

**ESSAY PAGE**

As I look through a photo album of the past 19 years of my life, I realize how much these pictures demonstrate how my father has shaped me into the individual I am today. While looking through the pictures, I see two that catch my eye: the first one is of me when I was a young girl living in Izmir, Turkey dressed in a native Turkish tribal outfit. The second one is of me from present day in San Antonio, Texas dressed in beautiful Mexican garments. These two colorful pictures reveal the impact my father has had on my life from a young girl to a young woman.

As the daughter of a military officer, I have had the luxury of residing in different states, and even countries, around the world. This experience provided me a worldly knowledge that has developed my character which would best be described as compassionate, caring, ambitious, inquisitive, and authentic. Through various travels, these traits have flourished to make me the young woman I am.

When I was 15, my father deployed to Iraq, a situation calling for discipline, independence, and leadership; qualities that continue to serve me when leading my peers. While over in the war zone territory, my father's intellect and bravery led him to really make a difference in the lives of present and future soldiers by informing the General of the unsafe conditions and procedures. For speaking up and taking action for what he saw, he received a medal and instilled the belief in my brothers and I that you can improve harsh circumstances through the determination to act and not to shy away because you think someone else will say something. My father has this charisma about him that just draws people around him to talk to him and form lifelong bonds.

By having a JAG Army lawyer officer as a father, it is in my blood to care about others because he cares so much about people and helping them receive the justice they deserve. His ambition and knowledge which he uses everyday makes him a role model to his children and employees in the workforce. These qualities have helped my family and I to carry on while my father is currently serving over in Iraq for his second time. My father has done more than just inspire me. He has given me what I believe are the two most important qualities, nobility and courage, because they are his.

It is said that a picture tells a thousand words, which may be true, but in my opinion, my pictures say more than just words to me. They show how I have grown through the years and changed because my father, the officer, has given me the life experiences I needed to be where I am today. A hero is hard to come by, but in my case, I live with an everyday hero who continues to make a difference in all who come in contact with him.