

While military personnel are serving abroad, those at home are left to carry on their daily activities, not knowing if their loved ones will return.

STAFF SERGEANT SHARON McBRIDE | AFGHANISTAN & IRAQ

Serving in the military carries a price—one that is paid by both the troops and those closest to them. | U.S. ARMY

LETTER TO HER UNBORN DAUGHTER, DECEMBER 2003

Let me be the first to tell you that we have a rough road ahead of us, kiddo. The life of a soldier isn't an easy one. Already in the seven years that I've been in the Army, I've spent a lot of time away from home . . .

I'm going to miss a lot of important things — perhaps many of your firsts: birthdays, holidays, you know, all the good stuff. . . While we are together, though, I promise to hold you a bit longer than necessary, read the story about the purple dinosaur as many times as you want, fix your favorite food for dinner, kiss you a lot, hold your hand and take as many photos of you as possible. Memories of these things will have to sustain us while we are apart . . .



Photo credit: Courtesy Sharon McBride

In February 2004, McBride gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Two years later, she was deployed overseas once again.

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