

## "My Military Hero"

By: Anna Grauel

My father LTC David Grauel is my hero. He attended the United States Military Academy, West Point in New York for his undergraduate degree. When he joined the Army, he knew it was a strong commitment that he was going to have to make, but it was what he wanted to do. All through his military career, he has been all around the world, keeping peace between the nations. Before I was born, my father had to leave my mom and older brother for 9 months to travel to Bosnia. It was a scary trip for him, but he knew it was what he needed to do to fulfill his orders. He has also been to Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, and many other north eastern areas.

My father is currently on his 21<sup>st</sup> year in the Army. He has inspired me to believe in myself, and I will be able to accomplish my goals. At the end of our term on Fort Monmouth, my father is eligible to retire. Even though he has an opportunity to end his military career, he will stay in. He decided to stay in because he enjoys serving our country and keeping us all safe. He says, "It just wouldn't be right to wake up in the morning and put on civilian clothing. I take pride in wearing my uniform." My hero makes proud because every time he goes over seas, I know he is risking his life for the welfare of our country. Sometimes I wish my father didn't have to be so brave. Even though I know it is his duty as a soldier, sometimes I wish he wouldn't have to leave his loving family and go overseas to a dangerous place. Even when he's gone, I will always be proud of my military hero.