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I am a civilian

I was born on an Army installation.

My father was an Army Soldier.

I was an Army brat for 21 years moving and experiencing all different cultures and ethnicities. My father left us for 2 tours to go fight in a country we had never heard of before and had a hard time finding on the map (Viet Nam).

I married an Army Soldier who spent 3 tours in Viet Nam and 1 tour in Desert Storm, along with a tour in Korea. He climbed up the ranks to a brigade CSM before retiring. I was expected to show the “newbies” around the Army life and get the families settled in. I experienced bombings in our housing area, protests against us on the economy, and no communication during hard times/field exercises, which were many in Germany, but also I shared our home, food and experience with others who were new to this way of life and were struggling.

As an Army civilian I worked for the education center as a secretary, test proctor and clerk. I was the S4 secretary working in supply and filled in for the Battalion secretary. In Germany I worked in S1 and yes, even I had CBRNE clothing/evacuation plans when the Fulda Gap is compromised. I finally ended up in the medical field.

So, more than 50 years later I am classified a civilian by my military co-workers.

If they only knew.

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