

# Military

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.



**He's a recent High School graduate;**

**he was probably an average student,  
pursued some form of sport activities,  
drives a ten year old jalopy,  
and has a steady girlfriend  
that either broke up with him when he left,  
or swears to be waiting when he returns  
from half a world away.**

**He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap  
or jazz or swing and 155mm howizzitor.**

**He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now  
than when he was at home  
because he is working or fighting  
from before dawn to well after dusk.**

**He has trouble spelling,  
thus letter writing is a pain for him,  
but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds  
and reassemble it in less time in the dark.**

**He can recite to you the nomenclature  
of a machine gun or grenade launcher  
and use either one effectively if he must.**

**He digs foxholes and latrines  
and can apply first aid like a professional.**

**He can march until he is told to stop  
or stop until he is told to march.**



**He obeys orders instantly and without  
hesitation,**

**but he is not without spirit or individual  
dignity. He is self-sufficient.**

**He has two sets of fatigues:**

**he washes one and wears the other.**

**He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.**

**He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth,**

**but never to clean his rifle.**

**He can cook his own meals,  
mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts.**

**If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with  
you; if you are hungry, his food.**

**He'll even split his ammunition with you  
in the midst of battle when you run low.**

**He has learned to use his hands like weapons  
and weapons like they were his hands.**

**He can save your life - or take it,  
because that is his job.**

**He will often do twice the work of a civilian,  
draw half the pay  
and still find ironic humor in it all.**

**He has seen more suffering  
and death than he should have  
in his short lifetime.**



**He has stood atop mountains of dead  
bodies,**

**and helped to create them.**

**He has wept in public and in private,**

**for friends who have fallen in combat  
and is unashamed.**

**He feels every note of the National Anthem  
vibrate through his body**

**while at rigid attention,**

**while tempering the burning desire to**

**'square-away' those around him**

**who haven't bothered to stand,  
remove their hat, or even stop talking.**

**In an odd twist, day in and day out,  
far from home,  
he defends their right to be disrespectful.**

**Just as did his Father, Grandfather,  
and Great-grandfather,  
he is paying the price for our freedom.  
Beardless or not, he is not a boy.  
He is the American Fighting Man  
that has kept this country free  
for over 200 years.**



Joe Paedle / Getty Images

**He has asked nothing in return,**

**except our friendship and understanding.  
Remember him, always,  
for he has earned our respect  
and admiration with his blood.**

**And now we even have woman over there in danger,  
doing their part in this tradition**

**of going to War**

**when our nation calls us to do so.**

**As you go to bed tonight,  
remember this shot..**

**A short lull, a little shade  
and a picture of loved ones in their  
helmets**



**Prayer wheel for our military... please don't break it. Please send this on after a short prayer.**

## **Prayer Wheel**

**"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.**

**Protect them as they protect us.**

**Bless them and their families**

**for the selfless acts they perform for us**

**in our time of need. Amen."**

**Prayer :**

**When you receive this,**

**please stop for a moment and say a prayer**

**for our ground troops in Afghanistan,**

**sailors on ships, and airmen in the air,**

**and for those in Iraq.**

**There is nothing attached....**

**This can be very powerful.....**

**Of all the gifts you could give a US Soldier,**

**Sailor, Coastguardsman, Marine**

**or Airman, prayer is the very best one.**

**I can't break this one, sorry**

**This is a ribbon for soldiers fighting in Iraq. Pass it on to everyone and pray.**



