

Young Lives, Big Stories

My name is Alyssa and I am 9 years old. My dad serves as an officer in the Army. My dad has also been overseas for several deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. My mom used to be in the U.S. Army too! It is pretty awesome to me that both my parents have either served, or are currently in the military.

What it means to me to be a military child is taking adventures. I have moved 3 times with my dad in the military. First as a toddler, I lived in Phoenix, AZ. We lived in a small apartment. Then we moved to El Paso, TX. We lived in a house that we were renting. That's where my little sister was born. It was bigger than our old apartment, but still pretty small. Lastly, we moved to Tucson, AZ, which is where I live today. We changed schools and I made new friends. We have a lot of land now and even pet chickens! My house is much nicer and bigger. I loved moving here! Also 45 minutes away, which may seem like a long way, is the commissary at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. The commissary is a store that you can go to if you used to be or are still in the military. They sell food at lower prices than at normal stores. That's where my family shops to save money. Now that's good shopping!

I am lucky because I can enjoy activities on both the Air Force base and Ft. Huachuca, my dad's Army base. We can have Easter brunch on base, which is the best! I recently went to an event to celebrate being a military child. They had juggling acts, free lunch, rock walls, and my favorite thing, a magician! It is amazing being a military child!

However, even though being a military kid is great, it can be difficult at times too. What makes it hard is when my dad goes away on trips, or TDY, for work. He plays with us, cleans, cooks, and helps with our pets. We love him very much! My mom quit her job so she could look after us because my dad was away so much. My sister, my mom, and I, still have a hard time when my dad is away, even with my mom off from work. It's a challenge, but when he returns, things are a lot better! That is because my dad does so much for our family. We really appreciate him!

Being brave, proud, honorable, kind, loving, and adventurous are all part of being a military child. I love being a military child because of the bases I visit, events, and all of the new experiences. Even when times are tough, we have God, our family, hope, and love, to help get us through. That is why being a military kid is more than awesome!