leave your mom and dad. It is fun to have

a babysitter and friends and family. Class family is so much fun. It is so much fun in the military. I will find and do every thing is so much fun!

Nora Touchback 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I love meeting new friends. Getting a month about you is fun. I don't like saying good bye

to my dad. I don't like leaving my friends. I get to do new activities while I'm seeing the world.



Leah Conky 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I like making new friends. I really like traveling. It is like it was my dad leaves because he is a soldier. I like my friends.

friends and

Corwin Bowers 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I get to see my new room and house. Experiencing a new life. Leaving friends and family is hard.

Not seeing your friends and family is hard. I like meeting new friends and teachers.

Emilia Short 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I get to make new friends. My grandpa is away. I don't like that I have to leave. I love that I get to meet

new teacher. I really like being a military child.

Ogeron Huntsman 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I get to meet new friends. I can explore new places. I don't really like leaving my pet snake named popcorn.

I get to eat new foods.

Rowan Carmack 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun because I am special. I like exploring the world. I don't like being a military child because I have to leave my family and friends. I have to leave my

pets. I like making new friends.

Cleo Glover 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I get to explore the world. I get to try new things when I move. I don't like to leave my friends. I get sad when I have to leave my teacher. I don't get sad

when I have a new house. I don't get sad when I have my family.



Rita King 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. Going to a new restaurant is really fun. Moving to a new house can be very hard. Experiencing a new life can be very fun. Leaving my old teacher can be very hard.

Meeting new friends is really fun.

Rebecca King 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. Exploring the world to make new friends.

My special family makes me happy. I don't live to leave my friends and teacher. I get sad when my daddy goes away for money time. Moving to new places to go to a new house to meet new teachers.

Katy Shym 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. Being able to make new friends. Having a new house is fun. I get sad when my daddy has to go away to a different

place. I don't like having to move to a different place. I like how we can try new foods in different places.

Finn R Gills 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is fun. I get to eat new foods. I get to explore new places. I get to make new friends. I don't like leaving my friends. I don't

like leaving my family.

Sebastian Laurvik 1st

I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I love meeting new friends. It is good to have my dad back. Having to say good bye to my friends is sad.

I am proud of my dad!

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



celebrating Month of the Military Child

Bob Hope Elementary School

1st grade
Ms. Nelson



Kylee
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. I get to live in cool places like Okinawa. I like Make, a new friends. My dad works on the airplane. I have a great life.

Maian
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child speaking a new language is hard. But can see the world. I like the yummy food! I see my cousins sometimes like being a military child yes I can go to a lot of events.

Rico
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child it is difficult when my Dad leaves me. But I love when I have my pet.

Kristian
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. I get to see jets. I get to live in Okinawa, Japan. I like going to the BX. Being a military child is fun.

Leo Miller
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. I do not like to move. I like that my mom and dad make good choices. You can make new friends because it will be fun. My favorite part is I like to have fun. I have a great life!

JARVIS MILLER
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. It is difficult to do a lot of stuff. I like making friends. I get to eat many things. I like singing songs, doing different things. It is hard. Singing songs, and doing different things and going for a walk with dad.

HENRY GONZI
I'm a Military Child

I am a military kid. It can be sad. Missing your friends but it is fun getting a new pet. It is fun moving to a new home. I love being a military kid. The End.

Syven
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. It is fun making new friends. I am proud of my parent for being in the military. I love when we play together. I am proud to be a military child.

Ellie
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. My dad is working so hard and I am so proud of him. I get to live in Okinawa and make new friends. I wish my friends when they move.

Vivian
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. I have an awesome big dog. I have cats and a big house. My favorite part is being able to see in the airplane. I am proud to be a military child. Vivian.

Asan T.
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. It is difficult when mom or dad leaves. I like it when I get to try new things. I am proud of my mom and Dad because they get to see new places. I also like when I get to see new places. I am proud to be a military child.

Colli Evans
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. I will miss my teachers when I move. I get to meet a new teacher and I also get to eat new food. I get to have a new room and I can decorate my new room. My family ate in the Sixteen. We love to go and we love school. I have a great life!

Stephen C.
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. I like moving. It is hard making new friends. I get to go to new places. Being a military child is exciting.

Briella Chacon
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. I am sometimes sad when I have to leave my friends. I do like that I get new teachers and classmates. My family is happy when I am with them. Being a military child is fun.

Julie Maltezuma
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. It is difficult to move and make new friends. Something good is making new friends. I am proud of my mom and dad. I have a great life.

Isabella
I'm a Military Child

I am a military child. It can be difficult to make new friends at first. It is fun to go on airplanes. I am proud of dad for playing with me.

YIN-CAI
I'm a Military Child

I am a Military Child. I like to have a new house. It is good for my dad and make new friends. I proud to help my mom. I am proud to be a Military Child.

celebrating Month of the Military Child

Bob Hope Elementary School

1st grade
Ms. Caldwell



---BARNET Dew--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

I am proud to be a military child. I get to try new things. When I move I get to meet new friends. I feel sad when I leave my home.

---Diana Kagote--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is fun. Seeing my daddy is fun. Seeing my grandma is fun. Seeing my sis is fun. Seeing my out is fun.

---AYRON Blake--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I get new friends. I love my teachers so much. Having new houses is fun.

I don't like moving somewhere new. Learning from my friends is fun. I like having new friends to look out for me.

---Kaiya Sypruseith--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

I don't get sad and mad to be a military child. I like to see my friends and I come back. I like to move in a new house. Some times you can't stay with your friends.

My cousins and friends I am happy. I have new friends and new snack and food.

---April Lassiter--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I get to meet new friends. I get to eat new foods. I miss my friends. I don't like going on an airplane. I get special.

Not seeing my daddy. Not seeing my grandma. I like playing video games with my daddy after work.

---Graham Graham--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I will have a lot of friends. I like to have new stuff and a new school. I don't like to leave my mom. I do not like to

leave my dad. I feel happy when my dad comes home.

---LUKE Gonzalez--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

I am proud to be a military child. I get to move to new places and countries. My dad leaving for some months makes me sad. Military child is fun.

---Ella Chilson--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I like trying new food because I want to try a lot of new foods. I love my house and school.

So I can learn and get smart. I love making new friends because I can get lots of friends. Moving away from my friends is hard. Moving away from my dog is sad.

---Mallory Kugman--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I like trying new foods. I like going to a new school and making new friends.

Exploring new places is fun! When my daddy goes to work I don't like it. When my dad is late at work I miss him. I am special!

---Estelgh Clevenger--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. It is good to be a military child. Seeing new things is fun. Saying good-bye to my parents is hard. Saying bye to my friends is hard. Being a military family is exciting!

---Eddie Harris--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I think to live in Japan! I am happy. I eat new foods like sushi!!! Won't I have to leave

my friends I get sad! It makes me happy to meet new friends.

---Dorian Over--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child is fun. I get to try new things like trying new foods and drinks and restaurants. I don't like saying goodbye to

my old home and saying goodbye to my old friends also my old neighbors. Even my old school too. I like my new neighbors too.

---Sia Yi--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I love making my new bed room. I like to eat new foods. I am going to miss my teacher. I don't

like to make leaving my cousins is hard. I love to play video game with my family!

---Mikaela Baptiste--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I don't get sad because I am happy. I get to move to Japan. I love making new friends. I am happy when my puppies and kitten move with me.

---Soyun Kim--- 1st
I'm a Military Child

Being a military child can be fun. I love exploring new things and making new friends and eating new foods. I get sad when my

dad has to leave. I don't like leaving my school. Being a military child makes me special.

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Kinser Elementary School

3rd grade / Mr. Ramos

Splash!!!! That was the sound of me falling into the river, while I was fishing with my family in Jamaica. It was a surprise because my dad was the one who pushed me in! I was so shocked and a little bit cold, but it was funny, too. When I got out of the river, I was a bit mad at first, so I decided to push my dad into the river too. We laughed a lot about it.

We continued fishing after our little splash battle and caught so many fish! We didn't eat any of them; instead, we took pictures with our catches. It was like a fish fashion show! Then, we carefully threw them back into the river. It felt good to let them swim away.

Afterwards, we all went home, feeling happy and a little wet. The next day, we decided to go back to the river. But this time, instead of fishing, me and my family all jumped into the water on purpose! We splashed around for a few hours, having the best time. Going home, we talked and talked about how much fun we had at the river.

A few days later, though, we had to move. It was really sad leaving Jamaica. I missed all my friends and my family members who stayed behind. Moving to Okinawa was a big change. On my first day at the new school, I asked, "What are we learning today?" I didn't like being the new student. It's hard being new because you miss your family and friends so much, and it's tough to focus on work when you're thinking about them.

But being a military child means having adventures like my river day in Jamaica, and even though it's hard to move, I get to have new experiences and meet new friends all over the world. I'm learning that every place we go becomes a part of our story, and I can't wait to see where we go next!

- Mcaustin

Hi! I'm Josephine Johns, a third grader, and I want to tell you about my awesome trip to Colorado. My family works for the military, so we live in two different places. Right now, we're in Japan, but I used to live in Colorado.

Guess what? I went back to Colorado to visit my family. First, we stayed at the Great Wolf Lodge. It's a hotel with a huge waterpark inside! Then, my dad treated us to ice cream, even though it was super cold outside because it was snowing. I haven't played in snow since we moved to Japan, so I was super excited. My sister and I had a big snowball fight!

We got more ice cream and took a taxi to Canon City. It's where my relatives live. The trip was long and I fell asleep, but when I woke up, we were there! I was so happy to see my family. We hugged a lot and played games. It felt great to be with them again.

Being a military kid means I get to have adventures all over the world, like my trip back to Colorado. I love it because I get to see my family and have fun, no matter where we are.

- Josephine

Have you ever been to Colombia? I got to go there, and it was an adventure I'll never forget! My family is part of the military, so we travel a lot. This time, we were headed to Colombia to visit my grandparents, and I was jumping up and down with excitement.

First, we went to the airport. Going through baggage check was a bit boring, but thinking about seeing my grandparents made me super happy. Next, we boarded the airplane. It was kind of cool because there weren't many people on the plane. I looked out the window and imagined flying like a superhero. I just wish we could've gotten some snacks. Flying makes me hungry!

The only thing I don't like about flying is how my ears pop. It feels weird, but my mom gave me gum, and that helped a lot. But you know what? Even with my ears popping, I love traveling because I get to explore new places.

When we finally arrived in Colombia, I couldn't wait to get off the plane. As soon as I saw my grandparents, I ran as fast as I could into their arms. They gave me the biggest hugs. It was the best feeling ever!

During my visit, my grandparents showed me around. I tried arepas for the first time, and they were delicious! My grandparents told me stories about my family. My aunt showed me a box with pictures of my dad when he was my age.

Even though I'm a military child and we move a lot, I love getting to visit new places and learn about my family's history. Colombia is a part of me, and I can't wait to go back again!

- Lucas

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See more from Mr. Ramos' class on Page 32

Stripes Sports Trivia

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

Answer

Richard Petty

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DID YOU KNOW?

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

Kanji of the week 起
O/ki (Wake up)

Language Lesson

Take your time.

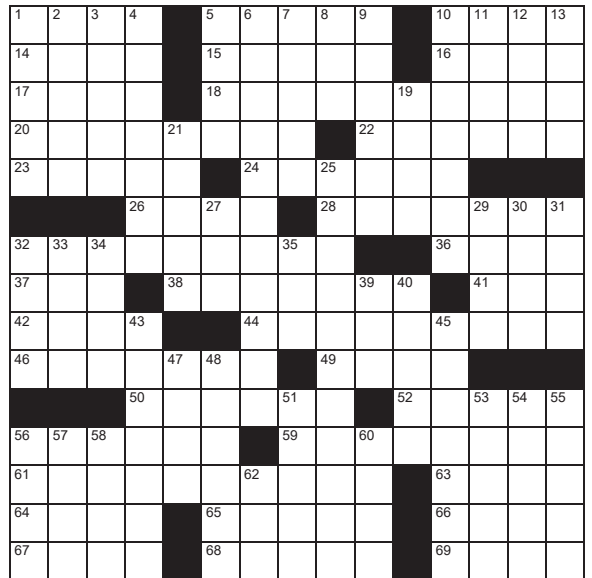
Goyukkuri.

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Go to and fro
- 5 Ski slope
- 10 Witch's blemish
- 14 Matinee ____
- 15 Hepburn film, "Wait ____ Dark"
- 16 Word after rush or happy
- 17 PBS science series
- 18 English rock group?
- 20 Ditchdigger
- 22 Italian city NW of Milan
- 23 Brawl
- 24 Wee-hours flight
- 26 Justice's garb
- 28 To the degree that
- 32 Chemical reaction phenomenon
- 36 Jazz singer Simone
- 37 NAFTA signatory
- 38 Progress delayer
- 41 Rock's Bon Jovi
- 42 Cocktail garnish
- 44 Bringing from abroad
- 46 Adopts, as a stray
- 49 Like some excuses
- 50 Thin, silky fabric
- 52 Schnozzes
- 56 Perfect pass
- 59 Outgoing officeholder
- 61 Nobel Prize category
- 63 Painter of melting watches
- 64 Puts to work
- 65 Enlarge, as a road
- 66 "The Blackboard Jungle" author Hunter
- 67 NFC West team



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DOWN

- 1 Pub servings
- 2 Love lots
- 3 Really, really want
- 4 Hyundai model
- 5 It may come to shove
- 6 Arousing attention
- 7 Mall component
- 8 Pewter component
- 9 "Stranger Things" girl
- 10 Atop which
- 11 First-rate
- 12 Hairpieces
- 13 Grove growth
- 19 Robert of "Airplane!"
- 21 Adds ice, maybe
- 25 Went missing
- 27 "Gotta run!"
- 29 Pacific island nation

- 30 Auth. unknown
- 31 Summoned, as a butler
- 32 Short
- 33 Home to the Himalayas
- 34 Armored vehicle
- 35 PC maker
- 39 Dove's sound
- 40 Danish currency
- 43 Dishearten
- 45 Walked-over
- 47 Fly like an eagle
- 48 Spouse's family
- 51 Give the slip to
- 53 Smooth-tongued
- 54 Showy display
- 55 Trapper's wares
- 56 Disparage
- 57 Galileo's birthplace
- 58 "Time" anagram
- 60 Department store department
- 62 Father's Day gift

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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Enjoy traditional performing arts at Native Okinawan Village!



A traditional performing arts performance on May 6 only at Native Okinawan Village, a reproduction of a Ryukyu Kingdom-era hamlet. Feel the gentle flow of Okinawan time.

DATE	May 6, 2024 Monday	TIME	11:00 - 11:30 14:00 - 14:30
PLACE	Native Okinawan Village (Ocean Expo Park) : admission free		

OCEAN EXPO PARK
 Native Okinawan Village

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

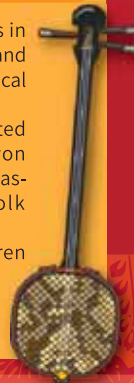


PERFORMER

Ryukyu Classical Music
 Nomura School Music Association
 Naoki Yonamine Institute



Naoki Yonamine runs a class in an old Nakijin Village house and teaches a sanshin club at a local Elementary School. His students have participated in many local events and won several prizes in Ryukyuan classical music and minyo (folk song) competitions. This time, he and the children will present Okinawan sanshin music of flower and sea-themed songs.



Kinser Elementary School
 3rd grade / Mr. Ramos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Have you ever been to a soccer game? Cause I have! I went to my friend Nico's game, and it was super exciting. My dad drove me and my mom to the field.

Then, I watched his game. I felt so nervous, like butterflies were having a party in my stomach. I felt nervous because I really wanted Nico's team to win. The other team was a good team. But guess what? Nico's teammate Noah scored a goal! I jumped and screamed Let's go Nico let's go!



After the game, something really cool happened. My family and Nico's family, we all went to have breakfast together. It was like a big celebration! We ate ramen, sushi, and chicken, and Nico and I got to sit next to each other and talk about the game and a bunch of other stuff. I don't really like sushi.

Have you ever played Pokémon Mezastar? Nico and I each have our favorite Pokémon. Mine is Bulbasur because he's strong and he has the power to heal others.

Being a military child means I've lived in different places and met lots of friends like Nico. Each friend and each place has its own special story. And even though sometimes I have to say goodbye when we move, I always remember the fun times, like Nico's soccer game and playing Pokémon. No matter where I go, I know I'll make new friends and have new adventures.

- Ayden

Have you ever been fishing but you didn't catch a fish? I did it twice. It was an adventure! First, we had to pack the car. I helped my family pack the car, putting in all our fishing gear and some snacks. I felt like a real explorer, getting ready for a big expedition.

Next, we drove off, talking about how many fish we would catch. The drive felt long, but I enjoyed looking out the window at the trees and the sky. When we got to the pond, it was so peaceful and pretty. We set everything up, sticking the fishing rods into the ground and carefully putting on the bait. I was super excited, imagining the big fish I was going to catch.



Lastly, we went fishing. I was trying really hard to be patient, waiting for a fish to bite. But then, all of a sudden... ahhh! A snake! I screamed! I screamed because I saw a snake slithering near our fishing spot in the water.

I do not like snakes! They make me feel all shivery and scared.

My grandpa told me it was okay, and that we should fish somewhere else. But I wasn't so sure about that. Even though we didn't catch any fish, and the snake scared me, I had a great time being outdoors with my family.

Being a military child means I get to have all sorts of adventures, like going fishing, even if they don't go exactly as planned. And even though I didn't catch any fish this time, I learned that it's more about the fun and the time spent with my family than anything else. I can't wait for our next adventure, hopefully with no snakes next time!

- Mina

Have you ever gone to an elephant sanctuary in Thailand? I have, and it was fun!! First, we fed the elephants radish. My mom was recording the whole time, capturing every single moment. Then we went down a hill with an elephant. I was holding its leash, which was made of plastic. I think the elephant was 85 years old, it was a girl, and her name was, I think, Chicha. Then we ate lunch, which was a mix of English and Thai food. It was delicious! We also learned a recipe for making rice balls for elephants without teeth. First, we had to get our hands wet, then grab a chunk of rice, and roll it up into a ball. We fed it to the elephants with our bare hands, trying to avoid touching their tongues. But you kind of have to touch their tongue, which might look a little gross.



I had so much fun! We had to take off our shoes to go in the water with the elephants. It felt so mushy under my feet; it was a weird but cool feeling. Then we gave the elephants a mud bath by picking up mud and rubbing it on their backs. The elephants' backs were hairy, so I was a bit hesitant to rub hard.

We took a ton of pictures! It was amazing to be so close to such gentle giants. After our tour was over, we washed up, ate a couple of snacks, and then it was time to say goodbye. If you ever get the chance to go, have fun with the elephants!

Being a military child means I get to have all these incredible adventures, like visiting an elephant sanctuary in Thailand. It's a part of my life I really love because I learn so much and get to see amazing things. I can't wait to see where we go next!

- Trinity



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