

Young Lives, Big Stories

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Resilience; people in the military often use this word to describe their soldiers and rightfully so. You cannot let a small mistake prevent you from completing the mission. In a way, military kids show this trait as well. Times often are tough and some experiences may seriously challenge a kid, but we show endurance and persevere through them.

As a military child, you experience many amazing things, but with them come many challenges. Some of these challenges are easy to overcome, but the most prominent one is the struggle of starting over whenever and wherever you move. No matter what you do, whether it's academics, music, or a sport, when you come to a new place you'll end up in the same place every time--the bottom. I have personally experienced this disadvantage. The first time you do something new, it's not a problem having to work your way up. Everyone starts at the bottom. But once you get repeatedly thrown back down is when you must have the determination to get back up again.

Military kids must also be able to quickly adjust to any situation to accomplish something. We often move to new places where skills or knowledge may no longer apply. During one of my family's moves, I wanted to join a band, but the place I went to join had different requirements than the program I was in before. I did not want to drop the program, so I was forced to change my previously learned habits. The same is true for so many areas. A basketball player may have missed tryouts at his new school. An academic team may have kids who have worked together for years. Civilian students build up long term relationships with their coaches and teachers, while a new student must prove themselves again and again. Many kids are forced into these situations and we must learn to cope with the ever changing world around us. If we do not adapt, then we will be left behind.

In my opinion, military kids show similar traits to their military parents. They must be resilient to get through tough times and the fluidity to adapt to new situations. In a way, we must

try harder to make something of ourselves. We take what we are given and make the most of bad situations. We experience more stress with switching schools and leaving old friends behind, with starting over with our activities in a new location. We find different ways to deal with them whether it be through the pursuit of education or maybe by playing sports or through the arts. Despite all of these things, being a military kid gives you a sense of adventure and gives you the skills to succeed in the future.