

[Speaker 1]: Growing up on a military base gives you a unique insight as toward freedom, culture and community really are. For those who have experienced it, it's hard to explain. And for us from outside living in, it's hard to understand. Despite the attempts to make the base lifestyle seeing as normal as any other community, it constantly remind me the remaining differences that all can go unnoticed. Where there's a sound of just sneaking off or safe walk around the neighborhood there's a sense of pride that resides inside you. And thou you may eventually leave, home will always be inside these gates.

[Julie]: Uhm, growing up in a air force base, I definitely learned to uhm, be pride of where I come from.

You know, from the outside looking in you might not understand it, but it's like, living on base we- we had our own culture, like our own lifestyle.

As a kid, I think I kind of preferred what it was all about, you- you are in this clear area, uhm, surrounded by gates and being co- controlled like all they every day. So when you're young you kind of think you don't have that much freedom to see the things that my friends a I would do, uhm, that the kids outside the base wouldn't really be able to do.

[Speaker 1]: Things like what?

[Julie]: You could go to the bowling ally or walk to the park or to the BX, and just anywhere of the base, uhm, with no problem, like you wouldn't worry about, uhm, anything really. In other communities like parents may have to like worry about this thing, you know, where their kids are, who they're with and if they're safe, you know?

[Speaker 1]: Yeah

[Julie]: To me, it didn't seem that way, uhm.

[Speaker 1]: How do you feel now that you've left and you're kind of on your own, you know?

[Julie]: After being away for college, I'm actually seeing like, the real world or whatever, you kind of uhm, you messed up feeling protection and- and you really, you know, appreciate your.. uhm, safe environment that you grew up as a child. I really liked how it was really diverse uhm, in- at my high school and on the base in general. It was never really any racial tension or anything like that, uhm, growing up on base uhm, and maybe it's just because I think we- we all kind of found a similarity in all of us in that you know, our parents are.. are in or associated with the military and also maybe just because like the reprimands of maybe Friday and- or anything would uhm, be really harsh on me- the student or their parents and I think that's a big difference from uhm, just going to high school on the base and- and just going to any high schools because you really have to watch what you do because anything you do can just be uhm, reflected on your parents.

We were all kind of part of this one big uhm, group and.. I think everyone had uhm, a sense of belonging or whatever.

Uhm, schools around here are pretty normal, they're just different because they're not really private but they're not really open to anyone. Uhm, but the teachers are good and everything is just well put together.

When we have sports and everything like that and JRTC was a big program. Uhm, it was definitely a big deal you know, considering we were on an air force base, I mean, other schools of course have JRTC but uhm, it was just really glorified, uhm, at our school, and I think that's why a lot of kids from our high school went straight to the air force store at the military branches. And uh, we grew up in this environment it's kind of the norm and uhm, and a lot of people join because they see their parents, uhm, they join through their friends uhm, so maybe it's more acceptable.

And you have a lot of younger couples like marrying because uhm, they wanna be with their significant other who maybe joined and when someone's in the airforce it's kind of hard to have a relationship if you're not with them because of the moving and everything. Uhm, I know a lot of people that had got married right after high school but uhm, because of the environment and their circumstances, I think it's more accepted, uhm, it's kind of a part of the culture...

Uhm, a lot of things remind me of the base and uhm, planes mostly, like whenever I see a plane it just reminds me of like jets uhm, 'cause I mean it's so normal that just hear jets taking off or hear sonic booms, kids going to school and just walking uhm, to the BX is kind of normal, you just kind of rush it off, but I mean if someone that were to hear a sonic boom, you know, anywhere outside the base who were not used to hearing that, I mean they would probably think like the bomb went over something...

Uhm, the housing, uhm, and the fact that everything on base uhm, because it's military affiliated uhm, if you're living on base and you're acting military, your housing is paid for, uhm, there's not taxing at the BX or the commissary uhm, you know gas is a little bit cheaper and it's just really, you have a lot of financial benefits.

If I could do it over again, I definitely would. I would want my kids to grow up in uhm, the tough environment and I want them to go through the schooling and have all the benefits I did. I think that it's great living there and it's safe, uhm, and it's definitely something to be proud of.

[Speaker 1]: World press journal describes military life as not just an organization but a culture in lifestyle. Similar to the words given to us by twenty years old woman named Julia. She was born and raised on Edwards Air Force Base, a military community about an hour north to LA where according to Pat Shirley living is the best of both worlds. Whether or not is better than normal northern Californian

community, I can't say. But I can say it's a unique experience and we'll all be lucky to live it.