

## But, We're Not Army!!!

*We Serve Too!* is written primarily from a *child's* perspective, but the orientation is definitely Army. This book was initially by author, Kathleen Edick written for her young grandchildren when her Army son, their daddy, left for a tour in Iraq. The issues of separation, time, fears, keeping connections, etc. are difficult for tiny ones (*and sometimes for bigger ones, too*) and a picture book was a very helpful tool to reach their little hearts.

When deciding to publish *We Serve Too!*, many attempts were made to rework the text and illustrations to be inclusive of all branches of the military. In the process, the passion and tenderness of the book was lost in the cumbersome nitpicking to avoid any definition. The conclusion was this: men and women who are brave enough and capable enough to walk into military life and into battle with the fiercest of enemies, are surely strong enough to sustain reading a children's book with the flavor of another branch of the military without fear, trepidation or taking offense.

However, a sticker packet was developed to revise the book for the Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard if you want a fun project with your kids. If stickers and such projects are not your thing, you can always adapt as you read if you want to. Parents often read stories and explain along the way, so if you want to adapt it with your words, here are the opening lines from our sticker pack to replace this one, *"My Daddy joined the Army; he's away from me and Mommy"*:

Navy,

*"My Daddy joined the Navy;  
he's away from Mom and me and baby."*

Marines:

*"My Daddy joined the proud Marines;  
he's away from us a lot, it seems."*

Air Force:

*"My Daddy joined the Air Force;  
he's away from us a lot, of course."*

Coast Guard:

*"My Daddy joined the Coast Guard;  
when he's away from us it's really hard."*

About the line, *"we'll be fine—our family's tough!"*...

A Marine Family we know is quite glad to say to his children, *"but Marine families are tougher, right?"* At the same time, when we asked if the Army orientation would keep him from using the book for his Family, he was adamant in his response, *"We're all on the same team, you know!"* (*They still like the sticker pack idea, though.*)

Throughout the book, as you read and enjoy it with your children, feel free to adapt it in any way (make your own sticker packet if you like, use the downloads on our website [www.weservetoo.com](http://www.weservetoo.com) \*)—adapt it to your Family situation. Our earnest desire is that *We Serve Too!* will be used to bring comfort to little ones and their Families. We hope it brings some laughter along the way, and we know that tears may sometimes come, as well. May they be healing tears that bond your Family team together.

*Paula and Kathleen*

*\* You can buy adhesive-backed paper or mailing labels at your office supply store to make your own stickers that you can print yourself, or copy on from your own artwork. The font we used in the book is Comic Sans which you can match and use to word process your own changes. We like to print from our download onto brochure paper, spray the back with adhesive and cover with wax paper, then cut out the stickers, peel the wax paper off and stick it in the book in just the right place. You can find spray adhesive in the scrapbooking section of hobby stores or even in the hardware store. You can also use a scrapbooking glue stick adhesive.*

*Also, in the hobby stores in the scrapbooking section, you will find a machine that can make adhesive stickers from your own drawings or cut-outs. If you know a scrapbooker, they just might make a sticker for you from your child's own artwork of your particular branch. Have a lot of fun making this book your own.*

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**“Please feel free to use this book however it most helps your Family! Write in it or put stickers in it if you want. You have our permission!”**

**P & K**

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