



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**Extension**

## **4-H Military Partnerships & Operation: Military Kids Book List**

Michigan State University Extension  
Updated October 1, 2014

## 4-H Military Partnerships and Michigan Operation: Military Kids

### **Background:**

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension and Michigan 4-H are committed to supporting the more than 20,000 Michigan military children and youth, and their families, through programming and community education. The Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships and Operation: Military Kids goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being.

Through the Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships and Operation: Military Kids, Military youth meet other military youth and participate in a range of recreational, social and educational programs. Through these programs and 4-H experiences military youth gain leadership, organizational, technical and life skills that they can apply to any real life situation.

### **Michigan 4-H Military Families Website**

[http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/4h\\_military\\_families](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/4h_military_families)

### **Michigan Operation Military Kids Program Website**

<https://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/statePOCHome.aspx?state=Michigan>

### **Michigan Operation Military Kids Program Facebook Page**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/East-Lansing-MI/Michigan-Operation-Military-Kids/253869165590>

### **4-H Military Family Book Sheets**

The 4-H Military Family Book Sheets help parents and guardians find books and activities to help their children during various stages of their service members' deployments. Each book sheet contains a summary of the book, author and publication details, and activities that they can use with their children pre-, during or post-deployment to extend the message of the book. To find each book, check your local library, bookstore or online retailer. Many of the books listed on the book list have corresponding 4-H Military Family Book Sheets and are clearly marked. To find a listing of the 4-H Military Family Book Sheets scan the quick response (QR) code with your smart phone or tablet to view the complete listing of free book sheets.



### **Introduction to the Book List**

Initially, many of the books on this list, and all of the recommendations, were copied from a website called Books for Military Children (<http://www.booksformilitarychildren.info>). Additions researched and compiled by Kendra Moyses, MS, Jill Crane, M.L.I.S. and **Michigan State University Operation: Military Kids** team members. As additional resources and books are identified they are added to this resource list. This list is disseminated at Yellow Ribbon events; community events; educational workshops.

### **For more information contact:**

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## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN (0-8 YEARS)

**A Paper Hug**, by Stephanie Skolmoski, 2006, DesignAbility  
(1 year and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

In this book, a little boy makes a paper hug to give to his dad who will leave for deployment. The book explores common emotions children experience as a parent prepares to leave. It explores the child's feelings as he waits for a letter or phone call while his dad is away. The book gives simple instructions to make a paper hug.



**A Year Without Dad**, by Jodi Brunson, 2003, Ithaca Press  
(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

A Year Without Dad is a realistic look at what happens while a child's dad is deployed for a year. It covers pre-, during-, and post-deployment through the eyes of a young boy.



**A Yellow Ribbon for Daddy**, by Anissa Mersiowsky, 2005, Veritas Media, Inc.  
(4 to 8 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

A Yellow Ribbon for Daddy, written for the children of deployed service members, explains why daddy has gone to war, but more importantly, gives children a sense of pride in their parents' role.



**A Very Long Time**, by Geri Timperley and Nikki Arro, 2005, Interface Publishing  
(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

A young child talks about what "a very long time" means during her dad's deployment.



**All Those Secrets of the World**, by Jane Yolen, 1991, ISBN: 316-96895-1  
(Elementary)

Janie's father is going off on a big ship to World War II. Four-year-old Janie doesn't really know where her father is going but she is happy about the excitement of seeing the ship off and getting an ice-cream. Playing with her cousin later he shows her that things that are farther away look smaller, so her father's ship on the horizon looks tiny. When her father returns two years later he tells her she is bigger and she points out that it is because he is closer to her now. There are poignant details like the brother who was a baby in arms when his father left not knowing his father on his return. The butterfly kisses and hugs Janie gets as her father leaves and returns make the story circularly complete and very satisfying.

This book is about popular children's writer Jane Yolen's own childhood.

**Bearable Moments**, Christopher M. Judd, 2006, ISBN: 0976666618  
(Preschool – Early Reader)

Stuffed bears — one from Grandma's attic — help Blake cope with loneliness while Mommy serves with the Army in a country far away. With Blake, we learn about Christmas without Mommy and how important letters and emails are. Judd draws from his own experience to write a story that entertains at the same time it shows us that a difficult situation is bearable.

**Boo Boo Bear's Mission**, by Mary Linda Sather, 2009, ISBN: 9781592982837  
(Preschool – Elementary)

The real-life story begins as Shea Leigh's father is getting ready to leave for war for a second time and she is both mad and sad at the same time. In the book, readers learn Shea Leigh's friends

and family did all they could to keep her busy and offer support while her dad was gone; but the distractions weren't ultimately what made her start to feel better. It had more to do with her selfless decision to send her teddy bear named Boo Boo to Iraq to look out for her Dad.

**Captain Cat**, by Syd Hoff, 1993, ISBN: 0-06-444176-8  
(Preschool – Early Reader)

This is not a book about the experiences of military children but it is a rarity – a picture book depicting everyday life on an army base. It is a warm, gently humorous book about a stray cat who wanders onto an army base. The soldiers who feed and care for him treat him kindly. Some of the events are factually unlikely such as a General giving an order to march (rather than delegating it to a sergeant) and it appears to be depicting basic training rather than the ongoing life in the military (because of details such as the soldiers sleeping in multi-bedded dormitories). It could be a useful book because it depicts the everyday world of many military children who live on a base in a straightforward and positive way with an animal as a protagonist.

**Daddy Got His Orders**, by Kathy Mitchelle, 2004, ISBN: 0976081105  
(Preschool – Elementary)

**Daddy is a Soldier**, Kristen Hallowell, 2004, ISBN: 1412018536  
(Preschool – Elementary)

Ricky is about to turn three and his favorite game is to dress up in Daddy's uniform. Ricky thinks that being a soldier is exciting, "There's so much to do! Soldiers work with trucks and tanks. Some jump from airplanes too!" Being a soldier also means spending time away from home. Ricky is angry when his Daddy has to leave, but is able to find ways to stay close to his Daddy.

**Daddy, You're My Hero! and Mommy, You're My Hero!**, Michelle Ferguson-Cohen, 2002, Little Redhaired Girl Publishing  
(Infant – 2 years) [4-H Family Book Sheet](#)

Mommy, You're My Hero and Daddy You're My Hero targets children of service members about to deploy. The book addresses deployment from a child's perspective and offers small ways to help families communicate during deployment.



**Daddy's in Iraq but I Want Him Back**, Carmen R. Hoyt, 2005, Trafford Publishing  
(5 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Daddy's in Iraq but I Want Him Back tells the story of one military family's experience with deployment. The book attempts to help young children understand the length of a deployment. They'll see it has a beginning, middle and end.



**Dear Baby, I'm Watching Over You**, by Carol Casey, 2010, Dear Baby Books  
(1-8 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This is a picture book that helps young children in military families begin to understand why their service member is away.



**H is for Honor: A Military Family Alphabet**, by Devin Scillian, 2006, Sleeping Bear Press  
(5 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

H Is for Honor: A Military Family Alphabet explores the branches of the armed services as well as U.S. Army Special Forces (the Green Berets) and special operations



forces such as the Navy SEALs and Army Rangers. It recognizes the honor and privilege of being part of a military family.

**Home Again**, by Dorinda Silver Williams, 2009, Zero to Three

(1 and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This board book describes what homecoming can feel like from the point of view of young children. It shows several different families that experience the return of a service member and describes their feelings of the littlest family members.



**I Miss You! A Military Kid's Book About Deployment**, by Beth Andrews, 2007, Prometheus Books

(2 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

I Miss You! A Military Kids Book About Deployment has information for both parents/caregivers and children. It is a serious look at deployment and how both children and families can help each other cope with the many feelings that can surface during deployment. The book includes ideas for activities that can be done as a family during deployment.



**I'm a Hero Too!**, by Jenny Sokol, 2007, Author House

(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

I'm a Hero Too honors and recognizes that all military children are heroes just like their service members. The book describes deployment and the many emotions that come with deployment from the perspective of a young boy.



**I'm Here for You Now**, Janice Im, 2006, Zero to Three

(Preschool and Younger)

This book allows families to add their own pictures to make the story personal. The messages in this book are important for children to hear from its caregivers and other important people in a child's life during stressful times.

**Know What? My Parent is Being Deployed!**, by Channing-Bete Company, Inc., 2005, Channing Bete Company

(Elementary)

Here's help in minimizing stress -- and keeping attitudes positive -- when a child is facing a military parent's absence. Interactive exercises, appealing graphics, and easy-to-read text guide youngsters on an exploration of what deployment is, places their parent might be traveling to, and what they can do to stay connected with their absent mom or dad.

**Know What? I'm Ready for Reunion!**, by Channing-Bete Company, Inc., 2003, Channing Bete Company

(Elementary)

**Lily Hates Goodbyes**, by Jerilyn Marler, 2012, Quincy Companion Books

(2 and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Lily Hates Goodbyes is a story about a little girl whose dad is deployed. She talks about how much she hates goodbyes and some of the strong emotions she feels while her dad is gone away.



**Llama, Llama Misses Mama**, by Anna Dewdney, 2009, Viking Juvenile (2 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)  
Llama Llama is attending preschool for the first time! Learn about how Llama Llama feels when he misses his mama during the school day.



**Love Lizzie: Letters to a Military Mom**, by Lisa Tucker McElroy, 2005, Albert Whitman & Company (5 to 9 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)  
In *Love, Lizzie: Letters to a Military Mom*, 9-year-old Lizzie writes to her mother, who is deployed overseas during wartime. Besides Lizzie's letters, the book includes her maps that illustrate what she's been doing and thinking while mom is away.



**My Daddy is a Guardsman & My Mommy is a Guardsman**, by Kirk Hilbrecht, 2002 ISBN: 1-889658-30-8 (Preschool – Lower Elementary)  
This book has almost identical words and pictures to the Hilbrechts' earlier book, *My Daddy is a Soldier*. The only words that have been changed are those needed to make the story about a Guardsman instead of a soldier. For example in *My Daddy is a Soldier* the father goes to the field and in *My Daddy is a Guardsman* he goes to a base. Also in *My Daddy is a Soldier* the family has to move, but the family in *My Daddy is a Guardsman* go to a unit picnic. It will be useful for small children with a father or mother in the National Guard.

**My Daddy is a Soldier**, by Kirk Hilbrecht, 1992, ISBN: 1-889658-01-4 (Preschool – Lower Elementary)  
This is the first of the picture books purpose written for military children seeing their own worlds reflected or to show non-military children what it is like to be a military child. It uses simple declarative sentences that describe what it is like to have a parent in the military, "While he was gone, Daddy wrote to me. I checked the mailbox every day." (page 17). The simple illustrations complement the text.

**My Daddy is an Airman & My Mommy is an Airman**, 2005, ISBN: 1-889658-30-8 (Preschool – Lower Elementary)

**My Daddy is Going Away, but he will be back One Day: A Deployment Story**, by James & Melanie Thomas, 2004, ISBN: 11412034264 (Preschool – Lower Elementary)

**My Daddy Was a Soldier: A World War II Story**, by Deborah Kogan Ray, 1990, ISBN: 0-8234-0795-0 (Elementary)  
Jeannie's father has gone away to fight in World War II and Jeannie is scared; "the war came into my house to take Daddy away." Everything changes for Jeannie. Her mother gets a job, there are blackouts and air raid sirens, food is rationed and they grow a Victory Garden. Time passes, helped by Jeannie's third grade scrap drive for metal and rubber but Christmas arrives without a letter and Jeannie cries. Finally when Jeannie is half way through fifth grade her father returns.



**My Dad's a Hero**, by Rebecca Christiansen & Jewel Armstrong, 2007, Word Association Publishers

(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Any child who has a dad in the military far away from home will benefit from My Dad's a Hero. This book explains what a military dad does while away from his family. It focuses on the positive aspects of military work, and it allows children to be proud of their military dad.



**My Father is in the Navy**, by Robin McKinley, 1992, ISBN: 0-688-10639-0 (Elementary)

Sara's father is in the Navy and away on his ship. In this calm story Sara goes about her daily life with her mother. She knows that her father is coming home and that her mother is excited but she is worried because, "I didn't remember him". In the satisfying ending she finally sees her father and remembers him. This book was written about the childhood experiences of popular fantasy writer and Newbery winner Robin McKinley whose father was in the navy.

**My First Deployment**, by Lisa Stillion, 2006, ISBN: 0978547810 (Preschool – Elementary)

My First Deployment is an informative and entertaining book for children which explores the causes and effects of separation anxiety due to military deployment and offers practical and easy methods to help young readers cope. It is about a rambunctious little girl who goes through a range of emotions as her father leaves for a military deployment. Working through her fears and concerns, Allie soon finds creative outlets for her thoughts and emotions during this stressful time.

**My Many Colored Days**, by Dr. Seuss, 1998, Alfred A. Knopf (1 and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This board book describes all the different colored feelings that a child could have. Each color is associated with an animal and how they might act like that animal while they are that color.



**My Mommy Wears Combat Boots**, by Sharon G. McBride, 2008, AuthorHouse (1 and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

An "army baby" talks about what it's like to have a mom in the Army when she is deployed.



**My Red Balloon**, by Eve Bunting, 2006, ISBN: 1590782631 (Early – Young Reader)

A young boy waits with both excitement and apprehension for his father to disembark from the aircraft carrier returning to port after many months at sea.

**Ned and the General: A Lesson About Deployment**, by Ron Madison, 2005, Ned's Head Publishing

(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Ned and the General: A Lesson about Deployment is a collection of stories and poems written by families who have experienced deployment.



**Night Catch**, by Brenda Ehrmantraut, 2005, Bubble Gum Press

(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This warm book is written in the words of a soldier father talking to his son. The father is going away so as a connection he invents a game of pretending to send the star Polaris back and forth between him and his son. The concept of the time difference is introduced and both father and son are shown sleeping and awake; the father in the desert and the son in America. The endnote information about and diagram of the North Star add to the utility of the book. Military parents and children could use this book as a start for a "Night Catch" game of their own.



**No Matter What**, by Debi Gliori, 1999, Harcourt Children's Books

(4-8 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This is the story of Small and Large and how no matter how Small acts, feels or how far apart they are Large will love Small. This book shows children that parents will love them no matter what.



**Nubs, The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle**, by Brian Dennis, 2009 ISBN:

978-0-316-05318-1

(Elementary)

Nubs, an Iraqi dog of war, never had a home or a person of his own. He was the leader of a pack of wild dogs living off the land and barely surviving. But Nubs's life changed when he met Marine Major Brian Dennis. The two formed a fast friendship, made stronger by Dennis's willingness to share his meals, offer a warm place to sleep, and give Nubs the kind of care and attention he had never received before. Nubs became part of Dennis's human "pack" until duty required the Marines to relocate a full 70 miles away--without him. Nubs had no way of knowing that Marines were not allowed to have pets. So began an incredible journey that would take Nubs through a freezing desert, filled with danger to find his friend and would lead Dennis on a mission that would touch the hearts of people all over the world. Nubs and Dennis will remind readers that friendship has the power to cross deserts, continents, and even species.

**Over There (Mommy and Daddy Versions)**, Dorinda Silver Williams, 2006,

ISBN: 978-1-934019-06-1

(1-3 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This book is from a child's point of view and compares what a deployed father or mother may be doing while a child is at home. Zero to Three has an opportunity to create your own Over There Children's book! Download the template from the Zero to Three website.



**Pilot Mom**, by Kathleen Benner Duple, 2003, Charlesbridge Publishing

(4 to 8 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

In Pilot Mom, Major Strom, Jenny's mother, prepares for a two-week training mission in Europe as an Air Force tanker pilot. The preparation brings up many emotions in Jenny including pride and worry her mom may have to go to war. Jenny wonders if her mother will miss her.



**Red, White and Blue Goodbye**, by Sarah Wones Tomp, 2005, ISBN: 0802789617

(Elementary)



The young daughter of a Navy man does not want him to go to sea, but he points out the red flag on the mailbox, the white clouds in the sky, and the blue ocean that will remind her of him while he is away.

**Sammy's Soldier**, by Sarah L. White, 2007, ISBN: 1434303640

(1-3 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Families across the country are experiencing the joys and hardships that come with having a soldier and Americans are grateful for their sacrifices. The purpose of this book is to normalize the deployment process for the children of our service members. It is designed to help children of all ages realize they are not alone and soldiers are appreciated for the work that they do. This is one of many books showing support for our service members and their families.



**Stars Above Us**, by Geoffrey Norman, 2009, G.P. Putnam Publishing

(5-8 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Amanda is afraid of the dark until her dad shows her all the wonderful things about the dark. Amanda remembers these wonderful things while her dad is away on deployment.



**The Christmas Box**, by JoAnne Stewart Wetzell, 1992, ISBN: 0-679-81789-1

(Elementary)

It is 1952 and Daddy has gone to Japan without his family to be a soldier. It is exciting for his two children to get his letters, imagine him living in a tent and even sending him Christmas cookies in October but as Christmas nears his absence is felt strongly. Then a box arrives from him with Japanese things in it, "But the best present was for all of us – a photo album filled with pictures of Daddy." This book captures the way loved ones are missed more on special occasions. The mention of a new school, October and then Christmas show the passage of many months in way children can understand.

**The Hero in My Pocket**, by Marlene Lee, 2004 ISBN: 1419601520

(Elementary)

The Hero in My Pocket gives children a voice in their grief. Suitable for 6-12 yr-olds, this unique book helps children honor their own thoughts, feelings, and memories while honoring the loss of a military service member: Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Airman, Coast Guardsman, or Merchant Marine. The book is not limited to widow or widower parent-loss; a child's grief for a fallen hero may be a parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt/uncle, cousin, step-relation or other relative, friend, teacher, et al.

**The Invisible String**, Patrice Karst, 2000, Devorss and Company

(3 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

The Invisible String helps children overcome the fear of loneliness or separation. In the book, children learn about an invisible string that connects loved ones.



**The Kissing Hand**, by Audrey Penn, 1993, Tanglewood Press

(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Chester Raccoon feels anxious about starting school. His mother tells him a family secret called the Kissing Hand to reassure him of her love when he faces scary situations.



**The Magic Box: When Parents Can't Be There to Tuck You In**, by Mary Sederman, 2003, Magination Press

(4 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

In this book, Casey copes with his dad's frequent overnight business trips by making a surprise for his father using the supplies in a special box. The book contains many valuable tips for families in which a parent frequently travels away from home.



**The Soldier's Night Before Christmas**, 2006, ISBN: 0-375-83795-7  
(Preschool – Elementary)

One Christmas Eve at a military barracks in the Middle East, some homesick soldiers are paid a visit by Sergeant McClaus, the Santa of Soldiers. This lively and poignant tale is inspired by Clement C. Moore's classic yuletide poem.

**The Soldier's Tree**, by Stephanie I. Pickup, 2004, ISBN: 0976245809  
(Preschool – Elementary)

In a world where bigger is often better, a tiny tree realizes that its extra small size can make an extra big difference. This book is a wonderful deployment tool designed to help military children enjoy the Christmas holiday while separated from a loved one overseas. Military families will be inspired to create their own Soldier's Tree which can be sent to their special service member serving abroad.

**The Smile That Went Around the World**, by Patrice Karst, 2009, DeVorss & Company

(3 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This is the story of how one boy's small act of kindness helped his smile travel around the world.



**The Wall**, by Eve Bunting, 1990 ISBN: 978-0-395-62977-2  
(Elementary)

A boy and his father visit the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C., in a work about memory and loss.

**The Way I Feel**, by Janan Cain, 2005, Parenting Press  
(3-8 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

This book is about feelings. Each page describes a different feeling using colorful images and describing words.



**The Wishing Tree**, by Mary Redman, 2008, ISBN: 9781934617021  
(4 and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Amanda tries to make the waiting easier when her father is on deployment by making a wishing tree. Includes instructions and information about making wishing trees.



**We Serve Too! A Child's Deployment Book**, by Kathleen Edick & Paula J. Johnson, 2008, Wee the People Publishing, LLC

(2 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

We Serve Too! A Child's Deployment Book honors and recognizes all the sacrifices that our military children make when their service member deploys. The book describes deployment from a child's point of view and gives a very candid look at the



ups and downs of deployment.

**We Serve Too! A Child's Reunion Book**, by Kathleen Edick & Paula J. Johnson, 2009, Wee the People Publishing, LLC

(2 years and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

We Serve Too! A Child's Reunion Book honors and recognizes all the sacrifices that our military children make when their service member deploys. The book describes deployment and reunion from a child's point of view and gives a very candid look at the ups and downs of reunion and reintegration.



**When Daddy Comes Home**, by Kristie Alego, 2006, ISBN: 141410667X

(Preschool – Elementary)

When Daddy Comes Home uses a familiar childhood experience to help children from military families better understand and handle the stress of post-deployment family reunions and reintegration. The book also includes practical advice for helping children cope with the surprising difficulties of post-deployment homecomings.

**When Daddy Goes Away**, by Kristie Alego, 2006, ISBN: 1414106432

(Preschool – Elementary)

When Daddy Goes Away uses a familiar childhood experience to help children from military families better understand and handle deployments. The book also includes creative ideas and strategies to help children cope with deployment situations.

**When Dad's at Sea**, by Mindy L. Pelton, 2004, ISBN: 0807563390

(Preschool – Elementary)

Emily's Dad is a Navy Pilot and is away for months at a time. Emily and her parents make her a paper chain with as many links as days her father will be absent. Emily is so angry that she destroys it but her parents make another one. Time is shown passing with events such as Halloween and then Emily makes a friend who has a father on the same ship.

**When I Feel Angry**, by Cornelia Maude Spelman, 2000, Albert Whitman & Company

(1 and up) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Little bunnies talk about what makes them angry and how they deal with their angry feelings.



**When I Miss You**, by Cornelia Maude Spelman, 2004, Albert Whiteman & Company

(3-6 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

Young children often experience anxiety when they are separated from their mothers or fathers. This title in "The Way I Feel" series features a young guinea pig who expresses her distress when her mother and father go away. "Missing you is a heavy, achy feeling. I don't like missing you. I want you right now!" Eventually the little guinea pig realizes that sometimes she and her parents can't be together. When that happens, she knows that others can help. "They can snuggle with me or we can play. It helps me to be warm and close to someone. They remind me that you'll be back."



**While You Are Away**, by Eileen Spinelli, 2004, Hyperion Books for Children  
(3 to 7 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

While You Are Away tells the story of three children with parents in three different branches of the military: the Navy, the Air Force & the Army. The children talk about the things they miss doing with their parents and wonder if their parents miss them.



**You and Your Military Hero**, by Sara Jensen-Fritz, Paula Jones-Johnson, Thea L. Zitzow, 2009, Beaver's Pond Press

(5-12 years) [4-H Military Family Book Sheet](#)

You and Your Military Hero: Building Positive Thinking Skills During Your Hero's Deployment is an activity book that helps children understand their feelings, learn relaxation techniques and helps them think good thoughts while their service member is deployed. The activities are designed to be done with a trusted adult.



## **BOOKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS (AGES 8-11)**

**100 Days and 99 Nights**, by Alan Madison, 2008, ISBN: 9780316113540  
(Middle School)A

As Esme introduces her stuffed animal collection that is alphabetically arranged from Alvin the aardvark to Zelda the zebra she also relates her family's military life and her father's deployment.

**Almost Forever**, by M. Testa, 2003, ISBN: 0-7636-1996-5  
(Middle School)

This seemingly simple novel in blank verse captures the feelings of a six-year-old girl when father goes to be a doctor in the Vietnam War for a year. We learn about the fear the family feel of their father never returning. Important things to a childlike changing where they live and changes in her mother's behavior are highlighted. It also captures well the idea that children do not necessarily understand what is happening to them and their families, and cannot change many things in their lives even if they do understand, they can only observe.

**Aloha Means Come Back: The Story of a World War II Girl**, by Thomas Hoobler, 1991, ISBN: 0382241568  
(Middle School)

Laura and her mother join her Navy father in Hawaii in 1941, where suspicion against the Japanese American residents runs high in an atmosphere of expectation that the United States and Japan will go to war.

**Autumn Street**, by Lois Lowry, 1980, ISBN: 0-440-40344-8  
(Middle School)

While her father is away fighting in World War II Elizabeth and her family move in with her grandmother where there are conflicts and tensions she doesn't understand. The absence of her father at the war is only in the background, but this book indicates the tensions that can arise from having a family member away at a war.

**Changing World Afghanistan**, by Nicola Barber, 2008, ISBN: 978-1-84837-004-3  
(Middle School – High School)

An informative series that looks at countries in a state of transformation and assesses the benefits as well as the challenges of change.

**Deployment Journal for Kids**, by Rachel Robertson, 2005, ISBN: 0965748308  
(Middle School)

A special journal created for children to record feelings and events during a loved one's military deployment. A variety of proven journaling techniques provide a framework for children to better understand deployments, express and communicate their feelings, and tell their own story. Contains calendar pages, writing prompts, and interesting facts about common deployment locations, military definitions, helpful ideas, and a pocket to keep mementos. A companion web site, [www.deploymentkids.com](http://www.deploymentkids.com), offers time zone and distance calculators, games, and more.

**Extra Credit**, by Andrew Clements, 2009, ISBN: 978-1-4169-4929-9  
(Middle School)

A forced pen-pal exchange turns into an opportunity for real communication between Illinois sixth-grader Abby Carson and Sadeed Bayat, the best English-language student in his Afghan village. They learn, as Abby reports that "people are simple, but the stuff going on around them can get complicated."

**Fighter Planes Up Close**, by Andra Serlin Abramson, 2007, ISBN: 978-1-4027-4796-0  
(Middle School)

These aircraft are the military's best—they scramble into action in minutes, reach speeds of Mach 3, deploy missiles, and perform amazing acrobatic feats. So young plane enthusiasts will be flying high as they pour through this breathtaking volume, opening up gatefolds and gazing at every detail of these ultra-modern machines.

**Jack Adrift: Fourth Grade Without a Clue**, by Jack Gantos, 2003, ISBN: 0-374-39987-5  
(Middle School)

Jack's father rejoins the Navy after going bankrupt from being cheated in a business deal. Jack, his parents, brother and sister go to live at Cape Hatteras in a camouflage-painted trailer parked in a swamp. Jack's father expresses some dissatisfaction with the Navy, "The last time I was in the Navy I was a kid and it was a lot easier to take orders from the upper ranks. But I'm older now and my so-called superior officers are not looking so superior. They may outrank me but they can't outthink me". This book is unusual and useful because it depicts the family of an enlisted military member rather than an officer.

**Lily's Crossing**, by Patricia Reilly Giff, 1997, ISBN: 0-385-32142-2  
(Middle School)

Lily's mother is dead and she and her father live with her Grandmother. When her father goes off to fight in World War II she and her Gram must spend the summer at Rockaway on the Atlantic coast by themselves, an idea Lily does not like. Rockaway is even worse than she thought when her friend Margaret moves to Michigan for her father to work in war industries and no one Lily's age is left. Through the events of the summer Lily grows up and develops stronger relationships with her Grandmother and father.

**Love You, Soldier**, by Amy Hest, 1991, ISBN: 0-14-036174-X  
(Middle School)

Katie is only seven when her father goes away to fight in World War II. Modern military children will know from the second sentence the Katie's father is not going to a present-day war because his uniform is "olive green" and not camouflage. Despite its historic setting, this poignant short book captures the sadness and fear of having a parent go away to war. This is one of the few books at this level where the military parent does not come back. The book is tragic but ultimately hopeful.

**Make Me a Home**, by Tamra Norton, 2008, ISBN: 9781599551135  
(Middle School)

Allie Claybrook has spent the better part of her sixth-grade year as the "new kid" at Edna Elementary School - a title she is eager to shed. When Ivy Peterson moves to town, Allie quickly becomes her friend. It doesn't hurt that Ivy's older brother, Ty, is the best-looking boy in the seventh grade. But it doesn't help that Celeste - the most popular girl in Allie's class - shares



Allie's views about Ty. As Allie deals with her father's deployment to Iraq and Ivy deals with her parents' divorce, the girls discover the importance of friendship and a place to call home.

**Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan**, by Jeanette Winter, 2009, ISBN: 978-1-4169-9439-4  
(Middle School)

Young Nasreen has not spoken a word to anyone since her parents disappeared. In despair, her grandmother risks everything to enroll Nasreen in a secret school for girls. Will a devoted teacher, a new friend, and the worlds she discovers in books be enough to draw Nasreen out of her shell of sadness? Based on a true story from Afghanistan, this inspiring book will touch readers deeply as it affirms both the life-changing power of education and the healing power of love.

**Park's Quest**, by Katherin Paterson, 1988, ISBN: 0-14-034262-1  
(Middle School)

Parkington Waddell Broughton the Fifth's (Park's) father died in the Vietnam War. His mother will say nothing at all about his father's side of the family and Park is determined to find out more about his father. What he learns about his father and his half-sister does not fit in with his fantasies of his father and his chivalric deeds but Park learns about himself, his family and in the process grows up.

**Peacebound Trains**, Haemi Balgassi, 1996, ISBN: 0-618-04030-7  
(Middle School)

Sumi's mother has joined the Army for a steady job and a chance to get an education. While Sumi's mother is gone for months at training Sumi stays with her Korean grandmother, Harmuny. When the arrival of a birthday parcel makes Sumi realize that her mother will really not be home for her birthday, Harmuny comforts her with a story of her escape from Seoul during the Korean War and the deprivations of war, including the loss of her husband.

**Shooting the Moon**, by Frances O'Roark Dowell, 2008, ISBN: 1416926909  
(Middle School)

JAMIE THINKS HER FATHER CAN DO ANYTHING....UNTIL THE ONE TIME HE CAN DO NOTHING. When twelve-year-old Jamie Dexter's brother joins the Army and is sent to Vietnam, Jamie is plum thrilled. She can't wait to get letters from the front lines describing the excitement of real-life combat: the sound of helicopters, the smell of gunpowder, the exhilaration of being right in the thick of it. After all, they've both dreamed of following in the footsteps of their father, the Colonel.

But TJ's first letter isn't a letter at all. It's a roll of undeveloped film, the first of many. What Jamie sees when she develops TJ's photographs reveals a whole new side of the war. Slowly the shine begins to fade off of Army life - and the Colonel. How can someone she's worshipped her entire life be just as helpless to save her brother as she is?

**Soldier Mom**, by Alice Mead, 1999, ISBN: 0-440-22900-6  
(Middle School)

Jasmyn's mother is called up from the army reserves to go to the Middle East. This book is set in 1991-1992 and the first Persian Gulf War but many children with parents in the reserves who are currently being called to active duty to a U.S. base or being sent overseas will be able to identify with Jasmyn's shock and disbelief.

**Someone I Love Went Off to War...What Do I Do Now?**, by Carole Marsh, 2003, ISBN: 0-635-02092-0  
(Middle School)

This is a book of activities for children to do while their loved one is away and offers suggestions on ways to make time pass.

**Stars on the Ceiling**, Geoffrey Norman, 2009, ISBN: 9780399427248  
(Middle School)

A little girl's father helps her get over her fear of the dark before he goes off to war, and she uses the stars they painted on her ceiling to remind her of him while he is away.

**Uncle Sam's Kids: Moving Again Mom**, by Angela Sportelli-Rehak, 2004, ISBN: 971451524  
(Middle School)

**Uncle Sam's Kids: When Duty Calls**, by Angela Sportelli-Rehak, ISBN: 0971451516  
(Middle School)

Nick belongs to Uncle Sam's Kids (a fictitious organization similar to Boy Scouts). He is excited about a competition to show their friends and family members out at sea how much they care. The winning troop will get a tour of the USS Liberty Bell.

## BOOKS FOR TEENS (AGES 10-15)

**A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor**, by Harry Mazer, 2002, Simon and Schuster, ISBN: 0-68-984160-4 (Paperback) ISBN: 0-43-935207-X (2003 Paperback Reprint)

When fourteen year old Adam moves to Hawaii with his mother, small sister and Navy father, he goes to a civilian school for the first time in his life. He makes friends with a boy of Japanese ancestry, Davi, and his father strongly disapproves. Adam sneaks off to go fishing with his new friend and they climb under a fence to fish on Pearl Harbor. In a dramatic and scary sequence they are present at (and injured by) the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Adam sees his father's ship, the USS Arizona sink. In the confusion Adam is assumed to be in the Navy and helps rescuers. When he gets home everything is still confused and scary. He goes to find Davi and finds that Davi's father has been taken away by the FBI. Despite knowing his own father was killed by the Japanese bombers Adam feels it is wrong to lock up Davi's mild mannered father. When Adam's father is officially declared missing in action Adam, his mother and sister leave Hawaii. An author's note explains the historical background of World War II.

**A Boy No More**, by Harry Mazer, 2004, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, ISBN: 0689855338 ISBN: 0439702240 (Scholastic Paperback)

A sequel to Harry Mazer's *A Boy at War*. Adam has moved from Hawaii to California and everything has changed. They are short of money and Adam's mother gets a job and then seems to start enjoying her new independence. Even Adam's little sister is changing as she was thought to be too young to be told that her father is dead, but she reveals that she already knows (but still doesn't fully understand). Adam becomes interested in a girl and also gets a job as there is a labor shortage due to World War II. Adam gets a letter from his Hawaiian Japanese friend, Davi, asking him to deliver a letter relatives who have been put in a detention camp in California. Adam's mother thinks that helping Davi is disloyalty to his father who was killed by the Japanese but Adam knows that the war is not Davi's fault. He defies his mother to find Davi's relatives and accidentally finds Davi in a detention camp. His relationship becomes so cold, that Adam considers going to live with his grandfather in New York state, but decides his place is with his mother and sister. These two books capture the lack of easy answers in a war – Adam knew the Japanese were guilty of killing his father but also knew that Davi and his immediate family were innocent and treated unfairly.

**After the First Death**, by Robert Cormier, 1979, Random House. New York. NY. This book has been reissued in at least five editions. ISBN: 0-4402-0835-1 (Paperback re-issue of 1991) ISBN: 0-8446-7215-7 (Hardcover re-issue of 2002)

Ben Marchand's father joined the army late in life and is a General when the story opens. When a bus full of children is taken hostage by terrorists Ben is asked by his father to take messages between the government and the terrorists. His father tells Ben this is because he is young and non threatening, but by the end of the book the reader learns that Ben was chosen by his father because his father and the secret government agency he works for have been conducting psychological experiments on Ben his whole life and his father knows exactly how Ben will act under stressful circumstances. When Ben learns that his father sent him to the terrorists because he knew Ben would fail, Ben loses his sense of self and contemplates suicide. The story is told from three different perspectives, (Ben, a terrorist and a teen hostage) but starts and ends with Ben who becomes a victim of the high jacking even though he is miles away when it starts. Robert Cormier, as usual, writes a chilling tale that shows some people are capable of acting in horrible ways to other people. This book is a compelling and suspenseful read. Ben's father's job is described in such a shadowy way that it is difficult to determine if it is plausible. This is one of

the few books of this type that invites older teens to think critically about the jobs their parents do and the government their parents work for. The U.S. military and the U.S. government are portrayed as bad guys but it is also suggested that they had no choice but to act as they did.

**Charlie Pippin**, by Candy Dawson Boyd, 1987, Puffin Books. New York. NY.

ISBN: 0-14-032587-5 (Paperback) ISBN: 0-606-03752-7 (Turtleback Library Binding)

Charlie Pippin always seems to be in conflict with her father. She knows he is a veteran of the Vietnam War and when her mother hints that during the war he lost his dreams and became the angry person that Charlie knows, Charlie embarks on a school project to learn more about the Vietnam War and hopefully something about her father's past. Strong characters like her grandmother aid or abet Charlie. Charlie is a sympathetic character and this book is an enjoyable read. This book has a strong and sometimes simplistic peace message, but the children who read should be old enough to form their own opinions about what their parents do.

**Dove Song**, by Kristine Franklin, 1999, Candlewick Press. Cambridge, MA ISBN: 0-7636-0409-7 (Hardcover)

Bobbie Lynn is eleven when her father leaves for the Vietnam War and their mother insists on moving to be closer to where he leaves from, Washington State. Bobbie Lynn has to start another school and is even starting to make a friend with the strange Wendy when her father is listed as missing-in-action. Bobbie Lynn's mother becomes so depressed that Bobbie Lynn and her older brother have to feed her, but they are scared what will happen if they reveal their problems to the authorities. The severity of Bobbie Lynn's mother's problems and the effect on her family make this a wrenching book, but it paints an ultimately heart warming picture of the power it shows of community and friendship. Like Richard Bradford's *Red Sky at Morning* this book shows the possible disintegration of a family with a parent who cannot cope without the absent military member. This book won the Minnesota Book Awards in 2000.

**Finding My Way: A teen's guide to living with a parent who has experienced trauma**, by DeAnne Sherman and Michelle Sherman, 2007, Seeds of Hope Books.

This is a sensitive book that addresses the confusion and distress experienced by teenagers whose parents have been exposed to trauma. Learn more about the book here:

<http://www.seedsofhopebooks.com/finding-my-way.html>

**My Story Blogs By Four Military Teens**, by DeAnne Sherman and Michelle Sherman, 2009, Seeds of Hope books.

Provides support and education for all military teens and pre-teens by honoring their unique joys and sacrifices, addressing their fears and hopes, and exploring how parental deployment affects their lives. Although the four youth in *My Story* are fictional, the stories are real—the blogs are a compilation of real life experiences of military kids we have been honored to meet and learn from. Learn more about the book here:

<http://www.seedsofhopebooks.com>

**Operation: Homefront**, by Caroline B. Cooney, 1992, Laurel-Leaf Books, Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group Inc. New York, N.Y. ISBN: 0-440-22689-9 (Paperback - Laurel Leaf). ISBN: 0-553-29685-X (Paperback - Bantam Starfire Reprint)

Popular teen writer Caroline B. Cooney wrote this fast-paced book soon after the 1991 Gulf War. Like many Caroline B. Cooney books it can be slapstick funny while delving into deeper issues. Mother Rosalys is a part time kindergarten teacher who joined the reserves to pay for her schooling. Her three children thought her weekend warrior life was a joke until she was called

up. “It’s military thought Laura. Before, they were Weekend Warriors and knew it. Now it’s real, and they know it. I don’t want it to be real” (page 39). After Rosalys leaves, the family compulsively watch the news and their family starts to crumble as the house and the four-year-old brother are barely looked after. By the end of the book they pull themselves together and gain a new perspective on Rosalys and themselves. An important underlying theme of this book is that the mother has a life apart from her children, even if this is a shock to the children. The cover of the paperback edition shows a woman reading a letter containing a photo of a small child. It looks like an accurate U.S. military uniform but it is not desert pattern. It is hard to know if it meant to be depicting Rosalys before she left the United States or it is inaccurate which will be a distraction to military children.

**Parvana’s Journey**, by Deborah Ellis, 2002, ISBN:978-0-88899-514-8  
(Grade 7-10)

This sequel to *The Breadwinner* (Groundwood, 2001) easily stands alone. After her father's death, 13-year-old Parvana, disguised as a boy, wanders alone through war-torn Afghanistan looking for her mother and siblings who had disappeared in the tumult of the Taliban takeover of Mazar-e-Sharif. Early in her journey, Parvana comes across a baby, the only survivor in a bombed village. She takes him along, as both a burden and comforting company. Taking shelter in a small cave, she discovers an angry one-legged boy who is starved for both food and human companionship. Imagining treasure in their cave, they dig, only to find a cache of bullets—a scene that epitomizes what childhood has become for these young people. The three continue Parvana's search, stopping for a time in an apparent safe haven on the edge of a minefield where an eight-year-old lives with a near-comatose grandmother. When their refuge is destroyed, the four children join a long line of refugees, arriving finally at a camp. A bittersweet ending offers some hope for Parvana and her family, but readers are left with a horrifyingly realistic picture of the effect of war on children. While the reading is not difficult, the grim content cries out for discussion.

**Rainy Season**, by Adele Griffin, 1998, Hyperion. New York, NY. ISBN: 0-7868-1241-9  
(Paperback) ISBN: 0-606-13726-2 (Turtleback Library Binding)

Eleven-year-old Lane lives in the Panama Canal Zone with her army family. A mysterious trauma is hinted at that makes Lane constantly fearful for the safety of her family members. Her brother is unstable and seemingly always on the verge of violence. Many details of army life are woven into a compelling narrative of a family that seems happy to outsiders but is being torn apart by a tragedy that no one will acknowledge. The army is portrayed as a necessary evil in Lane’s life, “I am glued to that name. It is stuck to my house, my ID, my passport, all my forms for school. Lt. Col. Beck’s dependent; that’s how the army catalogs Charlie and Mom and me” (page 139). It is a vivid portrait of a family not able to deal with tragedy.

**Searching for Atticus**, by Jan Marino, 1997, Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing, ISBN: 0689800665  
(Grade 7-10)

The bent old man who gets off of the airplane barely resembles the handsome, autocratic father that 15-year-old Tess remembers. Returned home on medical discharge after a year in Vietnam, Dr. Ramsey suffers from terrible nightmares, smokes incessantly, and is barely able to get through the day, much less return to his former position as a surgeon. He accepts a less stressful research job across the country and he and Tess set off while Mrs. Ramsey remains behind with a friend about to give birth. Halfway there, Dr. Ramsey becomes worse and Tess takes on the role of the adult as she struggles to get them to her aunt's home in Taloosa. Here the story

changes direction as Tess, finally able to relax and craving some attention, falls head over heels in love with handsome, unreliable, 18-year-old Caleb. Warning bells ring loudly but her better judgment disappears until Caleb attacks her, and Dr. Ramsey surfaces from his depression to rescue her. She realizes that her father loves her and is coping as well as he can under crushing circumstances. This engrossing, coming-of-age novel takes place during one pivotal summer. Readers will easily relate to Tess through her first-person narrative and will empathize with her need for unconditional love. Marino writes beautifully without resorting to using trendy language to evoke the decade. Her complex characters come to life and plot elements intertwine to reveal an exceptionally well-crafted novel for thoughtful young adults. Susan R. Farber, Ardsley Public Library, NY. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

**The Candy Kane Series**, by Janet Lambert

Another military family with two daughters is the focus of this series.

This series includes: Candy Kane, Whoa Matilda, One for the Money, and A Song in Their Hearts. (Information taken from imagecascade.com and amazon.com.)

**The Jordon Family Series**, by Janet Lambert

The Jordans are a military family of nine children from combined families. They have no mother alive so the eldest daughter Jennifer must care for the family when her father is away.

This series includes: Just Jenifer, Friday's Child, Confusion by Cupid, A Dream for Susan, Love Taps Gently, Myself & I, The Stars Hang High, Wedding Bells, and A Bright Tomorrow. (Information taken from imagecascade.com and amazon.com.)

**The Mark of Merlin**, by Anne McCaffrey, 1971, Wildside Press. ISBN: 1-58-715493-5 (Paperback) ISBN: 1-59-224013-5 (Hardcover)

James Carlisle Murdock is a girl despite her name. She is twenty in the book, which is a little old for this list, but Carla's father has been in the Army for years and she has grown up on army posts. This book is also a romance and a murder mystery and I thought it is worthwhile to include a variety of genres. Carla's father has been killed near the end of World War II and he has put her under the guardianship of someone she doesn't know, Major Laird. She will soon be twenty-one and not in need of a guardian but she has been ill and she is sent to recuperate with Major Laird. When she turns up the Major is furious and wants to send her away, because he thought a boy would be coming, but she is stuck at his house in a blizzard. Major Laird reveals that her father was murdered by an American and the house starts to have sinister visitors despite the storm. In the satisfying conclusion the mystery is cleared up and the antagonism between the Major and Carla develops into something warmer.

**The Penny Parrish Series**, by Janet Lambert

There are also 6 books about Penny Parrish who is Tippy Parrish's big sister.

This series includes: Star Spangled Summer, Dreams of Glory, Glory Be!, Up Goes the Curtain, Practically Perfect, and The Reluctant Heart. (Information taken from imagecascade.com and amazon.com.)

**The Proving Ground**, by Elaine Alphin, 1992, Henry Holt and Company. New York. NY, ISBN: 0-8050-2140-X (Hardcover)

Kevin's father is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army and he has been assigned to a new base, a Proving Ground where weapons are tested. The family experience conflict on the base and in the town where Kevin goes to school. The conflict draws up to an exciting and dramatic climax when Kevin discovers that the Proving Ground and the town are in danger from an unstable youth



who thinks his family's problems stem from the government acquisition of their land in World War II. This book portrays well the problems of a military child who must move house frequently and the conflicts that can arise between a base and the surrounding community. It also talks about the difficulties faced by a military child who needs to behave well or it will be reflected on his or her parent's career. This book portrays the everyday events of life for a contemporary military child rather than the drama of having a parent go to war.

**The Purple Heart**, by Marc Talbert, 1992, Willa Perlman Books, An Imprint of Harper Collins. ISBN: 0-06-020429-X (Hardcover - First Edition) ISBN: 0-06-020428-1 (Hardcover) ISBN: 0-595-09771-5 (Paperback - 2000 Reprint) ISBN: 0-380-71985-1 (Paperback) Luke's father returns wounded from Vietnam and nothing is as Luke anticipated. The glorified view of war that Luke had at the beginning of the book slowly changes as he realizes what war does to people. Luke's father was a builder before he joined the army and the book mentions that Luke has the same best friend since first grade so his experience may not be typical of active duty military children. Nonetheless, this book is well written and raises some important issues about war and what it may be like to have a parent who is irrevocably changed by it.

**Three Cups of Tea**, by David Oliver Relin and Greg Mortenson, 2009, Puffin Books ISBN: 978-0-14-241412-5.

Hiking in the mountains of Pakistan in 1993, Mortenson got lost. He found his way to a small village where the locals helped him recover from his ordeal. While there, he noticed that the students had no building and did all of their schooling out of doors. Motivated to repay the kindness he had received, he vowed to return to the village and help build a school. Thus began his real life's journey. Mortenson's story recounts the troubles he faced in the U.S. trying to raise the money and then in Pakistan, trying to get the actual supplies to a remote mountain location. His eventual success led to another, and yet another, until he established a foundation and built a string of schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mortenson manages to give the story an insider's feel despite being an outsider himself. His love of the region and the people is evident throughout and his dedication to them stalwart. The writing is lively, if simplistic, and for the most part the story moves along at a fairly quick clip. In this specially adapted edition for young people, new photographs and an interview with Mortenson's young daughter, who often travels with him, have been added.

**Till Tomorrow**, by John Donahue, 2001, New York, N.Y. Farrar Straus Giroux. ISBN: 0-374-37580-1 (Hardcover)

Twelve year old Terry arrives in France with his family to live on an army base. This book describes the feelings of a military child well, especially the constant moving and the tension between the base community and the local community. It was written based on the author's childhood, so despite being published recently, it is historical in that the U.S. military no longer has any presence in France. The background of the books includes conception of the Berlin wall and how the US military were on alert. This makes it a useful book for discussing history and how international tensions are not just a thing of the present. It is a sensitive look at loyalty and friendship and being true to friends who are not part of the in crowd.

**The Tippy Parish Series**, by Janet Lambert

This series started publication in 1948 and is being reissued by several companies including Cascade Publishing ( <http://imagecascade.com/>) and Amereon Ltd. (information about the company can be found here: <http://members.cox.net/kenholt/printing.html> or Amereon, 800 Wickham Ave, Mattituck, NY 11952-1602. Joanna Paulsen (President), Phone: (631) 298-5100

(From InfoUSA). Tippy Parrish is sixteen when this series starts and she is at least in her twenties by the end of series. She is a military child who dates military men and finally marries one. I cannot comment on the quality of the series as I have not read the books since I discovered them late in my search process. They may suit a teen girl who likes romances or conservative families who want their children to read books with old fashioned values. (Information taken from imagecascade.com and amazon.com.)

The series consists of:

**Miss Tippy** originally published 1948.

ISBN: 1930009186 (Paperback. Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**Little Miss Atlas** originally published 1949.

ISBN: 0848801296 (Hardcover. Amereon Ltd, Reprint edition June 1986)

ISBN: 1930009194 (Paperback. Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**Miss America** originally published 1951.

ISBN: 1930009208 (Paperback. Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**Don't Cry Little Girl** originally published 1952.

ISBN: 1930009216 (Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**Rainbow After Rain** originally published 1953.

ISBN: 1930009224 (Paperback. Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**Welcome Home, Mrs. Jordan** originally published 1953.

ISBN: 1930009240 (Paperback, Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**A Song in Their Hearts** originally published 1956.

ISBN: 1930009240 (Paperback, Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**Here's Marny** originally published 1969.

ISBN: 1930009259 (Paperback, Research Evaluation & Statistics, December 2000)

**War Boys**, by M.A. Schaffner, 2002, Welcome Rain Publishers. ISBN: 1-56649-244-0 (Hardcover)

Fourteen year old Charles Baker arrives with his family at the U.S. Navy Station at Subic Bay in the Philippines during the Vietnam War. At first Charles is terrified of the jungle but his father insists that he joins the Boy Scouts and Charles starts to go on jungle walks and camps. Charles loves to read and makes friends with some of the nerdy boys. He slowly gains acceptance with some of the more popular boys due to his growing jungle skills and integrity, but that doesn't seem to matter when the irresponsible actions of a Boy Scout leader end in tragedy. Most of the boys Charles know want to follow their fathers' footsteps into the Navy and all of them assume that they will end up fighting in the Vietnam War in a few years. In the (probably accurate) speech of the teenage boys this book contains a lot of swear words.

## BOOKS FOR TEEN TO ADULT (AGES 16 TO ADULT)

**Durable Goods**, by Elizabeth Berg, 1993, Random House Trade Paperbacks. New York, N.Y. ISBN: 081296814X. (Paperback) ISBN: 0-679-42208-0 (Hardcover)

Katie is twelve. Her mother is dead and her Army father is distant and sometimes abusive, especially to her 18-year-old sister. This is an examination of Katie's family and her relationship with her friends but it is also an unflinching and often unflattering look at life for a military child. "I do not believe the army is a good idea for people with regular human hearts." (page 63). Life on a military base is portrayed in detail, "Every morning when I wake up I hear a drill sergeant yelling pieces of songs to the straight lines of men marching, marching, all stepping onto their left foot at the same time, all dressed exactly alike, all staring straight ahead and yelling back to him" (page 5). It is a poetically written book that will resonate with many readers for a long time.

**Invasion The Story of D-Day**, by Bruce Jr. Bilven, 1956, New York: Random House. ISBN-13: 978-1-4027-4521-8

June 6, 1944: The greatest amphibious invasion the world had ever seen was launched, involving thousands of ships, incredible planning and preparation, and a million courageous soldiers, sailors, and airmen willing to sacrifice their lives for victory. Author and journalist Bruce Bliven was there that day, on the beaches of France, and he recounts it all, from the risky plans developed by the American and British military leaders through the daring landing itself. Most important, he shares stories of individual bravery shown by soldiers who waded or parachuted ashore in what became the turning point of the war.

**Joy School**, by Elizabeth Berg, 1998, Ballantine Books. New York. N.Y. ISBN: 0345423097 (Paperback)

A sequel to *Durable Goods*. Katie now lives in Missouri and falls in love with an older man. Katie's father mellows with his new wife. The Army does not feature so emphatically in these sequels to *Durable Goods*, but it is still a background.

**Out of the Blue**, by S.L. Rottman, 2009, Peachtree Publishers. ISBN: 978-1-156145-499-0  
Stu and his mom are heading to Minot, North Dakota, where she will assume command of the Air Force base. But this time it will be just the two of them. His brother is away at college, and their father has abruptly decided to move to Nevada. With his family scattered and his mother preoccupied with military duties, Stu finds himself on his own and adrift in this new environment, caught between a respect for the regimented life of the military and an aching desire for independence and freedom. As he struggles to find his way, he is pulled into his neighbors' dysfunctional family drama and becomes an unwitting participant. When tragedy finally strikes, Stu must come to terms with his own culpability. Once again, award-winning author S. L. Rottman has crafted an absorbing young adult novel that powerfully depicts the emotional turbulence of teenage life and the difficulty of negotiating complex human relationships.

**Rebel Powers**, by Richard Bausch, 1993, Houghton Mifflin. Boston, Ma. ISBN: 0-395-59508-8 (Hardcover) ISBN: 0-679-75253-6

Thomas grew up in an Air Force family until he was seventeen and his father was sent to jail for stealing a typewriter. Thomas is looking back at his life and writing this from the perspective of a divorced man in his forties and sometimes the commentary of the older man is distracting. Only the first approximately fifth of the book deals directly with Thomas's life as a military child but

much of the rest of the story stems directly from his father's misdeed and the harsh punishment the Air Force gave him. Unlike the parents in many of these books Thomas's father was enlisted and money problems are a big issue. He was trying to take the typewriter to pay off debts, but the book does portray him as a spendthrift with a car he could not afford.

**Red Sky at Morning**, by Richard Bradford, 1968, Harper Collins. ISBN: 0-06-093210-4 (Hardcover) ISBN: 0-06-093190-6 (Paperback)

First published in 1968, this book was reprinted in 1999. Josh is seventeen and lives a privileged life in Mobile, Alabama where his father owns a shipyard. Near the end of World War II, in 1944, his father volunteers for the Navy, although he doesn't have to as he is exempted as someone running a vital industry. When he leaves with the Navy Josh's father arranges for Josh and his mother go to a village in the New Mexico mountains where he feels they will be safer. Josh settles in to the new life, making friends, growing up and finding beauty in the new landscape. However, his mother, removed from her known life, friends and family falls slowly apart. Josh's father is not present in much of the book but his absence looms over everyone. This book captures the dislocation and even disintegration that can occur in some military families when the military member is absent for an extended period.

**The Great Santini**, by Pat Conroy, 1976, Houghton Mifflin Company. New York, N.Y.

This book has been reprinted in many versions. ISBN: 0-553-26892-9 (1987 Bantam Paperback Edition) ISBN: 0-553-38155-5 (2002 Reprint) ISBN: 0-937036-00-5 (Hardcover)

Ben is being raised in a Marine family in the 1950s. His father is authoritarian, compulsively competitive and sometimes abusive. The military figures large in the family's life as Bull Meecham rules the family and the Marines rule Bull Meecham. It is a well-written and satisfying book. This book was made into a movie of the same name in 1979 and has been reprinted many times.

**The Yokota Officer's Club**, by Sarah Bird, 2001, New York, N.Y. Ballantine Books. ISBN: 0-345-45277-1 (Ballantine Reader's Circle Edition). ISBN: 0-375-41214-X (Hardcover)

This riveting read would suit teenagers who are strong readers. The story opens when Bernie is 18 and is returning to her family from her first year at college. Descriptions of her present day in Guam are mixed with flashbacks to her childhood. The flashbacks describe events in her childhood that lead up to a surprising climax that explains the disintegration of the happy family she once knew. The book is set in the author's own childhood so some of the details about the military family experience are out of date. "Wives of majors who wish to make colonel wear heels and hose in public" (page 20). But some emotional details never change, for example as Bernie arrives on an Air Force base in Okinawa that she has never seen before, "I recognize in the distance, the comfortingly familiar bulk of the commissary, the BX, the endless stretches of runway sweeping out to the sea" (page 44).

**True to Form**, by Elizabeth Berg, 2002, Random House. New York, N.Y. ISBN: 0-7434-1134-X (Hardcover). ISBN: 0-7434-1135-8 (Softcover)

The third book in the sequence about Katie that was started in *Durable Goods*. It is now 1961 and Katie is thirteen. Her father sets up unpleasant summer jobs for her and a visit to her friend Cherylanne in Texas goes badly.