



What it Means to be a Military Child

Camden, Age 11.

To me being a military child means that you will have to face a lot of challenges. The hardest one for me, has been moving a lot. I have moved 6 times in my 11 years. I am in 5th grade and have been to 5 different elementary schools.

Another challenge that I have had to face is saying goodbye to all of the friends I have ever made. I feel like I always find great friends then we have to move again. Many of my friends are also military kids and I often hope I will see them again someday.

Being a military child comes with a lot of positive things too! I have traveled all over the country with my family! My favorite place I have ever been because of the Army is Orlando, Florida! We drove there for my 10th birthday when we were living in Louisiana! Oh, and about that, living in Louisiana was TERRIBLE!

Being a military child has really made my brothers and I stronger. I have been through a lot of changes in my life and I know how to deal with them well. When the Coronavirus started and everyone had to change their lives all around, I felt like it wasn't very hard for me and my family because we are so used to everything changing all the time and we are ready for it! I actually liked having to be home with my family! My dad even got to work from home!

I really like finding other Military kids when I start a new school. It makes me feel more comfortable because I feel like they understand what I have gone through and the kind of life we live. We always seem to become friends fast. Like we are all part of a special club, because it is special! I am very proud of my dad. He is a Major in the Army. He has been in the Army for a long time. I am excited for him to retire someday though so that we can buy a house somewhere we really like and have a pond in back and not have to worry about leaving it. That will be the very best feeling. I am proud of my mom too. She works really hard and has to be the mom and dad a lot of times. She will be glad when my dad retires too so she can have a kitchen she loves she always says.

Alex, age 8

I am honored to be a Military child. It makes me proud.

We have to face many challenges, but we always make it through and always have fun. I really do not like when people call me an Army brat. I think that name is mean. We are not brats. We are special and we love the Army like the Soldiers do.

The hardest thing for me has been times when my dad has to go away for the Army. He leaves sometimes for days or weeks or months and I miss him very much, but I know his job is very important and he's helping other people and our country. We always make him a big sign when he comes home.

I have been to a lot of things that are sometimes boring being a military child. We have to go to ceremonies and meetings and sometimes we can't even talk the whole time! I try hard to stay still and I ALWAYS make sure I am standing up tall with my hand on my heart looking at the flag when the national anthem plays or for the pledge of allegiance.

For my school play I got to hold the flag. I felt very important.

At my school there are other kids who's parents are also in the Army. Sometimes we have been to the same places.

My favorite place we ever lived was at West Point and the place I liked the least was Fort Polk.

Being a Military Child is very special.

Wyatt, Age 8

I am a Military Child and my dad is in the Army. The thing I like best is that I have friends all over the world. My friend Carolina lives in Korea now. She was my best friend in first grade and now I am in second grade. I gave her a heart necklace and I wear a piece of it too. My friend Jasper lives in England. That's across the ocean. I hope he doesn't forget about me because we had so much fun when we lived in Kansas and played trains. I miss my friends a lot when I have to move. That is the part I don't like about being a military child is so much moving all the time. The best place I ever lived was in New York! I want to move back there sometime and see all the castles at West Point again.

My dad lets us go to his work sometimes. That is fun and I like to get to see all the Army trucks. Once I got to ride in a tank! It was so cool! Not all kids get to do that and it made me feel really cool!

My dad has to go away sometimes and that part I don't like. He trains Soldiers in other countries sometimes and my mom takes care of us at home. She's not in the Army but she goes to a lot of meetings for it and helps a lot of Soldiers. I say even my dogs are in the Army because they have to move a lot too!

Being a Military kid is fun and I am proud.