

Student's name

Instructor's name

Course

Date

The Meaning of Freedom

I joined the military in 2006 to improve my life and my future, because I was still uncertain what I wanted in life. But later on, I figured out what it really meant to serve your country. When I was deployed, I wore my uniform and acted like an American soldier! Without those who serve and protect the country, we would not have the power or right to act, speak, or think as we wanted without hindrance or restraint. Like President Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Other than to improve my life and my future, I also joined the military to show my patriotism and discover new opportunities. There are basically numerous reasons for joining the military. In some countries, people do it simply because they want to; while in other countries, it is a necessity, and certain individuals must become part of the military even if they have other plans. When I joined, I felt confident, positive, and hopeful. I was happy because I was going to serve my country. Based on my service in the military, I can say that freedom means acting on your own free will without any form of outside influence.

When I began training as a new recruit, I had very little free time. We had to learn how to obey the orders coming from our commanding officers. The military's mission, which is

freedom, has not changed for a long time, but the environment in which the military fights to achieve that mission keeps changing due to evolving threats (Dursa *et al.*, 2016). Furthermore, the national leaders have applauded the efficiency of the military in advancing freedom. For our nation to fully enjoy its freedom, we essentially had to defend its citizens and the nation at large from any emerging threats.

One way in which we demonstrated our patriotism towards our nation was by defending its citizens from fear. We never stopped fighting against terrorists, and since such groups take advantage of unstable environments, we had to be very vigilant. These groups capitalize on environments with no tight security in place, no hope, no advancement, and no strong governments (Suzuki & Kawakami, 2016). To counter such threats, there must be strong security, a powerful government, and national development. In this case, security is important because it propels the establishment of governance necessary for the nation's success.

Another major contributing factor to a nation's security and freedom is the economic success (Suzuki & Kawakami, 2016). However, this economic success is not just for the United States, but also the global system. Being members of the military, we had an indirect role in achieving freedom here too, primarily by defending the strength of the global economy. For instance, the US military supports the transfer of energy, and also the consignment of goods over the sea. The Navy is charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the trade routes for international commerce. Serving our nation also meant that we played a direct role in making sure that the human rights and basic democratic tenets that had been approved by the United Nations were being upheld.

Works cited

Dursa, E. K., Barth, S. K., Bossarte, R. M., & Schneiderman, A. I. *Demographic, Military, and Health Characteristics of VA Health Care Users and Nonusers Who Served in or during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom*. Public Health Reports, 131(6), 839-843, 2016.

Suzuki, M., & Kawakami, A. *US Military Service Members' Reintegration, Culture, and Spiritual Development*. Qualitative Report, 21(11), 2016.