I joined the military for the same reasons many young people do: I wanted to see the world, serve my country, and look damn good in uniform!

I did get to see a dozen different countries. The same discipline, work ethic, and value of service I received as a sailor is what I use to run my classroom with similar values. My students respond well to the rigor I set and respect the boundaries I lay out for them.

Michael Maceira
Storekeeper Petty Officer
Third Class
Navy

Aldine / English 3, Dual Credit Teacher
One Year With AISD
I joined the military for the educational opportunity and adventure it promised. Being a Logistics Officer is the same as being a CFO. It prepared me for the work I love to do. And I continue to be a servant leader – in my case, for kids.

Stan Osborne
Logistics Division
Commander/0-2
United State Air Force

Chief Financial Officer
One Year With AISD
I joined the military because I wanted to serve my country. The military was my foundation and has helped mold me into who I am today.

Jennifer Garza
Supply Specialist / E-4
Carver High School
Bookkeeper
Two Years With AISD
Aside from serving a cause bigger than myself, I grew up surrounded by poverty and wanted an opportunity for upward social mobility. It gave me invaluable experiences that impact my daily decisions for myself and my family.

Micah L. Turner Sr.
Sergeant / E-5
United States Marine Corps
Carver High School
Bookkeeper
Four Years With AISD
I have always wanted to serve my country. My mom took me to an air show when I was very young. I knew right then I wanted to be around airplanes.

Serving in the Air Force gave me a servant's heart. It gave me a better understanding of what can be done for the greater good of the community. Those values and principles are still fundamental to me today.

Orville W. Wright III
Airman
United States Air Force
Commander, Support Services Division Aldine ISD Police Department
19 Years With AISD
The military gave me an opportunity to grow and to be able to attend college. It provided a strong foundation of personal responsibility and leadership skills and allowed me to pursue an education.

Theresa M. Courts
SPC Courts
National Guard
Nimitz High School Counselor
Three Years With AISD
I grew up in a military family, so I followed in my dad's and older sister's footsteps. The military shaped many facets of my life. It made me more responsible, well-rounded and traveled. I also met people from all walks of life and connected with them, including my two best friends of over 23 years!

The Army also allowed me to complete my bachelor's and master's degrees, allowing me to take care of my family.
I joined the Army at 17 while still in high school, not knowing what I wanted to do with my life. The Army provided me with the opportunity to attend college, a sense of duty and pride, and created limitless possibilities.

The attention to detail learned through the Army has allowed me to excel within the district and join a very select team. The ability to communicate up and down the leadership structure while maintaining a level of trust and respect has enormously impacted my life today. Having to examine complex problems through multiple lenses for years in the Army has allowed me to be successful in my latest position within the district.

Joseph D. Sewall
Captain/CPT
U.S. Army

Major
U.S. Army

Two Years With AISD
If I am being transparent, I initially joined to purchase a car and help with college tuition. After going through basic training and learning the core values of the Air Force: integrity, courage, and conviction, I saw how this would help me in my everyday life. I saw how the skills I learned in the military would transfer into civilian life, especially education.

My experience affects me every day. It has taught me to be a team player and be accountable for my actions daily. It instilled the core values of integrity, courage, and conviction, which I use daily. I am proud to have been a part of an organization that helps protect lives and keeps our country safe.

Linda Ann Reed
Captain/CPT
U.S. Army
First Sergeant/Master Sergeant
Air National Guard
20 Years With AISD
I joined the military to serve our country as a free American!

I love that I get to serve the future of our great nation again through leadership, compassion, and a relentless press toward building capacity!
I joined the military because of my family. The military taught me discipline and leadership. It also allowed me to develop more maturity.

Terry Green Jr.
Master Sergeant
Air Force

Garcia M.S. LOTC Instructor

One Year With AISD
Where I grew up, the military was an option many of us pursued after high school graduation. I always knew that the military would be my path straight after graduation. I basically was a kid that needed direction.

Leadership was expected and developed very quickly in my job in the Army (Cavalry Scout). I worked with many quality leaders and learned from them. The foundation of who I am as a leader was forged in my experiences at a very young age.
After enrolling in college, I recognized that I needed an experience that would allow me to mature before I could successfully complete my educational goals.

Today, I lead a very structured life that is a direct result of the training and experiences I encountered during my years in the military.
I wanted to go to college, and the military was my best option. It has given me the opportunity to see the world and do more than I ever imagined.

Richard W. Hamilton, Sr.
LTC ®, Army
JMS 7th Grade Math Teacher
One Year With AISD
I joined the military for opportunities to travel and for leadership development. The military gave me more self-confidence and motivation to succeed. I am more disciplined and structured because of my experiences.

Darrell Ross
Private
United States Marine Corps

Principal
Three Years With AISD
My father was a police officer, so I grew up in a household with a lot of discipline. For me, other reasons called me to serve. I joined the military because I have always wanted to make a difference and defend those who could not defend themselves.

The military taught me to value independence and service.
The streets of Houston were a terrible place to be in the '90s. I would rather die for my country than my neighborhood. So I decided to leave and fight for the U.S. I learned many life and career lessons.

And although I suffered a life-changing injury while in service, I would not trade my time serving my country for anything else!

Chadrick Wright
2E653 Wire Dog/ E-4
United States Air Force

ISS Para

Four Years With AISD
I joined the military because I felt it was my responsibility to serve. My whole family served. It was a right of passage and a chance to contribute and be a part of something more than myself.

It taught me the importance of family, responsibility, patience, how to appreciate the smaller things in life that we usually take for granted, and much more. I appreciate and miss the time I spent in the service.
I joined the military to serve my country and travel the world. I was stationed in Texas, Germany, Turkey, and Missouri.

It gave me a lot of real-life experience, and I went into the troops to a teaching program to become a teacher.

Aimee Dalton
Sgt/E-4
Air Force

Business Teacher
One Year With AISD
I was motivated to join the military by a need to start building a future for myself and my family. I always knew I wanted to break generational curses, become a role model, and help society. With the Army, I was able to do so.

My military experience prepared me for adulthood, gave me stability and structure, and shaped me into the woman I am today.

K'Nara Coleman
Sergeant (E-5)
US Army Reserves
Harris Elementary
Assistant Principal
Six Years With AISD
I joined the military because of a desire to serve my country.

I learned the importance of duty, discipline, honor, and family values. To this day, I live a faith-filled life and still want to serve my community. And I will serve my country always.

Dino Garcia
E-4 Corporal
Army
East Side/Driver
Ten Years With AISD
I joined the military for several reasons, including my aunt, an Army retired military personnel member. I also participated in high school JROTC and university ROTC. I also joined because of the travel opportunities and to help others improve their living standards.

My military experience allowed me to network among various cultures and professions, enhancing my educational and leadership skills.

Lisa Ann Williams
LTC Retired
United States Army Reserve
Carver High School
28 Years With AISD
Serving our country spans many generations of my family, so it was almost inevitable that I would join the military. I also wanted to find myself in the service and protection of this nation.

The military experience taught me to persevere despite the challenges presented before me.
I joined the military because I wanted a way to serve others and receive education benefits.

For about 20 years, I have had lifelong friendships with like-minded people who are a part of my support system.

Chareese Williams
Airman
U.S. Air Force

Hill Elementary
3rd Grade Math Teacher

One Year With AISD
I joined the National Guard because I wanted help paying for college tuition.

To this day, I value my military experience. It prepared me to become more flexible in life.

Anthony Birmingham
Specialist/E-4
Texas Army National Guard
Dunn Elementary
Assistant Principal
One Year With AISD
Unlimited opportunities, challenging assignments, exciting adventures, and rewarding outcomes motivated me to join the military. The significant responsibilities, well-earned respect, and liberating lifestyle are also why I made the United States Navy a career!

My military experience impacts my life today by reinforcing my resolve to push my limits personally and professionally. The military also taught me to accept people for who they are, work with diverse groups of professionals, and be more creative at problem-solving.
I joined the military simply because I wanted to drive tanks. That is the truth! But the military also taught me a lot. I learned self-discipline and how to work with others as part of a team to accomplish our mission.

John R. Armstrong
Specialist, Army
Teacher
18 Years With AISD
I joined the military because I wanted to travel the world and serve my country.

Today, I still have my freedom in the greatest country in the world.
I began my 8-year Army career in high school with the early enlistment program, which helped me pay for college to become a registered nurse. I am proud that I was also able to serve in the Gulf War.

The Army instilled in me a strong work ethic and discipline. It provided me with leadership opportunities, which have helped me in my 29-year career as a registered nurse.

Cindy Fairchild
Specialist/E4
US Army Reserves
Carver High School
One Year With AISD
Initially, I joined the military to receive the GI Bill to help finish paying for college. After a few years, I decided to make it a career.

The military provided me with excellent leadership skills and the opportunity to travel. I also built a great network of friends. The military allowed me to finish my associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees.
I joined the military to serve my country. The experience gave me structure and discipline.

Rene Martinez
EM3
US Navy
Technology Services / Network Operations
One Year With AISD
I joined the military to get out and see the world and serve my country.

The experience taught me discipline and what it takes to be part of a team.

Vaughn E. Harvey
SGT
Army
Maintenance
Seven Years With AISD
Joining the military has played a vital role in my personal and professional life. When I joined, I had immediate access to free premium medical coverage for my family and myself. It was the best decision I made for my family and myself.

Juanita Jackson
SFC
Army
Plummer Middle School
Seven Years With AISD
I joined the military to serve my country, as my father and his father did.

I genuinely believe that my experience in the military has made me a better person and a team player.

Dillon S. Vaughan
Quartermaster 1st class / Submarines, USN
Technology Services
Network Architect
Eight Years With AISD
I joined the military for opportunities to assist with my education.

Serving in the Gulf War made me appreciate home more. So now, I am even more appreciative of making time for family and friends and making memories that last.

Sharonda Brown
SPC
U. S. Army (Reserve)
Mead Middle School
Science Department Chair
8th grade
12 Years With AISD
My primary motivation to join the military was the benefits the military provided for higher education through the GI Bill. I also wanted to serve my country. I learned discipline and new skills that have helped me to this day.

In the military, you experience so many mental and physical challenges. You are pushed way beyond your limits — or what you think your limits are. You learn to never quit! You realize that you can accomplish anything in your personal and professional life.

Javier del Pilar
Specialist E-4
Army
Facilities & Planning Department
26 Years With AISD
I joined the military for the opportunity to travel the world.

My experience gave me the confidence, discipline, tenacity, and focus needed to be an educator.

Nicole Denise McCray
Information Management Journeyman / SSgt Air Force
Shotwell Middle School
Three Years With AISD
I initially joined the military to help pay for school. It soon became apparent that I loved it! It taught me to be patient and accept people as they are.

Sharen Bradford
E6 Staff sergeant
Army
Northside Transportation
Three Years With AISD
It was always a childhood dream to join the Army.

The Army taught me how to be a better person. I learned to be disciplined and to pay attention to all the details. It also showed me what it meant to be a true leader.

Hector Luevanos
Platoon Sergeant / Staff Sergeant (E6) US Army
Hall Success Academy Curriculum AP
Two Years With AISD
I felt military service would help me learn better discipline and teach me a skill I could use later in life if needed.

I gained a lot of confidence in my leadership ability, and I use the skills I learned in my position as a program and community leader today.

Matthew Adamson
Specialist
Army (Reserves)

Mead Middle School
Head Band Director

23 Years With AISD
I joined the military because I wanted to make a change in my life and the military was the best decision at the time.

My experience gave me the opportunity to teach distribution and logistics, which are my passion. I am so blessed to teach future logisticians.

Shawn Bingham
SPC/E-4
Army
Blanson CTE High School
Three Years With AISD
Honestly, I struggled in high school. In my junior year, I accepted that college wasn't for me, and I decided that the Navy would be the best option.

Joining the military gave me a different perspective on life. I traveled to 13 countries and created camaraderie and deep friendships. I also received tuition assistance once I settled down and pursued my college degree. What was once impossible became possible!
Why did I join the military? I didn’t have anything going on at the time. The job I had wasn’t a career type of job, and I had no plans. An Army recruiter came to my job to talk to a coworker. Now, here I am 21 years later! The military has its ups and downs (like any job), but I am glad I joined.

Being in the military has made me more responsible and more disciplined. I am the LOTC Instructor at Aldine Middle School. Every day, I try to instill these values into my students.
Oliver Duirden
Specialist
Army

Francis Elementary School
Two Years With AISD

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It (the military) allowed me to provide a better life for my family and be an inspiration for my kids.

The military gave me guidance on being more responsible and disciplined in everything I do.
Marvin Alexander
DT2/E-5
US Navy
Blanson CTE High School
Teacher
Seven Years With AISD
I was always interested in traveling the world as a child, so I elected to join the military after high school. During my enlistment, I have been able to travel to 15 countries and live on three continents.

As an Armed Forces member, I have had so many experiences that have inspired me in my current role. The opportunities to lead a diverse group of individuals have truly made me the leader I am today.
I always remember telling my mom that I would be in a uniform one day, just like the people in the military commercials. I took part in LOTC in middle school. That led to joining the JROTC in high school. I joined the military right after graduation.

It allowed me to view the world and experience different cultures. Most importantly, it allowed me to grow my family. I have brothers and sisters all over the world now!
I joined the military because I wanted to be a brave soldier fighting for her country.

Today, I look at soldiers with pride and gratitude.

Carina Galindo
Private First Class/PFC3
US Army
Odom Elementary School
Two Years With AISD
I wanted to challenge myself. More so when my ASV-AB tests scored me in electronics theory. Up to that point, I was always a timid person. Basic training and tech school changed all of that!

My military job had me working on maintenance equipment in the air traffic controller courses. That was my first introduction to working in a school environment. I learned how to support the school mission, avoid training degradations, and maintain my proficiency.
I joined the military because I wanted to serve my country and protect its people.

The military instilled in me self-discipline and pride for my country. It taught me patience, which is immensely beneficial when you work with young people in education.
I was motivated by family tradition. The opportunity to become the first officer in my family was another major driving force to join the Army.

Joining the Army was one of the best decisions I ever made. Military service instilled discipline, leadership, and organizational skills, which prepared me to succeed in life out of uniform. I am proud of all my comrades. – Go Army, Beat Navy!
Seeing such a large-scale attack on the American people on 9/11 at an impressionable age motivated me to join.

Everything I do, I do with Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Jason Crawford
Corporal
US Marine Corps
Davis Ninth Grade School
Five Years With AISD
My motivation to join the military came through adventurous aspiration.

My military experience has helped my everyday life by cultivating discipline and developing teamwork.

Lewis Echols  
Corporal E-4  
US Army  
Aldine Paraprofessional  
Two Years With AISD
You can say it was a family affair. My parents met in the Air Force, with my dad serving nearly 40 years before retiring. It was my military upbringing and desire to serve my country that motivated me to enlist.

My military service helped me experience different cultures and perspectives that I would not have experienced as a civilian. The military also instilled core values such as integrity, service, and excellence.
Military family inspired me to join. I wanted to accomplish what most could not.

The military gives you focus, drive, and determination. It gives you the will the push your boundaries and make you a better you.

Michael James Daly
E-4
US Army

Shotwell Middle School
Four Years With AISD
I joined the military because I wanted to serve my country and be able to afford my education. It has provided me with far more structure and discipline. And it has afforded my family and me a better life. My military experience helps me inspire my students when they are unsure about their future careers and college choices.

Marel L. Felder
PO 3rd Class
Hospital Corpsman
US Navy

Instruction
Ten Years With AISD
Initially, I joined the military because I was bored with college.

My military experience dispelled a lot of myths and stereotypes I had about human beings. I discovered that those we think are strong are sometimes weak, and those we deem weak are strong.
Joining the military meant I could follow in my dad’s footsteps.

It helped me learn how to be more open-minded and how to work with people of different backgrounds.

Gabrielle Lindsey
Private
US Army National Guard

Warehouse Clerical
Two Years With AISD
I grew up in an Army family, and I knew I wanted to serve my country, too.

I learned a lot about relating to other people at work and working together to accomplish tasks.
“I wanted to serve my country and see the world.

The experience made me appreciate this great country and the people who protect it."
“I joined the military because I wasn’t ready for college and wanted to get out and see more parts of the world.

The military continues to positively affect my life in my organizational style, leadership style, ability to prioritize critical issues, and persistence in getting the job done.

John D. Busch III
Corporal/E-4
US Army

Assistant Director of Transportation Eastside
14 Years With AISD
I joined the United States Navy for the love of my country, family, and the honor that it provided me. The military gave me opportunities to grow and trained me as a leader. I also received a scholarship to Prairie View A&M University, where I was commissioned as a Naval Officer.

The military made me a better leader!

Leslie Hobley Dever
Lieutenant Commander-O4
US Navy

Pregnancy-Related
Service Coordinator
22 Years With AISD
I wanted to provide for my family. I also wasn’t sure if I wanted to go to college, but the military allowed me to do both. It also gave me the opportunity to travel and see so much of the world. I loved serving my country. I feel confident enough in myself to take on new challenges. It provided so much for my family and me. The lifelong friends I have are like brothers and sisters. I also try to live by the core values the military instilled in me every day – honor, courage, and commitment. Honestly, I wake up every day proud that I live in the greatest country in the world.
Living in Brooklyn, NY, at the time of 9/11 motivated me to serve this great country.

It truly shaped who I have become as a man. Not only was I able to help those in need, but it motivated me to continue to serve even after the military.

Germán Enamorado
Sr. Operations Sergeant/
Staff Sergeant
US Army

Executive Director
Transportation
Two Years With AISD
I wanted to be a part of something larger than myself geared toward protecting others’ livelihoods and freedoms. The brother- and sisterhood created amongst members of the military is a bond like no other. All of this combined made the Army the logical choice for me.

My military experience fuels my can-do attitude, accountability, and drive for excellence. It has given me the knowledge to move and lead with a purpose mindset.
The military taught me the importance of being prepared and adaptable. It pushed me to learn the limits of what I could handle, which was much more than anyone would expect!
"I joined the military because I wanted to serve my country.

The military instilled in me the leadership and discipline that I teach to my cadets daily."
“I wanted to learn a career, and above all, I am a patriot.

The military gave me leadership skills and many other skills, which I use daily!”
Honestly, I joined the military because I experienced some bad teenage years.

The Army gave me discipline, integrity, punctuality, and leadership, which I have used in my everyday life for over 30 years. I thank the Army every day for changing my life.

Alan Moore
E-5 /Sergeant
US Army

Construction Teacher
Seven Years With AISD
My motivation for joining the Navy was driven by the opportunity to serve my country.

My military service opened avenues of educational, personal, and leadership experiences that continue to impact my life today.

Charlotte Marsh-Jiles
Petty Officer 3rd Class
US Navy

District Literacy Coach
Seven Years With AISD
“I love our Great Country and carrying on a long family tradition.

My 20 plus years of service helped me develop the confidence and determination to set and accomplish my goals in my civilian life.

Kendrick Hughes Payne Sr.
Sgt/E-5
US Army
Aldine Westside Bus Technician
24 Years With AISD
My military service provided education, training, and leadership experiences. I use all of the skills daily in my professional career toward helping our students to be prepared and ready for life after high school.

Porfirio Muñoz
Lt. Col.
US Air Force

Davis High School
Air Force JROTC
Six Years With AISD
I decided to enlist in the Air Force during my senior year in high school. The military provided me with an opportunity to attend a college that I would not otherwise have had.

In the Air Force, I evolved into a leader. I adopted the Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All I Do. To this day, these are the guiding principles in my life.
The military was a marvelous way to assist with college tuition.

The need for service to your country is essential. Everyone does not need to serve, but someone does. I am proud I have served.

Bruce Fillbrandt
SP4
US Army

PE
31 Years With AISD
I just always wanted to be a Marine, and I go after what I want. I feel military service is the most honorable profession.

In the military, you must bring your “A” game to work every day. I respect our military and am enthusiastically encouraged by one and only child who became a Marine. Michael Jr. has so far served 17 years as a Marine and completed multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Michael Jr. is my hero.
After high school, I didn’t have any plans for the future. Also, in 1980, there was some discussion about reinstating the draft. So many friends and I joined the military to plan our futures instead of being assigned to jobs.

Having never left the state where I grew up, Houston, Texas, I had never met people that weren’t similar to myself. After being in the service for a while, I met people from all over the United States, all creeds, colors, and origins. I realized that people were the same all over. Some good, some bad, but generally kind and good-natured.
After serving in the Army Junior Reserve Training Corps (AJROTC) for four years in high school, I was motivated to join.

It has had a significant impact on my life today. I’ve always wanted to inspire and motivate young adults, and I am afforded that opportunity every day. I’m so blessed.

Sanford Wyatt
Technical Sergeant
US Air Force
Davis Ninth Grade School
Ten Years With AISD
“I wanted to follow in my father’s footsteps. It taught me discipline, leadership, values, and to serve others.”

Godwin Patterson
First Sergeant
US Army

Hambrick Middle School
LOTC Instructor
Ten Years With AISD
I wanted to serve my country like other men in my family.

It made me disciplined when it comes to accomplishing tasks.
I joined the Army to uphold the long tradition of military service in my family, experience the world, gain leadership experience and pay for college.

My military experience still affects my life today in my daily work skills, professionalism, and leadership approach. I know that I would not be where I am today without the skills I learned during my eight years of service in the Army.

Lindsay Loredo
Sergeant (SGT)
US Army

Blanson CTE High School
ELA Instructional Coach and Department Chair
Seven Years With AISD
After a poor high school experience, the military became my path to success. I was an excellent athlete but not a good scholar. The Army gave me the choices and opportunities that I needed and most likely would not have had.

My military experience has shaped a significant portion of my life; my integrity, honor, commitment, and service. It has enhanced my spirituality, given me a unique world view and helped me develop leadership qualities that I am using today.
It offered a way for me to travel the world. The experience allowed me to be a better leader to have an impact on students I encounter.
I needed change, and the military provided that opportunity.

I learned to always show up 15 minutes before anything!
My primary motivation for joining the military was to make my family proud. I wanted to be the first to join the military in my entire family.

The Marine Corps changed my life and taught me about discipline, leadership, and service to others. These are values I still use in life and teaching.
I was 17 and had no other way to pay for college. I also wanted to make my family proud.

Grace Hopper, Navy Rear Admiral, once said, “Leadership is a two-way street — loyalty up and loyalty down. Respect for one’s superiors; care for one’s crew.” As a military veteran and an educator, I try my hardest to model this sentiment. I have always lived by the leadership principles laid out in the Department of the Army Field Manual. Know your job, and know yourself. Seek self-improvement, know your men, look out for their welfare, set the example, and take responsibility for your actions.
Mona Youngblood
Company Supply Sergeant/SSG
US Army Reserves (USAR)

Hall Success Academy
8th Grade Math Teacher
Six Years With AISD

One of my high school best friends motivated me to join the military. I will be forever grateful to her for asking me to join. It was an incentive for her, but it led to a great learning experience and an insightful journey for me. During my time in the military, I formed a lot of relationships and made some lifelong friendships. I learned physical, social, survival, and life skills. The knowledge I gained are things I have shared with others. Honestly, the military has had a significant impact on my life.

My military experience has affected my life today to the extent that I am a very disciplined person. I am a great planner and organizer. The military contributed a lot to my physical fitness awareness. I try to share the various skills, knowledge, values, and the chain of command (order) I learned in the military to help them become the best people in the world. Be all you can be and the best you can be! Be a difference-maker and a world changer!
While attending Jackson State University, I enrolled in the ROTC Program. I always wanted to make a difference in people’s lives. Being a part of the military taught me to go over and beyond expectations.

My military experience has helped me communicate with the community and provide them with leadership skills.

Vivian Bates
Quartermaster / Captain
US Army

Sammons Elementary
Principal Secretary
11 Years With AISD
When I was 17 years old, I joined the Marines, literally joining boot camp the day after my high school graduation. The Marines instilled in my life direction, discipline, and a positive trajectory for my future.

Gratitude and remembering those soldiers – POWs and MIAs – who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and democracy.
I wanted to contribute my service to my country the best way I could, and that was through leading, guiding, and teaching. I hope to do 20 years as a guardsman and hopefully use my service experience to work in politics.

It has given me structure and discipline.

Rogelio Garza
Platoon Leader/ 1LT
US Army National Guard

Mead Middle School
8th Grade Math Teacher
Six Years With AISD
I was motivated to join the military to get out of my hometown of Houston, travel, and gain experience for a career. Many of my friends were going to college without a clue about the real world. I wanted a different outlook.

My military experience affects my everyday life because I can draw on many experiences making connections to serve my students better.
The opportunity to have school paid for and travel the world motivated me to join the military.

Teresa S. Jones
PS3
US Navy

Knippel Education Center
8th Grade Math
Seven Years With AISD
I joined the Army to see what I could do for my country and what it would be like to be a soldier. My father and brothers had been in or were in the military. I went in as a Unit Level Communication Maintainer and stayed in for five years. I was deployed to the Gulf War, then sent to Germany to see more of the world. There were some good times and some bad, but it was all an experience that I will never forget.

The military taught me that being a unified team is very important and powerful. The most powerful thing in the world is a team — small or large — that can work together as a unit to accomplish a goal or set of goals. United, we are strong, divided we are weak. Trust and open communications can bring us together, and cooperation unites us into an unstoppable team. Go Army and Go Aldine!
I was looking for a brighter future.

Since the military, I have been driven by more possibilities of a better future for all.
Initially, it was to earn college money and benefits. It evolved to serving my country and fighting beside some of the most patriotic Americans. Additionally, it reconfirmed my understanding of what it is to have honor and integrity.

The military allowed me to see the world through a different prism. It allowed me to experience different cultures. Additionally, it reinforced the understanding that self-discipline and hard work pay off.

David R. Clark Jr.
MSgt
US Air Force

Davis High School
AFJROTC
Four Years With AISD
I wanted to help protect and defend the people of the United States.

It provided me with a huge opportunity to travel and see the world.

Steven A. Latham
Master Sergeant
US Army

JROTC Instructor
Two Years With AISD
Anthony Bullock  
Master Sergeant  
US Air Force  

Davis High School  
Aerospace Science Instructor  
Nine Years With AISD  

“ I was motivated by the opportunity to have an esteemed career in general. In particular, the Air Force’s policies on social actions appealed most to me.

My service and tenure in the Air Force have allowed me to have choices in my personal and professional life I don’t think I would have had otherwise.
I wanted to go places, see things and have experiences that would be possible through military service. It took me out of one of the worst neighborhoods in Houston and allowed me to see the world. Now, my entire worldview has changed, and I am a better person for it.

Leroy Guillory  
Staff Sergeant  
US Marine Corps  

Mead Middle School  
LOTC Teacher  
Four Years With AISD
Dr. Frank Cisneros
Sergeant
US Army

Assistant Principal
Eight Years With AISD

“I joined the military because I wanted to help. The experience prepared me for my job as an assistant principal.”
I was an Army brat! Both my parents were in the military.

The military was a great start to my life as a young adult. It helped shape me into the strong woman I am today!

Venetra Sykes
Senior Airman
US Air Force

Ermel Elementary School
Ten Years With AISD
I wanted to attend college, and my parents were unable to help. The military provided me with the means to pay for college.

There are a lot of parallels between the military and public education. In general, though, I’d say that the discipline required to live the military life is a resource that is useful throughout all of life.
What motivated me to join the military was the 9/11 tragedy.

The military experience affected my life in many ways. It helped me to be slow to anger. It helped me to want to be a better person and think of others.
Leo Joe Romo Sr.
Gunnery Sergeant
U.S. Marine

Long-term Guest Teacher,
Math Resources
García Middle School
One Year With AISD

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I served 20 years in the Marine Corps and was a Veteran of a Foreign War. I served at the Marine Barracks, Naval Base Subic Bay, Philippines, in 1991. This was a time of great certainty for the United States’ presence in the Philippines. The U.S. military bases were being negotiated for a new lease on their property, while a radical group, the New People’s Army of the Philippines, was conducting hostile operations to keep that from happening. The U.S. Marines were the security for the naval bases and American families. Amid all this, negotiations halted when Mount Pinatubo, a volcano, erupted. After the recovery phase of restoring the properties, the decision was made to withdraw and evacuate completely from the Philippines. All military and their families departed. This is one of the most memorable of my 20-year military career. I consider it a historical event in U.S. history as it ended the U.S. presence in the Philippines, which it held since World War 2.