

Category: Grade 6-8

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Leaving Home: Making Memories Everywhere

Every time I ride a plane, I always look out the window when departing to see myself taking a step towards my destination. Every time I see the clouds close to me, I get emotional thinking about how I am leaving my home again. Moving every couple years is something I am used to because I am a military child. Although there are many sacrifices, I have to make, I think of being a military kid as an advantage. To me, being a military kid means having the ability to undergo unique experiences.

Many people think having to move around often can make it hard for me to make friends. It can be hard to maintain multiple friendships, but instead, I think of it like I make memories that not everyone can go through.

During the first time I lived in South Korea, I was taught about the culture. Learning a new sport called taekwondo and the Korean alphabet *Hangul* were all fresh to me. These are all things that not everyone gets a chance to do.

After I moved to New York, another new thing for me was to see pile of snow. I can still vividly remember the winter I played in 3 feet of snow. Same for seeing the Statue of Liberty in real life, and visiting Canada to see the massive Niagara Falls. Living in New York for a few years was definitely one of my favorite chapters in life.

The second time I lived in South Korea, I made several memories. A few I remember are learning how to golf and K-POP dance, experiencing exceptionally hot summers, and visiting many places within Korea. One significant place I can't forget touring is the DMZ area. The DMZ is the border between South and North Korea. I could see North Korea from a pair of binoculars. I was expecting a bunch of soldiers holding weapons, but it was actually the opposite. What I saw was an open peaceful landscape with only a couple of guards. There are all interesting memories I made in South Korea.

During the summer, I moved to Alaska. Ever since I moved here, I had to change the way I live to match the huge amount of snow and the short daylight in winter. Throughout the cold seasons, the sun rised at 10 AM and set at 3 PM. The limited daylight was new to me; however, I eventually adapted to enjoy the beautiful sunsets.

Adapting is another big part of being a military child. Every place I ever lived had different cultures. Humid part of New York, populated cities in South Korea, and rural Alaska all carry different lifestyles. However, I learned to adjust to fit the area I live in. Moving from one place to another was not a familiar transition at first but it made me grow.

Being a military youth means that I get to go through special encounter while also adjusting to different places I can home. These memories have built a perspective that I will carry with me to wherever I go in the future.