

Book

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SPECIAL PROJECTS

ON MILITARY TIME

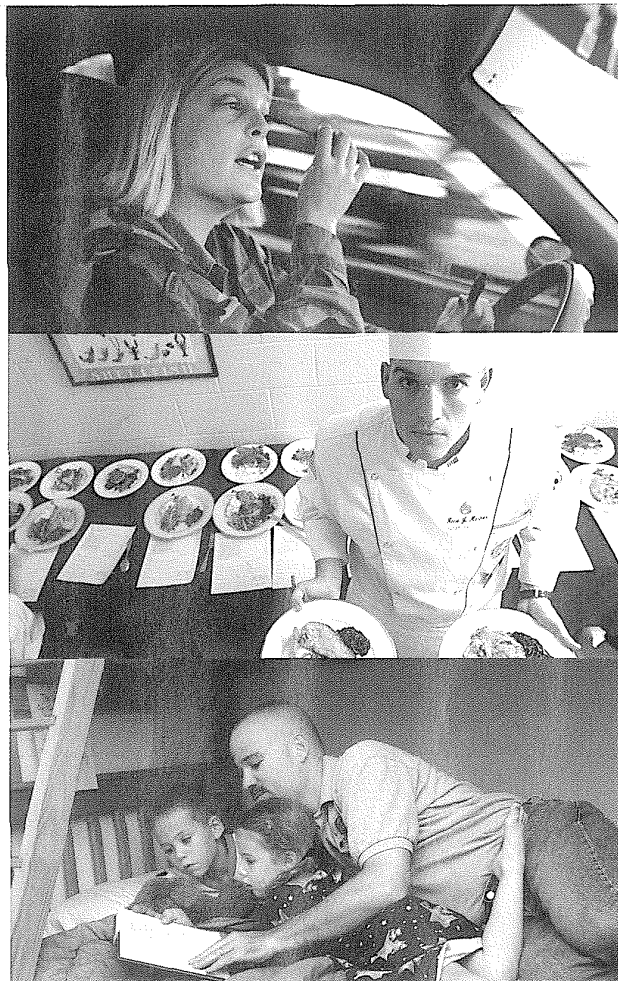
Last October, 125 photographers tackled one of the biggest assignments ever conceived

FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED SERVICES, October 22, 2002, was just another Tuesday. But for 125 photographers who were scattered throughout each of the military's bases, installations and centers of operations, it was a chance to take part in one of the most ambitious photographic projects ever attempted. *A Day in the Life of the United States Armed Forces* is an hour-by-hour document of America's global military machine and the latest title in a long-standing series of "day in the life" picture books. It will be in stores by May 13.

There are a few shots of jets flying in formation and warships in their docks—but that kind of thing, **Matthew Naythons** points out, certainly isn't the focus of the book. Naythons is a medical doctor, a seasoned war photographer and the book's chief creator. "The story really is about the men and women," he says, "and the men and women who support the men and women, the families. The heart and soul of the armed forces."

One photojournalist got stuck on the Aleutian island of Attu—where the Coast Guard maintains a station and where transport planes arrive only once every two weeks—but according to Naythons the overall project went very smoothly. The key to success, he says, lies in the quality of the photographers. "You choose a small corps of the world's finest, and it becomes an Olympics of photography.... It's that competition that drives these books."

—Eric Wetzel



BUZZ CALLS Shots from *A Day in the Life of the United States Armed Forces*