



# WELCOME

Welcome to the lives of four fictional teenagers whose parents are in the military. Here you will find blogs by Mariah, Adam, Carlos, and Meredith, which describe their feelings and experiences as military teens. You will read about their joy, fear, confusion, pride, and anger—and how they got through the tough times before, during, and after their parents' deployment.

As the wars in the Middle East continue, many of our service members are experiencing long and repeated deployments. Having your parent halfway around the world in a combat zone for a long time can be tough on everybody. *My Story: Blogs by Four Military Teens* was written specifically for YOU, military youth, to honor and recognize your unique joys and sacrifices, address your fears and hopes, and explore how your parents' deployment is affecting your lives.

Although every military family is unique, you've got a lot in common with other teens whose parents have been deployed in this war. As you read these blogs, we hope you will relate to some of the feelings and situations that come up in Mariah's, Adam's, Carlos' and Meredith's lives.