

MILITARY SPOUSE[®]

SIMPLIFYING YOUR CRAZY, WONDERFUL MILITARY LIFE

HOMEFRONT HOLIDAY

5 SIMPLE IDEAS
FOR YOUR
MILITARY
HOME



DECEMBER 2018



MARIA REED
ARMY SPOUSE
OWNER OF MOVING
WITH THE MILITARY

**DECIDING
TO GEOBACH**
IT WORKED FOR
OUR FAMILY

A CUP OF JOE
A LOOK INSIDE OUR LOVE
AFFAIR WITH COFFEE



Amy Millican
Founder
Flyga Twiga

On Safari

How one military spouse built her business around her passion for wildlife conservation.

By Kait Hanson, *Army Spouse*

**FLYGA: SWEDISH: FLYING
TWIGA: SWAHILI: GIRAFFE**

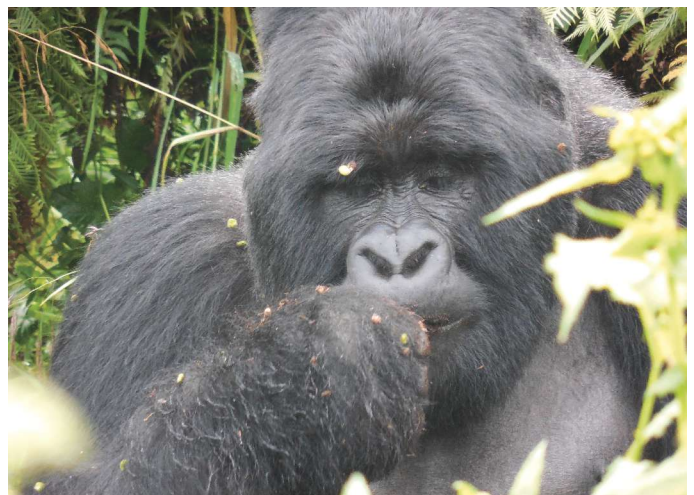


Military spouses are a creative bunch, but not many can lay claim to owning a businesses that is quite like the one Amy Millican owns. Flyga Twiga, Amy's company, is a personal safari service and consultancy with offices in North America and Asia.

"I am keenly aware that for some, Africa may seem like one of the most daunting places to travel," Amy explained. "My business fulfills my belief that by bringing passionate travelers into the vast national parks and reserves, local communities will flourish."

In 2014, Amy, a Navy Reserve spouse, combined her educational background in nonprofits and human rights with her passion for sustainable tourism and wildlife conservation to launch Flyga Twiga. It's a travel company that helps clients plan the safari trips they have always envisioned.

"Wildlife conservation is only possible when the value of these magnificent creatures is understood as part of sustainable tourism and international development," said Amy.





A TRAILBLAZER

Amy believes that part of owning and operating a successful business as a military spouse means learning how to be flexible and having the courage to forge your own path. And, as an entrepreneurial spouse, Amy is no stranger to unexpected wins disguised as obstacles.

"Seven months after I had started my personal safari service and consultancy business, my husband was offered a chance to take a billet in South Korea," Amy said. "Being open to the challenge of this new assignment afforded my business access to new opportunities, some of which I could not have even imagined."

When Amy introduced herself and her business to the Republic of Kenya's Embassy in Seoul, they immediately asked if she would help run their travel shows. It was an unexpected and unforeseen opportunity.

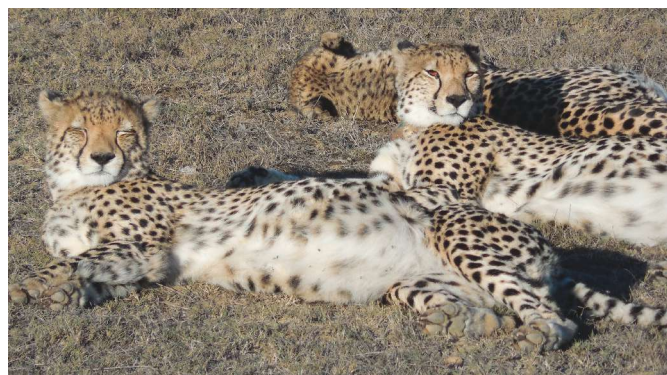
"This business proposal came because of my flexibility as a military spouse," said Amy. "Openings for business and personal growth will present themselves, your strength as a military spouse is saying 'Yes' when they appear."

Part of what Amy enjoys about her job as a consultant is that each day is different and affords her the opportunity to plan a client safari from conceptualization to completion, developing a special connection to clients as they work together to create a dream trip. Planning international travel in an evolving world requires dedicated research.

"...successful entrepreneurs know the necessity of explaining what sets them apart," Amy said. "Each year, I plan my business calendar well in advance around travel shows and expos. These are vital to my business to keep up to date with industry news and my in-country partners."

At the end of the day, Amy said the best part of her job is working with clients who share her passion for sustainable tourism and wildlife conservation.

"When I began my business, I had a dream of helping clients plan the safaris they envisioned," she said. "Flyga Twiga fulfills this vision by helping clients discover what they truly want to see through personalized travel planning while allowing me to share my passion." ★



DO YOU DREAM OF AFRICA?

Amy likes to prepare her clients with the knowledge they need to maximize their time in Africa, yet temper their expectations for what they might see on a safari.

"It is imperative for those looking to go on safari to Africa to filter through their preconceived notions, or childhood fantasies, before planning a safari," Amy explained. "While I love watching wildlife documentaries about Africa, I also remind my clients, often five minutes of animal footage can be days of filming. Similarly, no two safaris are the same, nor should they be... each safari is a unique, magical experience, like Africa itself."

Visit flygatwiga.com to learn more about Amy and her business.