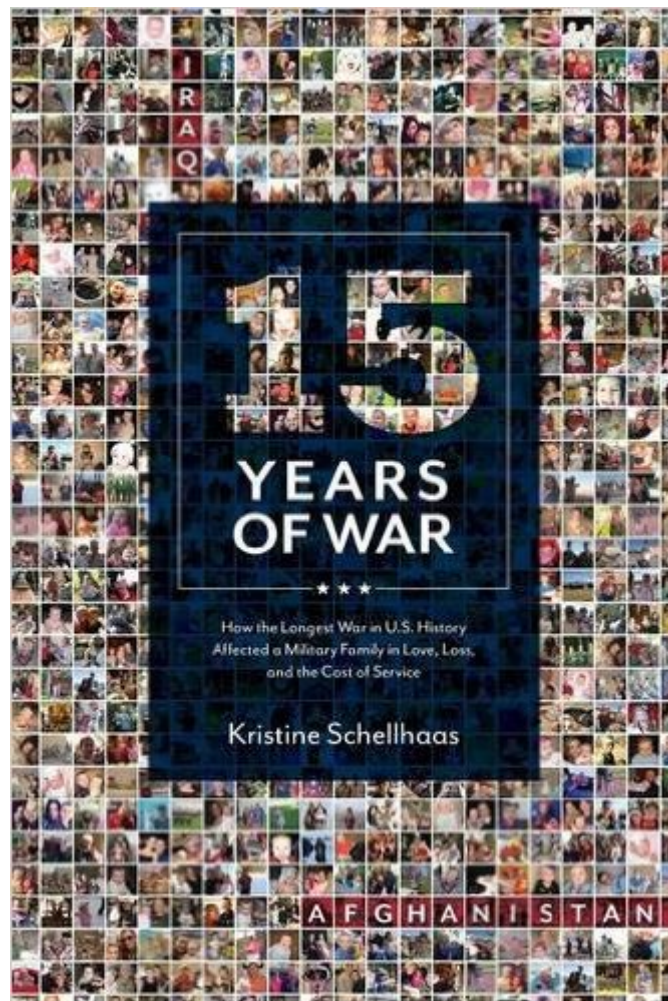


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# 15 Years Of War: How The Longest War In U.S. History Affected A Military Family In Love, Loss, And The Cost Of Service



## Synopsis

Less than 1% of our nation will ever serve in our armed forces, leaving many to wonder what life is really like for military families. He answers the call of duty in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Pacific; she keeps the home fires burning. Worlds apart, and in the face of indescribable grief, their relationship is pushed to the limits. *15 Years of War: How the Longest War in U.S. History Affected a Military Family in Love, Loss, and the Cost Of Service* provides a unique he said/she said perspective on coping with war in modern-day America. It reveals a true account of how a dedicated Marine and his equally committed spouse faced unfathomable challenges and achieved triumph, from the days just before 9/11 through 15 years of training workups, deployments, and other separations. This story of faith, love, and resilience offers insight into how a decade and a half of war has redefined what it means to be a military family.

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Life Publishing; First edition (June 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0997090804

ISBN-13: 978-0997090802

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #230,103 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Military Families](#) #109 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Afghan & Iraq Wars > Iraq War](#) #140 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Afghan & Iraq Wars > Afghan War](#)

## Customer Reviews

I looked forward to reading this autobiography of the life of a Marine Corps officer and his activist wife. They creatively tell the story of their marriage and his military service with back-and-forth sections and chapters from both of their perspectives. This is highlighted with the inclusion of their correspondence through the segments of time they were separated from each other due to his training and deployments. The first part of the book is a love story between two starry-eyed lovers. It almost feels like you are reading a Captain America movie script with his girlfriend, Betsy Ross, who became the superheroine Golden Girl. But this isn't a movie script and neither of these authors

are superheroes. Tragedy enters their story, not as a plot point, but as a life-altering reality. How they walked through the threats to their lives, marriage, and military commitment is inspiring and challenging. There is no sugar-coating in this book. Both Kristine and Ross Schellhaas pull no punches as they describe the realities of military life, deployments, loss of life, family drama, each other, and themselves. There are things for all readers to reflect on after reading this memoir - whether it be about personal relationships, family and military life, and the cost of war. I hope that many people will take the time to engage in this family's story. The Department of Defense conducted a security review of this book and approved it for release.

I just finished *15 Years of War: How the Longest War in US History Affected a Military Family in Love, Loss, and the Cost of Service* by Kristine Schellhaas. It is amazing! What an inspiration to milspouses! The book is her memoir about her experiences as a military family. All the good and bad, triumphs, and struggles. It is wonderfully written and includes letters back and forth with her husband, her real struggles, and the resiliency that pulled her through! She is one tough cookie - an advocate for military families - speaking for our rights! I am just blown away by how accurate it is to the milfam life today. She is even featured in *Military Spouse Magazine* this month! Pick this book up! Highly suggest it!!

Because of the fact that only 1% of our population serves in our armed forces, the general public just does not understand the sacrifices our military members AND their families make and endure on a daily basis. This book gives the reader an up close and personal look at the daily lives of those who serve and those who keep the home fires burning, awaiting their return. It will be an eye opener for most readers and will give them a new appreciation of our service members and their families. I hope it will be read, discussed, and shared by many.

*15 years of War* captures both sides of the war. War is not limited to a battlefield. It's not just "over there." This memoir shows the true triumphs and struggles of an American Military Family as they each navigate their own battles. Kristine Schellhaas inspires me everyday. I will never forget her story. I will never forget what she has taught me about forgiveness, about perseverance, about love. This is a story of tenacity, keeping the family together, keeping home-fires burning. Kristine's husband fights for our nation while his wife fights for military families. She stands up for what is right and for what should be done. She is never afraid to take a stand, even if it is not popular. Every military wife should read this book to see how we can inspire from the home front and to see what

our men go through during war. Every civilian should read this book so they know just how strong military families are. Mollie Gross author Confessions of a Military Wife

15 Years of War is a wonderful story of life, love and the true resilience of one military family. The author does a remarkable job filling in these blanks in our heads between email exchanges and commentary that she and Ross have. These conversations aren't just about the war, but the entire family's life across the 15 years. When a military member is away, they miss lots of firsts – not just first steps and holidays, but first baseball games, first ice cream cones, first visits to grandma's house. It can take its toll on the servicemember, who can feel left out, but this book does a good job showcasing how spouses help compensate for the absences. This book isn't just Kristine's point of view on the war, it presents a unique he said/she said perspective. While the reader learns what is going on emotionally with Kristine at home in Camp Pendleton, Ross chimes in with narration from the war front. The dichotomy is a phenomenal bipartisan editorial. It isn't meant to stir pro-war sentiments, but instead, share the trials and tribulations a family endures when they sacrifice to support our country. This book isn't a "How to" for new military spouses. Instead, it is a perfect glimpse into one family's life without edit or pixie dust. It is raw and real, and just what anyone who knows someone in the military wants to really read. It isn't the Hollywood version of the military lifestyle. It's the real, " Murphy's law strikes every time " version. I encourage anyone who is connected by love to a servicemember to pick up this book and read it. If you have a friend, sister, brother, cousin, or child who is madly in love with a uniform, buy this book for them as well. It isn't the how to be a perfect spouse, but it is how one family did it, and it is the truth. For more on my review, visit 1200 Miles Away

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