



Katherine O'Connell, Military Spouse – Mother of 4 – Hospitality Professional. Falling head over heels, I married my Air Force Spouse on a beautiful sunny day in June. As they tapped me on the backside of my wedding gown and welcomed me to the Air Force family, the furthest thing from my mind, was how I was going to maintain employment. Several years later, I would make a decision to leave the workforce instead of fighting the system. In 2012, I was fortunate enough to align with an employer who has stuck it out with me through 5 PCSs. When I was told we were heading to Italy, I was sure this would be the final chapter in my employment story, but to my surprise, my employer still kept me in place. Little did I know the decision to keep me in place and to work from overseas would start a 3-year journey to hide my employment....

I would welcome the opportunity to share my story and to help shape policy so others can learn and grow from my experiences.