

## 2.2.6 Awareness-raising assembly plan

### Background

This resource has been designed by the University of Winchester based on feedback from children from military families; it is important to these young people for their non-military peers to understand their experiences. The pack is designed to support teachers in planning an assembly which gives them the opportunity to do this.

### You will need

- A group of children from military families who would like to share their experiences
- A military parent if you can find one
- Pictures and case studies
- Music on entry: 'Wherever You Are' by The Military Wives plus video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hR6O7VxKaQ>

### Preparation

1. Meet your group of children from military families and decide on themes and activities. Make sure it comes from your students and support reluctant performers. Perhaps they could direct?
2. Plan your panel discussion
3. Find out about any local bases - What units are based near here?
4. Plan and direct your performance rehearsal, or delegate this to a student.

Performance facilitation notes:

#### Option 1 Deployment

Act out a parent's deployment; Parent leaves for Afghanistan. How do the children feel? Then the family hears about news in Afghanistan (play a sound recording of BBC news) – that's where the deployed parent and friends are. Or simply play the news announcement that the UK will be sending troops to Syria; a family listens then discusses what it might mean for them.

#### Option 2 mobility

Act out how it feels to join as a new child (a child is alone, she doesn't know about routines and everyone laughs at her). Facilitate discussion with the audience. What could the other children have done? Redo the sketch implementing the audience's suggestions.

### The assembly

#### Media and empathy

Play 'Wherever You Are' on entry. Talk about how it was sung by wives and partners of people deployed to Afghanistan. What is it like for the families?

Play this video which talks about the theme of peace from WW1, WW2 to modern warfare and armed forces.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/25579533>

#### Suggested discussion points

Where are our forces deployed?

<http://www.army.mod.uk/operations-deployments/22753.aspx>

Do they always represent just the UK? What about the UN?

Can war be avoided? One hundred years ago the country was at war and all your fathers and uncles would be fighting and dying for the country; today our armed forces are keeping us safe. Would you fight? Would you be happy for your parents to fight?

What other roles do the armed forces play? (preventing conflict, keeping peace, disaster relief, emergency support, response to terrorism, security, intelligence gathering)

## Performances

### Option 1 Deployment

Explain deployment. Members of the army, navy or air force moving to wherever they're needed in the world. They do not have a choice whether to go or not and often don't get much notice.

Sketch: deployment

OR

### Option 2 mobility

Many military children move on every few years (ask your group how many schools they've been to?). Some could even go to as many as 20 different schools.

Sketch: how it feels to join as a new child

The following video could be shown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pf445I-NCyY>

## Panel discussion

What is it like to move schools and move house?

How does it feel when a parent goes to serve abroad?

Does it change the relationships in the family?

Does it change how you act or how you learn?

How could your friends and teachers help?

What does the school do already?

How does life change for the family when a parent is deployed?

Ask all children to think about how their family life would or has changed because one person is away. What would change?

What would they miss doing with that person? Why are there extra pressures when the trip is military deployment rather than commercial work?

Finish by playing the Creative Forces film