

“Why I Am Proud to Be An American Soldier.”  
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Why am I proud to be an American soldier? Well, for that matter, why are any of you proud? Is it not obvious? Obvious that we are all on one team, serving the greatest nation in the world. A nation founded on the strongest of moral beliefs and values. A nation that so many turn to for help, a home and most importantly, freedom.

For me, being an American soldier isn't about the great medical care or college opportunities. It's not about the pay or nearly unbeatable retirement benefits. Or even the opportunity to travel around the world. There is much more to it than all that. It's about the honor to serve this great country. The bravery it takes to defend our borders against all enemies. The respect you receive from all the free citizens of this country who support you through the long fight. The confidence you develop from doing what very few Americans have the courage to do. And the determination you feel to protect your friends, family, fellow soldiers, fellow Americans and all others who look toward this country for hope, freedom and equal opportunity.

So I stand up here face with a question; why am I proud to be an American soldier? Let me tell you this; I am proud because every day I wake up in the morning knowing that I help keep this country alive, that what I do makes a difference. Knowing that this country would not exist without people like us. Knowing that freedom, democracy and the Constitution would all collapse without a strong military force to protect them. And knowing that anyone can watch the news and support or even judge and criticize what we do but only we have the courage, bravery, determination, and pride to get the job done. Only we are willing to make the tough decisions, to work the long hours, and make the sacrifice that is necessary to defend a country that millions call home. Because we are American soldiers and that's our job, our way of life.

So now I'll ask you...why are you proud? Or better yet...why wouldn't you be proud to be an American soldier? Proud to serve this country and everything it represents. Because that's what being an American soldier is all about.