

Name:

Day Two

Serving Their Country, Losing Their Children

Part 1: Tricky phrases and words

→ Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- The U.S. Army creed says
- Tanya is a member of the National Guard
- She tried in vain
- But because she could still be called overseas
- that protects soldiers serving overseas

- soldiers **SOHL** | jerz
- mission **MIH** | shun
- National Guard **NASH** | un | al **GARD**
- custody **KUS** | tuh | dee



Decoding practice:

- Underline the vowel combo in the words below
- Write a long vowel sign $\bar{\quad}$ above the first vowel in the vowel combo
- Put a slash / through the second vowel in the vowel combo

Then read the word to your partner. Make the first vowel long (it says its name).
Make the second vowel silent. The first one has been done for you.

creed

raised

vain

goal

mean

lead



Day Two

// one minute

Serving Their Country, Losing Their Children

Part 2: Last read

WPM _____

Today, many U.S. soldiers are parents. The U.S. Army creed says, “I will always place the mission first.” Some soldiers have found that carrying out their mission can lead to losing a child.

Tanya is a member of the National Guard. While her son was young, her Guard postings were in the U.S. But when he was 11, Tanya got new orders: she was being sent to Iraq. 49
 While she was gone, her ex-husband went to court. He wanted custody of their son. 68
 When Tanya came home, the boy she had raised was gone. She told her story on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. “It was like someone ripping my heart out,” she said. 84 101 114

Tanya tried to show the judge that she was a good mother. She tried in vain. The judge said that she *was* a good mother. But because she could still be called overseas, the judge gave custody to the father. 132 149 154

Vanessa is another military mom. When Vanessa’s son was 14, she was sent to serve in Afghanistan. One day, she got chilling news. She told *CBS News*, “I had gotten an email from my son’s father that says, ‘You need to get a lawyer. I’m not sending your son back to you.’” 170 186 204 206

State law sets rules about custody. Most states do not protect soldiers in custody battles. 221
 Some soldiers now have a goal: they want a federal law that protects soldiers serving overseas. They say serving your country should not mean losing your child. 236 248

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Should parents who fight overseas always get their children back after they serve?

Talk to your partner about your answer. What did your partner say?
