

A hero is a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired for brave deeds and noble qualities. By this definition, my dad is a hero not only to me, but also to all whom his actions affect. Dad did not join the Army for money or to be called a hero, he joined to serve and protect our country. He joined at the age of 20, spurred on by the onset of the First Gulf War. From that point on, Dad has dedicated himself to protecting our nation both on the home front and on the front lines. Through the use of hard work and the core military values, Dad does his duty.

While he is at home, I still think of Dad as a hero, because the actions of a hero do not have to be direct, but may be indirect. While he may not be showing bravery, his ability comes out as he trains those about to deploy, gives support to those already in deployment, and plans the next deployments so that the possibility for mission success is maximized while the possibility for casualties is minimized. His deeds on the home front show true heroism by helping prepare and protect those on the front lines.

While Dad is deployed, courage and brave deeds are more obvious. On the front lines, Dad directly enforces the freedoms of our country either by suppressing hostiles or by diplomatic relations to those who are willing. In Iraq, where he has been deployed three times, Dad helps to defend our country against those who seek to harm it, and helps those who are willing to form an independent and democratic country. Dad not only shows heroism in braving the ever-present dangers of hostile attack, but also shows heroism in noble qualities by partaking in peaceful negotiations. These negotiations are aimed to alleviate the situation for both parties, and hopefully getting a step closer toward peace.

My Dad is a hero, and he proves it at home and in deployment. At home, Dad helps protect our country through planning and preparation. Threats are foreseen, analyzed, and defenses are created against them. Dad makes sure that the successes will surpass the casualties. While he is deployed, Dad can bring those plans and preparations into effect. The planning done at home makes a difference on the front lines and fewer lives are lost. Yet Dad must still show a great deal of courage as hostile forces become more adept at wreaking havoc. Among this chaos, Dad manages to negotiate with those willing in able to improve the situation. Dad's actions both on the home front and the front lines have inspired others and I to take actions of our own to help our nation.