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Writing in the Liberal Arts and Sciences II

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                                                                                                           Self in Context Draft

      The effects of war are most expressed in the larger context with the deeper impacts rarely addressed. While it is true that war impacts on the overall society, the costs differ among the impacted parties. Although I have never had a first-hand experience of the war, I survived one of the most testing experiences when my mother left the U.S to attend to her duties in the military. While it is not everybody that have come close to issues related to war, everyone has their worries when issues of war are raised. That emanates from the fact that war is associated with deaths, injuries, property destruction as well as loss of property.

      When my mother left the U.S to attend to her duties in the Air force in August 2013, I was in my second year of study at high school. As a child of a single parent, I had lived with my mother in Carolina since my childhood. I attended school in Carolina since my pre-school years and was attending a day school in the same neighborhood when my mother left. I had formed a close relationship with my neighbors in the place I had known as home since I was a child. With good friends in home and also at school, I managed to succeed both in school and at the community level. My mother, on the other hand, was my leading motivator and influenced most of my decisions in my life. We maintained a close relationship where I was always open to her and she always encouraged and guided me in my daily activities. It was her new call to attend to her duties in a foreign country that changed everything.

      Firstly, I was forced to change my resident and school where I moved in a new neighborhood in Texas. In the new town, I lived with my aunt, a neighborhood that was very different in respect to cultural composition and orderliness. I joined a new school that had poor services both for education purposes and sporting activities. The challenge of coping with new neighborhood and looking for new friends both at school and at my new home impacted my life adversely. The adverse impact was evidenced by a significant decline in my academic performance. Whenever faced with normal challenges on a daily life, I lacked someone whom I would share with as my mother was no longer with me. I had not developed trust with my aunt and I therefore, found it hard to share my personal feelings with her.

      Throughout the day and most instances at night, I experienced worrying thoughts of the possibility of the worst happening to my mother. The worrying thoughts were influenced mostly by emerging news of some fallen American soldiers in Afghanistan War. While the fallen heroes were accorded national respect, the level of fear was significant for those of us with members of their families on the battlefield. This worry impacted my concentration at the school and was even worried about my future. While I always dreamed of joining an institute of higher learning since I was in my elementary school, I almost lost hope due to my deteriorating academic performance. Luckily, the federal government put an end to the military mission in Afghanistan the following year when I was in my third year in high school and I eventually reunited with my mother.