

### OUR ORGANIZATION

United Through Reading®, the nation's first nonprofit to promote the read aloud experience for separated military families, offers military service members who are away from their families due to deployment or other circumstances the opportunity to be video-recorded reading storybooks aloud.

This powerful program is available to military units DoD-wide, hosted at select USO locations, and has served more than 2 million beneficiaries since 1989.



Service members or family may visit the United Through Reading website and click on **How to Participate** to view a current list of program locations.

### HOW SERVICEMEMBERS PARTICIPATE

1. The deployed service member reads a book aloud while being recorded and sends the video home to the child.
2. The child at home watches the video and follows along with the book, if available.
3. While the child watches the video, the caregiver captures the child's reaction and shares it with the service member.
4. The service member receives the feedback and is encouraged to record again.

### BENEFITS TO MILITARY CHILDREN

Each video recording can bring essential emotional support for children:

- Offers reassurance when they see deployed parents' faces, hear their voices, and know they are safe.
- Provides time together to continue or establish a storytime routine.
- An opportunity for babies to hear the voice of someone who loves them and begin the bonding process.
- A happy homecoming because mom, dad, an aunt, an uncle, or an older sibling is a familiar hero, not a stranger.



"Reading to children improves family relationships, reduces stress, and promotes resiliency. In fact, parents reading daily to their children may be one of the greatest protective factors for families during deployment."

*Dr. (Lt. Col.) Eric Flake,  
U.S. Air Force,  
Former Chief of  
Developmental Behavior*

Our innovative program helps service members to create that "everyday" moment throughout separations often due to deployment, training missions, being a non-custodial parent, geographical separations, or even with our wounded, ill, or injured warriors. Participation maintains connections in their children's lives from wherever they are by:

- Helping their children build literacy skills.
- Being role models to kindle the love of reading.
- Using stories to share understanding and wisdom for their children's challenges and feelings.
- Preparing for reunions, reconnecting, and reestablishing family routines.

#### Contact Us:

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**CFC #11393**