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獨立不是孤獨

有人說，當兵可以讓一個男孩變成男人，起初我並不懂得其中的意義，以為就像軍教片一般，每日有做不完的操練，出不完的苦差事，聽著排長班長破口大罵，然後光榮退伍。老想不懂接受這些所謂的磨練就真的能長大成熟嗎？所以當我搭乘火車前往新訓單位時，心中忐忑不安的心情真是無法形容。

還記得當我接到兵單時，從睡夢中驚醒過來，雖然知道該來的總會來，但我卻不禁焦急緊張起來。踏上前往當兵生涯中的第一站「成功嶺」的火車上，心中真是百感交集，雖然大夥們似乎輕鬆的模樣，但我知道每個人對於未知的目的地都懷著不安吧！到成功嶺後，是一連串的準備工作，從理髮到領取日常用品，雖然這些都是生活中的瑣事，但是那裡都變成大事一般，壓迫的感覺令我喘不過氣來，連晚餐都無法下嚥。在新訓時每天最期待的就是吃飯時間及就寢，在連續操課後，肚子餓到連整頭牛都吞的下去，而睡覺時間也是唯一可以完全放鬆休息的時刻，當時體會到能夠依照自己的意思安排過生活是一件多麼幸福的事。最有趣的是，懇親會時學長帶來了一桶肯德雞外帶全家餐，咬到一口後，心中充滿感動，真沒想到竟然如此美味啊！新訓時常在去打靶的路上，累的滿頭大汗時，不自覺地望向天空看著柔軟如綿絮的白雲襯著藍天，才發覺竟是如此的美，原來單純的幸福其實唾手可得。

結束新訓後，我抽到多數人認為很爽的單位—南巡局。受訓的單位在屏東加祿堂，在那裡我對於海巡署的工作性質以及重要性，有了多一層的認識與了解，一連串的法律課程與專業知識教育，也為我開拓了新的視野。快樂的受訓生活結束之後，我終於下到一線，一個可以將我所學的專業知識技巧應用之處，也為我當兵生涯展開另外一個新

Being independent does not equal to being lonely

Some say that serving in the military helps to turn a boy into manhood. At first, I do not quite understand what it means, thinking that it is no different than a military teaching film, with what seems like endless daily drills, and never-ending tough chores, listening to the platoon leader's shouting sessions, and then discharged honorably. I could not figure out why undergoing the so-called roughing would truly turn one to grow up and mature? So on the way that I boarded the train and headed for the new recruit training unit, the uneasy feeling I felt inside was beyond words.

Still recall when I first received the enlisting list, I was rudely reawaken from my dreams, and knowing that the inevitable would always come, I still could not help but feeling anxious. Boarding the train bound for the first stop of fulfilling my national service "Chenkung Ling", I really had a multitude of feelings surged up in the heart. Other guys of my group appeared to be relaxed, but I knew everyone was feeling uneasy about the unknown destination! Upon our arrival at "Chenkung Ling", there were a series of preparations from hair-cutting to receiving daily supplies. Though all of these were daily trifles, they became something like significant events, pressuring me hard to breathe and even difficult to swallow anything for the dinner. During the new recruit training, what we expected most everyday were the chowtime and the bedtime. I sometimes felt so hungry after non-stop training ended that I could swallow the whole cattle; sleeping hours were also the only moment we could fully relax and rest. At that time, I realized that what a happy thing it would be if I could arrange my own life as I desire. One of the interesting things as I recalled was the Kentucky fried chicken my senior classmates brought to me at parent-teacher meeting, and I never thought it was so tasty. In the new recruit training, I was always sweating a lot on the way to the shooting range; one time I suddenly found out the sky was so beautiful and simple happiness was actually so easily won when I unconsciously looked on the white cloud lined with the blue sky

Upon concluding my boot camp training, I have drawn my placement for going to the Southern Coastal Patrol Office that everyone though was a cool unit. With my training boot camp in Pintung's Jialutang, it was there I learned of the nature and importance of the Coast Guard, gaining further knowledge and understanding. A series of legal courses and professional education and training had helped to

的里程。說實在的，回想起當時還很『菜』的時候，處在陌生的環境，有著一堆完全不熟悉的勤務要學，爲了能盡快融入安檢所的生活，也爲了能更快銜接勤務的交接，所長及學長們也依照慣例採用緊迫盯人的方式，無時無刻以審核的眼神默默看著我的一言一行。當時在那裡的生活直讓我覺得好像活在地獄一般，加上海巡的勤務要求，每日作息無法正常，常在睡夢中驚醒，深怕站哨時間已到卻睡過頭。心理壓力加上身體的疲倦，心中不斷吶喊，如此生活可有止盡之時，怨恨是誰說過海巡是個爽單位。儘管如此，媽媽依舊替我打氣，告訴我這只是一時的，撐過去就好了，現在想起來真是苦了母親，常常得接受我任意地傾倒情緒垃圾。

這樣的生活持續不久後，我接受士官訓，其中也對海巡身爲執法人員有更深的體會，並以能夠發揮所學爲人民服務而感到光榮，更以身爲一個下士而砥礪自己，回到一線後，努力學習並調適自己。的確，當能夠勇敢認真地正視自己的恐懼，並嘗試去克服困難，挑戰自我時，一切的辛苦都有了代價，自己的想法也更加成熟。在執勤時常常得碰到只有獨自一人，無所倚靠，必須自己解決問題的時候，雖然起先都會全身顫抖，呼吸困難，但是只要硬著頭皮，漸漸的也在其中找到了依循的法則，當好不容易完成工作後，雖然累但是內心卻更加堅強勇敢。

現在離退伍剩下兩個多月，看著身邊的人來來往往，新進的學弟從惶恐不安變成駕輕就熟，心裡著替他們高興，我想就算困難重重，只要不氣餒，不要被內心的惡魔蠱惑或者打敗，虛心請教資深的前輩，耐著性子按部就班的去做，在失敗中不斷修正自己，調適自己及做事的方式，一定可以找出最有效率的方式去克服每一次的艱難挑戰！有人說當兵可以讓一個男孩變成男人，說來真有道理，另外當兵還可以交到可以共同患難共同成長的好友、夥伴呢！加入海巡署，不見得可以輕鬆過日子，但是卻可以加快讓一個人能夠獨自去面對困難危險，並對於處理事物的態度與方法也會更加圓融與更有成效。

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expand my horizon. Following the joyous training, it was finally time for me to report to my placement, where I could apply the professional knowledge and skills I had learned, setting off a new milestone in my military career. Honestly, recalling when I was still a rookie, being in a strange environment, and having what seemed endless duties to learn, the director and senior officers had pushed us to the limit and watched our every move, only to assimilate us quickly into the routine of the security office, and accelerate our skills for taking over the jobs. The hell-like orientation experience, coupled with Coast Guard duty demands, had deprived me of my normal routine, kept me awake at night for fear of oversleeping when came the time for me to serve the guard post duty. Though with psychological pressure and physical fatigue and my screaming inside as to why these hellish days would be over soon, I did try to convince myself that this was only temporary and it would soon be over. Now came to think of it, it was my mom that endured the toughest experience, whom I often unrelentingly unloaded my emotional burden to.

With this kind of routine lasting not very long, I received junior officer training, which had brought me to a closer understanding of being a law enforcement officer with the Coast Guard, and feeling proud that I was able to apply what I have learned in servicing the people, but proud to become a corporal. Upon returning to my company, I worked hard to learn and adjust myself. Indeed, being able to courageously and truthfully confront one's fear, and attempting to overcome the obstacle for self challenge had made every hard work worthwhile, and perfecting one's thoughts alone the way as well. When doing the duty alone, one tended to need to rely on oneself to resolve the problem being that there was no one to count on, which might begun with tremble, rapid breath, but one tended to be able to overcome the fear by rising to the situation for deriving a set of doctrines to follow. At the moment when the work is finally done, though tired I felt somehow stronger and more courageous in my heart.

Now with a little over two months from discharging, watching the people around me coming and going and observing how new recruits have changed from being nervous, uncertain to being experienced and skillful have brought joy to my heart. I do believe that even though with difficulties, as long as one does not give up, or being confused or defeated by the devil in one's heart, by enlisting help from your senior and going about things step by step to constantly adjust oneself through failure and adjust one's way of doing things, one will eventually find the most efficient way to conquer every tough challenge that lies ahead. Some say that serving in the military helps to turn a boy into manhood, which does hold certain truth. Moreover, serving the military duty also lends the opportunity to make enduring good friends and partners that last a lifetime. Joining the Coast Guard does not necessarily mean having an easier life, yet it quickens the pace for one to deal with difficulties and hardship independently, and become smoother and more effective in approaching and dealing with things in general.

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