

**Life as a Military Brat can be wonderful**

Life as a "military brat" can be wonderful. All my memories are centered on our military life, culture, and experiences as a military family. My life has been enriched by these experiences and memories. I have learned to persevere and to have courage. Being a "military brat" has prepared me for the challenges of life as a college student.

The military family serves together in honor and duty to our country. My dad has served 19 years in the US Army. We have served right along beside dad, arm in arm. We have suffered and celebrated together. This encourages me to take pride in honesty and hard work. The struggle in the pursuit of a goal has value.

We wave the American flag along with our yellow Army service ribbon outside our home proudly. It tells everyone that we are an Army family. The American flag has a special place in our hearts as a military family. It represents the "Pride in Country" we hold dear in our hearts. It reminds us of the price many families have paid for our American freedom and liberty. The high cost we as a military family understand.

We've moved around our country and met wonderful people. Our family grows with each move adding new friends that become like family. This community family has seen us through many difficulties. We've experienced life in six beautiful states. It's been a treat to experience the climate, culture, and heritage of each. I'm a better person for these experiences. I'm stronger for this journey as a member of a military family.

I've been through periods of separation from my father during his times of training and deployment. These experiences have taught me strength, perseverance, and the value of support from family and friends. Our love is the glue that held us together as a family. I've learned to appreciate challenges in life.

My love for my father and the honor in his service swell my heart with pride. I'm part of the esprit de corps that is felt in the hearts of all fellow soldiers and military families. We have a strong family that has grown through this journey of military service. Growing up as a "military brat" has been a privilege and an honor. As a family, we turn to each other first and foremost in times of struggle. We carry each other through the tough times by the strength of our commitment and love.

Our family has reaped the rewards of military life. These rewards are a variety of life experiences, travel, multicultural understanding, joy amidst the sorrows, pride in country, the honor of service and a love that stands the test of time. No matter where I go I know my family loves me and is proud of me. I'm encouraged to grow and challenge myself as an individual. I'm proud to be a "military brat". These experiences have enriched my life and given me the courage to pursue my goals and education.