

Category: Grades 4-5 (Essay)

Elaina Buckingham, Fort Shafter, HI

What it means to be a military child?

Being a military kid is hard and exciting, adventurous and fun, interesting and exactly the right life for me. You could be ordered to live in cold, northern countries where it is so cold that the mucus in your nose freezes as you try to draw breath, so cold that your toes tingle with it, and your face feels like it is burning from the same. Or tropical rainforests where you fight daily the ants in the kitchen, termites in the walls, even centipedes and cockroaches in your bed! You could even be ordered across the world; to Germany, France, Belgium, England, Switzerland, Spain, India, Greece, Italy, Australia, Japan, Slovenia, you get the gist of it . . . anywhere!

But back to the question: what does it mean to be a military kid? To me, it means tears at leaving dear friends and family; joy at meeting new ones; adventure in exploring new hikes, houses, and communities; fun in learning new games others play, teaching them my favorites, and exploring the stores; interest in learning about all the new trees, bugs, plants, and animals that come with living in places that are so, so different in so many ways.

Being a military kid also helps you strengthen your trust in the one true God, because you know that your parent's job is dangerous. They could leave and not come back. It is a job that is hard to do without faith. I don't know if the love of being in a military family is inherited, but it seems like it to me, since I am a fourth-generation military kid and I love the life I lead; and I am full of pride and awe at those brave men and women that fight so bravely for our country.