

Viewpoint

STREET TALK

What was your greatest challenge when your spouse was deployed?



"Taking care of my (two) kids."

Jennifer Broadway
Army spouse 4 yrs.

"Keeping up with the kids."



Angela Burnett
Army spouse 3 yrs.



"Taking care of my two kids alone."

Karen Clark
Army spouse 6 yrs.

"Dealing with all of the family situations, like finances, and being on my own (for the first time). My spouse deployed 10 days after we were married."



Brittany Kuykendall
Army spouse less than 1 yr.



"Getting enough quality alone time. Finding people who can help out with my kids, so I can have a break."

Laura Patterson
Army spouse 14 yrs.

"Coordinating child care when the kids are sick. However, I used to be dual military with my husband, and that helps."



Erin Silveira
Army spouse 6 yrs.

Families now Army's foundation

By David W. Kuhns Sr.
Northwest Guardian

One of the major changes in the Army of this generation is the increased sacrifice made by families.

Our nation's Army has always been made up primarily of young, single men. The growth of a large volunteer force changed that model. In addition to the traditional attractions of patriotism, service to country, and visiting exotic parts of the world, we added family health care, reliable income, and quality housing.

We have been transformed from an Army of bachelors to an Army of families. Not since World War II and Korea have so many fathers — and mothers — been called upon to leave their families behind and go into harm's way.

The first major deployments of the volunteer Army came with the first war with Iraq. Family problems became a surprising focus for the Armed Forces — and a source of public embarrassment in many cases. Stories of Soldiers leaving children to

fend for themselves or barring spouses from the financial resources needed for survival filled the news media.

While the worst cases were small in number, they represented a much larger issue. The Army, as an institution, wasn't ready to deal with families on the scale required by the new force.

Things have been very different this time. Family readiness groups are better organized and they have more resources available to draw on.

There are professionals on the garrison staff, dedicated to advising and assisting the volunteers in the FRGs. The numbers of those advisers are going up, too, with

plans to have paid advisers down to the battalion level in the near future.

Tremendous efforts have gone into supporting families in other ways, too.

Think of the communications we have today.

In past wars Soldiers and families waited for weeks to receive letters from loved ones. News of injuries and deaths arrived by telegram, sometimes long after the event.

Contrast that to today. Families now routinely

enjoy talking to deployed loved ones via live video feed. Everyone sends and receives e-mail. Telephone calls are expected, not surprises.

Concern for keeping families

informed and easing their fears have gone so far that there have been cases of wounded Soldiers telling their families they are all right via satellite phone while they were en route to the hospital.

But, in the end, some things can never change.

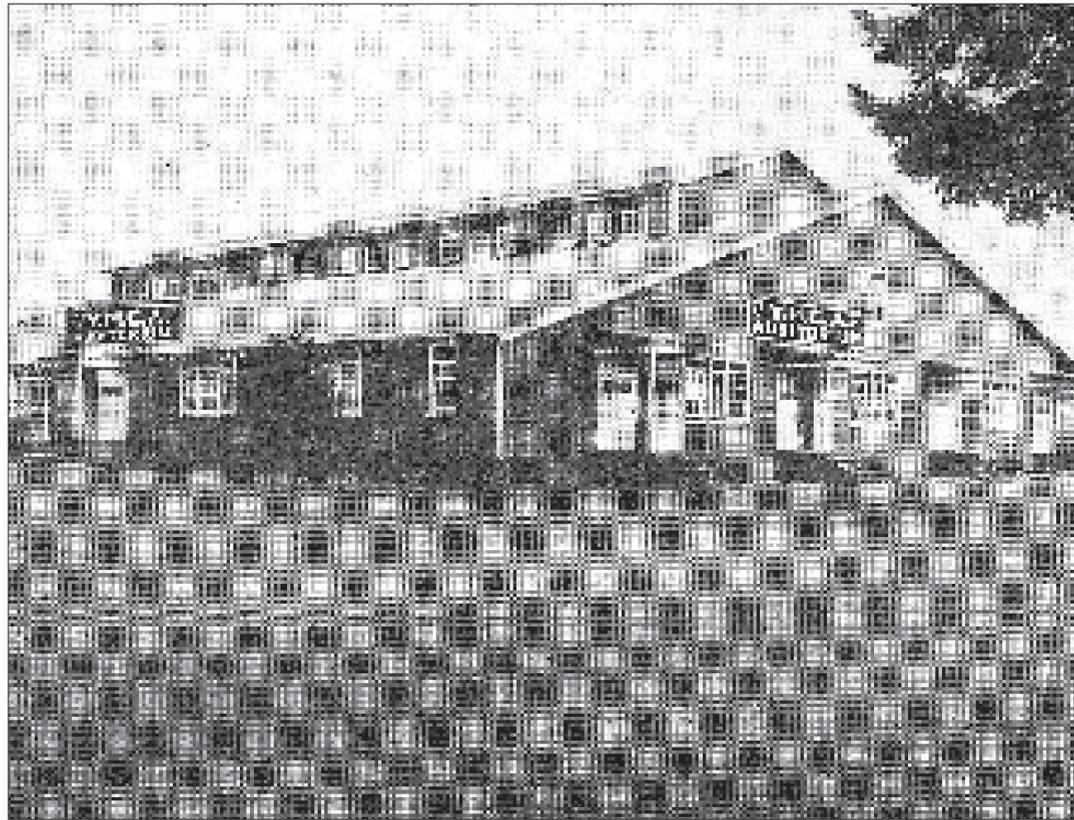
No matter how great the communications technology is, it can never be the same as bringing the Soldier home. A video conversation can't replace a hug for a child who misses her father; an e-mail won't let a deployed mom bake cupcakes for her son's class at school.

Those left behind to fill those gaps face many of the same challenges their grandparents did. That takes courage. But their quiet heroism is not recognized with medals and parades.

Families, today, are the foundation upon which the Army is built. So to all the wives, husbands and children who have seen their Soldiers off to war, here is a salute. For as surely as those Soldiers put on their uniforms and carry out their missions, you are serving, too.

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LOOKING BACK



Fort Lewis Military Museum

Recreational activities were limited for Soldiers on Camp Lewis in 1918, when the YMCA was one of the few places on post to congregate.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

JULY 20	JULY 21	JULY 22	JULY 23	JULY 24	JULY 25	JULY 26
1942: FIRST WOMEN BEGIN BASIC TRAINING IN THE WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS	1969: NEIL ARMSTRONG STEPS ON THE MOON	1775: GEORGE WASHINGTON TAKES COMMAND OF THE AMERICAN ARMY	1904: ICE CREAM CONE IS INVENTED AT ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR	1866: RECONSTRUCTION: TENNESSEE BECOMES THE FIRST CONFEDERATE STATE TO BE READMITTED TO THE UNION	1866: U.S. GRANT NAMED FIRST FULL GENERAL IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. ARMY	1948: TRUMAN INITIATES THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses

Weekdays (except Fridays and holidays), 11:50 a.m. — Main Post Chapel, Building 2001, 967-4849

Weekdays, 11:45 a.m. — Madigan Chapel, MAMC, 968-1120

Saturdays, 4:30 p.m. — Madigan Chapel, MAMC

Saturdays, 5 p.m. — Main Post Chapel

Sundays, 8 a.m. — Main Post Chapel

Sundays, 9 a.m. — Madigan Chapel

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. — Main Post Chapel

Sundays, noon — Evergreen Chapel, Building 3238, 967-7186

Orthodox services

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. — Cascade Chapel, Bldg. T03725, call 967-1717 for dates of services

Jewish services

Fridays, 7 p.m. — Chapel 5, Building 2270, 967-6590

Lutheran Liturgical services

Sundays, 9 a.m. — Soldiers Chapel, Building 3799, 967-7151

Protestant services

Sundays, 11 a.m. — Main Post Chapel

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. — Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel, Building 9120

Sundays, 10 a.m. — Evergreen Chapel

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. — Madigan Chapel

Sundays, 11 a.m. — Soldiers Chapel

Sundays, 11:15 a.m. — Four Chaplains

Wiccan

Saturdays, 6 p.m. — Building 6195

LDS

For LDS services information, call Lt. Col. (Ret.) Andy Raymond at 582-8776.

Former first lady showed kindness to young Soldier

By David Kuhns Sr.
Northwest Guardian

Lady Bird Johnson died last week, and while the nation talked about a former first lady and her campaign to beautify America, I remembered a Texas lady who showed kindness and courtesy to a Soldier far from home.

Over the course of a long career it isn't uncommon for old Soldiers to build up a list of prominent people they have met. There are the young officers who go on to great rank and importance, the politicians and sports figures who are seen on the nightly news or in the national magazines. For one who spent a career in public affairs there is a long list of the famous news people I have met.

I even shook hands with Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands once.

But a chance meeting with Lady Bird Johnson has always stood out with me.

Back in the early '80s I was stationed at Fort Hood. The airport in Killeen didn't have much service in those days. The best way to get back from a TDY was often to fly into Austin, then take a shuttle north to the post. I was flying back from St. Louis and was surprised to see one of the Johnson daughters (I think it was Lucy) sitting across the aisle from me back in the coach section. I was traveling in uniform, as we often did in those days. So she knew I was a Soldier. We exchanged pleasantries and some idle small talk during the flight, then wished each other well as we got off the plane in Austin.

When I got to the baggage claim area and picked up my duffel bag, there was Lady Bird Johnson. She had come to the airport to meet her daughter. Lucy introduced me and we shook hands. I remember that she had a firm handshake, but a soft voice. That gentle Texas hill country accent was just like it sounded on television.

The first lady asked about what I did in the Army, where I was from, how I liked Texas. She suggested a few places I should visit in Austin. It was only when I saw that I had to run to catch the Army shuttle that she wished me well and said goodbye. She left me with the feeling that our meeting was important to her.

I have always remembered that meeting with a sense of fondness. For years Lady Bird Johnson was listed as one of the most powerful figures in Central Texas. She continued her campaign to clean up our highways. Because of her time in the White House, she was a reminder of some tough times in our country.

But, to me, she will always be remembered as a great Texas lady, a woman of charm and grace, who, without a thought, gave a bit of her time to make a young Soldier feel like he really mattered.



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