



STARS AND STRIPES

Community Publication

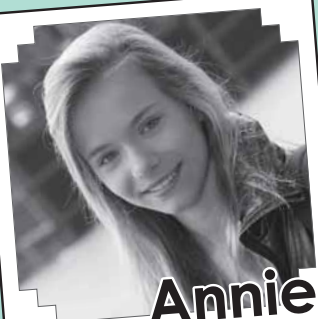
OKINAWA

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FREE

SUBMIT STORIES TO: OKINAWA@STRIPE.COM • STRIPEOKINAWA.COM • FACEBOOK.COM/STRIPEPACIFIC



Annie

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

Sender's name

Congratulate a 2021 grad!

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

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

What you need:

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

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



Plane will be landing soon

Vroom!!... the plane soars higher. Hi I am Elizabeth. Did I take you by surprise? Let me tell you why I'm up here. I'm moving! I do it every 3 years. Right now I'm currently in 3rd grade! I LOVE it.

My dad is in the military. He is a ceat. A ceat is a doctor who helps transport people to a different area to get proper treatment. Sometimes I get lonely, but I will always look forward to when he comes back. I miss my friends too, but I'm used to moving. I have 2 sisters, and they are as different as day and night. First there is Emma. She is the oldest child. Emma loves crafts.

Then there is Marianne. She is really fun. Marianne is an A student. She is the second oldest. After that there is me. Hyrum is really funny. He is the youngest.

Mom is a nurse, and she loves our cats. My sisters were really upset when our first cat, Saraphina died.

She was a beautiful tabby. Afterwards we got 2 sweet female calicos. They are named Muffin and Cali. We

once had 13 bunnies. Did I just hear you gasp?! I didn't think it was that crazy. Was it? I'll try to say all the baby bunny's names. There was Twinkle, Star, Harry, Haminey, Fred, George, Mittens, Boots, Socks and 2 more names I can't remember. Although they were cute, we had to sell them in order to move. I remember where Star went. She was given to a boy for his birthday.

Carmel and Sparkle went to a farm. Sparkle was the male bunny. Emma claims that I named Sparkle. Personally, I doubt it.

I LOVE my life as a military child!!!! It's AWESOME!!!!!!!

The plane will be landing soon, so I'd better go!

- Elizabeth C., 3rd grade, Kadena Elementary School

My Life

Flying, driving, walking, moving. "I'm scared, mommy," I said.

"Mommy, I have no friend here..."

Moving to a new place every few years.

Having an adventure of making friends,

losing friends.

School.

I just stay in the same place.

Laughing, crying, the way

I feel when I'm moving, the sign I may never see them again.

I get to the plane, hear

the roar for hours and hours, then

I get off the plane. Next thing

My new home.

- Riley Chargualaf, 6th grade Ryukyu Middle School

New places, new friends

My life as a military child can sometimes be challenging, especially when my both parents are in the service. There are, and will be times, I'll be missing one parent from my life for days, weeks, and even months when they go on deployments. I become sad when my parents are not around because I wonder when I will see my mom or dad again. Being a military child means I move a lot too. I hate to say 'goodbye' to my friends and the house I called home for the last couple of years. My family and I travel and get to go to different places, I guess that is a good thing, because I get to discover new places and make new friends.

- Mia T., 3rd grade Kinser Elementary School





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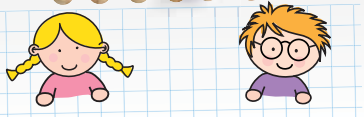
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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Military Child Haiku

I am brave a strong.
As a military child I move a lot.
I am proud and resilient.

- Seanna Roach,
Bechtel Elementary School



CHECK OUT MORE MILITARY
CHILDREN STORIES AT:
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Although moving only three times in my life doesn't seem as overwhelming as the expected five or six time move for a military family, I've still been able to learn more about myself and the world throughout my dad's military career. Processing and learning the highs and lows of military life is different for every member and dependent, and I'm grateful to be a part of a life that will forever be unique to my character, despite the challenges I've had to face head on.

One of the major conflicts I struggled with was frequent change and the ability to adapt to my new surroundings. This was especially overwhelming due to my shy and introverted nature that I still continue to possess today. Although it is something that will be a part of me for a while, surrounding myself with people that I can relate to and get along with has allowed me to overcome certain fears I have while communicating with others. It may seem like a pretty obvious way to adapt to a new environment, but I had only recently learned this in high school because I had pushed myself to build up a certain amount of courage in order to go out and interact with my community; even if it meant coming back to Okinawa for a second time, a place where I had expected to be comfortable.

Getting orders to come back to Okinawa and facing the difficulties of change also allowed me to experience new hobbies and talents that I know I never would have found if my family had decided to stay back home in the states, which is something that I will forever be grateful for. Despite these roadblocks, being a military brat has allowed me to learn more about the world due to the numerous opportunities of travel. Traveling to different countries around the world has definitely opened my eyes to numerous cultures and is something I will cherish because I know it's an opportunity many others don't get a chance to experience. It's been a great way for my family and friends to become closer and make memories, especially since there will always be times when we are separated, due to the hardworking nature of the military life. I've also been able to capture some really nice photos!

- Faith Ilanos, senior
Kadena High School

Military life has it's ups and downs. As military children, we also experience the highs and lows. My sister and I came up with the ABC's of the highs and lows of our reality of being a military child.

	High's	Low's
A-	adventure	absent
B-	belated	bashful
C-	creative	chaotic
D-	develop	deployment
E-	explore	exhausting
F-	faith	far
G-	guard	gloomy
H-	home	hardship
I-	inspiration	ignorant
J-	joyful	jitters
K-	knowledge	kindless
L-	lovable	limited
M-	memories	missing out
N-	nice	naive
O-	observant	odd
P-	pleasure	pitiful
Q-	quest	quiet
R-	remarkable	regrets
S-	solutions	sorrow
T-	truthful	tiredness
U-	unique	unknown
V-	valuable	vulnerable
W-	wonderful	worry
X-	extra xoxo	extra days without HHG
Y-	youthful	yell
Z-	zen	zap

These emotions became very real during our last pcs, overseas and with covid.

It was a hard move, but the experience of taming our emotions and diving into a new culture has been uplifting. We stay positive because we have each other, my Daddy is a hero, and we know adventures and memories are in the making.

- Audrey and Lauren Peralta

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

My military life is fun because my dad is in the military. One time he took me to his work. It was so much fun! My dad's office looked like a science lab because it had weird bottles with different colors. I guess they use them for experiments. I went with my sister. If my dad was not in the military, we will be poor, have no home, and I will not be here in Okinawa.

I am happy to be in school because my teacher, Ms. Mendoza, is the best. I get to play at recess with my friends. We do jump rope, play with balls, or just walk around and talk. I get to be neighbors with my classmate, Chloe. We live on Camp McTureous which is a Marine Corps base.




- Mia Paguada

Bechtel Elementary School

2nd grade • Ms. Mendoza


My dad works at the clinic at Camp Courtney. He helps people at the clinic and even sometimes goes to places that I do not want him to go like Camp Fuji. He rides his bike to work. His favorite food are cookies and cheese nachos. My dad does not like camping because he has to put his mask on the whole time. He likes to go hunting in the forest. Sometimes I go with my dad to his work. We take his favorite snacks with us. We also go to the library with my sister. We borrow books and video games. There are skate parks where we can play on base. That's why I like to be a military child.



- Joe Bauer

Why I like being a military child is that I get to go to a lot of places, but this is our very last move. My brother, sister, and I are all going to move on May 17th. The school we are going to has a middle school, and a high school right next to the elementary school. Plus it is the three best schools in Washington D.C. Just to be clear, I am moving to Quantico in Washington D.C. Instead of moving on base, we're going to be living off base this time. I did not like the house we moved in when we lived in D.C. before. It had a mouse, but we killed it right as we moved in.

Right now I live in Okinawa, Japan. I like how blue the water is here. It is my first time to live on a tropical island surrounded by the ocean. It is very different from Washington D.C. There were no palm trees over there, but there are a lot of them here in Okinawa. I'm going to miss the good friends and the school when my family and I move back to the states.



- Austin Everett


I am a military child. I have been to a lot of places like Hawaii, Hong Kong, and Germany because I am a military child. Right now I live in Okinawa, Japan. The things I love about Okinawa are the stores like Family Mart and Lawson. I like Lawson and Family Mart because I like the ice cream and the snacks there.

Sometimes my dad also has to go on really long trips like the one he is doing now for five months. My dad had to miss Christmas, my birthday, Valentine's Day, and Halloween. When my dad goes on trips, it is really hard for my mom to take care of my brothers and me. My dad is coming home next month because we are moving next summer or this summer. My mom is also looking at houses. My family and I are probably moving to Maryland. I also live across the street from the park right now which is the best! However, my mom said the house we are going to get is not going to have a park right across the street. Those are all the reasons why I like being a military child.



- Avery George

When I was three years old, I was babysat a lot about every day because both of my parents are in the military. When I was four, I had to go to Texas until my birthday. My mom sometimes called me when she didn't have work. When I was there, I visited my cousin a lot of times. One of my cousins is named Angel and the other two are named Leticia and Solene. My grandma, my uncle, and my aunt are there. My mom and my uncle were born in Austin, Texas. My sister was born in North Carolina when I was three years old. My dad is 6 feet tall. Now I'm seven and I'm in Okinawa, Japan, at Bechtel Elementary School. I'm in second grade in Ms. Mendoza's class. I take the bus to school every day. I go to SAC before and after school. I think it is the best to be a military child. I like to be a military child because you get to go to so many places like other countries. I have been to America like Texas, North Carolina, and cities like New York. You get to go on adventures and get to see awesome places.



- Christian Jones

My dad is a marine. He has to go to work every day and sometimes he comes home very late. Today he had to wake up at one in the night. When I woke up to go to school, he said he was going to take a nap. When I was brushing my teeth, he was sleeping. When I came back from school, he was not home, but after a few minutes, he came back from work.

When my dad left for mainland Japan, I got sad, but my two older brothers did not care. All they cared about was food. We like the ramen and other food that mom makes. When my dad came back from mainland Japan, my mom and I were so excited, but my brothers did not care. It was a surprise! That's one of the reasons why I like being a military child. My dad left again for three weeks. It got so boring so I played outside and some kids came. I was shy at first, but when I talked to them, I was making new friends. They were also military kids. They were from Bechtel Elementary School where I go too.



- Daniel Manivong

Being a military child is awesome because we can go to the store and buy candy. If my dad was not in the military, we could not go to the store to buy things. We can buy Barbie dolls, baby dolls, and American Girls dolls. We can bowling, but my older brother, Westley, cries when he can't hit the pins. I use bumpers when I bowl. I feel bad for him. My sister, Scarlett, is good at bowling. We can do all that because we are military children.

I am excited because my friends, Lauren and Austin's birthdays are coming up. I'm in the same class as them at Bechtel Elementary School. We're going to sing happy birthday at school.



- Ava Runge

I am a military child because if my dad wasn't in the military, we wouldn't be here, and we couldn't go to many cities. I love my dad because he works for the military. He's the boss of over 40 soldiers or marines. If he wasn't in the military, we wouldn't be here in Okinawa like I am right now. Our family will be poor because we won't have any money or things. I am grateful for what my dad does for us. If we were poor, I wouldn't be at Bechtel Elementary School. I get to have fun at Bechtel playing with friends, and even make new friends. I play hide and go seek with them at recess, but play boring games like puzzles if it rains.



- Nicholas Simpson


Well my dad is a Military Chief in the Navy. I go around the world to see things like parks or food. It's fun to be a military child. Who does not want to be a military child? I get to go around the world like to mainland Japan and to Okinawa. Sometimes we stay for a year or for months. It takes a long time to go to a place. My dad goes on the ship, so my brother and I make his favorite food, shrimp pasta. We take it to the ship, but then in a few days, he has to go out to sea again. When my dad is gone, my brother, Bella (our dog), and I sleep with my mom on weekends. We even help my mom cook and clean. I'm in charge when my mom is taking Bella out for a walk. My little brother, Kingston, listens to my mom or dad, but not to me! I love being here in Okinawa. I like going to Aeon Mall where there are a lot of arcades. I found a lot of friends.



- Ilianna Rivera Barnett

My family and I are going to move when the school year is done. My family might want to move to mainland Japan, so we might get a house across probably from my classmates, or I might even go to a new school. I might even make new friends or get a pet like a dog or a bunny. I might live by a beach or a park with a swing.

I love being my dad's military child. My dad gets me McDonald's on Fridays. What it is like being a military child is that in Okinawa, Japan, I get to go to Bechtel Elementary School on base. I learn to spell hard words like because, compare, and estimate. Ms. Mendoza helped me do a US president's report on the computer. She also helped me do math problems.



- Chloe Walker

I like to be a military child because I get to travel. I like to move too, and we are moving to California so my dad can help soldiers. I like my dad's work because they made us travel to these lovely places. I love it here in Okinawa because there are the beautiful beaches and the cherry blossoms too. I like being a military child because my dad knows how to do math and he can check my homework. I like it when my dad is in the military because he makes money for the house. He helps people and he helps carry things like groceries, clothes, and other stuff too. He is so nice to old people with things that is what it's like to be a military child.




- Raelynn Davis

My dad is in the Marine Corps. When I was little, my dad took me to work. Now that I am older, I can't go to my dad's work. As a military child, I always do the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at school. When I go to many places, I would take pictures. I make a booklet out of paper and put the pictures in them. On the pages, I also write the things I did at the different places. In Okinawa where I live now, I go to Okuma and play golf, swim, and ride the go carts. These are the other places I have been to: Georgia, Virginia, and South America. I have been to Japan two times. The first time I went, I was four years old. I am seven now. That's why I like to be a military child!



- Cyrus Sullivan


I am a military child. As a military child I have to go to school because I'm too young to be in the military. At school I learn how to do math and learn how to read time. We also have lunch, snacks, specials, and recess. My dad is in the military and has more work to do. He also takes care of me. My dad also buys me things I need like candy. My dad works hard. He is the best dad ever. He is the one who always buys the plane tickets. We have been to Florida and North Carolina. Right now I am in Okinawa. I like being in Okinawa because my grandparents are here. We like to visit them because they also give us fruit and other kinds of food. I like it the most when they give us strawberries. I like being a military child because I get to visit them and different places. That is my life as a military child.



- Lideya Meyers

Being a military child makes me feel safe and important. For my birthday, my dad bought fireworks. We watched them on the roof of my dad's building. My daddy goes on business trips to Australia. He told me they use ostriches to get around. They saw a lot of kangaroos and koalas.

My dad has also been to Singapore. I think Singapore looks like the place in the movie Coco, but with real people. Once my dad got me a stuffed animal kangaroo and a hamonogoo stuffed animal koala from Australia. I named the koala, Pan Pan and the kangaroo, Jambalaya. I like it when my dad brings souvenirs from different countries. That's why I like being a military child. I get to travel around with my dad and family too.




- Lauren Caola

CHECK OUT MORE MILITARY CHILDREN STORIES AT: MILITARYCHILD.STRIPES.COM




I like being a military child because we don't know where we are moving and it is fun to think about it.



Alyssa K.

- Alyssa K.


I like being a military child because... We get to protect and serve. And well I get to go to my dad's work mostly every day!



Aretha V.

- Aretha V.


I Like Being a military kid because I get to play with my Dad's rifle and mess around his office.



Bastian J.

- Bastian J.


I like being a military child because you get friends all over the world.



Cable S.

- Cable S.

I like being a military child because you get to travel and try new things.



Elizabeth K.

- Elizabeth K.


I like being a military child because I can play outside a lot.



Leo G.

- Leo G.

I like being a military child because it is fun when your dad or mom comes back.



Norah D.


- Norah D.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bechtel Elementary School

2nd grade • Mrs. Cole

I like a military child because I get to live on base and go to my dad's office and draw there and play there and stay safe and healthy and buy a lot of stuff every day and it is fun being.



Matthew W.

- Matthew W.

I like being a military child because I get to see the world and move a lot.



Molli P.

- Molli P.


I like being a military child because you can move anywhere and make new friends.



Melany G.

- Melany G.


I like being a military child because I can move a lot. And I get to have as much candy as I want.



By Taylor S.

- Taylor S.


I like being a military kid because I get to travel and meet new friends.



Kora C.

- Kora C.


I like being a military child because I get to move and make new friends a lot.



Ethan G.

- Ethan G.

I like being a military child because I get to move a lot and I can make new friends!



Claire K.

- Claire K.



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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bechtel Elementary School

3rd grade • Ms. Roberts

By: A.N.



- A. N.

By: E.R.



- E. R.

By: P.P.



- P. P.

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



Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Stearley Heights Elementary School

Ms. Beltran Kindergarten





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



I am a Military Child
Anya Gyimah

We move a lot and see our grandparents on video calls. I get to go to lots of different schools and make new friends every year. Everyone at school is the same because we are all military kids. I love being a military child.





- Anya Gyimah

I am a Military Child
Asher Cook

Dad works a lot. Sometime he leaves. It makes me mad and sad. Okinawa makes me happy. I wish I could be with my other family and spend time together. I love my family.



Being a military child sometimes means missing my dad. Sometimes it means adventure!




- Asher Cook

I am a Military Child
Ayanna Avery



My name is Ayanna Avery. My dad is in the Air Force. He works on fighter jets specifically weapons systems. I like it when he takes me to his workplace because I get to see all the jets and trucks. Though, sometimes he has to go TDY or work during the night so I don't get to see him. I know that it is only for a short time so I always look forward to his return. I think the best part about being a military child is that I get to make a lot of new friends. My dad says that the military is a big family so that makes them my family, too.

- Ayanna Avery

I am a Military Child
Benjamin Herbert

I like being a military child because I like seeing daddy's planes. My dad fixes the C130. I like living in Okinawa.



- Benjamin Herbert

I am a Military Child
Elmer Frey

I was born in Hobbs, Hawaii, shortly after I was flown off to Monterey, California. Followed to a short stay in Korea. We made a pit stop in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina while on our way to Okinawa, Japan. I am proud, loving, kind and full of wonder. I love Okinawa because I get to always wake up with a smile each day. I cannot hardly wait for the summer of the day to begin. Like all seasons, I still need a nap.

I am proud because I love my dad and his job. Unlike all the other I have been, but like my seasonal teacher - I always look forward to the next Okinawa because the USMC sends us. My heart belongs to Hawaii - but Okinawa is pretty good too.



I do my best by "learning the USMC" by getting all the medals Okinawa has to offer. I feel it is important to look out the journey because so that the children know where to see what on each.

- Elmer Frey

I am a Military Child
Finnegan Kenderdine


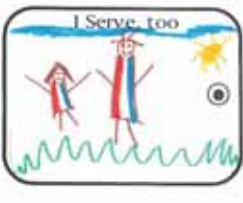
My daddy is in the Marine Corps. Sometimes it is hard, but I have a good life. I have a lot of good friends and I get to live in Japan.

- Finnegan Kenderdine

I am a Military Child
Jaida Pickens

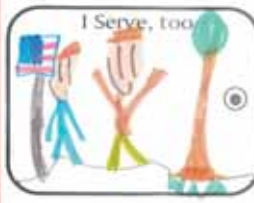
I enjoy moving but sometimes it makes me sad. I miss my friends from the other places. But it is fun here in Okinawa, too. I am proud of my dad! He is special because he protects me.

- Jaida Pickens

I am a Military Child
Jensen Nimmo

I get to help my mom when my dad is away.

- Jensen Nimmo

I am a Military Child
Kalani-Kai San Nicolas

My name is Kalani-Kai. I have been a military child my whole life. I like the exciting adventures my family and I take every time we move to a new place. It is so much fun to meet new people and make new friends. We get to try new things like eating new food and learning new cultures, too. I am very proud of my dad and all that he does for us and our country.




- Kalani-Kai San Nicolas

I am a Military Child
Kai Cartwright


I am proud of my dad! He teaches me a lot of things like backflips. He keeps us safe. I am proud to be a military child because I love our country.




- Kai Cartwright

I am a Military Child
Samuel Hukill



I am proud to be a military child. I enjoy living in different places. I am thankful for my dad because he provides for us and keeps us safe. I am so proud of my dad.




- Samuel Hukill

I am a Military Child
Seijyu Blythe

My dad teaches for DoDEA. He teaches PE to me and my friends. I like making new friends at school.

- Seijyu Blythe

I am a Military Child
Stanley Craft

My name is Stanley Craft. I am 8 years old. I was born in Germany and my two brothers were born in Japan. My mom is from Poland and my dad is American. We live in Japan.

In three months I am moving to Germany. It will be easier to visit my grandparents and cousins in Poland. I like to travel. I like planes the most. I visited three continents: Europe, North America and Asia. I visited many countries when I lived in Germany, Poland, Czech, Netherlands, Switzerland. I hope to visit many more this time.

I have friends in many places. In America, there is Evan, Logan and Elias. Asami lives in England now. Ben and Luke are in Japan. My mommy says I have a friend in Germany, too. His name is Ethan but I do not remember his very well.

I like being a military child!




- Stanley Craft

I am a Military Child
Taliyah Brooks

I like how we can fly on airplanes. We get to visit other countries. Make new friends. Have fun! We are an extended family. We are lucky!




- Taliyah Brooks

I am a Military Child
Trisha Anne Inumerable

Being a military kid makes me sad and happy. Sad, because my Dad is gone a lot of times and sometimes it takes months before he gets to come home. There was a time when he didn't get to spend Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's day with us and he even missed the birth of our youngest sister. It gets sad when daddy is gone for a long time. We miss him.

Happy, because we get to make a lot of friends every time we move and visit a lot of places. I was born in Hawaii, had a chance to play with snow in Kansas and now we live in Japan and there's a lot of vending machines here with ice cream.




- Trisha Anne Inumerable

I am a Military Child
Veda Harmon

Being a military child sometimes means missing my dad. Sometimes it means adventure!




- Veda Harmon

I am a Military Child
Ella Win

I am so proud to be a military child because my daddy is a hardworking and committed 100% times to his job. Sometimes he gets home late without complain.

I am so proud of my dad because he is a loving and caring dad. One thing I am proud to be a Military child is I get to move to different places and make new friends.

My daddy is the best because he sacrificed too much for his family. I love him so much!




- Ella Win

I am a Military Child
Isaac Katz

My dad goes on long work trips. He can not come and kiss me at night. I miss special time with him. I miss him. I like to play with him. I like when he reads to me. I like when he helps me spell.




- Isaac Katz

Celebrating
Month of the
Military Child

Stearley Heights Elementary School

Ms. Villa
2nd grade



Hi! I'm Simmeon and I'm a military child. I move a lot. I go to new schools. I visit new places. I try new things. Sometimes I'm emotional, but I'm having a great life. Today you are gonna learn about my life as a military child.

First things first, I was born in Germany. After Germany my family and I moved to North Dakota when I was 1 years old. I've also been to Canada, New York, New Jersey, Arizona, Guam, England, Italy, as well as other places in Europe and New Mexico.

I currently live in Okinawa, Japan. I'm kinda sad because my grandma and grandpa are in the United States, but sometimes I facetime them.

My dad is in the military. He works for money. I am very proud of my dad because without him in the military we would be broke. Sometimes my dad has to go away. I do not like it. I like when I play with him and I like when he tickles me. I am sad when he goes away.

My mom helps me feel better because I cuddle in her arms. My sister is sometimes silly. Mom helps her sound out sight words.

I like being a military child because I get to explore new things.

Now let's talk about some restaurants I've been to including "Stripes" which is one of my favorites. McDonalds is obviously everybody's favorite including mine. Now for hobbies I like. I love football because it helps accuracy and defense. I also love writing so sometimes I write stories and the best part... CREATING THINGS! I mostly like creating dinosaurs, weapons, and stories. Right now I'm working on a story called, "Legendary Heroes: Lazar vs Caden". I also create GAMES! Thanks for hearing my story! I hope you enjoyed it. Bye.

- Simmeon



I move a lot. I moved to Germany and Massachusetts. My dad was in the Army and other places I went to was Hawaii, Texas, and Japan. It was fun visiting Germany and Massachusetts, Hawaii, Texas, and Japan. When I found out that I was moving I was sad and excited. The reason why I was sad and excited was because I was moving from my friends. I was excited because I got to visit a new place.

- Neah



I am a military child and I move a lot. I go to new schools and I make new friends and lose them too and my dad deploys.

Making new friends can be hard sometimes and scary. Losing friends can be hard sometimes and sad.

I move a lot. I've been to Oklahoma, Hawaii, Virginia and now I live in Okinawa. I go to new schools and it's hard.

When my dad deploys I feel sad and worried when he does.

I am proud to be a military child because my dad fights for his country.

- Violet



I am a military child. I speak english, spanish, and japanese-ish. I like Pokemon and Super mario. I wish I was in pallet town. And I was born in Louisiana.

I am proud of being a military child because: I can go anywhere except in COVID-19, or when sick. I am proud of my daddy because he is great. I am proud of my mommy because she works so hard. We have a great life. It is the best.

- Santino



I am a military child. I move a lot. I go to new schools. I try new things. I was born. For the most part I have fun. I get sad sometimes.

I move a lot. I moved to Oklahoma. At first it was scary. Then, It was fun. It was scary at first because I did not not have any friends.

I also moved to Okinawa. At first it was scary because I did not know how to speak their language and I did not have any friends. Its so hard to move because I have to say bye to friends.

I go to new schools. It's scary to go to new schools because I do not have any friends. I make new friends. It was hard to make new friends because I don't know their names. I try new things. Its scary to try because I don't know what it tastes like.

My dad is in the military. He has deployments. It's hard when my dad is gone because he is not here.

It's fun to be a military child because you get to make new friends and explore the world.

For the most part I have fun. I get sad sometimes because people sometimes make me sad. I am proud because it's so fun.

- Blakelynn



It's hard to be a military child because my dad has to leave for 3 weeks but I won't be able to see him for 6 weeks and my dad has two planes. I'm proud to be a military child because I get to make new friends and learn new languages and new food. My dad on two planes but one is broken. I was born in OKC. In Norman, I did not have any friends. A military child is: we get to move a lot.

The worst thing about being a military child is we have to move. I never played outside. The best thing about being a military child is that we have to move a lot because on the plane I get to play my switch every single day on the plane.

The worst thing about being a military child is that I have to leave my friends. When I leave my friends it makes me feel sad because I don't get to see them.

- Ikeda



I was born in Clovis, New Mexico. I now live in Okinawa, Japan. I am proud to be a Military Child because I get to explore places and try new things.

My parents, brothers, and I make a lot of new friends. I get to learn things about different countries when I move and it is so fun. I like making new friends who speak different languages. My dad is in the Army.

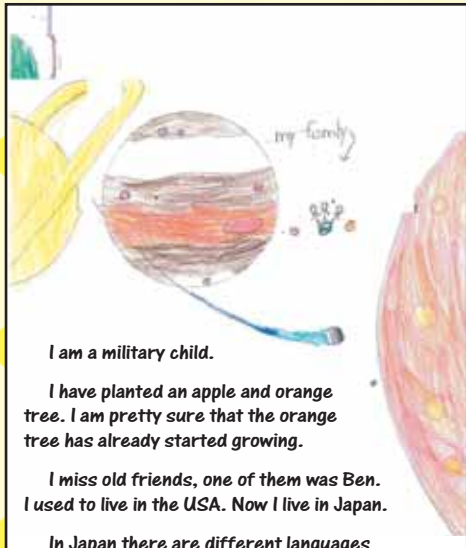
I like that he's in the Army because he keeps me safe. My dad's uniform is green and brown camouflage. He has blue eyes and dark blonde hair. He is super tall and super strong. I don't like when my dad leaves and he's gone for a long time.

I don't like moving away from my old friends because I miss them. But on the bright side I get to meet new friends. I also miss my family in New Mexico but I don't want to move from Japan and... I do want to move from Japan.

I don't want to move because there's a lot of nice people here and I will miss my friends but I do want to move because I want to go live with my family and I want to go to Mexico and visit my other family where they speak Spanish.

I want to go back to the states because I miss my best, best friend Addison. She's in Clovis, New Mexico. We've been friends since we've been in pre-school. She was my first friend ever. And then when my dad got in the Army we had to move away from her.

- Alma



I am a military child. I have planted an apple and orange tree. I am pretty sure that the orange tree has already started growing. I miss old friends, one of them was Ben. I used to live in the USA. Now I live in Japan. In Japan there are different languages like Japanese. Being a military child means that your dad or mom is in the military. My dad is in the military. He is always at work and takes forever to get home. I am proud to be a military child. It is sad to move or go to a new school. I am proud to be a military child because I get to visit new places and explore the future! I have had a question. What will the future be like?

- Eyden



I'm a military child because my dad works in the military. He saves peoples lives. Right now he's in a very cold place. But he's coming home soon. It's really fun when he comes home because my dad plays with me a lot. We play Hide and Seek. The last one found gets to seek and everyone found before them gets tickled. And he jumps up on the trampoline which is so fun. And he plays a fishy game with us. He throws us on the trampoline and there's a blanket up there and he pulls us off and that's how we get caught. Like fish in a net. And sometimes he pretends to be a horse and me and my two little sisters get a ride around the house. Sometimes we make workouts for him where he does push ups with us on his back and he grabs us by the feet and he walks us around the house like we are fruit bats hanging from a tree.

And I'm sometimes scared when my dad is away because my dad makes me feel safe. I made a lot of new friends here in Okinawa.

My friends help me feel good when I am sad. And my first friend here in Okinawa was Juliet and my second friend was Alma and then Blakelynn and then Gelia and Katelyn. I love the military world because the military world takes care of us. And I love moving because I get to make new friends.

- Adelaide



I'm a military child. I've been to mountains, Disneyland, Legoland, Oklahoma, Lost Vages and Japan.

My dad doesn't come home early because he's in the military. My dad doesn't always get weekends off. I get to visit new places, move to new places and make new friends. I get to climb mountains. I am proud of my dad. I love being a military child.

- Roman



I am a Military child. I move a lot.

Can I tell you where I have lived?

I lived in Texas and Washington. I live in Okinawa right now.

Do you know how it feels to be a military child?

I think it is hard to be a military child. But it is fun being a military child. It is excellent because I can make new friends. I am proud of my dad and I am lucky to be a military child thanks to my dad. If I wasn't a military child, I would not be able to move as much.

It is very sad when my dad leaves. Sometimes it is hard being a military child because I have to move away from friends. I don't like to move.

The end.

- Kaitlyn



I have new friends in Okinawa and mainland Japan. Me and my mom and Nick speak Japanese and English but only my dad speaks only English. When my mom is not here my dad babysits and when my dad is not her then mom only cooks food.

Sometimes when my Dad is not at home and he is at a different country, then we facetime him. I miss him when he is not here. I am proud of him.

It feels like when I going to moving I miss my friends. That is the hardest part of being a military child.

- Claire



I was a chinese kid before I moved to Japan. My mom knows a little bit of chinese words and my dad. I'm a military child.

I was shy on my first day of school. I made some friends. Ikeda is my friend and Ben. We play lost of games like tag games and playing on the swings and we sit by each other at the lunch tables.

I love learning new things my teachers name is ms Villa. She's a good teacher and knows a lot about things. We go to Stearley Heights SHES.

I like being a military child because I can move, buy food, and sometimes I get scared to make new friends. Well, sometimes I have a little problem with the military. I don't like it is hard when my dad goes away a lot.

- Andrew



My dad works in the Air Force, so that makes me a military child. We have lived in England and now I live in OKinawa.

The best thing about being a military child is that sometimes in England sometimes me and my sister used to go to my dad's work. I have been to America to see my dad's grandparents.

The hardest thing about being a military child is that my dad works a lot and I love him. I feel sad when he works a lot because all the time I want to snuggle with him.

I wish people knew that being a military is about having fun and learning about all of the planes.

- Molly

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



I am a military child. I have moved to Arizona, and New Jersey, and Japan. I have visited many places that some people never see.

I move to new schools. And leave old schools. I feel happy to be a military child. I am proud to be a military child because I like trying new foods and making new friends. I like moving around a lot. I live far from my grandparents. I miss old friends and I have to make new friends. This can be hard sometimes.

My dad is in the Air Force. My dad is kind. My dad fixes planes. I am very proud of my dad. He is a hard worker and keeps people safe.

- Ariana



I am a military child. I meet new friends and new places. I move a lot and go to cities. I see shisa dogs guarding the stores. I was hoping to have a maletese dog also... I'm hoping for the virus to get away soon I'm moving to Manila I can't move because the virus.

It can be hard to be a military kid. I move to a new place and I have to make new friends. Sometimes it takes a long time to make new friends and sometimes I make new friends quickly. I like moving but miss my friends.

- Kaylee



I like trying new things and food. I have been to Texas. My dad hangs with his friend. My dad likes going fishing. My dad is in the military and he does lots of work. We move around a lot. We are far away from family. That can make me fee. I sad because I miss them. I miss how fun they are.

My mom is military too. My mom goes to the post office. She does lots of stuff. She has to work hard. She has to mail all the mail for everyone. I love my Family. My mom and dad work for hours.

Making friends is hard. Its hard to move. I have lots of friends.! only lived in Texas and Okinawa.

My dad is sometimes grumpy and nice. I like sharing and hugs and on the switch I like playing super smash Bros also Bowser Fury.

I like making new friends. I am proud of my mom and dad because they make food for me and my sister and because they are hard workers. I love them extra much.

- Asher



I am a military child. My dad is in the military. My dad is proud. I am really proud of my dad.

My dad and I move to a lot of places. I lived in Oklahoma, and Japan. Places I visited were Hawaii, Disneyland and Tokyo, USA, and Salem.

Sometimes I am sad, scared, or mad when I move. When I am scared to find places, new places, new schools. It is sad when my dad is deployed because me and my mom cry and my brothers cry and my sister does too.

It is sad that friends move because you don't get to see them any more because they might be in different places like Arizona or Oklahoma.

I get new teachers at different places like everywhere around the world. New teachers are always nice. It is sometimes scary to start a new school. I like going to new schools because I get to have new friends.

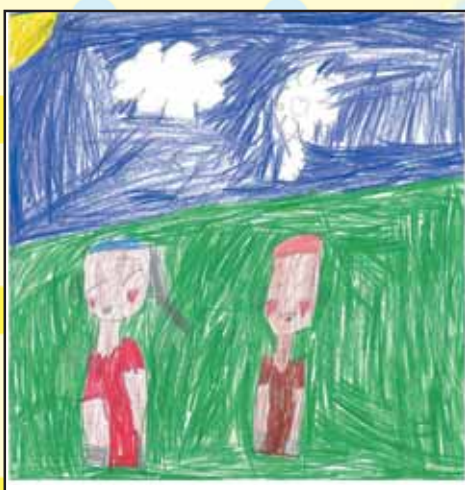
One bad thing about being a military child is that I live far away from my grama and grampa. I miss them very much. I like when they come to us and spend time with me and my family.

When I first moved to Okinawa, I had to sleep on a sleeping bag. I had a small tv stand and a my dad works at the pme center. My dad teaches at the pme center. I am proud to be a military child because I like moving. My dad and I like moving because we like seeing new places because we like new languages.

My dad was deployed when I was born. Me and my mom were at the hospital when I was born.

My dad is proud of me doing school. In pre k my teacher was Mrs. tea and Mrs. lacie. My classroom in pre k had orbeez and sand pit. I have had a lot of great teachers.

- Ben



I'm a military child. I make new friends like Addie and liv, it's fun. It's fun because you get to learn a new language. And they might not have friends. I move a lot. I move to C California, Georgia, Okinawa. Moving to Okinawa it was scary and fun too. More food like fish, and Sushi. I was born in Georgia.

My dad is in the military. They both go away sometimes. One time my mom had to go to my grandparents house. My dad had to go there too. Sometimes I have to stay with someone eles. I am proud of them because my dad is in the Army and mom's sister in in the Army.

- Juliet



Making new friends is hard, fun and scary. If you are she it is hard to make new friends. It is scary because you never meet them.

As a military child you move a lot. I don't like to move. I don't like to move because Nebraska is where I was born. I don't lie moving because I miss my friends and it can take a long time to make new friends.

My dad wears a uniform. My dad stops people. My dad takes us on family trips. My mom cooks yummy food.

Now I live in Okinawa. Okinawa is in Asia. The funny part about Okinawa is the banana stand doesn't just sell bananas. I live far away from my grandma and grandpa. I didn't see my grandma and grandpa for Christmas.

I am proud of being a military child.

- Jace

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

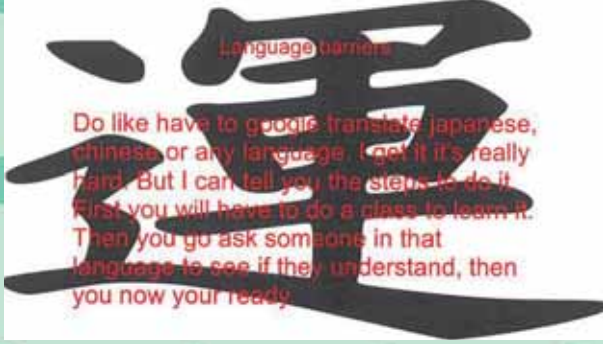
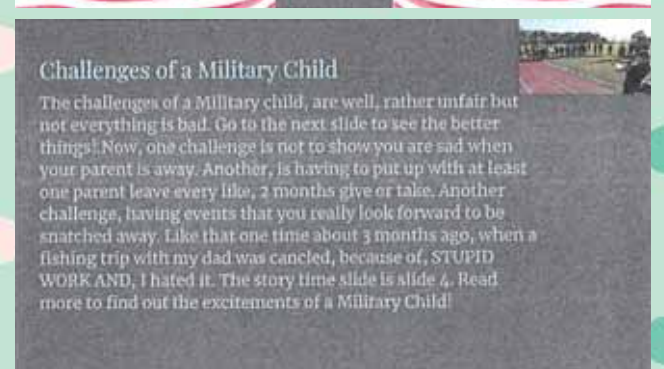
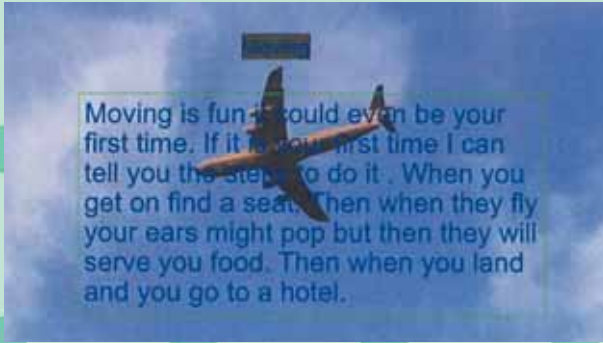
Stearley Heights Elementary School

Ms. Miller 4th grade

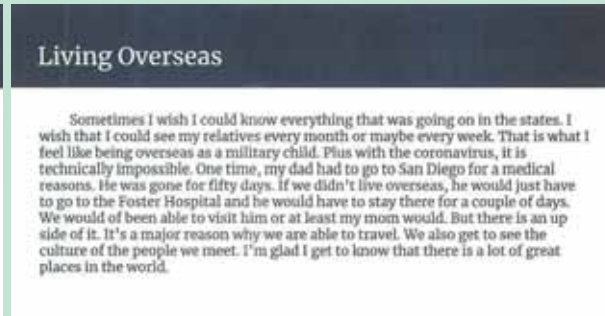
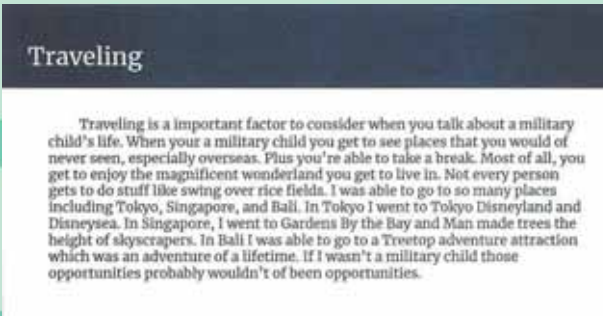
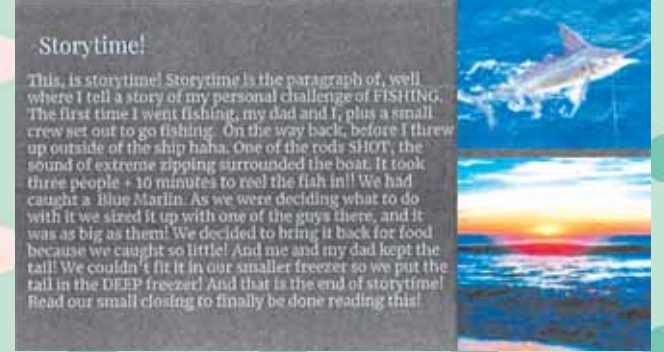
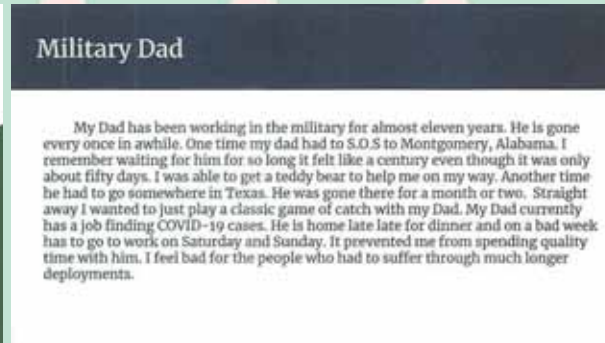


By: Maria Samelak

- Maria Samelak



- Jordan Pancia

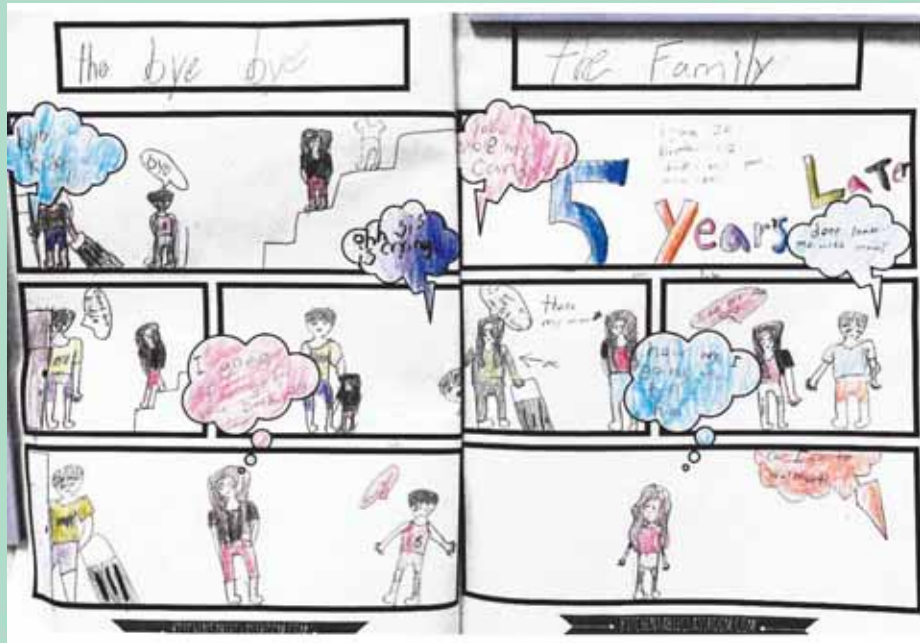
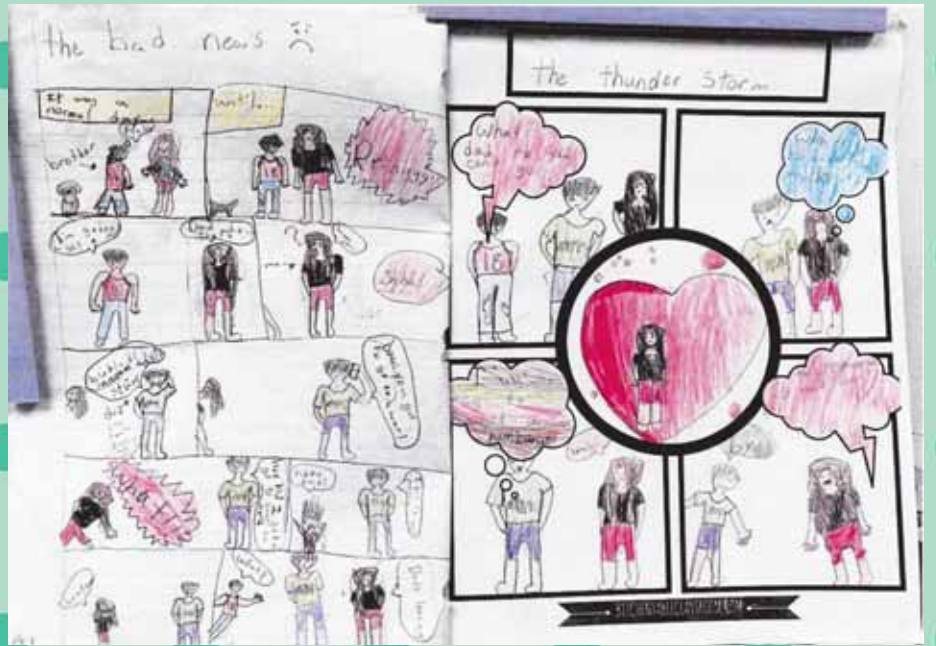
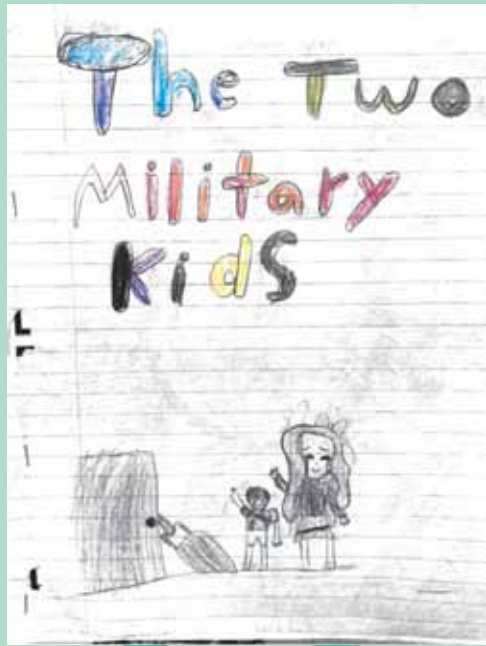


- Sawyer Davis

- Joella Lee

Stearley Heights Elementary School

Ms. Miller
4th grade



- Komachi Kelley



I love being a military child because...

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena Elementary School

2nd grade • Ms. Reese

I get to meet new friends. Also, my dad is there for me. I also get to go to school and learn.

- Scarlett Johnson

First I can go to many different schools. Next I can go to those schools because they are military schools. Also, the schools are military because they are on military bases.

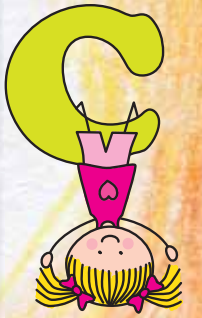
- Victoria Tilley

I like my home. I have a really good home. My dad use to be in the Air Force, but now my mom in in the Air Force. Dad does chores at home instead of going to work. This is a cool military childhood!

- Temperance Bolin

My dad keeps everybody safe from danger and from robbers. My mom takes me to school too. I like being a military child because I get to have fun.

- Kayden Cummings



Name: Dexter Lincoln

I love being a military child because it can take you to places like Okinawa. The military can help you make friends. The military helps a lot.

- Dexter Barker

Name: Eden

I love being a military child because I get to go to different places. I like to meet new people. I also like to try new food. Also the military is amazing. It's my dad's job to make sure we're safe.

- Eden Bartolome

Name: Janelle Conaway

I love being a military child because my daddy works for the military. He can be in any place he wants to go. My daddy has to go to places because my daddy has to go to work. But in a different place.

- Janelle Conaway

Name: Lukenz Desma

I love being a military child because my dad works very very hard so he can earn money to pay some bills and get us food to eat.

- Lukenz Desma

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena Elementary School

2nd grade • Ms. McKoy

Name: James

I love being a military child because I get to travel a lot. I get to have fun. I get to meet new friends.

- James Evenson

Name: Vincent

I love being a military child because my dad can keep my family safe. I love that my dad has to be in the military. I love that I can travel around the world.

- Vincent Holbrook



CHECK OUT MORE MILITARY CHILDREN STORIES AT: MILITARYCHILD.STRIPES.COM

Name: Aidan

I love being a military child because being a military child is helpful. I love being a military child because my dad has a lot of cool things to do. I love being a military child.

- Aidan Pislak

Name: Logan Porter

I love being a military child because I can see my mom and dad. My mom is a little bit in the military. My dad is a little bit in the military. My grandpa is a little bit in the military. That's why I can be a military child.

- Logan Porter

Name: Dallas

I love being a military child because I get to travel around the world and to see my mom and my dad.

- Dallas Jones

Name: Troy

I love being a military child because I get to travel all around the world. I love being a military child because my dad is a military child.

- Troy Nunez

Name: Jax

I love being a military child because I go to Lehigh and play and I have friends.

- Jax Houseman

Name: Aria Allensworth

I love being a military child because my mom is so nice and when I see her my mom is so happy. The reason why I love being a military child is because my mom is so nice.

- Aria Allensworth

Name: Levi

I love being a military child because it's fun to be one. Being a military child is a great experience. Being a military child is a great experience but it's not if you can't see anything.

- Levi Bakke

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena Elementary School

2nd grade • Ms. Mendoza



Being a Military Child

Do you know what it feels like to be a military child? I can't even imagine it. I've always known my dad and his job. But since we live in the states, to be a military child we don't get to see him. I wish I could see him at anytime. I wish I could see him at anytime.

- Elizabeth Castenada

IF Your a Military child

If your a military child you will see alot of fireworks Kaboom! First of all, I get to see beautiful landscapes and mountains everytime I move. Next, I love meeting new friends too. Lastly, I like going to new restaurants and discovering new places also I like discovering new water parks, cities and the ME parks too.

- Terry Fields

Being a Military Child

IT feel great to be a military child. Imagine you playing and you hear the nightingale. First thing a military child is great because you can travel around the world see a lot of new things. You can see a lot of new things. You can see a lot of new things. You can see a lot of new things.

- Nekhi Freeman

Being a Military Kid

I feel like being a military kid is fun. In my opinion, I love being a military child because I can travel around the world. I get to feel safe. I get to see air shows every year. In conclusion, that's why I love being a military kid.

- Sarahi Gonzalez

Being a Military Child

In my opinion being a military child is hard. It's so sad too but we can work through it together. First, it is hard because we go places. Third, we see new places. That's why it has to be a military child.

- Kash Hamilton

Favorite things to be a military kid

Some of the things I like to be a military kid. First of all I love the tanks. I like to ride on them. Last reason I like the weapons. I like how they look they are cool to me. I like the plans they are cool that is why I like to be a military kid.

- Emmett Henriquez

Being a Military Child

Have you seen a military plane? First, I like the military. I'm more safe. Next, in possibility I'm in the army. In conclusion, if I were a military child I would be happy.

- Abraham Hutchins

Why I like to be a military kid

You can see a plane and you can see a plane. But you will not see your dad. Sometimes they leave for work. Sometimes they go to places like Paris and see other things. You can see a plane and you can see a plane.

- Tiana Mack

Being a Military Kid

My daddy is a military. I also like being a military child.

- Jayden Morse

Being a Military Child

Imagine you are listening to the National Anthem and you want to march. Being a military child is great to begin. I like being a military child because I feel safe. I feel loving because my parents give me love. Kisses. I also like being a military child because I can go to many places. That's why I like being a military child.

- Anastasia Ruiz

Being a Military Child

I believe being a military child is awesome. Do you? These are my reasons. First, I feel safe and protected by my family and the people around me. Also, I get to move around and learn new things. I speak new languages, see new things and meet new people. Lastly, in San Diego I get to see plane shows. That's why I like being a military child.

- Britta Myers

Why I like to be a military child

Swish! That's the sound of the planes. That's why I think being a military child is awesome.

- Mia Smith

Why I like to be a military child

Do you like to be a military child? Well, I like it. First of all, I am lucky I live in OK. I love it here so much that I don't want to go back to the US. Also, I like traveling around the world like when I went to Alaska. Lastly, it's cool to see my dad in his uniform. That's why I like to be a military child.

- Henry King

Why I like being a military child

Why I like being a military child. Introduction, do you know what it's like to have a fighter jet fly above you while you play on the playground? I think being a military child is great. I've gotten to go to different countries like the USA, Africa, China, and Russia and we get to see cool things. Second, I like that I get to meet new people and make new friends. Third, I get to see big things.

Name: Raphaella - Sarah V. Cartacciano



I love being a military child because... I can travel to snowy and cold places!

- Raphaella Cartacciano

Name: Grayson Cole McGurn



I love being a military child because... my dad serves and protects Okinawa, fights fires, and I depend on my dad. I also love him!

- Grayson McGurn

Name: Alex



I like the American English I wrote in the book so the boys will write to me.

- Alex Morgan-Jones


Name: Russell



I love being a military child because... you can see new or old friends and learn different stuff.

- Russell Manual

Name: Shandon Caruth



I love being a military child because... I can travel to many places with my family and can make new friends.

- Shandon Caruth

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena Elementary School

2nd grade • Ms. Busam

Name: Sarah



I love being a military child because I remember happy family.

- Sarah Harvey

Name: Emmalyn



I love being a military child because... I get to move to different places and make new friends.

- Emmalyn Horton



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Name: Hazuki



I love being a military child because I can travel to many places and cultures.

- Hazuki Wittneben


Name: Bryce Winkeleer



I love being a military child because I get to watch fireworks!

- Bryce Winkeleer


Name: Eden



I love being a military child because... I can travel the world and learn.

- Eden Fore

Name: Lisita Tatafu



I love being a military child because... I get to go places and meet new people and learn new things.

- Lisita Tatafu

Name: Leonius



I love being a military child because... I love to move and make friends but I don't like when my family and me when we move again.

- Leonius Cuellar



I am in the bright red shirt on STEAM day.

Hi my name is Damian, and I am 9 years old. It is a cool life as a military child. My dad is a Marine, and my mom works at Kdes school. She is also a tik toker. I have 2 sisters. The old one is Riley and the little one is Lily.

We moved here from North Carolina. When I lived in North Carolina, I lived with my cousin. So i was having fun. But now I live in Okinawa and it is also cool.

They have so many cool stuff like beautiful waterfalls, delicious ramen, and good sushi. I like to go to the park with my friend. We find a lot of rocks. So here i am in okinawa having the best time. I go to school at Kdes and meet a lot of new friends in my class. I have a nice teacher. That is my life as a military child

- Damian L.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Kadena Elementary School

3rd grade • Ms. Soroka



I am behind the girl in blue jacket.

Hi, I am Xavier. I'm 9 years old and I like to draw and write. I'm a military child because my mom works in a military Air Force. I don't know what my mom does at work but all I know is that she does paper work. Maybe soon she will do something different.

I have a family of 5 and I'm the only boy. The oldest in my family beside my mom is Ana like in the movie frozen. She is 14 years old right now and loves to draw. Jazmin is the 2nd oldest in the family. She likes to watch youtube on her computer or just watches tik tok on her phone.

My sister Izabella Brown is 8 years old and likes to read books.

I was born in Nebraska, I like to play every sport but I love basketball the most. I'm new to Okinawa, We've just moved here from lakenheath in England. I played basketball with my friends or by myself. I liked the youth center there. We were always doing fun activities there. But we had too many lockdowns in lakenheath, and I didn't like it. During lockdowns, WE had to stay in and only parents could go out to get groceries. I liked my life back there but I have to move on. Now I am in in Okinawa. I've been here three weeks. I go to school in kadena. After school I go to youth center. I like the new school because it's not too crowded. I like the youth center here because it has a lot of games and rooms to play. I like my military life.

- Xavier B.



I am in the blue shirt and black mask.



My name is Kai and I am a child of the military. My dad is an Air Force Firefighter and my mom works at M CCS. In 2012, I was born here in Okinawa. After I was born, I was moved to Arizona for medical reasons. Four years later, I moved back to Okinawa for three years. I then moved with my dad to Oklahoma one year and came back here to Okinawa. I go to the school on Kadena air base called KDES. What I like to do: go to kumon which is a Japanese program after school. What I don't like is moving because my friends will miss me and I will miss them. And I'll miss my dogs named Lowes and Molly.

- Kai B.



Hi my name is Mia. I like to do arts and crafts. I have a family of four: me, my little brother and my dad, and mom. I'm eight years old; almost nine. My favorite color is purple. I live in Okinawa, Japan and I do taiko drumming.

My dad works in the Air force. He teaches students not like kids. He teaches adults. My mom works from home on her computer and she usually cleans. My brother is in kindergarten. Did you know my dad has his own jet? Here's a picture of my dad's jet; it's called a F15. Cool isn't it?

I love Okinawa. Let me give you the reasons. 1. I love-good food. 2. I learn new things. 3. I make new friends. 4. It's really fun, like the parks and the little zip lines. 5. I was born here and I speak Japanese.

I am sad when my dad is deployed. I get sad, but at least I get to call him. That's my military child life.

- Mia P.



It was fun to be in a military family. But now because of COVID-19, we can't do a lot of stuff right now.

Hi I'm Marceline Rivas (Marcy for short). I'm 9- born in L.A 'Los Angeles', moved to 29 Palms. And now I moved here. My dad works in the military. I haven't asked my mom where she works.



I'm in a family of 6, I have 3 sisters, Sky (not the actual sky like up), Rosalyn, and Addy (for short). My older sisters are Sky and Rosalyn. My little sister is Addy. And we have a pet in the family, too. Her name is Stars

My life in Okinawa is great! There are many things you can do, Once my family and I went to a place called The Stairway to Heaven. It was a really long stair. We regretted it a little bit because it was too long. But it was still fun. In 29 Palms, there was a park down the hill. My dad, myself and my sisters would go there. We played there. We would also go to the playground on the right side. In Twenty-nine Palms, I actually knew where to go and knew most of the neighborhood.

- Marcie

Oh hey! I didn't see you, I'm Enzo. I'm nine years old. My dad is in the Air Force. He is on night shift so I sometimes see him before school and dinner, so I could eat with him. My dad sometimes drives me to his work on Fridays.



My mom doesn't have a job, she makes meals and helps me with spelling words. My mom could speak Spanish and my sister has Spanish class so it's easier because my mom could help her. My brother Miguel is in high school, he's in 11th grade. And my sister Melissa is in middle school, she's in 7th grade. I'm the youngest and I have two dogs named Grim and Ebi.

Before I lived in Misawa AB, I liked Misawa because it snowed a lot when it was winter. I even knew how to snowboard. In kindergarten I had a musical play when it was the last day of school I think. I had to give my dog away because Okinawa was really hot so I had to give him away. I didn't not know how to spell his name, I was only in kindergarten. Being a military child is cool but, when we move, it's not.

- Enzo F.

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



Me on the day I represent my class for the school's spelling bee. And when my mom brought cakes for my birthday.

My name is Olivia. I am a military child because my dad works for the Navy. All I know is that he works in his computer making calls and helping his coworkers on what they have to do. My mom has to stay home all day to watch my baby brother. She loves to cook and bake food. She is very smart. She helps me get smarter everyday. My siblings like to watch TV, and play with each other. What I mostly like to do is to play video games, do arts and crafts, and practice my piano skills.

In Okinawa, my family likes to hang out on the beach and go to water parks during summer. We have been here for the past 6 years. We are moving away in 3 months to go back to Orlando, Florida. By the time we get back, my baby brother will be in Pre-K.

I mostly like my military child's life. What I don't like is that my dad is ALWAYS at/or doing work. I never actually have time to hang out with my mom or my dad. That was the story of "My Life as a Military Child". Are YOU a military child?

- Olivia M.



(My mom made the pineapple headpiece for me)

Hi my name is Presley. I am nine years old. I am a military child. My dad is in the Army. He is a doctor. My dad works at the 18 medical care.

When I was 6 years old almost 7 years old my dad had to come to Okinawa. He left the day before my birthday. I was so sad when I took him to the airport but at least my mom took some pictures. 2 month later, I moved here with my dad.

The family did so many things together. A few months later in the end of September my dad had to go to Texas until November. My sister and me were so sad. But at least we got to call him. The worst part was I got SICK while my dad was gone. But I got better. When my dad got back we went to Thailand right before covid 19 started. We also went with some friends. I had so much fun. When we came back covid 19 started and we did not get to do anything.

Then the year passed and I turned 9 one months ago. A few weeks ago we found out we were moving to Kansas. I was so excited because it snows there. It has water parks. But the best part is that we have a lot of friends there. I was so happy when my mom told me. I told my entire family. My aunts and my uncles, my grama and grampa and my cousins. They were so happy as well. That's my military child's life.

- Presley V.



Hi my name is Gavin, I'm in third grade at Kadena elementary school, in Mrs. Soroka's class. I would like to tell you about my life as a military child.

My dad is in the Air force. He is funny and he likes to play with me. But he is always so busy. My dad's job is really busy and hard. When he comes back from work, he is always tired and goes to sleep. My dad gets really hard work. His job is to tell the people who ride the jets where to send in the bombs. My mom is Thai. She is a good cook. She cooks Thai food. She is busy every single day. She makes the best Thai food. I think she made the best Thai noodle salad and orange chicken.

I was born in Japan. I am 9 years old. I am in third grade, and I go to school in Kadena Elementary School. I came to this school when I was in first grade. Now my family is moving to Texas in a month. At school I like reading. I also like recess. It's fun to play with my friends. After school I go home and play with my friends on the street.

I like being a military child because you can go to a lot of places. I went to Okuma, Naha, Thailand, Nebraska, Texas, and Japan. Now we are going to Texas again. I don't like it that we have a lot of rules. Being in the military, you cannot go to many places. Like we cannot go to shops and restaurants because of Covid.

- Gavin H.



Are you a military child? If not, do you know what a military child is? A military child has a mom or dad in the Air force, Army, Marines, Navy, Space force, or Coast guard. My dad is a doctor in the Air force. My mom stays home. Her job is to take care of the family, but especially my youngest sister Maggie. Maggie is the youngest. She was born during the pandemic (Covid 19). Molly is the second youngest, and sometimes you can hear her before you see her.

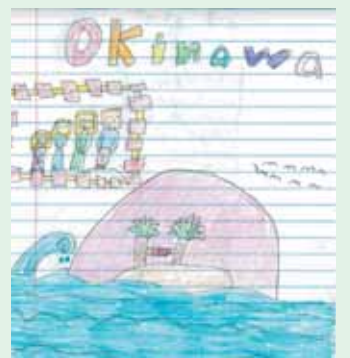
I'm the oldest child in the family. At home, I like to cook and read in my bed. I can walk across the street and play with my friends Mini and Julia. They both are in third grade. Mini is in my class. At school, I enjoy math. I like it that we have 2 different teachers for every special class like PE, Art, Music, and Culture. I also do Chess club and Taiko drumming club after school. Outside of school I like to play baseball.

I like the military because you get to move to new places. I moved here last August from South Korea. What I like about South Korea is that they have really good pork cutlets. What I like about Okinawa is the ramen restaurants, the cool mountains, and the beaches. I also like the base. Every Sunday my family has a list of places on base to venture. I also like moving because I get to make new friends on the way. But what I don't like about the military is that you have to say "goodbye."

- Bennett



I'm Payton and my parents are in the Marine Corps. My family and I move every 3 years. We live on Kadena air base. My mom helps people by answering their questions for work. And she works so hard, she once missed her lunch time. Well I don't know what my dad does, but all I know is he works on classified work. I have a sister. Her name is Paige. She is 12 and she is in 6th grade. We really look alike, and we have the same hobbies. We both like playing Roblox.



Not only my parents work, I have a job too. I am a student at Kadena Elementary. I'm 9 in 3rd grade. I learn everyday until 3:00. On Tuesdays I get out of school at 2:00.

I moved here when I was 7 in 1st grade. I moved from Virginia. I miss it. I used to go to a Catholic school there. There was one class per grade. Now my KDES school is really new, crowded, and big. There are 7 classes per grade, and the building has two floors. I love it here in Okinawa because I learned so many things new here on the island. I learned what ramen was. I learned what noodles I like. I learned about sushi. We usually get to eat sushi with my family on weekends. I like rice, but I cannot use the chopsticks. I got to see a waterfall for the first time in person. It's really cool. That's my life as military child.

- Payton E.



Hi my name is Madilyn, but I go by Mini. I like to do arts and crafts and play with my dolls. I have a family of 6: me, mom, dad, 2 little brothers, and 1 big sister. My big sister is 12, and in 6th grade. I am 8 years old, soon I will be 9. My favorite color is purple. I live in Okinawa, Japan and I do taiko drumming. I am about to move to Germany. I am so excited!!!

My dad works in the U.S Army. He handles the logistics. Sometimes I help him in his office. He has a white board I can draw on and a couch I can sit on. His office is pretty cool. When he deploys, I get sad and look forward to him coming back. Sometimes I get to call him. When he comes back I am happy.

My mom has a home job. She crochets dolls and blankets and she's very talented with her work.

I like going to big parks. Playing on the little zip lines is my favorite. I also like going to ramen places. In Okinawa there are restaurants called yakiniku. It is awesome there. You order whatever you want. Then you order raw meat and sausages. There is a little grill in the middle and you grill your own food. It is really yummy. I also like going to the sea wall and Tori beach where we watch the sunset. It is really pretty, and sometimes if we get lucky we get to see fish jump out of the water. There is also a park there. I also really like my school KDES. It is actually fun. I made a lot of friends and learned a lot of new stuff. The aquariums are cool to visit, and the whale sharks are awesome!!!

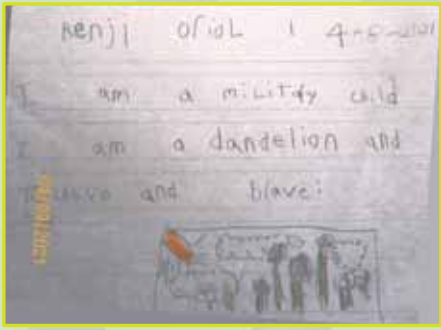


So, I like my military life. But what I don't like about my military life is that I don't like my dad deploying. Are you a military child? How is your life?

- Madilyn R.

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Bob Hope Primary School



- Renji



- Jaylene Guevara



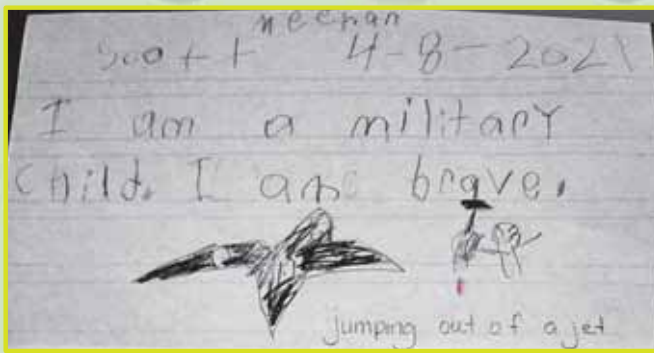
- McKinley Morris



- Grayson Mothershed



- Kiira Bensusan



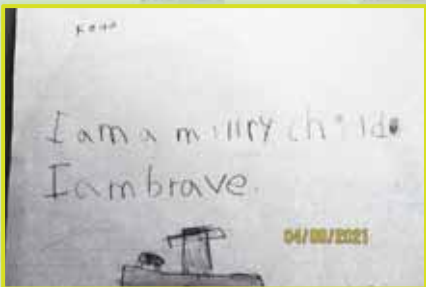
- Scott Meehan



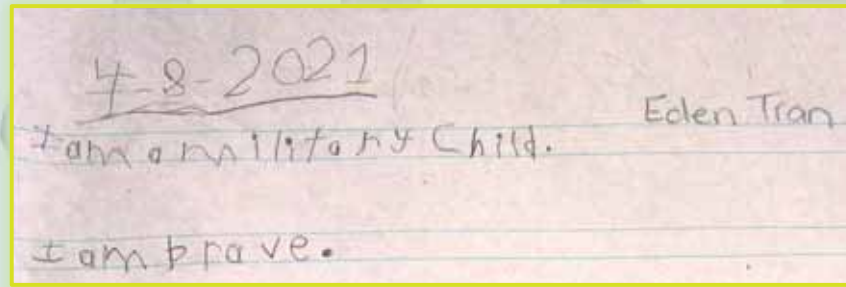
- Jakobe



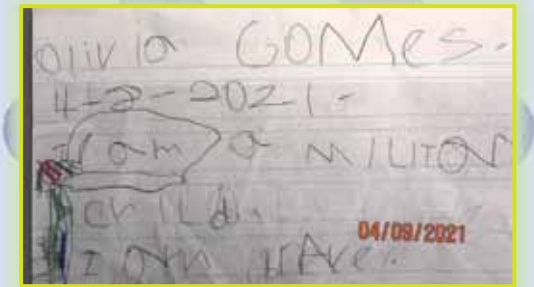
- Hudson Kirk



- Keito



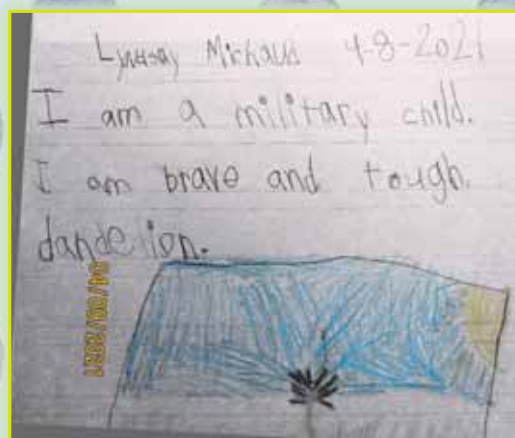
- Eden Tran



- Olivia Gomes



- Abilene Crossman



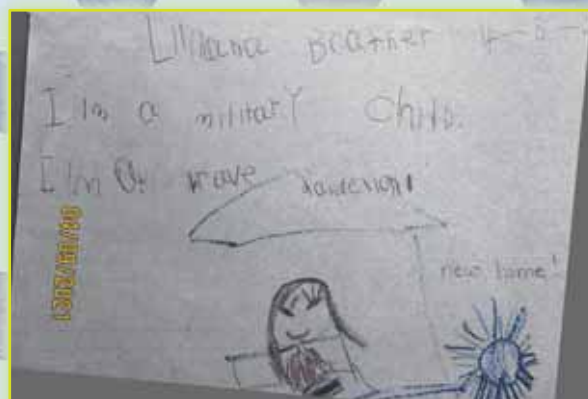
- Lyndsay Michaud



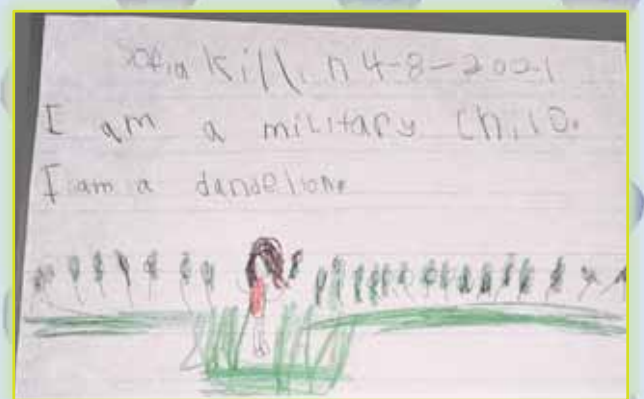
- Abraham Gonzales



- Callah Kelley



- Lilliana Boather



- Sofia Killin

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Amelia Earhart Intermediate School

My Dad
Is a
Loving and
Intelligent father
To his family
And a
Respectful man and soon my
Young sister will follow with what he does!

- Abigayle Nansen

Thank you Dad
Riding a plane all my life isn't fun but.....
Over that, I am okay
Over that, I love you
Purple up because
Soldiers around the world are fighting for us and our country

- Amara Ward

5th grade .
 Ms. Freeman

Far away on A
Operation
Ready for anything to attack
Careful so they can come back
Enough with the war
So, Then I can hug you

- Madeline McKinney

Are You
In the Military? I am
Right in the Pacific Ocean
Flew over the land
Over the ocean, over seas
Right on an island with
Caring, brave, and true families caring for you
Every day and night

- Jake Halle

The person who protects me
Risks his life everyday
Although he works a lot
Very little does he complain
Every three years I have to
Leave my friends behind
I still love my military life though
Nothing can make me change my mind
Great soldiers such as my hero makes our lives better

- Brianna Mason

My life isn't normal like the other American citizen.
I know it is awesome to be a military child, like see
 new places and meet new people.
Learning new things
Is fun too, but there is one
Thing I hate the most, Deployment.
Angry thoughts rush through my head. Seeing your hero
Run off to save someone else's lives is heroic too, but
You know your life is about to change

Change, that word is sometime a good thing but is can be a bad thing too. It's

hard to live a life without your loved ones
I know how it feels, but when they come
 back, your
Love will be back with you again
Don't get me wrong... being a military child
 is the best. It just has ups and down in their
 life.

- Hiliana Perez

Moving is hard
Isn't fun
Life starts all over
Is hard to adapt.
Time goes by
Adapted to new place
Really, actually not sad
Yes, it is hard, but over time, it won't be so bad

- Liam Hufalar

Some people think being a military child is easy
Only 1 percent of the us is in the military
Life as a military child is not always easy
Did you know you have to serve 20 years to retire?
It's fun and also hard to be a military child
Effects of being in the military are you're always moving
Really hard to be a military child

- Ava Rivera

Air Force
In the sky and down below
Right down here with me
For they are smart
Or
Right in my heart
Cuddling with family or working with technology
Everyone, including me, are happy at home and at work

- Emmalyn Rei Okamura

Dandelions
Are just like the military children.
Nice and neat are all the boxes waiting to go to a
 new world!
Dancing inside, as we are thinking
 very s**E**cond about how a new home will look like.
Is it going to be big or small? Is it good or bad?
 You'll never know until you arrive.
Only a couple seconds till you get there, you can
 feel it!
Now you are finally ready to see your new home!
Smiling as you see your new home, it's going to be
 hard to get used to but it's your new home.

- Alondra Hernandez

My hero, my dad
Is kind, helpful, and not
Lazy, he is
Intelligent and hopeful
The nicest person I know
Ask him a question, and he will know
Resilient and respectful
Yes, he is the best

- Kendyl Sessions

My bodyguard, it
Is very tough to be in this job
Loves the world, loves her/his family
In a secure place
Trains everyday
Are people who work hard
Rights the wrongs
Years of saving the day

- Jonah Wright

Super strong and never scared
To go to battle
Rough oceans in the middle of nowhere
On the way to Okinawa
Not too sad or happy but
Gracefully proud everyday

- Noah Jones

Never giving up for their children
Always strong for others
Voluntary training
Young But one of god's greatest soldier
Strength from all of their hard work and duty
Energy from all that training
All for one and one for all
Like my father, I want to become
Supporting family after a rough day at work

- Rai Berger

Being strong and intelligent.
Ready to do anything,
A soldier prepared.
Very skilled.
Effort for everything they have done.

- Rian Stehnick

Moving is hard
Over oceans, land, and cities
Very far from the place I've lived
I want to stay there just a little longer
Nothing stays the same
Going place to place
Farther from family and friends
All around the world, but grateful for the family I have
Resilient and strong, I love my family

- Sophie Johnson

Parents and people in
Uniforms of all colors that
Respect and resemble our country and
Play a big role and character and
Let the people all around the world be brave
Every day and everywhere making it always OK
Power and purple
Out on a huge mission in
Where ever and whenever
Early in the morning
Ready to go again and save the world

- Sana Cobham

Moving is hard
Isn't fun
Life starts all over
Is hard to adapt.
Time goes by
Adapted to new place
Really, actually not sad
Yes, it is hard, but over time, it
 won't be so bad

- Liam Hufalar

Airplanes fighting everywhere
In the hangers are all the planes
Right in the air craft carriers are more planes
Fighting in the sky
Officers above helping to protect our country
Control of the sky
Everywhere in the sky are fighters

- Russell Gibson

Being strong and not scared
Ready to fight for someone
Amazing at protecting people
Very vigilant
Excellent at being honest
Responsible for everything
Yields good attitude

- Wesley DeGrange

My dad is my hero
Intelligent and strong he is a
Librarian as smart as he can be
I love him with all my heart
To the moon and back
All I need is the love that he gives
Resilient and strong
You are my hero.

- Stella Grimmer

My Hero my dad
I Love him and he
Loves me
I want
To be like him in the
Army
Returns home tired
Yet he still is ready for fun

- Ryden Searles

MY HERO
I AM IN AWE OF YOU, YOU HAD TO GO THOUGH
LIVES AND FOUGHT THEM FOR US
I LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR
THE THINGS THAT YOU DO FOR US, I
A M ASTONISHED BY YOU, YOU GIVE ME INSPIRATION
REALLY, BECAUSE OF YOU, I WANT TO BE IN THE MILITARY
YOURS TRULY, EVE A.

- Eve Ayim

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Amelia Earhart Intermediate School

Introduction

Are you a military child? If not, would you like to know what it's like? If so, this all will be about the life of a military child, from traveling to the food it's all here!

To begin, being a military child is inspiring because you get to see your parents be in the military and it can inspire you to join the military as well no matter what branch it is. Another reason why I like being a military child is because you get to move around the world with your family and explore new places you also get to try new foods, like sushi, or a different type of pizza in Japan and get to meet new people. Like at my school, I've made a lot of nice friends and I am happy to have them be my classmates and friends!

Sometimes you even get to go to your parent's work and see how it is there and you can ask and learn about what they do. My mom is in the Air Force and her squadron is 18th Operation Support Squadron. 18th Operation Support Squadron is basically what she does at work supporting missions for the airman. Her job is to do intel and I think it's really cool. You get to travel to cool places that I've been to like: Florida, Texas, Washington and overseas like Okinawa, Japan.

As a military child you can't always expect to be in one place for a while. The most time you can spend as a military child overseas in one place would be 4 - 6 years depending on what job your parents have. This means, you will go to different schools and you will always have the chance to meet new people and experience new things every few years. This includes new resorts you've never been to, the beaches and more. Seeing new places and traveling the world is fun.

Another thing is you get to see all these big and amazing airplanes and fighter jets they have on the flight line, they are so big and cool. I've been in one of the fighter jets before that was a F-15C (fighter jet) on Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. Seeing that everyone has a job that they are supposed to do no matter what it is they are determined to get it done. At the end of the day is the coolest thing to see, determined men and women do their job with commitment, no fear and determination, like my mom!

In conclusion, it's fun being a military child, you get to see determined people, you get to travel and explore new places, try new foods and have inspiration to join the military after seeing what your parents do. I am happy to be a military child!

- Micah Acfalle

Life as a military child is full of surprises. I have lived in many places, tried so many yummy foods, and have got to meet many people at different schools. I have had the chance to experience many different things that most civilian children could only dream of.

I have been to many cool places. I was born in Virginia on August 8 2011, my family then moved to North Carolina for 5 years. Some of the fun things to do are go to the pool, play games, and spend time with family. After living in North Carolina, we moved to Okinawa, Japan. In Okinawa, we do hikes, go to the beach, see cherry blooms, and waterfalls. While living in Okinawa, my family and I traveled to Tokyo and we visited Disney World. We also went to a small shop and collected Dragon Ball Z things.

In the places I've lived, I have tried so many different foods. North Carolina, I ate CiCi Pizza, Chick fil a and more. Other foods I like are in Japan. I eat ramen, taco rice, gyoza, and snacks at a place called Family Mart. We also eat at Lawson, 7-11, and enjoy authentic sushi.

Military children go to many schools. I have been to Morton, Bob Hope, and AEIS. Friends I meet at those schools are Avery, Mackenzie, Vittoria, and Mazi.

From the places I've lived and visited, the foods I've tried, the schools I've been to and the people I've met, life as a military child is full of surprises.

- Ashlyn Pike

Hi my name is Ashlan. I'm a military child. I'm in 4th grade and since kindergarten, I've been to four different schools. I live in Okinawa, Japan and konnichiwa means "good afternoon" in Japanese. My dad is in the Air Force which makes me a military child.

When we move we like to travel. For example when we lived in Germany, we went to France and went to Disneyland, Paris, and visited the Eiffel Tower. We got slushies in the middle of it. When I lived in Germany one of my favorite memories was that we got to travel a lot and make new friends and discover new places.

Each place we live has good food. Now that I live in Okinawa, Japan we go to a store where there is a small stand and it has beef and chicken covered in a Japanese recipe. It tastes very delicious.

In conclusion my life is adventurous and fun being a military child and maybe you can relate if your parent is in the military

- Ashlan Graf

Do you love traveling? Well as a military child you will mostly visit or live in a bunch of places. You will also meet new people and try new foods.

I lived and visited a lot of places as a military child. The longest I lived somewhere was 5 years and that was in California. I lived in Kansas for 1 year, Germany for 4 years, California for 5 years, and Okinawa for 4 or 3 months.

There are a lot of new foods I tried like Gyoza which tastes great. Gyoza is like a fried dumpling. There's also this place called Popeyes which also tastes great. If you like fries, chicken tenders, or chicken sandwiches that is what Popeyes is made for. There is also this place in California called Pieology. In my opinion that place has the best pizza ever. You are allowed to customize your pizza like if you want to add like spicy chicken or regular chicken also what type of pizza sauce and a bunch of other stuff. One last thing is in Okinawa you can try great ramen and sushi. The sushi place I'm talking about is a place that you can get Gyoza with. The place also has fried rice and other stuff.

As a military child you can meet so many people in your lifetime. They might be lifelong friends or just friends to take you through the couple years. I have made a lot of memories in these places and I'm sure you will most likely do too. Well moving can be annoying and not annoying. The good thing about moving is that you're traveling the world and learning new things and maybe even new languages.

In conclusion, moving is both annoying and not annoying because you're always meeting new people, doing new stuff, and trying new foods. Overall, being a military child is pretty good.

- Emrey Howard

Do love to travel? Do you love to travel every two to three years? I've been to 15 different places. I've tried really strange food and I've experienced different schools, teachers, and building designs. I've been to New Jersey, Washington, Oklahoma, Okinawa, Florida, Colorado, Kentucky, and Texas.

I've gone to a lot of places so far in my life. Traveling is rough. You need to pack then go on a long road trip go to a new school, new teacher, and new people. You do it every two to three years all through your life. It gets annoying sometimes but most of the time I love it.

I've been to different places which means different schools. I've been to Jefferson, Rivers, and Ameila Earheart. I like some schools over others. As you can see being a military child is not that bad besides the packing.

- Brandon Wilson

4th grade .
Ms. Trembley

"Konnichiwa" I live in Okinawa Japan. Hey, do you like to visit different places? Living in Okinawa is fun. Here you can eat sushi any time. There is food everywhere. In Okinawa I have lots of friends. I get to meet new people every day. I learn a new language. The people here are super kind. Finally, living in Okinawa is a super fun island.

In Okinawa there are lots of cool places. There is this super fun beach that we call toguchi beach. Okinawa World is a very fun place. You can put your feet in a fish tank and the fish will come up and eat your dead skin off your feet. Family Mart and Lawson are these places that you can go and just snacks and food. The botanical gardens are super fun. You can fish and let monkeys climb on you.

I have lived in Utah and Okinawa. I lived in Utah for 9 years and in Okinawa for 11 months. I have visited 14 states. I have gone to 5 schools. The ones I remember are CreekSide and A.E.I.S. CreekSide was my favorite. I went there for 3 years and most of my friends are there. But I have made new friends at A.E.I.S. I am happy here.

As you can see I have a fun life. However, there are still many places I would like to visit. I like being a military child.

- Kallie K.

Have you ever experienced being the new kid in school? I have. It's sometimes really great, I love meeting new people. Did you know that I have been to seven different schools and I'm only in fourth grade? The best part about being a military child for me is meeting new people.

Did you know that I have been to seven different places and I'm only nine years old? I love to travel, and when you're a military child you might get to do that a lot. I've been to North Carolina, Ohio, Maryland, Florida, Virginia, Okinawa, and Thailand.

I've met a lot of people. I have had 12 teachers from Preschool to fourth grade! And I haven't had many friends I have had 10 friends from all the schools I went to, when you add it all together it's not a lot. All of my friends were really good friends.

I have been to seven different schools and I'm only in fourth grade. I liked all of them. People are nice. Being a military child is really awesome when you have a new opportunity to make friends. Some kids are new to school just like you are, so you can make new friends.

In conclusion, being a military child is great. You get to explore all around the world. Meet new people, make new friends. It's hard to leave your friends behind but you can always make new friends. If you want to you can exchange phone numbers or email and you can talk all the time. Being a military child is a big adventure.

- Emmalyn Ayim

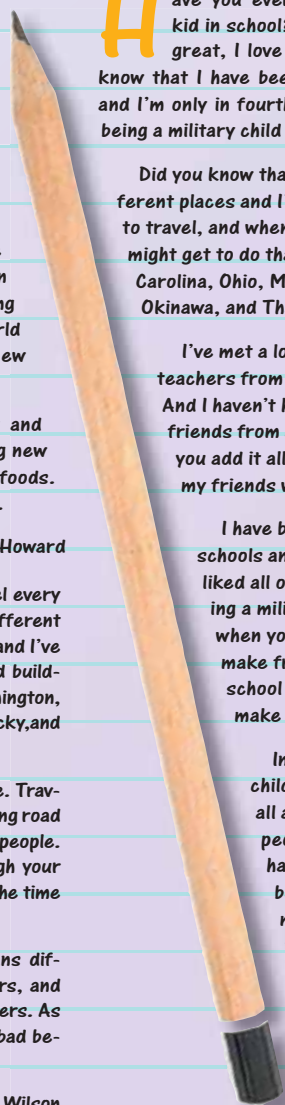
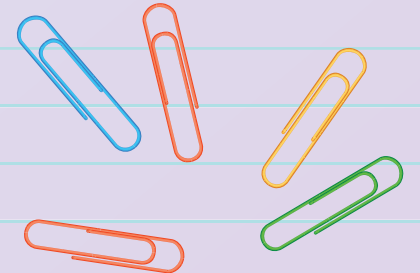
Hil My name is Emory Love. I think being a military child is great! For one thing, you get to meet different people! I have been to many different and amazing schools such as, BFES, MBES, and the best one, AEIS! I have gotten to live in many different places. My favorites are Italy and Okinawa. There are amazing people that I have met along the way.

I have been to many awesome schools! My favorite school is AEIS! AEIS stands for Amelia Earhart Intermediate School. AEIS is the best school because it has very nice people. AEIS is where I met my best friends, Kallie and Ashlan. I have the best teacher ever! My other schools are BFES and MBES.

I have lived in four different places. North Carolina, Virginia, Okinawa, and Italy. Okinawa is the best place to live. Everywhere you go, there is always a vending machine to get a drink out of. My two favorite convenient stores in Okinawa are Lawson and Family Mart. My favorite place to get ice cream from is Blue Seal. Blue Seal has the best mint chocolate chip ice cream! Okinawa has so many fun things to do! Pineapple Park, Okinawa World, Forest Adventure Zip lining, The Botanical Gardens, and so many other fun things to do.

In conclusion, there are lots of great things about being a military child, such as meeting new friends. I am glad that I am a military child because if I weren't, I would not have met my best friends, Ashlan and Kallie. I love being a military child!

- Emory Love



Iam a military child. It is hard, but awesome. I move a lot and I meet many new people. I get to eat lots of yummy foods. Military kids live and visit new places. I've been a student in three different schools. Right now I live in Okinawa, Japan and have had lots of cool adventures.

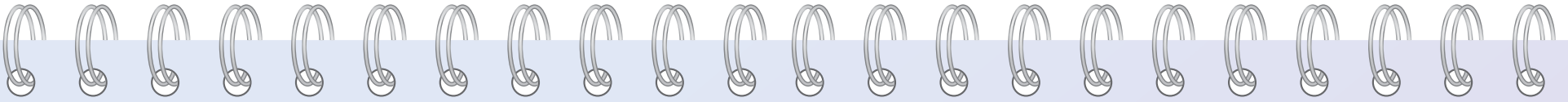
I have met many people and here are some of them Mila, Brynn, Eden, Micheal, Olympia, Loxy, and Baylin. There are more but those people from my house. I have more friends at school like Nicole, Lailah, Ashlyn, Kali, Elle, Tatiana, Skylar, Kylie, and more.

When you live in Japan you get to eat a lot of cool foods like Sushi, Ramen, Cherry blossom ice cream, that's a crazy thing, right? There's also cool restaurants like yakiniku, sushi go round, Volcano Ramen, and Four Seasons.

Where I live brings new experiences like schools, restaurants, and more. I've been a student in three different schools. I've been to Creekside Elementary in North Carolina, Pullam Elementary in Texas, and Amelia Earhart Intermediate school in Okinawa, Japan. I am at AEIS now and I love it.

Finally, being a military child is hard but fun. I have met so many new people and had so many cool adventures and new experiences because I am a military child.

- Natalie Mothershed



Hola, konnichiwa, aloha, and hello. Did you know that I can say hello in four different languages? I can do that because I am a military child. As a military child I have lived in many different places, competed in many different sports, and have got to try many different foods.

Right now I live in Okinawa, Japan but in October, 2021, I am moving to Arkansas where I was born and raised before we came to Okinawa. My parents said that when we go back we will be able to go to Texas to visit family and maybe Missouri.

I am 10 now but when I was 5 I had a passion for sports I have played 6 years of football and 3 years of basketball. Everyone is telling me that I should play pool, soccer, tennis, or baseball. Here in Okinawa I have had the chance to play two years of football and then covid-19 hit. When I go back to the states I am going to play baseball, football, and basketball.

The thing I miss the most in Arkansas is Cactus Jacks. I also miss Sonic, Outbacks, and the Golden Corral. Back in Arkansas we would go to Cactus Jacks on Saturday and the buffet on Sunday. On school days we would go to Sonic and eat in the car on the way to school. Some foods I like here in Okinawa are Japanese ramen, the breakfast buffet, Sumo Burrito, Shisha Pizza, and the bowling alley food.

In conclusion, being a military child is really great and is filled with friendships, foods, sports, packing, moving, and new beautiful sites and landmarks.

- Keagan Story



Being a military child has been full of ups and downs for me, but it is mostly a positive experience. I've lived in four places such as Virginia and mainland Japan. Virginia is the place I was born. About a year after I was born there was a big earthquake and we had to evacuate. I don't remember anything from Virginia.

Japan is the place I started daycare. In Japan I tried new homes, new food, and got new friends. California is the place I started school. I lived there for a while so I remember a lot. I've traveled a lot in my life, but yet I have not seen lots of the world. I've not seen every state except Texas, California, Utah and Virginia.

Okinawa is where I live now. When I lived in California I ate meat and hot dogs. Now in Okinawa I eat fish. A downside is you don't really see your parents because they work all day and for some people they work at night.

In conclusion, there are ups and downs to being a military child. There are new foods, new homes and friends. There are many different surprises with being a military child. Sometimes I hate it and sometimes I love it. There are a lot of feelings about being a military child.

- Vincent Siguenza

MY PARENTS WORK FOR THE MILITARY
I HAVE LIVED IN OKINAWA FOR NINE YEARS
LOVE TO SEE NEW PLACES AND MEET NEW PEOPLE
LIVE WITH MY BROTHER, MY DOG AND MY TWO PARENTS
TAKE TIME TO TALK TO OTHER MILITARY CHILDREN SO WE CAN COMPARE EXPERIENCES

AMAZING FRIENDSHIPS MADE IN OKINAWA
AMEN IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE FOOD IN OKINAWA
OU CAN SEE BEAUTIFUL CHERRY BLOSSOMS

CALL OKINAWA HOME BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY
HAPPY TO BE A MILITARY CHILD
LOVE EATING NEW FOODS AND TRYING NEW THINGS
LOTS OF MY FRIENDS MOVE
DO SPEND LOTS OF TIME WITH MY FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY MIGHT LEAVE ALL OF A SUDDEN

- Camryn Cominski

Hil As you can see by the title I am a military child. Did you know that military children move to different places every 3-6 years? I have moved 3 times and I am only 10 years old.

I have moved to Tokyo, Japan, Idaho and last, but not least Okinawa Japan. I like to move because I can try a lot of different foods like sushi, deer, fish and strawberries. You also get to see a lot of cool things like sea turtles and salt water fish.

I have got to meet so many nice people the 3 times I have moved and I have learned a lot from some of those people Austin, Jon, Mr. Travis and my mom and dad.

Moving from place to place lets you try new foods, see new things and meet new people. Altogether being a military child is pretty fun.

- Francesco U.

Did you know that I will live in Okinawa for a total of 10 years (1 decade)? I've stayed here for 8 years so far and 2 years to go.

I've been to many places here in Okinawa. I've been to the remains of Shuriyo castle in 2019, Churaumi Aquarium, Okuma Beach, Okinawa Zoo Museum, Motobu water park, Tokyo, Disneyland, and White beach. Most places I have visited are in Okinawa, except for the places I have visited in summer. Those places were in Russia and America.

My favorite foods are fish sticks, pepperoni pizza, cheese breadsticks, tacos, Okinawa soba, crackers, fruits and veggies (specifically grapes, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, carrots, and cucumbers), salad, and seaweed.

The schools I have been to are Amelia Earhart Intermediate School (AEIS), Bob Hope Primary School (BHPS) and another school, but I don't remember what it was called.

The friends that I have are Brenden, Titus, Landon, Seoul, and Layla.

In conclusion, I have visited a lot of places in my 8 years in Okinawa. I have a lot of friends in Okinawa (some are even in America and Russia).

- Andrew Weaver

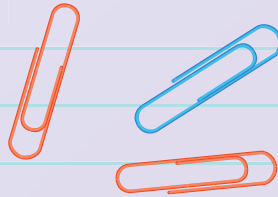
I think that being a military child is fun. I have made remarkable friends and have done lots of fun things, like go to beaches and Silverwood. I have been to Silverwood, beaches and have gone on nature walks all because I am a military child.

I have lived in Louisiana, Germany, Washington, and now Okinawa. I was born in Louisiana but I moved when I was 2, so I don't remember much. Then I moved to Germany and they have the best pastries there. For example pudding pretzel and chocolate croissants. I then moved to Washington State and I made lots of great friends there. Now I live in Okinawa. There are so many cool things to do here like hike and go to beaches.

In Germany, they have stores called Ikea and they have the best meatballs there. In the USA, they have a store called Target and they have a good variety of things. In Japan, they have stores called Daiso and they have a bunch of cool things. It is like Dollar Tree but 100 times better.

Even though there are ups and downs to being a military child. I have had fun experiences, gone to lots of places, have been to some amazing restaurants and have made lifelong friends.

- Astrid Tillman-Smith



Life as a military child is very interesting. You get to move to a lot of different places, try many new foods, and meet fascinating people. It also provides lots of new travel opportunities.

In my life, I have lived in many new places around the world. Some examples are North Carolina, New Jersey, and Japan. There are also a lot of traveling opportunities. Some of my favorite places to travel are Georgia, Maryland, Ohio, and South Carolina. South Carolina has some amazing beaches and resorts. In Ohio, I visit cousins, family, and have fun. In Maryland, I go sightseeing.

In Japan, there is some of the tastiest food ever. Sushi is made of nori (or seaweed paper), sticky rice, meat/seafood, and vegetables. There is a shop called Lawsons. The food there is delicious. Two of my favorite restaurants are Arashi's and Tiger Honpo. Tiger Honpo has gyoza, fried rice, seafood, and so much more. Arashi's is very similar.

Another positive about being a military child is making new and life-long friends. Since I am in the fourth grade, I have had four different teachers. My mom is a teacher, too. I have also made many new friends with each new grade, Charlie, Kitan, Ayla, Skylar, Natalie, Kali, Tatiana, Ashlyn, Pepper, and Elle are just a few examples of new friends I have made throughout my life.

In conclusion, being a military child is very interesting and fascinating. There is lots of new food to try, different friends to meet, and lots of new traveling opportunities. I love being a military child!

- Lailah Odom

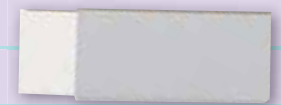
Konnichiwa! Have you ever thought of living in Okinawa? I didn't. You probably didn't either. I live in Okinawa, Japan. The reason I live here is because my dad is in the military. Being in a military family is great! You will get to live in and visit new places. Every place I've been to always has unique food. I have met new people in the times I've moved.

I have lived in Colorado, California, and Okinawa. I lived in Colorado for 5 years, California for 5 years, next I will live in Okinawa for 2 more years. The food in California and Okinawa is great! The food in California is great. Places I like there are KFC, In & Out, and Jack in the Box. The food in Okinawa is good, the places I like to eat here are snacks from Lawson's, Baskin Robbins, McDonalds, LA-pizza, and Anthony's Pizza. If you love sushi you will love Okinawa.

I have met so many amazing people by changing schools. The first school I ever went to was Eisenhower. The people I've met there were Noel, Matthew, and Abel. I didn't talk to many people. I started talking to people in 2nd grade, when I was in Olpant. Here in Okinawa I've met three good friends.

In conclusion, being a military child is great! I like visiting new places, eating a lot of unique food, making lifelong friends. These are my reasons why being a military child is great.

- Giovanni Soriano



Do you like to go on adventures? I do and because I'm a military child I go to many places in the world. I go to different schools when I move. Moving to schools allows me to meet new people like teachers and new friends.

As a military child I have moved four times. I have lived in California, North Carolina twice, and now live in Okinawa Japan. My favorite place is North Carolina because I lived by a barn and that's the place I feel like home. I have also visited the states of South Carolina, Washington, Montana, Colorado, and North and South Dakota. I have been to Yellowstone and to Mount Rushmore.

Do you like to try different foods? I do and some of the food I have tried in Okinawa Japan is blue seal ice cream, ramen noodles, and sushi. My favorite is probably Blue Seal not because it's ice cream but because of all the new flavors you can try. My least favorite is sushi because I don't like fish. Ramen is ok but I don't really like the flavors. I have gotten to try many different foods.

I have been to two schools. The two schools are BME and AEIS. It can be hard because you have to leave friends and teachers. At BME I had made a great friend. Her name is Emma. I like her because we have stuff in common and we have a great time together. I had a cool and fun teacher in first grade. I like her because we did lots of activities that had math and ELA involved.

- Skylar Weber

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Amelia Earhart Intermediate School

4th grade · Ms. Cheramie

Being a military child has some ups and downs to it.

The ups to it are: getting to learn new languages, getting to try new foods, etc.

The downs of it are: having to move around the world, going to new schools, etc.

But at least you get to have food and money.

You get to have a life, at least.

But how much money would it cost to go on a bunch of different airplanes? It must cost a lot.

But you're not the one who's paying for it.

Being a military child may be tough, but at least you get to experience life.

- Alan Wright

Look on the bright side! It may not be amazing to move from place to place all the time, I know that feeling. Even though I'm not a military child, I am a child of a civilian.

So far, in my lifetime at least, I moved to four different places. I was born in Korea. Wonderful place, but after I turned four, we had to leave my grandma, my grandpa, friends, and other family members. It was hard.

Next, we went to Wisconsin. I had a hard time making friends the first month, but the next week I made a lot of friends.

Then, the very next year, right when I had just started making friends in 1st grade, we had to move to Pennsylvania. We stayed there for about a year or two and moved AGAIN to Okinawa, Japan.

Here I am now, 9 years old in Okinawa. I made a lot of friends so far. It's awesome here. I'm in a traveling softball team, great weather, and awesome friends and family.

The two people that I thank for traveling everywhere are my dad, a hard-working civilian, and my mom, who works so hard. Both of them work as hard as they possibly can to give me AND my brother our needs and wants. So I want to thank them for all that they do and for making me a military child.

- Ayla Isabela Williams

When I move from place to place it's like I am able to choose a new story. I live in one place for about 3 years and then I start a new story. I get to make new friends, go to a new school, and adventure places people don't get to see. I see new cultures and try different types of food. Some people stay in one place their whole life but I move about every 2 or 3 years. Also at 10 years old I have moved to 4 different states and 2 different continents.

Some not so good things happen but it gives me more intelligence and strength, that is an advantage military children have. We have advantages and disadvantages but more advantages than disadvantages.

Military children get to travel the world. I am in Japan right now and it is my first overseas move. I have had to stay in a hotel for months at a time while waiting for a house. Or not even having a house but it's all worth it at the end.

For my first overseas move I had to take a 4 hour drive to Atlanta to put the family car in storage then another 4 hour drive back in a rental car. Then we had to fly for two days on five different flights and we could only sleep on the airplanes.

I also just wanted to thank my mom and dad for all their hard work for me and my sister. My dad goes to work a lot and he has had to miss birthdays and holidays. When we go to the airport to get him again I always can't wait for that day. My mom whenever we move she works so hard while we are at school to start our house.

I love being able to start my new story especially here in Okinawa but it can be hard sometimes. But my family makes the hard times fun!

Whenever I go out for my first time at a new place all I feel is excitement. That is the best feeling but the worst feeling is telling my best friends I am moving. Then I turn my frown upside down!

- Harper Chaffey

A life of a military child isn't very normal at all. Having to go in the gates. You better show your face. Having to travel to new places. While making new friends is sometimes good and sometimes sad.

Having the same shop. And never having to stop. Traveling on the roads. And buying some new clothes. When traveling with your parents all along.

You live on or off base. Where do you play? Do you have any friends? Do you remember all your friends? How many schools have you been to? And, do you remember every place and school you went to?

Moving from place to place means everything is new! New house, new school, and trying new food. A fresh new adventure and challenges will be ahead soon.

All of these life decisions are not your choice. Sacrificing is what we do to serve as little troops. This is what it feels like to be a Military Child. There is always hello and goodbye.

- Isaac Garner

It is fun and weird being a military child. You get to move a lot and visit crazy places! It is hard sometimes because you have to move away from your friends and it is sometimes hard to make new ones.

My favorite thing about being a military child was my friend Beau. He was my best friend, like another brother to me. He understood me and we used to play imaginary games in our backyards.

Another great thing about being a military child is seeing the new house where we are going to live for the next couple of years. Also, I love getting to ride on planes and trains. And trying all the new foods. Yummy!

- John Calvin Haggerty

Being a military child is something you will never forget. There are also pros that you will never regret. You might not like the cons, but eventually you will figure out how to make them into something good.

You will be proud to be a military child because it is actually pretty good. But as always you have to move. The pros are you get to see another place but the cons are that you have to move from those places. But stories are told everywhere you go and the exciting thing is that everywhere you go it is a different story. And at the end you learn a moral.

Most of the time there is good news but if there isn't you put on your shoes (because we are part of a bigger community) and help fix it. Plus you will be proud when you have helped the crowd, it's all part of our community.

Sometimes you will smile and sometimes you will frown but it always flips back around. So I just want to say thank you to my Mom and Dad for all the hard work that you do for me and my brother.

- Keenlyn Elizabeth Ferrell

Dear Mom,

Thank you for giving me this chance to be a military child. Thank you for taking care of me when Dad is gone to a different place. Thank you for being the Mom and the Dad. And for keeping me safe. Thank you for being there when I need help and for helping me stay calm when we are moving. Also for helping me stay calm when I have to leave my friends.

Thank you for taking me to different places I have not seen. Thank you for giving me food that I eat and clothes that I wear. And the bed that I sleep in and the roof that I live under. Thank you for everything! I love you!

Dear Dad,

Thank you for the love you give me. And for the money that you make and for the food you provide. Thank you for the things you give me and for the job you have. Also thank you for being there when I need you. Thank you for all the things you have taught me and for the kindness you give me. Thank you for the clothes that you buy for me. Thank you for all the things you give me. But when you are gone and in a different place like Hawaii it is hard. That's why I am so excited when you come back. Thank you for being there when I need you. I love you!

- Illeana Moreno

There are pros and cons of being a military child. The pros of being a military child is moving to new places and exploring the world. Another pro of being a military child is you get to make new friends. You get to try new foods. You can see new places. You can read new books. And you can try new drinks.

The cons of being a military child is you have to leave your home, your friends, and sometimes your pets or worse, your family! So now you know the pros and cons of being a military child.

And before I was a military child my life was so different. Me and my mom used to go to Disney World all the time. But I could NEVER go outside like we do here in Japan because it was way too dangerous.

I'm so happy being a military child!

- Kendal Decker Backus

It's not easy moving away from friends and family. Moving places, leaving stuff behind. Being a military child is not easy. People think my life is perfect, but it's not.

Moving around the world to different places can be fun. But it's hard to have to keep saying goodbye. I have to make friends all over again. That's not as easy as it seems.

Moving for my mom's job, it's just a lot to deal with. My mom might not be in the military, but I have to move with my mom for her job. It's not easy moving from friends and family, not knowing if you are going to see them again.

I might be a kid but it is a lot to always move. This is why my life is not easy. People might think I'm moving around the world hopping on planes and it is fun.

But I know even though this is hard, I will look back and know it has made me stronger for my life ahead.

- Demarco Mack

Being a military child has been hard for me because my dad has to go on a lot of deployments for work.

A lot goes on, and it doesn't feel good.

And I felt super sad sometimes.

I've been trying to reach out to him because he's deployed to Saudi Arabia. And I want to go there.

If we won't I will be super sad.

But I can't wait till he comes home so I can give him a big hug!

- Jayden Michael DeBolt





Hill! Here are some pros and cons of being a Military child. Be sure to stick around for the letter at the end!

Pro: My parents are able to get me to go to SAC. That's a morning and afternoon program for grade school, if you don't already know.

Con: Every 4 years, I have to leave friends. :(

Pro: I go to a great school and have a great teacher! :)

Con: I can't understand some people here because they speak another language.

Pro: My dad works in the Air Force, and I get to visit his work and draw on the white board. Thanks Dad!

Con: Sometimes, I don't know where we're moving until we get there. I like knowing what's coming up. But sometimes there's hints, and that's good!

I also have one more thing to share!

Dear Mom and Dad:

Thank you for this opportunity to be a traveler, and to be connected to the Air Force. I like being this type of kid, even though it might be hard at times; like moving.

I like being able to see different places and different cultures, even though I may not understand them at times; that gives me a chance to learn new languages and other things I never would've thought about learning.

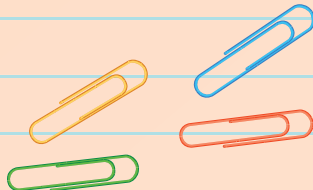
And even if we speak the same language, it's still so fascinating to see how a different culture reacts to certain situations differently than me, with my own eyes!!

This isn't even a one-time experience, either! We get to experience a new culture every four years! And also, it's part of our job to keep our nation free and united! (Well, our OTHER nation, because Okinawa, Japan is our nation, too.) And I like being part of that!

Even though we move a lot, and I'll have to leave my friends from the past (and usually never see them again), I love having this opportunity to be a military child. Thank you for these amazing opportunities Mom and Dad!

Love,
Josai

- Josai Sibilly



It is hard being a military child because your Dad or your Mom deploys. And you have to make new friends.

It is hard being a military child. But what you don't know is you can fly around the world and explore. You can visit new countries and cities, so you are lucky you are a military child. I love being a military child!

- Zoe Weigl

I love being a military child because of all the great things you have an opportunity to do or try. For example, moving to Okinawa, Japan because my dad is in the Navy and we had to be stationed here. You have the opportunity to eat ramen, sushi and other good foods that you could try only in Okinawa, Japan!

But I am very grateful to my Dad for being in the military. Because if I was not a military child I would not have had the opportunity to travel to Okinawa, Japan.

I am also grateful to my Mom even though she is not in the military. She always has to be the Mom and the Dad when my Dad deploys somewhere. And it is very stressful for her. Especially because I have 3 other siblings so that makes it 4 kids to take care of. She has to make dinner and do the laundry. And many other things for us kids.

Overall, I am super grateful for my Mom and my Dad because if we were not a military family, then we would not have any of the experiences we have now.

The Pros and Cons of Being a Military Child

The Pros: The pros are the good things. You can go to new places you never visited. Eat new food. See some new things you have never seen before. Make new friends and people. See very cool places where you moved.

The Cons: Now here are the bad things. You have to leave friends. Your parents will have to deploy. You might be scared of moving to a new school. You have to leave your family members like your grandparents. Moving to a new place you might be scared of going to in the future.

I would love to stay a military child, but you can't be a military child forever.

- Kiara DeCastro

My life as a military child is hard. Here are the pros and cons of being a military child. Pros, you can find new friends and have fun in new places. You can also find new foods to eat.

Here are the cons. You have to move away from friends a lot which is really sad. You also have to move away from family. You have to move away from your school. And your friends, it's just super sad.

Now you know how I feel when I had to move away from my friends in Oklahoma. It was super sad and now when I have to move away from here in Okinawa it's going to be super sad. I have to leave behind the friends that I have made. I also have to move away from family.

Even though my life as a military child is hard, I know to never give up! Even if I have to move away from friends and family.

- Kira Garsjo

I have been a military child for all my life, which means nine years and ten months. My father has been in the Marine Corps for almost 22 years. We have lived in North Carolina, Arizona, California, Washington and now Okinawa Japan.

Being a military child is fun! You get to travel all around the world. You meet new people and learn new cultures, like the culture of Okinawa. Okinawa has lots of cool cultures- Eisa dancers, vending machines, lots of ramen restaurants and lots of beaches. You make many different friends over the years because you get to go to many different schools. Sometimes you meet amazing people that are the best!

But, being a military kid also has its down points. For example, when you have to move and leave your old friends and make new ones. You have to start at a new school and find a new church. That is sometimes hard if you are shy. Another one of the down points is that your Dad or Mom gets deployed. Some places are not as safe as Okinawa. I want to stay here forever because it is much safer than the United States!

There are good and bad things about being a Military child. When your parents retire you get to see your family in the States again! I love being a Military Child!

- Kylie Guzman

- I am thankful for my food.
- I am thankful for my house.
- I am thankful for my water.
- I am thankful for my clothes.
- I am thankful for my friends.
- I am thankful for my school.
- I am thankful for my family.
- I am thankful for my life.
- I am thankful for my teachers.
- I am thankful for my church.
- I am thankful for my toys.
- I am thankful for being a military child.

- Lily Fason

- I like being a military child because we are safe and secure on base.
- I like being a military child because I can make new friends.
- I like being a military child because I like trying new foods.
- I like being a military child because I get to learn about new cultures.

- I don't like being a military child because I'm always moving away.
- I don't like being a military child because I am always the new kid.
- I don't like being a military child because I am always saying goodbye to my friends.
- I don't like being a military child because I am starting over and over again and again.

But really starting over and being the new kid isn't always that bad. You can always have good friends and teachers that support you. And sometimes the place that you are going is the place that you might like or have been wanting to go to in that country or state. Overall, being a military child is always not a bad thing.

- Lukas Agosto

Thank you Mom and Dad for letting me be a military child . Thank you Mom for taking care of me because sometimes Dad goes to work and leaves at 8:00 am and gets back home at 12:00 midnight. Thank you Dad for going to work to take care of our family. I miss you Dad a lot and I wish you didn't have to work so much.

- Levi Rogers

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you for letting me have this experience as a military child. This is the best time of my life being a military child.

To all the people that haven't had a parent go out to sea, I know how that feels. It's devastating to have a parent deployed. I feel sad. My sister, Jayme, feels sad about it as well.

It is hard when my Dad is away, but I feel like I grow up and become more responsible when he is gone. So I know it's hard, but it's important.

I love when we go to different places like Scarlet, South Carolina; Seattle, Washington; Mainland Japan; Sydney, Australia; Brisbane, Australia and here Okinawa, Japan.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a military child.

My Dad was on the USS Ronald Regan.

- Liam McMichael

Being a military child can be hard but it is fun. There are many things I like about being a military child, and some things I don't.

I like being a military kid. I get to make new friends, see new places and try new things. I have tried new foods, have seen toys I have never seen before and I think that's great. I can try new things and meet new people. That's what's so great!

One new food I tried was bread with curry and it's so good. I got to play with a toy I never heard of before. It was where you put it on your finger and it can balance itself. It's made from wood you can touch it while it's on your finger.

So sometimes things don't go the way you want or you just get sad. I don't like being a military child sometimes because it's hard to move from one place to another. I have gone to California to North Carolina and then here in Okinawa. It makes me sad that I have to leave my friends and go.

That's why I like being a military child and fun things can come with being a military child. You will never know what will happen next because you may meet someone and then be good friends with them. Or you may get to try new foods and see new toys. I have done so much here on Okinawa and I have learned new things and met new people. I've done so many things here and I don't want it to end. But I will make the best of it while I am here.

- Sophie Bye

My Dad was in the Army for 23 years and I was a military child for 6 of those years. Those first 6 years my Dad was stationed here in Okinawa and started working for the Army.

Now, my Dad is a civilian and my Mom now stays at home with my brothers and sisters and me. I am glad to be a military connected child. I get to explore continents and several countries. I learn about new cultures. But I do miss some friends when we move. I know I will make new friends.

Con: You suddenly have to move to a new country. You never know where you're going.

Pro: You stay at the same place for a couple of years and maybe at the same school.

Con: You live kind of far from school so most of the time you have to take the bus.

Pro: You usually have to go to an after school club because most of the time when you get out of school your parents would still be working.

Con: And when you're Dad is a civilian you mostly live off base because you're not a military child anymore.

Pro: You can live kind of close to the school so you most of the time walk.

- Solace Newton



CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Amelia Earhart Intermediate School

There are amazing things about being a Military child. In this Essay I'm going to tell you some things I love about being a Military child. To be honest I have lived in Japan for more than half of my life. I remember back at the end of first grade I never wanted to move because I didn't want to leave all my friends, but now that I think about it, that was the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. There are many reasons why I enjoy being a Military Child.

First, being a Military Child I do a lot of traveling, in other words moving. Most of the kids I know hate moving. I also hate moving but I also find it a new way to explore the world. I have lived in Japan for about seven years. I have also visited Canada and Washington.

Second, as a Military Child you are going to have a lot of chances to meet new people and make new friends which you sometimes might think of as family. For some people it's harder to make friends but sometimes it's better just to wait. When I was leaving mainland Japan I had to leave some of my friends but I got to meet Naya and Leanna so no regrets!

Lastly, something that has been challenging for me being a Military Child is having to ride an airplane. I don't have a fear of heights. I actually love heights but airplanes are a big no no. I remember when I had to move to Okinawa we took like five to seven airplanes because we went to visit some family along the way.

In conclusion, my favorite thing about being a Military Child is traveling. I like going to visit family and meeting new people and friends. Also, getting to see things that you can't see in other places. Being a Military Child is fun because I get to see new things and meet new people! In the future being a Military Child will help me learn new things that some people may not know.

- Grace Kitivi

The thing I like most about being a military Child is having a family that helps America even though it might be hard. Here's an example of this. It was around February 2020 and my dad worked in the United States Navy (or USN) and he had to be on deployment so he went. Then everything was just weird. The dogs acted more weird, the little one whimpered everyday. Everyone was sad but then we got support and we were not so sad anymore and soon he came back now we are so happy. There are many reasons why I love being a military Child.

There are many places I have been because I am a military Child. I have been to Tokyo and some other places, but the place I have been the most is the United States. My uncle, aunt and cousins live there.

I have many people in my family and they do a lot of stuff. My uncle works for the United States Air Force (or USAF) so he is always working and he can not come to live in Japan. I wish he could come and visit at least once but I know he has to stay. My dad works for the U.S. Navy and does not go on deployment often at least 2-3 times a year and I am happy he does not go on deployment that much. My grandfather is retired now but he used to work for U.S. Air Force and I think he did that for maybe 40 years. My uncle also works for U.S. Air Force.

The most challenging part about being a military Child is having to deal with deployment and Permanent Change of Stations (or best known as PCS). The hard thing about deployment is being away from your loved ones for a long time and sometimes you never know what is happening, if they are okay or if they are hurt. The hardest thing about being PCSing is having to go to a new place you don't know about and having to leave all of your friends you have made. It is very hard to leave a place and say goodbye to all of your friends that you might not ever see again. Knowing you can and never have the same times you had before. In conclusion, being a Military Child is confusing, sad, amazing and just so many more but I think it is important because we help our United States of America.

- Elizabeth Reddick

There are good and bad things about being a Military Child. One good thing about being a Military Child is that we get to see all sorts of places and meet all sorts of new friends. When we moved to Maryland (from Colorado), my mom said she wanted to introduce me to someone. So we walked to the bus-stop near our house, turning into the neighborhood beside it. There she introduced me to Mei Mei, or Cynthia, who is still one of my best friends to this day. There are all kinds of reasons why I enjoy being a Military Child.

One thing about being a Military Child is that you will usually be able to travel to many different places while moving. For me, when we travel, we always go by airplane, (except for one time our Dad drove us to Maryland) and the trip is normally over several flights. I loved when we were back in Maryland; I met lots of new people and friends. I remember that we had two little parks near our house, and after school I would go play over there almost every day. In Colorado, there were hailstorms all the time. We had lived in a little blue house over there, which we actually called the Little Blue House. We also had an apple tree in the backyard.

Also, when you're a Military Child, you can meet all sorts of new people. Do you remember Cynthia, from the very beginning? When I met her, she was in First Grade, I think, and I was in Kindergarten. She would play with me frequently, and when we visited my mom's friend's house, we would play Minecraft together. Sadly, she moved off of Fort Meade and we couldn't play together as often. Her new house was much bigger than her old one though, and when we could play together, we had tons of fun. Some other friends that I've made quite recently include Renee, Grace, Brenna, Logan, Layla, Elizabeth, Chauncy, and Abigail. Abigail was two years older than me when I met her, but she's always been a very good friend. She made comics with me and we wrote stories together, up to the very day she moved. Thanks, Abigail, I will never forget you. When we visit family members, we drive. Going to our Grandma and Grandpa's house each Christmas was like an annual event. I remember once I got a small book for a present and I was so disappointed, which would have been ridiculous to me now.

Honestly, there are lots of awesome things about being a Military Child, but there are also huge challenges. One of the hardest ones is leaving friends. Abigail had to move because she was a Military Child, and I had to leave Cynthia for the same reason. Added to that, Grace is leaving soon too. I'm glad that me and my friends can still stay in touch, though, to our efforts. Even while we're moving, we keep moving farther away from family. We used to visit once a year, now Coronavirus and costs are making that near impossible. You know what else? Getting used to a place only to move off again. We adapt after a while, luckily.

Can you understand how I feel about being a Military Child? At times it is hard, but at others there is nothing else I would ever want to be. But it has many rewards. We get to make all sorts of friends, experience new things, and see all sorts of places. I believe that we can push through the hard times and understand one another if we just try. Truly, these are the reasons I love being a Military Child.

- Leanna Foerster

Ms. Davis

The fun but sad thing about being a Military Child is Moving. Moving can be difficult but you can explore different places that you haven't seen. Sometimes I feel nervous with big crowds, meeting different people, and even loud noises. After you finish moving you meet new friends or old friends and a new teacher. You get nervous but it's okay your parents are with you. There are multiple reasons why I love being a Military Child.

As a Military Child I have lived and visited many places around the world. When I lived in Mainland, Japan I lived in an apartment with my dog named Benji. We went to Seoul, Korea to meet my Grandma and Grandpa when I was 5. When I was 8 my family and I went to visit Tokyo where we saw Mt. Fuji on our move to Okinawa. Where we have been living for four years now. Since we have been here we have visited Okuma Beach where we went camping for a week. We have gone to Pineapple Land and learned about different pineapples the farmers grow. Okinawa World Museum to see the Gyokusendo cave limestone cave and the Habu show. The Okinawa National Bird statue says if you look at the bird you are now brave and I have seen it on the cliff near the water, it is huge!

Another reason I admire being a Military child are the friends and family I have met and left. I met and left my Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Grandmas, Grandpas, great Grandma, and great Grandpa. I also left my friends Nidae (not our Nidae), Silveya Dominick, Abraham, and Leah. I met Alex, JM, Naya, Michaela, Josai, and Dutch. The Military gave me an opportunity to be friends in school if my parents were not in the Military I wouldn't have these friends.

Another detail about being a Military Child are the challenges and obstacles we face and overcome. Having to move away, being scared of new people, new friends and teachers. But, the hardest of all, is when my dad has to go on a TDY (Your parents are working in a different city or state or country). It's hard to let them go because you miss them or you want them to stay instead of going. Sometimes they have to go there to help the Military or to get a higher rank. This is the hardest part of being a Military Child, while it has its benefits the TDY part is really hard for me.

- Kingston Choi

The greatest thing about being a Military Child is getting to travel and see the world. When I was 2, my family and I moved from Surprise, Arizona to Desenzano, Italia. I went to pre-k when I was four years old. I made friends there, and one of them would be in my first grade class too. When I was in second grade, I had to move in the middle of the school year. I was looking forward to moving, but at the same time, I was sad to leave when I had a lot of friends. On the day I was moving, I was absent at school. The moving truck arrived so we put all the boxes in the truck. Then we said goodbye to our neighbors then drove to the airport. I was six years old when I moved. In Okinawa, I made new friends and learned new things. There are many reasons why I appreciate being a Military Child.

First, I have visited many places in the world. I've been to countries like Italy, Germany, France, and more. And I learned a lot from visiting those countries, so I enjoy visiting new places. I have learned Japanese culture in Okinawa and learned Italian culture in Italy. Another reason I enjoy being a Military Child are the friends I have made. I made different friends in Italy. Some of them spoke Italian and some of them only understood English. I also had friendly neighbors I knew. When I moved to Okinawa, I was sad to leave them. But, when I came to Okinawa, I made new friends.

Another thing about being a Military Child are the challenges we face. Being a Military Child can make you different from people around you, and it may be hard to fit in or make friends. And parents leaving for TDY and stuff can be hard for military children. But we solved it and we make new friends and our parents came back. Cool. These are all the reasons why I enjoy being a military child.

- Micaiah Limjoco



There are many reasons why being a Military Child can be good or hard. I haven't really experienced being a Military Child because I haven't really moved. I have been in Okinawa Japan for about seven years, but I have had many friends move away. Here are some reasons why being a Military Child could be good. First, you get to see new places, and meet many new people. It could be hard to leave home and friends, but you would always see them evenly. Another reason about being a Military Child is you get to learn many new languages and cultures! You get to be so flexible! Most kids hate or dislike moving. But when you think about moving to a new place, that can be nice. If you are shy and you are a Military Child then you must have talked to many people. And even if you aren't shy you still have great social skills.

In conclusion, there are many reasons why being a Military Child could be good, or hard. In my future I think being a Military Child will be helpful because I would know many languages, and I will have experienced a unique community.

- Brenna McLaird

The best thing about being a Military Child is you make new friends. I experienced being a Military Child when we lived in Texas and I did not want to move. I would miss my friends and school. Then, we moved to Okinawa, Japan. It was nighttime when we arrived and then we slept at a Hotel. In the morning we looked for a house and we found an apartment. We moved in and slept there then the next day I met my new teacher Ms. Collins. She was nice and kind and I thought it would be a good year at school. I had good friends and a best friend I made in 3rd grade, Joseph and Kingston, they are my best friends. There are many reasons why I love being a Military Child.

First, as a Military Child I have lived in many places my whole life. I have visited Tokyo and Montana and I have lived in Texas and now Okinawa, Japan. Another reason why I love being a Military Child are my friends and family. I've had to leave friends like my friend Ryder, Emia and KJ. As a Military Child there are many obstacles we face overcome. Like when someone says a mean word to me and I was sad. But I stood up to him and everything was fine. In conclusion, these are all the reasons I like being a Military Child.

- Alex Gehrke

The best thing about being a Military Child is being able to meet people from all around the world. I have a story to talk about. I will talk about the story about me moving to Okinawa. Before we lived in Okinawa, we lived in New Jersey. We did lots of trips to different states. We started the trip at Philadelphia Airport and we got on a plane to Colorado. I was nervous. But we were going to live in a very new place and the military stationed us there. I was also excited because I was going to see people in my family I have not seen in years. Then, finally we made it to Okinawa. Another thing that makes Being a military child cool and fun is you get to live anywhere in the world. And you can go to new schools and meet new people. There are many reasons why I appreciate being a Military Child.

As a military Brat I have visited many places all over the world. Here's the places I've been to: California, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Texas, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Washington, Idaho and now we live in Okinawa, Japan. Another reason I like being a military Brat are the friends and family I have met and the friends and family I had to leave. I had to leave the people in New Jersey. People, like my grandpa in New Jersey and my other grandpa in Idaho and my Great grandma in Nevada. I had to leave my best friend in New Jersey and I had to leave lots of my friends in New Jersey. I just met my grandpa in Idaho like 9 years ago!! Another Detail about being a Military Child are the many challenges we face and overcome. Personally, I've been through a lot of challenges. I had to leave my family back in America. But I will visit them again. I have overcome lots of stuff.

In conclusion, These are all the reasons I like being a Military Child. You get to go through lots of experiences like moving all the time or even never moving. Being a Military Child has inspired me in so many ways. I think being a Military Child will do something good for my future.

- Philip Crepeau

The best thing about being a military child is that you can make new friends and get to meet new people. Sam was my best friend. We played Legos and Minecraft together but then I had to move to Rhode Island. During our move, we stayed in like five hotels and it took us 30 days to get to our new home. There are many reasons why I love being a Military Child.

First, as a Military child I have lived and visited many different places around the world. I have traveled to different countries and states. I have experienced learning different languages and cultures. I have also traveled to California, Texas, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Seattle and now I live in Okinawa, Japan.

Another reason I like being a military child are friends and family I have met and friends and family I have left. I have more than two friends like Sam and Timmy and teachers in every place I have traveled to and had to leave. I am excited because I can travel to different countries and states. And learn different languages and cultures.

Another detail about being a military child are the many challenges we face and overcome. Deployment is a great challenge for military children. It can be sad like PCSing and TDY but parents are in the military so they have to do it. My dad has to do it. In conclusion, these are all the reasons why I love being a military child. It feels wonderful to be a military child. And I think being a military child will help my future because I can learn different languages and cultures and I can travel to different countries and states.

- Gabriel Embers

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
KINSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 3rd grade • Ms. Smalls



Life as a military child can be hard sometimes. Here's one bad thing, moving away from friends like my good friend Calvin. And, a good thing is learning different cultures.

- Aaron S.



Being a military child is rough, buddy. You have to move around and say bye to your friends. I'm tired of being a military child. Sometimes you have to leave your pets and you won't see them in a very long time! There are some reasons why I like being a military child. You can try new food, and you make new friends. You get to try new sports and go to restaurants you have never heard of or seen before. Being a military child is rough but sometimes fun!

- Amelia B.



So what I love about being a military child is that you get to live in cool places like Japan and see where the war was, also I am interested in being a mechanic. It's kind of hard moving away from friends but you can make new friends. That's good but your friend can move too! Did you know that I am moving to Missouri! But that is in six months but I am still excited!

- Sawyer H.



Life as a Military child is amazing! There are some things different from us and other people who live off base. Like some people can't go to certain places, and some people lose their jobs.

Sometimes I think of people losing their jobs and being sad. Some people even get Covid-19! I wish that the Covid-19 thing would end!

We're allowed to go to the park without a mask, but in stores we have to. Some things that are bad and I don't like are moving, instead of staying at the same place and seeing my friends, we move every three years! My mom said that we could move to South Carolina. I can't wait to move! But I'm also sad to not see all my friends again. My mom said that we may not live on base. I'm excited for living off base again. I like being a Military child. I feel safe at home and on base. I know there is a chance that someone could break onto base. So for my opinion I like being a Military child. Camp Kinser is awesome!

- Amberlynn M.



Hi I am Aubrie, and I am in third grade. My teacher is Mrs. Smalls. I live in Okinawa, Japan. I am a military child. It can be hard, but it can also be fun. My dad is in the Marines. The hard part about being a military child is moving away from friends and family and starting new schools. What I like about being a military child is that you can always make new friends. I love visiting different countries and learning about the different cultures. You can stay for three years then move, or sometimes you can get lucky and stay for longer. Another reason I like being a military child is because when you miss your family you can visit them during summer, or Christmas break and maybe even spring break! Even though you might miss a friend you can always call them or send them letters.

- Aubrie S.



Being a military child is a little hard because you have to move and leave your friends and family. Plus it's hard when your mom or dad go on doomet because you might miss your mom or your dad. And sometimes it could be upsetting because your mom or dad could go to war and your mom or dad could get shot. I worry about all of those things when my mom or dad go to war. I feel like they will go to the war then I will get a call saying your dad got shot or saying your mom got shot. I will be happy that I'm moving if I live in the forest because I like to explore a lot. And it will be fun to go out and see all of the animals. So yes being a military child is sad and happy and mad. Sometimes when my dad leaves I will put on one of his hats and it makes me feel better. Alos when my dad leavesa I will give something and I will have the same thing it helps me remember him. So being a military child is sad and happy. But I like being a military child because it can be fun. And I also like being a military child because I like to move to different places

- Ava I.



Life as a military child can be hard but exciting and fun. The exciting part is you can explore other places and try new food and all sorts of stuff. Since I moved to Poland I was a little scared at first but then I got used to flying. It wasn't that bad. here are all the places I went to Poland, Virginia, England, Paris, Italy, Germany, Scotland, Malta, and now Japan I had really great adventures with my family. I hope you have great adventures like me. You have to move and say bye to your friends and family and whoever in the military or like your mom or dad leaves you every day except Saturdays and Sundays but if they are in deployment they are gone longer. it's at least fun and we can always visit friends and family. I love being a military child. Do you love being a military child? To me I love being a military child. It feels like I am normal because I am but just I am a military child and I like who I am and I like it that way. I am proud to be a military child and that's who I am.

- Sharon S.



Being a military child could be exciting but at times sad. Sad only because we leave our grandparents, aunts, cousins and uncles behind, as well as our friends, and schools. As a military child we move to a lot of new places. Being a Military Child means you move alot but you also get to explore many new places like being here in Okinawa, Japan or exploring the United States in places like Washington D.C., Virginia, California, Iowa, North Carolina, and many other places, but, it also means we make many new friends that become our new family. Each place brings new memories that stay with us forever. I enjoy being a Military child because I am part of the military community which means my family and I are part of protecting and keeping the United States safe.

- Adrian H.



Life as a Military is ok but my only family member that is in the Military is in The States for work because he got orders to go to New Orleans for 2 years. I call and text him every night for me. But morning for him. My mom is the FRO of CRL37 so I don't think my mom is in the Military. But sometimes I come to her for some information about the Military. My dad is going to a lot of places for work like Florida, Miami, I don't know anymore but i don't know what unit my dad sends he's in The States. I hope he comes back this year for next year. He sends My mom, my brother, and me gifts! I really like the gifts he got the past year and a half. For my mom's Birthday my dad got something in The States from me because I didn't have enough money to get my mom something for her Birthday. My dad got my brother 2 books and 1 book for me and my brother for the night time me and my brother did it on Saturday night. I'm going to make a book or a journal for the book for what we see and what we think about the sky. My dad got me and my brother a lot of cool, awesome, AMAZING gifts. I just wish he was here in Okinawa, Japan. My oldest brother is in the Military and he just moved. So I just like to comfort him during quarantine. My brother calls him at night for us and they play Xbox almost all night.

- Phoenix



My life as a military child is happy but it is also difficult. We get to go travel around the world learning new cultures and trying new foods like how we are in Okinawa, Japan learning about their culture. But we have to say goodbye to friends and family and that could be heartbreaking. Being a military child, we have to move in the middle of the school year and going to a new school is rough since you won't know anyone and it would be hard to fit in. But it could also mean making new friends. Living in military housing makes it easier to make friends since your neighbors are also in the military so we share a common experience.

Also military housing is surrounded by places like the commissary, the shoppette, and the exchange and a lot of playgrounds, and I like that about living on-base.

Another thing about being a military child is that our parents might have to go on deployment, like my dad had to go on deployment for about a year. It was really lonely when he left. That's one reason why I cherish my time with my family and friends because I don't know when they are gonna leave or even I might leave.

This is my life as a military child.

- Alek



I have been a military child for 9 years. My dad left for bootcamp when I was only 3 weeks old and we moved to our first duty station when I was 6 months old. I love being a military child because we get to move and live in different places and because we move so much I have friends all over the world. There are a few cons of being a military child like making new friends and then they move away or that we have to be away from family so that can be hard. I am proud to be a military child.

- Isaiah



Being a military child is good and bad sometimes. Here is a bad thing. You have to move away. You might only know it a month before you leave. A good thing is that you can make new friends when you go to new places. In closing, being a military child is good sometimes and bad sometimes.

- Elizabeth B.



Being a military child can be uneasy but it can be easy for others. Here are some reasons why I love being a military child. One of the reasons why I love being a military child is because we travel to see different places or countries. But on the other hand, travelling from places to places is hard. We have to say goodbye to our friends, pack and unpack, sleep on floors, hotels, and airports. Also, our grandparents are always away from us. The most difficult part is that our moms and dads have to go away for a long time. Also, we have to change schools. This is my life as a military child and there are always things to like and dislike. Luckily, I have made new friends here and I always play with them at school and at home.

- Sabira Abrorova



I think that there are some good aspects and some bad aspects to being a military child. One of the really good aspects is that I get to travel. I get to meet new people and new friends. On the other hand, sometimes I have to leave my buddies behind and move to another community. For example, I had to leave my friend Will in North Carolina last year. It made me very sad. A good thing to have in the family as a military child is a smartphone. I have one and I can contact the people I miss and love. Being a military child, I get to learn about new traditions, cultures, languages, events, and religions. I have been to many states in America like Virginia, North and South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Hawaii. I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. I just moved to Japan. I've been to three different schools. I attended pre school in Virginia. I spent three years in North Carolina and went to kindergarten through second grade at Dixon elementary. Now I attend Kinser Elementary for third grade. I have made lots of friends in each country. I like the feeling of being protected and safe because of the military. On the outside of the base where we live, there is barbed wire. This keeps people who are not military out. The worst part of being a military child is when my dad has to deploy and leave the family for months at a time. The whole family misses him while he is gone. I am very proud of the work my dad and all the military personnel do and I am very proud to be a military child.



- Oliver N.



Life as a military child can be amazing, adventurous, and very experiencing. It can also be sad leaving your friends and family but that means you are seeing and living in new and different countries and states. This is how I got to Okinawa. First I was born in Maryland. When we moved I was three. That's when we moved to North Carolina where Shane, my little brother was born. Now I was five. Then moved to Mississippi. We were very close to New Orleans. Then I turned eight. Now I am not in America, I am in Okinawa Japan. Here are the places we flew and drove to get to Okinawa. Our first stop was Atlanta then we flew to Seattle. Our next flight was to mainland Japan and then to Okinawa, where I live now. I love being a military kid because I would not be here if I weren't a military kid. I love being a military kid!

- Hailey W.



Being a Military child is sometimes happy and sad. You have to move a lot. But you get to make new friends! Sometimes, my dad has to leave for a long time. One of my favorite things about being a Military Child is I get to go to my dad's work and I talk to the Marines. My Big Sister and I can go to new places and do new things. When my dad has to go on Deployment, I can't make him stay, but I know my Dad is helping other people and places. The worst days are when he has to leave. The best days are when he comes back home. It feels like a unicorn party in my body! My family moved from North Carolina to Okinawa, Japan; it was hard. I had to leave all my friends, but I am happy I moved because now I have new friends. Because of the Military I get to move to cool places like California and Japan. When my dad comes home I always give him a big hug, because I love him.

- Sophia



Being a military child can be awesome but it can make you unhappy too. I like being a military child because I get to travel. I have been to Germany, Texas, El Paso, Texas, Tennessee, and now we are in Okinawa, Japan. And I like to try new food and cultures and its history, and I feel protected. My mother and father are in the military. My father was in the military when I was small and my mother is now in the military. Each place we go to, we stay for three years. I have two siblings, one brother named Robert Jr and one sister named Emya. I'm the eldest. My brother and sister come to this school at Kinser Elementary. Emya's in kindergarten and Robert Jr is first grade. The bad thing is Mom isn't here, she's in Virginia in school. And also the bad thing about traveling is ROM when we have to stay in the house all day especially pets they have to take ROM for six months. And sometimes when you move away, all your friends you have they have to stay in their community. Like me and my family were in El Paso Texas and I had a friend named Alana. Her birthday was right before mine and then we had to move to Japan. But now I have a best friend named Mia she rides the bus like I do too.

Being a military child could be stressful, hard, and enjoyable. Some might say it's easy, enjoyable, nice awesome, it's great, And that is what it's like to be a military child!!

- Nylah



Being a military child is challenging because you have to leave family and friends. But the cool thing about being a military child is you get to try different stuff as you explore around the country. You can meet new people when you go to school and go to your parent's job. You can learn different languages in your country and you can learn about their culture. I like to try different food from all over the country.

- Ayden T.

**MORE FROM MS. SMALLS
3RD GRADE STUDENTS
ON PAGE 28**

CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
KINSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 3rd grade • Ms. Smalls

My life as a military child can sometimes be challenging, especially when my both parents are in the service. There are, and will be times, I'll be missing one parent from my life for days, weeks, and even months when they go on deployments. I become sad when my parents are not around because I wonder when I will see my mom or dad again.



Being a military child means I move a lot too. I hate to say 'goodbye' to my friends and the house I called home for the last couple of years. My family and I travel and get to go to different places, I guess that is a good thing, because I get to discover new places and make new friends.

- Mia T.



Hi my name is Leilani . I live and go to school on Camp Kinser. My life as a military child is hard because you have to move to a new country that is really far from your family members and won't see them in three years, although they can visit you or call you. You can mail them cards, letters, gifts, clothes, shoes and other things. You get used to making new friends too. My mom is a Marine, so she went on deployment for 7 months so me and my big brother had to stay with our grandma that had to come to our house and our dad watched us too. My mom left us a disk that had recordings of her reading books so we can remember her while she was on the ship and she sent us stuff from Hawaii. When she came back, we had to stay with our friends while my mom is on duty.

- Leilani Lee



Being a Military Child can be difficult because you end up moving a lot and you miss the friends you have to leave behind. It can also be fun! You meet new friends. I am going to be happy and sad when I move again. I am going to move to Texas. I will get to see my aunts, cousins, and of course to live in a new house. I will go to a new school. I wonder what it will be like, but I am ready to explore. I am also kind of wondering what a Military Child month is about. My dad is going to retire in Texas. We will live there for the rest of our lives, And that means I will be a former Military Child. I have to move because the Military had to. I won't be happy to leave Japan. It's the best home ever! But what I like about moving is that you get to full up your room with your new stuff and you'll get to figure out where to put stuff. I am really happy to do all of the Military Child month stuff. And even if you're not a Military Child That doesn't mean that you're not important. Because you are! You are, everyone of us no matter what no matter skin tone you are your important to everyone. Just because you might feel like "what!? No way they get to be celebrated, what about us!?" Before you go like that we are just celebrated for being a hero's child. As the Military we had faced war. And I am going to be happy for everyone who got published even if I don't. I will be happy for those people. I am really impressed how it's like to be a Military Child. I know it can be uneasy for a kid to sometimes handle being a Military Child. But for others it's easy. And I don't know if I will be in the Military service or be a baker. I would be scared and surprised and happy if I got to be in the Military service. And honestly you should thank the Military for putting us free from being slaves from England. Being a Military child means you have to let your parents be gone like for some months and it's heartwarming to see your parents again! So this is what I think about a Military child, you have to be strong, kind, and help others. And those are my thought about being a Military Child.

- Cassandra



Hello, I am Maiah. I am a military connected child. Being a Military connected child is not hard but at the same time not easy. My parents are not in the military, but my dad still works with the military. My dad's job is to buy furniture for unaccompanied marines. Even though my parents aren't in the military, I still have to move to new countries. It's not like the actual military child that moves every 3 years, but I still have to move. This is the first time to move though. I am going to move to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Even though I am not a military child, I still lose friends and family sometimes and because of the pandemic my family has to follow rules like that American people in Okinawa has to follow, like that you can only take out or eat outside in off base restaurants. The good side of being a military connected child is that you can meet different people with various cultures. Even though I am not a military child right now I used to be for one year. In conclusion, this is why I like and don't like being a military child.

- Maiah T.

Being a military child is very challenging. I like how you get to explore new places each three years and make new friends. The difficult thing is abandoning your old friends and trying to make new ones. Like how I moved Iwakuni to go to Okinawa. Your parents have to work hard each day and sometimes they have to leave out of nowhere. I dislike it because it could be days or even weeks for them to get back. When my mom visits me at school I am very elated to see her because I know she took time to see me instead of the people she helps at her job. When school is finished I wait for her to pick me up because she still has to work hard and sometimes she has to stay overnight. That is my life as a military child.

- Cameron S.

I have been a military child my whole entire life. As a military child it is challenging and fun at the same time. It's challenging because we have to move to different places and adapt to their culture. It's fun because I get the opportunity to know the country's culture and tradition. However, being a military child could be difficult because we have to move away from friends and families often from home. I am a proud military child. We had a unique opportunity to travel and meet other people. Military influence has contributed greatly to our development as a kid. We experience lots of different things that other kids do not encounter in their lifetime. I'm Keandrei and I'm a proud military child. It was a great honor to be part of a family who serves to the greatest military on the planet.

- Keandrei

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Cynthia McKeague

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CELEBRATING MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ryukyu Middle School

6th grade • Ms. Grantham

Friends

Being a military child, you never really stay in one place. Sometimes things get really hard, and you think about them more often than you think you would. You think about the people you said hello and goodbye to; you think about the school you once never knew and now miss; you think about the things you learned and saw. I know I will never forget my experiences.

Some things are easier to leave behind, but others are not. I had to leave my two best friends who I had known for four years. They were once strangers, but then they became my friends. They changed my life for they became my sisters, my counselors, and my secret keepers. They were a big part of my happiness. They were like my family when I left them. Even until now, I remember every little detail because our memories together have long imprinted on my mind.

We met in 2014. We are even more connected in 2021 even though we are 6,793 miles apart.

- Isabell Marte



Every few years, you have to move whether you like it or not. It's not fun to move when you finally get used to a place. You have friends, and you don't want to leave them. You don't want to leave the school that you are finally comfortable with.

Leaving is inevitable, but it can turn into something memorable and meaningful if you take some actions.

Take the time to talk to your mom, dad, and your teachers. Ask your classmates if you could have a picture with them. Get their email address, so you can stay in touch. Get a yearbook. Get a shirt or souvenir to remember the country you live in.

You can't stop moving, but you can actively create memories to remember and embrace your experiences. Even though you don't have a physical item to remind you of your old friends and homes, it is okay. True friends won't forget you because they remember you in their heart.

- Joshua Shade

I have a very different outlook on military children. In fact, I am not a military child, I am a civilian child. My parents are both teachers for DoDEA. I think it is a wonderful experience living in Okinawa, Japan! I am incredibly blessed to have this opportunity.

Every coin has two sides. Being a civilian child, you don't really move around too much, but you do get to live all around the world. You are the one who stays and watches all of your friends leave. You have to wait for new friends to come. My friends come and go, and I can never seem to have one friend who stays for a long time. It's never easy being the one who stays behind.

The experience of being a civilian child is great. For example, you get to explore the world. Most people have never even left their own country. I feel fortunate to have friends from different backgrounds. It's a lot of fun to learn about their cultures.

All in all, I feel incredibly blessed and proud to be a civilian child!

- Sarah Beth Walker

Free But Caged

Wings as wide as ever, gliding through the sky. We are birds, flying free as can be. But little do we know,

we are trapped. In a cage, preventing us from experiences we never knew we could have. Yet, we still fly. We fly.

never knowing where we are going or where we are going to end up at. We are trapped in a cage of make-believe. We are blinded from the pain and trauma. Military children.

We have a mindset that was created and forced into our minds that nothing will happen,

nothing.

We're told that we are safe. We will never expect anything. The cage.

It prevents us from expanding our knowledge of the non-military world. When we are let go, the outside world won't be like our cage.

It'll be a forest full of predators, waiting to pounce. Just wait till they let us go, and it's Hunting Season.



- Jaslene Vela

My Experience as a Military Child

Being a military child is great, but you have to PCS every few years. PCS means leaving your best friends and family behind. It also means going to a new place where everyone is a stranger! Before you know it, you're going to a new school, and you have to endure the anxiety of meeting new people. You will never know if your new friends are going to be nicer, funnier than your old ones, or if they will be toxic and fake.

At the same time, being a military child allows you to visit new places and have many new life experiences. You get to participate in fun activities with your father or mother's work. For example, you can go to a beach, arcade, a park, or even a zoo for free!

Everything is like a surprise when you are a military child.

- Kiyera Jayde Tyquiengco-Perez

CHECK OUT MORE MILITARY CHILDREN STORIES AT: MILITARYCHILD.STRIPES.COM

My Life

Flying, driving, walking, moving. "I'm scared, mommy," I said. "Mommy, I have no friend here..." Moving to a new place every few years. Having an adventure of making friends, losing friends. School.

I just stay in the same place. Laughing, crying, the way I feel when I'm moving, the sign I may never see them again. I get to the plane, hear the roar for hours and hours, then I get off the plane. Next thing My new home.

- Riley Chargualaf



Being a Military Child, well, is an adventure. Sometimes we have bad moments when we don't see most of our family together for 7 months, and sometimes we have good moments together when we reunite together again and everything is okay as it was before. As we travel together around the world with my dad who's a marine, my mom as a military mother and my brothers that are military children, we experience the good times we've had. But the real adventure that we've had, was having each other as a Military family. So thank you Dad (Jaziel Gallegos), for this adventure!

- Adrian Gallegos





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Carloamgno D. Hugo
Russell A. Humphrey
Hyunchong Hwang
Daniel Oluwadamilola Ifelowo
John Inzunza Rodriguez
Kazuki Ito
Emmanuel Jamil Colmenares
Joseph Warren Comer Jr.
Nathan Contat
Darriel Conyers
Douglas Jeffrey Copeland
Alvin Corpuz
Azia Sade Craig
Charles Craig
Savannah

Stripes Sports Trivia

In 2009, MLB Network decided to air the first round of the MLB draft for the first time, and, unlike the NFL or NBA, finding players to show up in studio wasn't quite as easy. As it turns out, MLB was only able to reel in one player to show up for the broadcast. Who was the future star caught with the 25th pick?

Answer

Mike Trout



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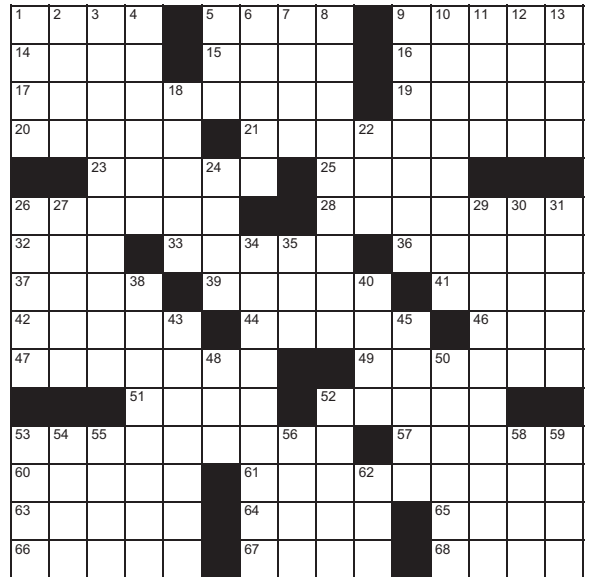


Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Parade entry
- 5 Idina Menzel's "Frozen" role
- 9 Prefix with manage or wave
- 14 Safe, at sea
- 15 It's out on a limb
- 16 Open, as a jacket
- 17 Unwavering
- 19 Far from fresh
- 20 Huge crowd
- 21 Protected
- 23 Certain believer
- 25 Hitchcock film, "___ Window"
- 26 Kitchen cleaner
- 28 Parsley, e.g.
- 32 Fido's foot
- 33 Kind of spray
- 36 "The Divine Comedy" author
- 37 Doohickey
- 39 Big commotions
- 41 Hold on property
- 42 Paparazzi target, briefly
- 44 Yard machine
- 46 Recurrent twitch
- 47 Supersize, say
- 49 Forcible seizure
- 51 Straight, at the bar
- 52 TV, radio, etc.
- 53 Home, to Americans abroad
- 57 Opening words
- 60 Like some tabloid headlines
- 61 Occupation featured in "Six Feet Under"
- 63 Japanese cartoons
- 64 It follows that
- 65 Axis of ___
- 66 Heron, eg.
- 67 Distort, in a way
- 68 Depend (on)



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- 2 High in the Andes
- 3 Useless type
- 4 Make numb
- 5 Little toymaker
- 6 Smallest in degree
- 7 Scout's uniform item
- 8 Lingering light
- 9 Frank topper
- 10 Part of I.R.S.
- 11 Captain of industry
- 12 Anger, with "up"
- 13 Pundit's page
- 18 Lower oneself
- 22 Grassy meadow
- 24 Usher's offering
- 26 Nutmeg, e.g.
- 27 Eucharistic plate
- 29 Tagalong's lack
- 30 Ale holder
- 31 Consequently
- 34 Now and then
- 35 Big deal
- 38 In the ___.. (for now)

- 40 Dried up
- 43 Puppy supplier
- 45 Pie cuts, essentially
- 48 Lots of fun, slangily
- 50 Lobster feature
- 52 Combine
- 53 Picnic dish
- 54 Yellowfin, e.g.
- 55 Like Death Valley
- 56 Unhip sort
- 58 Commuter line
- 59 Nothing but
- 62 Kind of truck

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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



DID YOU KNOW?

Every year, 8.6 million Japanese climb the more than 15,000 mountains and 200 volcanos, which share about 70 percent of the Japanese archipelago. In 2016, the government of Japan created a new national holiday, "Mountain Day" on August 11, to let people familiarize themselves and appreciate the blessings of mountains. So, if you want to fit in on this island, go climb yourself a mountain or two, slacker.

Kanji of the week

大
Large (dai)

Language Lesson

This is my wife/husband.

Watashi no tsuma/otto desu.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Previous Sudoku:

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

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

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