

My Military Hero

My military hero is my dad. He is Lieutenant Jeffrey Hall, and he is in the United States Navy. He works in the weapons department of the U.S.S. George Washington, an aircraft carrier. He enlisted in September 1987, over 22 years ago, as an E-1 and advanced over the years into a lieutenant. He is also the bomb assembly officer in charge of about 117 enlisted people. As a part of his job he handles small arms, fully assembled weapons, missiles, bombs, and other types of firearms. Another part of his job includes storing conventional ammunition. All of these weapons are necessary for the ship while it's out at sea, and when it's back home. They defend the ship, the air wing, us back home, and forward deployed naval forces. Personally, I wasn't aware of all the maintenance, and care that goes into preparing these weapons. I always thought it was just the people over in Afghanistan and other places that were in real danger when they deployed. But I learned so is everyone else that deploys in the military. I also found that the soldiers in Afghanistan get their weapons from other countries, like here. With these weapons being so dangerous, one wrong move could be devastating. Sometimes we aren't aware of the hard work that our parents do on their jobs, and the difficulty that it involves.

To me a military hero is many things. They could be retired or active duty, enlisted, or an officer. No matter what branch, they are all out serving and defending our country, its rights and its freedom. One thing that to me makes my dad a military hero are the sacrifices he makes for his family and his country. While in the military they change duty stations several times, going from place to place filling jobs wherever they're needed. Sometimes this means leaving their families. Either by going on a tour unaccompanied for one reason or another, or going on a three to nine month deployment on the ship. My dad

missed my birth while out on one of those long deployments, but it was necessary for his job. During the years my dad has been in the military he has been stationed in Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, Italy, and Japan. Moving around every two or three years is the military life, but for our parents they have to get settled in their jobs, make sure we're all taken care of, get all documents and records together, and then they have to leave and go out to sea. It can be stressful, but they do it anyway because it's their duty.

My dad is my military hero because of the work he does, and the way he does it. It takes a lot of self-determination, focus, and sacrifice to do some of the things necessary to be in the military. Going out to sea and coming back and fitting back into the way things run in the house can be difficult, especially after being away for a while. His job is protecting the country we live in, it is a very honorable profession, and us military kids are always proud to tell others what our parents do, and how they've succeeded in the military. But the thing that above all makes my dad a military hero is that even though he has a job to do, and is gone for long periods of time, he is still always a part of my life. From talking to me about school, taking me to practice, or just eating dinner with my mom and I. The fact that he can juggle all of those things, and still perform in his job, makes him my military hero.