

Nora Blain

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Taylor Blain/Dad

Shaw AFB

Growing up in a military family has shaped who I am in more ways than I can count. With my Dad in the Air Force, I've learned to be flexible and independent.

When my Dad was deployed last year, I had to take on a bigger role at home for example helping with my younger siblings, managing school, and helping my Mom with my younger siblings. It wasn't always easy, but I knew it was my way of supporting not just my parents, but the military community we're a part of. It especially wasn't easy when he currently had to deploy for 6 months again this year a few months after he got back from his other deployment.

Moving around a lot can be tough so I try to be the person I wish I had when I was the new kid. I also try to connect with other military kids when they just move in, because it helps to have someone who knows what it's like with moving every 2 years or with having a parent deployed. Being the new kid is hard so I try my best to help people who just move in feel welcomed.

Overall though I'm grateful to be a military kid because of the amazing experiences I get to have. I get to move around every 2 years to different places that most kids don't have the chance to go to in their life. Plus saying that I've been to South Korea is a pretty big flex when doing a get to know you activity.

Yes, being a military child is hard, but it also helps kids like me adapt to being strong, adaptable, and supportive, even when things get hard. I'm proud of that. And while I don't always feel like a "hero," I do my best to lead by example and be there for others in my community.