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Why Asking For Help Makes Military Wives Stronger

By Sarah Smiley

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by: **Sarah Smiley**

There are two things I hate doing: the lawn and the trash. When counting down the days until homecoming, some women choose to track paydays, school days, or Mondays. Me? I always counted trash days. "Just 12 more times of taking out the trash," I'd yell across the street to my neighbor as I rolled the can to the curb.

And when the cruise (my husband's first in 2001) was extended, not a neighbor was spared my ranting and raving over having to take out the trash "yet another two weeks!" Each time I rolled the green, heavy bin down the driveway, I considered it one of the most intolerable jobs of a Navy wife.

That same deployment my front yard was invaded with fire ants, crab grass, and some type of crepe myrtle fungus, which was never identified. I let these problems go "unnoticed," believing they might magically disappear and I wouldn't have to actually care for the grass myself.

And the yard problems did go away. My sympathetic neighbor next door became my complimentary yardman. (Although, I've always wondered if it was true charity which prompted him to mow my grass each week, or rather a fear that the chinch bugs would crawl over to his side.) Either way, I had free lawn service.

Occasionally, a neighbor would take pity on me and replace my trashcan back to the side of the house after the garbage men were done with it.

And once, when I had maggots in the bottom of the bin, a few men from the neighborhood were nice enough to dispose of them and Clorox the trashcan, and not tell me about the whole incident until a year later (they knew better).

"It takes a village to do Sarah's trash," one neighbor joked.

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And sometimes it also took a village to change Sarah's flat tire, to kill big bugs in her living room, and to fetch her son's toy airplane that landed on the roof.

Towards the end of that deployment, I began to feel guilty. I wondered if I wasn't being strong enough and if I shouldn't take my title of "Navy dependent" so literally as to mean I was, well, dependent.

"Don't be silly," my neighbors would say. "We're glad to help." More than hanging a flag from their door, they said helping a Navy family made them feel like they were doing their part.

Surprisingly (to me), despite doing my lawn every week and occasionally my trash and home repairs, these neighbors often told me I was far from "dependent."

Instead of focusing on the things I was not doing myself, my neighbors were in awe at the things I had done alone. And most of these things (caring for sick babies in the middle of the night, dealing with

emergencies), I had done without my realizing it or giving myself credit.

I learned that being strong and independent doesn't necessarily mean doing it all.

Most things in life do require a "village," and there are few people who can do everything themselves. It's OK to ask for and accept help. Most people are eager to give it.

We all have our limits (apparently mine are maggots and chinch bugs), and it's best if we know them. That's the true makings of a strong military wife.

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– Sarah

Smiley's syndicated column Shore Duty appears weekly in newspapers across the country.

Military Payday Loans

By Keith George

Like other people, active and ex military persons also need money to meet their needs. There are varieties of military loans available. One of them is the payday loan.

Military persons can use this loan to pay grocery payments, to complete incomplete projects or to pay utility bills. Military persons can get military payday loans at a comparatively lower rate and with favorable terms and conditions.

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Here are some suggestions to profit from military payday loans.

The appropriate time to apply for a military payday loan is when you feel that you are in temporary deficit of funds and you see that only a short term payday loan can help you overcome the problem.

Some situations when you find yourself in financial problem:

1. When you have to pay for an unexpected expenditure, which is not planned in your monthly budget.
2. When in the last days of month you have got multiple bills due and your salary is not enough to cover it.
3. In case of some medical emergency, which cannot wait for your payday.

Here are some facts, which you should know if you want to take advantage of a military payday loan.

You are qualified to get a military payday loan even if you are retired. The only criteria is that you have to be currently employed for at least three months.

Before applying for a military payday loan you should be confirmed that your monthly income should not be less than \$1000 and that you have a current checking account. After verification of a military payday loan your requested amount will be transferred into your current checking account and you will be noticed by email or by a phone call.

Some points to know after you have been qualified for a military payday loan:

Rate of interest varies from 20%–30% of the amount borrowed. Always make a search on your own to get the military payday loan at comparatively lower rate of interest. You can even use the internet to browse official sites of different companies providing military payday loans. After comparing the interest rates choose the one, which is providing you the lowest rate of interest.

Keith George always writes about valuable news & reviews. A related resource is

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