

# The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



## Highs and "Lowes" of Being a Military Family

A few weeks ago, I drove to the Mission Viejo library to pick up an item that I had put on hold. Since it happened to be Memorial Day weekend there were large banners displayed along the main walkway from the parking lot to the Library area of local heroes who had given their life in serving our country.

Now that our boys are both serving in the military, I find that I have a greater appreciation for the sacrifice that these men and women have made. It affects me in a deeper way than it did before.

As I walked by each banner, I noted the branch of service and rank of each fallen service member, along with their age and home town.

I got choked up as I read the quotes of what their family members chose to say about them to honor their memory.

I have conflicting emotions around Memorial Day. The day itself is a somber day of reflecting on those who have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy.

On the other hand, Memorial Day weekend evokes fond memories as both of our boys graduated and commissioned from their respective academies on Memorial Day weekend two years ago.

Since then, Jen and I have been getting a taste of the challenges of being a military family.

Jacob, our Navy son, has moved 3 times in the last 11 months and may be moving again in the next four weeks.

Joshua, our Army son, is currently stationed in Italy. While it sounds glamorous, the nature of his role prevented him from taking any leave over the holidays.

As a result, he hasn't been home in over a year.

This is all part of the military life. We know this. Still, we're getting used to the reality that life is different. We just don't have the same opportunities to see our boys as we have in the past and we're unsure when we might all be together again as a family.

That's why Jen and I were thrilled to be able to visit Joshua in Italy last month.

Naturally, we did some fun travel stuff while we were there. One highlight was spending a couple of days in Capri,

where we were able to celebrate both Joshua's birthday and our 32nd anniversary.

A lot of what we did though was just spending time with Joshua in his environment - getting a picture of what life is like for him.



*One of the highlights was celebrating Joshua's birthday and our anniversary in Capri. And the food was amazing.*

We went to dinner with the family of one of the other Lieutenants Joshua is close to. This family has been so kind to invite Joshua into their home to celebrate holidays with them so he wouldn't be alone.

We attended a Worship service on the base where we met a number of the chaplains and other soldiers who are a part of Joshua's company. It was a brief glimpse into his spiritual life in Vicenza.

Our time was rich with many conversations and cherished memories, but as is often the case with loved ones, the time went by far too quickly.

When people learn that our sons are serving in the military, they will often remark that we must be very proud of them.

Yes, we're proud of our boys and their service. But we're more proud of the men they are becoming and the character they are developing.

Military life is challenging. There is a lot of transition. People come in and out of your life. Moving is the norm.

It's particularly difficult for people like Joshua, a young adult who's single living overseas with no family nearby.

One of the reasons Jen and I are committed to ministering to Young Adults is because of the gap in ministry to this audience in the American Evangelical church. It turns out that this same ministry gap exists overseas in the military. It is

simply more difficult to find a good strong spiritual community overseas if you are a young single.

We're so thankful for you, our ministry partners and your commitment with us to help bridge this gap in ministering to Young Adults.

We would greatly appreciate your prayers for us and for our boys, who are navigating life as Young adults while serving in the military!

*Love,  
Dave & Jen*