



## #MyVoice: Educating the community about the military lifestyle

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*Do you advocate for your military children by educating their teachers, principals, doctors, coaches about the military lifestyle? If yes, what information do you give them to build their military literacy?*

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This is the first year I have tried to communicate that information and felt it fell on deaf ears. What I was told was, she isn't any different then other kids at her school who's parents go away for work or relocate for work.

Hubby made sure to go to the kids school for Remembrance Day. You could see shock in some of their eyes.... Telling a bunch of 6th graders in a small town that have never moved that your 5 year old is now in their 4th home...

Years ago I never did .Then one Remembrance Week the organizers had pulled photos of Google to make a slide show and one of the photos they pulled was a ramp ceremony that showed my husband carrying the casket. Anyways, it was really difficult for my oldest to see....we hadn't shared that photo with him yet. That combined with the fact his dad was away again that year ...

Although we have never lived on base with our children, we have always lived in neighbourhoods with a large military population. I have found the schools to be very proactive in supporting military families. They appreciated information I share regarding challenges military families face and I kept them up to date on changes in our children's lives.

I always write in their agenda when dad is going to be gone to give them a heads up that their behavior might be erratic for a bit (not an excuse, mind you, but a heads up). ....I've brought literature on separation and reunion and encouraged them to consult with the MFRC if they have questions.



**(families engaged=19)**