



PROGRAM OVERVIEW: An underway, quality-of-life program in which deployed personnel communicate with children through the medium of reading stories aloud on videotape.

PROGRAM FEATURES: Allows deployed parents and children to communicate in a meaningful way during separations.

- Boosts family morale and reinforces parental support felt by spouse at home.
- Eases children's fears about parent's absence and reduces anxiety upon reunion.
- Trains parents in techniques to make the videotaped reading personal and interactive.
- Strengthens relationships between parents and children while teaching the joy of reading.



Thanks, Family Literacy Foundation!

"I loved the interaction with the video and child the most. It was incredible to watch his eyes light up, he start smiling and before I knew it, my son was talking back to the video as if his Daddy was in the room with him. It was great!"

Homefront Coordinator



"It definitely fills a gap. One of my biggest fears has been that she wouldn't recognize me after being gone so long. This program eliminates that fear because it lets my child know that I am still there for her."

Active Duty Participant

"Nickelodeon's SpongeBob SquarePants is going to take back seat to Dad on the TV reading tonight."

Active Duty Coordinator

DETAILS: Individuals who are separated from their families due to military obligations read stories on videotape and send the tape home to the child. Family Literacy Foundation trains deploying personnel and home front volunteers to manage the program while the ship is underway.

Deployed active duty volunteers promote the program throughout the ship, schedule videotaping sessions and provide coaching tips to participants. Homefront volunteers initially assist with creating an onboard library of children's books and then promote the program during deployment.

In order to gain full benefits from the program, we encourage families that receive videotapes to provide feedback to the deployed member; in the form of letters, email, photographs or even videotape of the child watching the parent's tape. **This is called the "Full Circle Method of Communication."**

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