



Overview for Commands

What: For separated military families who value the benefits of one-on-one time together, United Through Reading provides an optimum opportunity for powerful emotional connections that relieve the stress of separation by having deployed parents read aloud to children via DVD. Deployed military participants send the recording and a copy of the book home (if the military member owns the book) to the child who watches the DVD repeatedly providing a priceless and sustained connection with the deployed loved one. Feedback in the form of pictures, letters, email, or videotape of the child watching the parent read is then sent back to the deployed parent to complete a full circle of communication.

When: During deployments or post assignments when military personnel are separated from their families.

Who: United Through Reading Military Program is available to any deployed military service member with a child in his/her life (e.g., younger sibling, younger niece or nephew, grandchild). To date the program has served over 200,000 military personnel and their family members.

Where: Our goal is to expand the program to provide all deployed military service members the opportunity to realize the multiple lifetime benefits of reading aloud with children. To view our current list of available program site locations (updated monthly), please visit our website: www.unitedthroughreading.org.

Why: Reading aloud with children has been shown to be the single best predictor of a child's future academic success. It also strengthens the bond between adult and child and provides a bridge for communication and sharing. Command climate is enhanced by offering this program for all personnel to participate in throughout deployments.



United Through Reading provides: Training materials & program resources for Active Duty and Homefront Coordinators, daily program support throughout deployment.

COMMAND ROLE: Get started early! 3-4 months prior to your anticipated deployment date assign a Command Liaison POC to contact a United Through Reading® Program Manager (military@unitedthroughreading.org) or call 1.858.481.7323 to request the program for your command.

Additional Command Responsibilities:

- ❖ Select an Active Duty Coordinator and Homefront Coordinator to run the program
- ❖ Supply Recording Equipment (**if starting a new site**)
- ❖ Report feedback at end of deployment