

# My Military Hero

By Ioana Rimbu

Bogdan Rimbu was born forty-two years ago in Iasi, Romania to Vali and Claudia Rimbu. Throughout his childhood and teens, he alternated between country and city life, between his grandparents' farm and his parents' apartment. He started learning English in second grade. He grew up through the times when Communism ruled Romania, when they restricted people from being outside after ten o' clock at night and rationed food, gas, and even television viewing times. There was not much to do during those times except to play with his cousin, Lorena, and his sister, Gabi. At age 19, he was drafted into the Romanian army among several other Romanian men, and stayed in for sixteen months. In December 1989, the Communist regime ended with a bloody revolution, freeing him from service. In 1991, he was accepted into the technical university Gh. Asachi, and graduated with a degree in computer science. In 1994, when he was tall, dark, and handsome (although kind of nerdy-lookin' with wavy black hair and a broken nose that never healed properly), he met and married Zina Sandulache, a young woman with sea-glass eyes and short, brown hair. In 1995 after two nonsuccesses, his first child was born, a bouncy baby girl with brown eyes.

After college, his family entered into an immigration lottery, and won the right to immigrate to the United States. Upon entering the States and experiencing the life there, he felt that defending his adoptive country was the right thing to do. "They told me that I could go to college," since his Romanian degree did not apply in the States, "and that my daughter could and that there would be a lot of benefits for my family. Yeah, I could have gotten that from my previous job, but I wanted to do something more. Make a difference," he told me December 16, 2009.

He holds to his ambition. A man of few words when it comes to talking about his job, he makes a difference working in administration by giving the right information to people in order for them to make the right decisions, and helps them earnestly in getting what they need. Not only that, he balances college online in order to earn the degree that the United States wouldn't accept from Romania, long deployments while still working diligently, and his family, along with two new additions since 1995, a loud but lovely canine and another bouncing baby girl with eyes that haven't quite decided their color yet.

This spectacular family man is my father.