



Behind the Soldier: My Father

Jessica Vargas
(Poway High Illiad)

The United States Army was initially founded June 14, 1775, and millions have served since then. My father, Major **Emilio Vargas**, has been part of the Army for over 15 years. He fought in the Gulf War and has since been part of the reserves unit.

When September 11 occurred, it became clear that America would go to war, but I never thought my dad would be one of those sent out.

He was activated in February of this year and was first stationed in Virginia and other states on the East Coast. From there he was transferred to Kuwait.

He could not tell me much about what he was doing, but when I heard from him, at least I knew that he was doing well. He was not in immediate danger and my family is thankful for that.

I think the hardest part of my father being gone was that he is missing my youngest sister's transformation from infancy to toddler-hood.

The last time my father spent time with my youngest sister she was only about six months old and barely old enough to roll over or crawl on her own. November 4 was my sister's first birthday, the first my father has been here to celebrate for over six months.

It was also very stressful without my father here, especially for my mother. I did chores and homework in addition to watching my three-year-old and now one-year-old sister for at least two hours a day. My mother used the time I give her to cook, clean, help my nine-year-old sister with her homework, as well as run the house.

We got a lot of help from our neighbors and close friends that we are very grateful for, but it was not the same as having my father here.

My father returned home on Oct. 29 at approximately one o'clock a.m. It was odd seeing him after five months but it was still an amazing feeling to be reunited with him. I hope he won't have to leave into danger again and I'm happy to have him home.

My darling daughter,

It is always nice to get an email from you. This one really cheered me up. I am glad to hear that you are going to enjoy your schedule. Remember to stay focused and motivated to study. Well, it's been going down to a chilly 90-95° at night but it still gets up to about 115° during the day. You were right that I would be getting cold with 80°. What were you doing with Mary Ann?

Keep working those scholarships. I hope to see you for Christmas, if not sooner. After 14 years of being your father (as opposed to "living with you"), I know that every time you say "Bye", it means I love you and that "Dad" means Daddy. I love you and can't wait to see you.

Dios te bendiga bendicion.

Love,

Daddy

Back to the e-bulletin

Copyright 2005-2007 ▪ Poway Unified School District ▪ All rights reserved
[Contact Us](#) | [Board of Education](#) | [Job Opportunities](#)
13626 Twin Peaks Road, ▪ Poway, CA 92064-3034 ▪ 858-748-0010