

KEEP RELATIONSHIPS STRONG DURING DEPLOYMENT

It takes work to keep connected during a deployment, but there are helpful tips and resources available to you along the way. Here are a few.

- 1: Your deployment readiness coordinator (DRC)/uniformed readiness coordinator (URC) is a great first stop. In addition to information on a wealth of resources, they will set up deployment workshops—including events for kids hosted by your local [Marine Corps Family Team Building](#).
- 2: Create a “Deployment Wall” in your home. A quick web search will help you find creative ideas. Things to consider include family photos, photos of your deployed loved one, clocks with time zones, world maps, a “mailbox” for pre-written notes or to store show-and-tell ideas for phone calls.
- 3: Ship care packages. Involve the kids in picking out items to include and making special artwork to send. Pick themes or put together a special package that’s just from the kids.
- 4: Record videos or voice notes or plan a special activity for your kids. Consider resources like United for Reading (ask your DRC for details). Make a photo book, write letters to each child, or plan a special treasure hunt for the week after you depart.
- 5: Be honest. Use age-appropriate language to talk to your kids about deployment. If you’re unsure how to do this, reach out to the New Parent Support Program (kids 5 and under).

While it takes work to maintain that connection, the Marine Corps has numerous resources to help you and your family along the way.

