

Statement of Impact

What is UTR? United Through Reading (UTR), a nonprofit organization, eases the fear, uncertainty and anxiety felt by children in military families by offering military parents who are away from their families the opportunity to be video-recorded reading storybooks aloud to their children at home.

Today, service members can read from nearly 200 recording locations, which include nearly 50 participating USOs and individual commands or units deployed around the globe. More than 100,000 beneficiaries were served in 2014.

Please take a moment to see for yourself how United Through Reading supports military families:

- [Boblett family video](#)
- [Guess How Much I Love You from around the world](#)



How do I know this program works?

Survey research among UTR participants shows:

- Nearly 88% said that the recordings helped the service member feel connected
- More than 81% said that the recordings reduced their children's anxiety about the deployment
- More than 78% reported that their child's interest in reading increased

Survey evaluations at USO host-sites during Operation Enduring Freedom show that UTR:

- The highest rated program offered at USOs, with 90% of participants rating it "extremely valuable", the highest score when compared to 12 other USO services
- The highest rated program offered at USOs in terms of "satisfaction" with more than 81% of Active Duty and families who used the program being "very satisfied", the highest score when compared to 12 other USO services
- The portion of respondents who rate UTR as "extremely valuable" and the portion who report being "very satisfied" has increased each year

Who is this program for? Any service member who is separated from his or her family.

How established is this program? UTR has served nearly two million beneficiaries over 25 years in all branches of service and was invited to be a part of the White House's Joining Forces national initiative.

What are the program costs?

- Costs United Through Reading covers: Training, program support, promotional materials, onsite children's library of 25 classic titles, 50 DVDs and mailers, books for participants, and, in some cases, equipment donations.
- Cost to a military unit of 500: Less than \$1 per Soldier on average which includes the purchase of equipment, additional consumables (mailers, DVDs), and postage to mail the packages home.

What are the major impacts? For a little while, a faraway hero is back home, which eases the stress of separation, makes reunions and homecomings easier, allows parents to share parenting responsibilities from wherever they are in the world, boosts morale of our troops serving in the field, and cultivates a love of reading in children.