



Along The Road

*words and music
by John Dandrea*

Hmmm. This song was written about being far away from home for a very long time, when I was in the Army and assigned to Germany for nearly 4 years. By the time I made a visit back to the States, and saw my friends and family, I was a bit shocked. It was difficult to feel like I fit in at all - I didn't have anything in common with any of my old friends anymore, and everyone was also busy with their lives and had trouble planning any time to get together.

To make it worse, there were many cultural differences that bothered me now. Instead of walking everywhere, we took a car even to a store several blocks away. We seemed so much more wasteful than our european neighbors; and TV - all of a sudden commercials were blasting other products by name, and it seemed so crude and wrong. I was in shock alright.

Looking back, there was a sharp contrast in the way that we socialized in the Army - living and working together in a tight unit structure, we were much more likely to go out and socialize together when we lived in a foreign country. Coming back home for a visit after a long period of time away was a disappointing experience in respect to feeling like I still belonged there at all. I guess I had really moved on, and I was living a very different kind of life in those days. Ultimately, I returned home for good and settled down to a "normal" life again, many years later. But it's fun to look back on many of those different and exotic days!

-John

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