

Military Madness

We want you to socially distance while riding in a plane with hundreds of other people to jump out at 1200 feet in the air oh and don't forget your P.T. belt for safety! Any military member or associate is acquainted with these types of military shenanigans. P.C.S. orders changed? Don't forget to be resilient! Soldiers orders lengthened or lost? Be resilient! Forced to work in close proximity during a pandemic? Be resilient! The instances are commonplace this past year during the coronavirus pandemic for military members. <https://covid-19archive.org/s/archive/page/Share>The Journal of a Plague year archive which documents the 2020 Pandemic is an online crowd-sourced archive that allows for anyone and everyone to donate to the archive and become a part of history anonymously or not. There is a collection within the archive focused solely on the military during the pandemic to share these stories of resilience and shenanigans ta boot. The archive even accepts social media information or posts to broaden the materials available. The use of social media to catalogue the pandemic will allow for a real screenshot of societal issues and methods of dealing with them(Begis,2018).

Why the military?



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The military is a large organization within the united states with over 1.9 million people serving and even more supporting or working with them("Demographics of the U.S. military",2020).This is a large demographic of the United States population that is underrepresented beyond the "official" declarations made by the government. The goal of this collection is to show the personal struggles and triumphs of military members in the military to prevent a silence in the archive. Although silences are inevitable in an archive we can still actively fight to lessen them(Rodney,2006).

US CITIZENS: THEY WON'T LET US DO ANYTHING OR GO ANYWHERE!

U.S MILITARY:



meme from the archive

Many people are unaware how wholly the military controls not only the lives of those enlisted in it but also the lives of their family members. In regard to the military spouses and family members are often left out of the conversation and policies at times seems to disregard them. In public the idea that a family member is part of the military is a reason for general sympathy without any real understanding. Many do not understand how families of military members cannot plan vacations or even dates sometimes or how a spouse cannot even be sure their marriage partner will be present for childbirth or medical procedures. The reality is military families are helpless in the best of time but add in a pandemic and that little bit of control is taken away. Many military families had to face the fact that their spouse/parent/child could be exposed to Covid-19 at a training or group activity and that the family member could not simply quit or stay home but had to wait on orders. Caitlin Cannella-Martin states "Military families are used to plans changing and nothing being concrete. That doesn't make it easy though"(05/26/2020). Memorandums such as the stop-movement order that the Department of Defense's put out was one example of families who were in the process of moving or preparing to move were suddenly told to wait and that they were restricted to a 50mile radius with no official word on when movements would be allowed again. These families had to find new homes or schools and at times their families were stuck in limbo without a home to go to. Another major issue was the fact that once the shelter at home orders were lifted although the military members were supposed to follow CDC guidelines and maintain social distancing and other precautions many military members resumed activities as normal. P.T. was resumed in the mornings with groups of soldiers and instead of working at half capacity many units returned to the status quo. The fact that any military trainings were being

continued and scheduled needs to be displayed in the archive in order to document the difference between the official memorandum and the actual day to day activities.

Military archive silences

References:

Begis Jules, Ed Summers, Dr. Vernon Mitchell Jr. "[Documenting the Now \(Links to an external site.\)](#) White Paper: Ethical Considerations for Archiving Social Media Content Generated by Contemporary Social Movements: Challenges, Opportunities, and Recommendations." (April 2018).

"Demographics of the U.S. Military." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 13 July 2020, www.cfr.org/backgrounders/demographics-us-military#:~:text=Now%2C%20there%20are%20about%201.3,percent%20of%20the%20U.S.%20population.&text=The%20army%20is%20the%20largest,marine%20corps%2C%20and%20coast%20guard.

Rodney Carter, "[Of Things Said and Unsaid: Power, Archival Silences, and Power in Silence \(Links to an external site.\)](#)," *Archivaria* 61 (Spring 2006): 215-33.

[Caitlin Cannella-Martin](#), " A Military Family " in *Journal of the Plague Year Archive*, (05/26/2020).