

Your Mission: Choose To Accept It

In the latest episode Roland and the gang are celebrating Roxy's birthday party and sharing their thoughts about military life. Roland says "I'm pissed because I want my life and not the Army to come first for a change." What military spouse hasn't thought that in their lifetime?

Pamela noted in a past episode in a conversation with Roxy, "It's the military sweetheart. Army, Unit, Family, in that order."

That's a concept that I think most people can't fathom, much less accept. It doesn't mean that your family has to come last in every situation, but it does mean that your soldier has a commitment.

I can remember at four years in the Army when Kevin and I were making that "big decision" whether or not we were going to continue on this journey. I can't begin to tell you how many times I repeated, "I just want to be on the front burner of your life for once." The funny thing is that though he understood what I was saying, he didn't understand or comprehend how to make it happen. It wasn't that he was choosing to have me play second, it was his commitment, desire, and passion and he just couldn't ignore it.

We did make the decision to stay in. It was a joint decision, but in that decision I have found some acceptance. I had to learn how to incorporate Tara into this lifestyle and find a balance between Tara, her family, and the Army. That acceptance started with realizing that I married a soldier, not an executive. I had to accept this lifestyle, this commitment, this mission as my own. I had to agree to love and to serve not just my soldier, but the Army as well.

From my point of view, you can spend time upset and fight the uphill battle that you're never going to win or you can accept, mold, and adjust. To help you preserve your sanity, find *your* place on this journey. It's not always easy, not always fair, and it's not instantaneous! You have to learn to be self-reliant, independent, and successful for you, and not just for your soldier. You have to learn to make moments last a lifetime, connect across the miles, keep hope alive, and bridge the gaps that the Army's mission creates in your life.

Simply put, you love your soldier, your soldier loves you. He also loves serving his country. It's a passion and a calling. Most can't just change the way they feel about their service. Life can be a whole lot peachier if you find ways to make this military lifestyle work for you and your family. Think of it as your mission, and choose to accept it.