

How the Program Works

Our Organization

United Through Reading (UTR) offers military service members who are away from home the opportunity to be video-recorded reading storybooks to the children in their lives, creating positive emotional connections.

Our Service to Military Families

UTR is available to all military branches and units including the Coast Guard and all Reserve components. UTR is also hosted at select USO sites and has served nearly two million beneficiaries since 1989. The UTR program:

- Eases the stress of separation
- Builds family resiliency
- Makes homecomings easier
- Cultivates a love of reading

Steps to Staying Connected

1 The service member is video-recorded reading a book and sends the video home. **2** The child at home watches the video and follows along with the book. **3** While the child watches, the caregiver at home captures the child's reaction and relates it back to the service member. **4** This feedback encourages the service member to record again.



How to Participate

Contact us at military@utr.org. Once Command Leadership agrees to offer United Through Reading, a Program Manager will provide ongoing training and support throughout the deployment.



United Through Reading Provides

- All program materials and support
- Active Duty and Homefront Coordinator training
- Storytime Kickoff Kit with 30+ children's books as a permanent onsite library, DVDs and mailers
- Booster Kits with additional supplies
- Seasonal Books
- Volunteer Hour Certification

Command Provides

- Volunteers, including Command Liaison, Active Duty Coordinator and Homefront Coordinator
- Participation reports to United Through Reading
- Video equipment, camcorder/tripod, lavalier mic
- Commands may provide: postage for mailing UTR videos and books home