Reading by Design

Q Outreach to Military Families



Public Library Outreach to and Programming for Military Personnel, Veterans, and Their Families

Libraries are an important resource for all Americans. They remain a critical source of information, entertainment, technology, and programs for all ages. Additionally, even in our segmented digital age, libraries serve as a significant source of connection for the community.

For military families, this is true in cities, towns, and rural areas as well as military installations around the world. As librarians, what can we do to serve families of those engaged in military service within our communities and on military installations worldwide?

On military bases and installations, libraries provide both traditional collections and valuable technology resources. Military spouses and children, far from home and new to a base, can find immediate community for the whole family at their installation's library.

In urban, suburban, and rural communities, public libraries have a vital role, both for families of deployed personnel, and for returning veterans. Beginning in late 2001, National Guard and Reserve units from communities across the United States have been activated and deployed overseas, with more than 300,000 soldiers called to action. More than half a million children have one or both parents serving in the Guard or Reserves. Many Reservists and National Guard members never expected to be away from home for more than one weekend a month. The impact of the "deployment cycle" (predeployment, deployment, and reunion) on these soldiers and their families is very stressful. Therefore, for military families during these times, a sense of connection, both with other military families and to the larger community, is vitally important. Your library can provide that sense of connection.

Those libraries that don't have patrons with loved ones serving overseas can use some of the ideas in this section to educate their community about men and women serving in the military, not only as personnel far from home but also as veterans returning home. Military deployment and return, with the accompanying adjustments, affect individual communities as well as the nation as a whole.

Thus, the activities, bibliographies, and websites contained in this section are intended for use in all libraries. The displays and activities, while aimed at military personnel and their families, can and should be inviting and helpful for all library patrons. The sense of connection that is so vital to military families is also important to the civilian community in order to understand the significance of military service in today's world.

Decorations and Displays

Displays of Handouts and Announcements

Set up tables to display handouts or allot space on a bulletin board or at checkout to post information about the availability of printouts of the bibliographic and resources lists, book clubs, or other activities for military families and the larger community.

Wall of Honor

Decorate bulletin boards, create a wall of honor, learn about patriotism, and become familiar with the places where family members of students are deployed.

Where in the World

Post a large map of the world near the entrance to your library. Invite patrons to put pins or yellow ribbons on the map to represent their friend or family member deployed overseas and in the United States. Include a bulletin board to post photos.

Where in the World Signpost

In the movie and television show M*A*S*H, a signpost stands in camp indicating the distance to various locations around the world (Seoul, Korea, and Toledo, Ohio, among them). Set up a similar signpost in your library, recruiting patrons to affix markers that show the distance to other locations of family members around the globe.

Activities

Crafts and Maker Activities

- Use ideas from the Pinterest page "Activities and Crafts for Veterans and Their Families" to host a craft event for families of active duty or veteran military personnel.
- e-NABLE Volunteer Opportunity http://enablingthefuture.org/ Use the library's 3D printer to make prosthetic hands for the e-NABLE project, which provides prosthetics for children in need.

Current Events Discussion Group for Young Adults

Bring middle and high school students together to discuss and understand events in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere where their parents and other relatives are serving. Use the free ten-minute daily news program CNN Student News and supplemental materials from CNN for discussions about the news. For more information, go to http://bit.ly/2y9aCV.

Establish Teachers Groups

Organize a group for educators to come together to share ideas about how to help children understand what is happening. Begin with reading and discussing the Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment, available at http://www. ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/homefront/index.html. Teachers can also be asked to speak to other groups about the geography, culture, and people in those parts of the world where soldiers have been deployed.

Form a Weekly Club for Young Adults

Form a weekly club for high schoolers to discuss and sharpen their thoughts about events in places where their family members are deployed. Use the free Learning Network of the New York Times as a resource, with its articles, quizzes, games, opinion and discussion questions, and other resources. For more information, go to http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com.

Hold Host a Day from Home Event

Ask a local business to donate disposable cameras to your library. Send out groups from the library to take pictures of sites in the community. Once the photos are developed, make a scrapbook with them. You can also have people use their cell phones to take pictures. Host an event at the library for community members to come in and write messages in the book and send it to the unit deployed from your area. Or ask a local copy shop to make copies to send to individuals. This would be a great activity during the holiday season.

Organize Reading Groups

Start reading groups for friends and family members of soldiers. Separate groups can be developed for spouses, children, entire families, and returning veterans. Suggestions and recommendations for programs are below (see page 4).

Regular Programs

Hold regular programs with elementary and middle school students whose family members have been deployed. Use activities outlined in *Dealing with Deployment: A* Small-Group Curriculum for Elementary and Middle School Students (by Ann Aydlett, American School Counselor Association, 2006).

Set Up Writing Groups

Start a letter writing group that meets regularly at your library to send cards, postcards, and letters to soldiers when they are away from home. This is an activity that can include everyone from your community, whether or not they have a family member or friend in the military. Invite children to draw pictures to send with the letters. Ask local businesses to supply products for "care packages." The Internet has many sites that list items to send; here are a few to review:

http://www.military.com/deployment/what-to-send-someone-who-is-deployed.html

http://adoptaplatoon.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/How-To-Send-A-Care-Package.pdf

http://www.veteransunited.com/life/what-deployed-troops-really-want-in-their-carepackages/

Tell Me a Story Event

Host a Tell Me a Story event that's intended to "empower our military children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters skills for resilience, strong peer and parent connections, a sense of pride and accomplishment, and a caring community." Work with the Military Child Education Coalition, which will provide supplemental, training, and marketing materials. See http://www.militarychild.org/ parents-and-students/programs/tell-me-a-story-tmas.

Book Groups

One way to bring returning veterans together is to form groups to discuss books. This section provides guidance about forming book groups.

Many veterans will be using libraries as a job search resource. Consider putting together a display table inviting them to participate in a book group of their own. Veterans who might be reluctant to join a support group may still appreciate an opportunity to get together with other people who have shared a similar experience.

Members learn from and about each other. "I was amazed by the knowledge of the people involved. I learn more about the people in the group from what they say about the book than I learn about the book." The discussions are often stimulating and expose members to new ideas; some of the books they read are life changing, influential, or inspiring.

Setting up and Running a Book Group

- Someone really committed to having the group should get it started. This could be a member of the group or a professional, such as a librarian.
- The ideal size for a group is about eight people, or twelve at the most. It works if only six people attend, but if it is too large, people don't have a chance to talk. Bigger isn't always better.
- It is essential to have a permanent or rotating convener who makes sure the meeting happens. Otherwise the group could fall apart.
- It is helpful if the group members decide at the beginning the kinds of books they want to read. The group may create some written guidelines, which will probably change over time.
- The group needs to decide how it will select the books, which may be by vote of the members or selection by the host or someone the group designates. It is helpful if the group chooses books some months in advance.
- A discussion leader needs to be chosen for every meeting. That person prepares discussion questions, which may be handed out in advance, and guides the discussion for that book.
- A clear distinction needs to be made between time for socializing and for discussing the book.
- The convener or someone else needs to have clear responsibility for publicizing the group.

Attracting Members

- Start with a small core of people who are enthusiastic about having the group and who will recruit people they know.
- Encourage word-of-mouth referrals to the group.
- Give the group a name. This may help to attract members.
- Post announcements about the group in the library and on community bulletin boards.

Some Possible Pitfalls

- Sometimes a few people dominate the discussion, which frustrates the other members and may lead them to leave the group. Ground rules for how the group operates can be referenced at times like these.
- It's hard to have a satisfying discussion if people haven't read the book or read all of it.

Let the Group Be What It Needs to Be

- Sometimes a book group becomes an excuse for getting together, and the book is not even discussed. This is another way for a book group to be, though it's important that the members discuss and agree that a social group is what they want.
- It is possible that a group may decide to take action about what they're reading, going from benefiting members personally and socially to having a social impact. The books may become a call to action.

Resources for Starting and Running a Book Group

Books

Jacobsohn, Rachel W. The Reading Group Handbook: Everything You Need to Know to Start Your Own Book Club, Hyperion, 1998.

Simic, Marjorie R., and Eleanor C. MacFarlane. Family Book Sharing Groups: Start One in Your Neighborhood. Grayson Bernard Publishers, 1995.

Slezak, Ellen, ed. The Book Group Book: A Thoughtful Guide to Forming and Enjoying a Stimulating Book Discussion Group, 3rd ed. Chicago Review Press, 2000.

Online Resources

Book Group Buzz

http://bookgroupbuzz.booklistonline.com

Note especially "Book Club Resources" on this ALA website.

Reading Group Choices

http://www.readinggroupchoices.com

Offers information on starting and running a book group. Suggests books and includes conversation starters. Lists links to other websites.

Reading Group Guides

http://www.readinggroupguides.com

"The online community for reading groups." Includes a section of librarians' interviews on their experiences with book groups. Gives information on starting and running a book group. Suggests books, with a section for veterans, and includes discussion questions.

Books to Get a Group Started

Books for Returning Veterans and Their Spouses or Partners

Armstrong, Keith, Suzanne Best and Paula Domenici. Courage After Fire: Coping Strategies for Troops Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and Their Families [Kindle Edition]. Foreword by Bob Dole. Ulysses Press, 2009.

Fountain, Ben. Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel. Ecco, 2012.

Gologorsky, Beverly. The Things We Do to Make It Home. Seven Stories Press, 2009.

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Letts, Billie. The Honk and Holler Opening Soon. Grand Central Publishing, 1999.

Scotti, Mike. The Blue Cascade: A Memoir of Life After War. Grand Central Publishing, 2012.

Spencer-Fleming, Julia. One Was a Soldier: A Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne Mystery. Minotaur Books, 2011.

Family Book Group

- Dennis, Brian, Mary Nethery and Kirby Larson. Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a *Marine & a Miracle.* Little, Brown and Company, 2009. Best for grades 2–5.
- Hoffman, Mary and Rhiannon Lassiter, eds. Lines in the Sand: New Writing on War and Peace. Disinformation Books, 2003. Best for grades 2-9.
- Myers, Walter Dean. Sunrise over Fallujah. Scholastic Press, 2009. Best for ages 12 and up.

Bibliography and Other Resources

Recent Books of Note

Adult Nonfiction-Biography

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- Levine, Adele. Run, Don't Walk: The Curious and Chaotic Life of a Physical Therapist Inside Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Penguin Group (USA), 2014.
- Morris, David J. The Evil Hours: A Biography of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.
- Redman, Jason. The Trident: The Forging and Reforging of a Navy SEAL Leader. William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2013.
- Rodriguez, Daniel. Rise: A Soldier, a Dream, and a Promise Kept. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.
- Schultz, Howard. For Love of Country: What Our Veterans Can Teach Us About Citizenship, Heroism, and Sacrifice. Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.
- Thorpe, Helen. Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War. Scribner, 2014.
- Timberg, Robert. Blue-Eyed Boy: A Memoir. The Penguin Press, 2014.
- Weintraub, Robert. No Better Friend: One Man, One Dog, and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in WWII. Little, Brown & Company, 2015.
- Williams, Kayla. Plenty of Time When We Get Home: Love and Recovery in the Aftermath of War. W.W. Norton & Co., 2014.

Adult Nonfiction-Animals

- Drury, Bob. A Dog's Gift: The Inspirational Story of Veterans and Children Healed by Man's Best Friend. Rodale, 2015.
- Goodavage, Maria. Top Dog: The Story of Marine Hero Lucca. Dutton, 2014.
- Weintraub, Robert. No Better Friend: One Man, One Dog, and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage and Survival in WWII. Little, Brown & Company, 2015.

Adult Nonfiction-Handbooks

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- Brown, Bruce C. The Complete Guide to Veterans' Benefits: Everything You Need to Know Explained Simply. Atlantic Pub. Group, 2014.

- Glass, Mechel Lashawn. The Veteran's Money Book: A Step-by-Step Program to Help Military Veterans Build a Personal Financial Action Plan and Map Their Futures. Career Press, 2014.
- Helmer, Drew A. Sex After Service: A Guide for Military Service Members, Veterans, and the People Who Love Them. Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.
- Howell, Terry. *The Military Advantage: The Military.com Guide to Military and Veterans Benefits.* Naval Institute Press, 2015.
- Moore, Janelle. *The Wounded Warrior Handbook: A Resource Guide for Returning Veterans.* Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.
- Murphy, James D. Down Range: A Transitioning Veteran's Career Guide to Life's Next Phase. John Wiley & Sons, 2014.
- O'Donnell, Wes. Rise: The Veteran's Field Manual for Starting Your Own Business & Conquering the Online Economy. Debriefed Books, 2014.
- Ventrone, Jillian. From the Marine Corps to College: Transitioning from the Service to Higher Education. Rowan & Littlefield, 2014.
- Weiss, John Henry. Operation Job Search: A Guide for Military Veterans Transitioning to Civilian Careers. Skyhorse Publishing, 2016.

Adult Nonfiction-Other

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- Cozza, Stephen J., M.D., Matthew N. Goldenberg, M.D., and Robert J. Ursano, M.D., eds. *Care of Military Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families.*American Psychiatric Publishing, a division of American Psychiatric Association, 2014.
- Edmonds, Bill Russell, Lieutenant Colonel. *God Is Not Here: A Soldier's Struggle with Torture, Trauma, and the Moral Injuries of War.* Pegasus Books, 2015.
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- Reece, Miguel. *The Disabled Veteran's Story: The Sacrifices of Our Veterans and Their Families.* Cortland Road, 2014.
- Sherman, Nancy. *Afterwar: Healing the Moral Wounds of Our Soldiers*. Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Sills, Peter. Toxic War: The Story of Agent Orange. Vanderbilt University Press, 2014.
- Spiller, Harry. Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan: Personal Accounts of 22 Americans Who Served. McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2014.
- Van der Kolk, Bessel A. *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma.* Viking, 2014.

Westlund, Stephanie. Field Exercises: How Veterans Are Healing Themselves Through Farming and Outdoor Activities. New Society Publishers, 2014.

Children's Nonfiction

Dash, Meredith. Veterans Day. Abdo Kids, 2015.

Montalván, Luis, and Bret Witter. Tuesday Takes Me There: The Healing Journey of a Veteran and His Service Dog. Post Hill Press, 2016.

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Adult Fiction

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Blevins, Winfred. The Darkness Rolling, Forge Books, 2015.

Boyle, T. Coraghessan. *The Harder They Come*. Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2015.

Brackmann, Lisa. *Dragon Day.* Soho Press, Inc., 2015.

Connell, John A. Ruins of War. Berkley Hardcover, 2015.

Goddard, Robert. The Ways of the World: A James Maxted Thriller. The Mysterious Press, 2015.

Kiernan, Stephen P. The Hummingbird. William Morrow, 2015.

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Palaia, Marian. The Given World. Simon & Schuster, 2015.

Petrie, Nicholas. *The Drifter*. G.P. Putnams Sons, 2015.

Salvalaggio, Karin. Burnt River. Minotaur Books, 2015.

Skalka, Patricia. Death at Gills Rock: A Dave Cubiak Door County Mystery. Terrace Books, a trade imprint of the University of Wisconsin Press, 2015.

Solomons, Natasha. The Song of Hartgrove Hall: A Novel. Plume, 2015.

Tedrowe, Emily Gray. Blue Stars. St. Martin's Press, 2015.

Thomas, Diane C. In Wilderness: A Novel. Bantam, 2015.

Torday, Daniel. *The Last Flight of Poxl West: A Novel.* St. Martin's Press, 2015.

Teen and YA Fiction

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Finding Employment After Deployment

There are many resources for job seekers. These books are directed toward veterans in particular.

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Books and Plays to Read with Children

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- Myers, Laurie. Escape by Night: A Civil War Adventure. Holt, 2011.
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—. Deployment Journal for Spouses: Memories and Milestones While My Loved One Is Deployed. Elva Resa Publishing LLC, 2008.

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Military Dogs and Other Animals and Bringing Them Home from the War

- Anthony, Lawrence and Graham Spence. *Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo.* St. Martin's Griffin, 2008.
- Bacon, Lance M. *Hero Dogs: Secret Missions and Selfless Service*. White Star Publishers, 2012.
- Crisp, Terri and Cynthia Hum. No Buddy Left Behind: Bringing U.S. Troops' Dogs and Cats Safely Home from the Combat Zone. Lyons Press, 2011.
- Dowling, Mike. Sergeant Rex: The Unbreakable Bond Between a Marine and His Military Working Dog. Atria Books, 2012.
- Farthing, Pen. One Dog at a Time: Saving the Strays of Afghanistan. St. Martin's Griffin, 2012.
- Frankel, Rebecca. War Dogs. Atria Books, 2013.
- Gardiner, Juliet. *The Animals' War: Animals in Wartime from the First World War to the Present Day.* Portrait, 2006.
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- Kopelman, Jay and Melinda Roth. From Baghdad with Love: A Marine, the War, and a Dog Named Lava. Lyons Press, 2008.
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- Montalvan, Luis Carlos and Bret Witter. *Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him.* Hyperion Reprint edition, 2012.
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Ritland, Michael and Gary Brozek. Trident K9 Warriors: My Tale from the Training Ground to the Battlefield with Elite Navy SEAL Canines. St. Martin's, 2013.

Rogak, Lisa. The Dogs of War: The Courage, Love, and Loyalty of Military Working Dogs. St Martin's Griffin, 2011.

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Sullivan, Christine. Saving Cinnamon: The Amazing True Story of a Missing Military Puppy and the Desperate Mission to Bring Her Home. St Martin's Griffin, 2010.

Websites

After Deployment: Wellness Resources for the Military Community

http://www.afterdeployment.org

Resources especially for veterans and service members related to job performance, making the transition to civilian life, and how to recognize other issues you may be dealing with.

The Armed Forces Legal Assistance

http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/index.php

The Armed Forces Legal Assistance (AFLA) website is a joint initiative of the Armed Forces legal assistance offices that aims to provide general legal information to the military community to enhance its readiness.

Armed Forces Resources

http://www.faflrt.ala.org/president/

Official blog for the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table.

Army Well-Being: Sustaining the All-Volunteer Force

http://www.armywell-being.org/skins/WBLO/home.aspx

Books for Military Families

www.militaryfamilybooks.com

Defense Centers of Excellence

http://www.dcoe.health.mil/

DCoE assesses, validates, oversees, and facilitates prevention, resilience, identification, treatment, outreach, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs for psychological health and traumatic brain injury to ensure the Department of Defense meets the needs of the nation's military communities, warriors, and families.

DCoE brings together a variety of interdisciplinary resources and centers of excellence that can help family members identify community and military resources to help better understand and cope with psychological health and traumatic brain injury concerns affecting them or the warriors they love at:

http://www.dcoe.health.mil/forfamilies.aspx

Defense Threat Reduction Agency: Deployed Military Family Support

http://www.dtra.mil/be/deployed/index.cfm

Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library

http://deploymenthealthlibrary.fhp.osd.mil/

Deploymentkids.com

www.deploymentkids.com

Contains activities to do with kids whose family members are deployed.

Joining Forces

http://www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces

Joining Forces "is a national initiative by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden that mobilizes all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned" (from website). It promotes ways for individuals to get involved, including activities that could be hosted by libraries.

Make the Connection: Shared Experiences and Support for Veterans

http://maketheconnection.net

A website of the US Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans returning home.

Mental Health America

http://www.mentalhealthanswers.org/page.asp?pageid=0|117|135&id=0|armed_ forces_resources

Military101.com

http://www.military101.com/

Information on the resources available to those who serve and those who have served in the US Armed Forces.

The Military.com

http://www.military.com/NewContent/1,13190,Spouse,00.html

Spouse and Family Benefits & Resources: Know your benefits as the spouse or family member of a military service member or veteran—keep up with benefits and resources in the Insider's Spouse and Family Benefits & Resources section, and find useful guides on deployment, careers, relocation, and more.

Military Child Education Coalition

http://www.militarychild.org/

Military-Connected Students and Public School Attendance Policies

http://www.militarychild.org/files/pdfs/2010_SchoolAttendancePolicies.pdf

The Military Family Research Institute

http://www.mfri.purdue.edu/

The Military Family Research Institute is one of the leading organizations in the nation with the mission of conducting research about, with, and for military families.

MilitaryHOMEFRONT

http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/

Military HOMEFRONT is the Department of Defense website for official Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) program information, policy, and guidance designed to help troops and their families, leaders, and service providers.

Military Impacted Schools Association

http://www.militarystudent.org/

Military Youth on the Move

http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/pls/psgprod/f?p=MYOM:HOME:4529426912561325

National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies

http://www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/.

Lists the NACCRRA (National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies) accredited child care programs for each branch of the military.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

http://nctsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_top_military

The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress—an NCTSN member site—and FOCUS (Families OverComing Under Stress)—a project cosponsored by the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress—perform research on, develop resources about, and provide assistance to military families.

National Mental Health Information Center

http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/ChildrensCampaign/

The National Military Family Association

http://www.militaryfamily.org/

The National Military Family Association fights for benefits and programs that strengthen and protect uniformed services families and reflects the nation's respect for their service.

The National Military Family Association website also includes a toolkit for Military Teens at: http://www.militaryfamily.org/publications/deployment-family-research/ toolkits.html

Reader's Digest

http://www.rd.com/your-america-inspiring-people-and-stories/resources-formilitary-families/article142004.html

Resources for military families compiled by Kathryn M. Tyranski from Reader's Digest.

SchoolQuest.org, an Initiative of Military Child Education Coalition http://www.schoolquest.org

http://www.schoolquest.org/state-education-resources/

A compilation of school requirements and resources for all 50 states, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and Washington, D.C.

http://www.schoolquest.org/library/

Full of resources to answer questions about educational transitions, college and workplace readiness, special needs, and many other subjects.

SesameWorkshop.org

http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc

Videos for children about coping with deployments, homecomings, changes, and grieving.

Surviving Deployment.com: Information and Resources for Military Families http://www.survivingdeployment.com/

SurvivingDeployment.com is a site for and about military families written by military family members. Our mission is to inform and support military families during the difficult time of deployment. Contains articles and books on many topics, including homecoming. Many links to other websites.

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

http://www.mirecc.va.gov

Additional resources, bibliography, and websites can be found at:

http://www.mirecc.va.gov/VISN16/docs/Resources_OIF_Families_090319.pdf

U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services

http://www.armymwr.com/family/childandyouth/default.aspx

VA GI Bill

http://www.gibill.va.gov/

This website is the home for all educational benefits provided by VA with tools and resources to help veterans pursue college degrees, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, or non-college degree programs.

VA Kids

http://www.va.gov/kids/

VA Kids: Helping kids understand what it means to be a veteran.

Websites from the Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment

available at http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/homefront/index.html

Air Force: www.afcrossroads.com (click on family separation)

Army: www.goacs.org (click on family readiness)

Marine Corps: www.usmc-mccs.org (click on deployment information)

Navy: http://www.lifelines.navy.mil/lifelines/index.htm

Reserves: www.defenselink.mil/ra/ (click on family readiness)

Department of Defense Education Activity

http://www.dodea.edu/home/

Department of Defense Educational Opportunities

www.militarystudent.org

National Children, Youth and Families at Risk Initiative

www.cyfernet.org

National Military Families Association

www.nmfa.org

National Guard & Reserve Websites

Air Force Reserve: www.afreserve.com/home4.asp

Air National Guard: www.ang.af.mil

Army National Guard: www.arng.army.mil

Army Reserve: www4.army.mil/USAR/home/index.php

Coast Guard Reserve: www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/reshmpg.html

Marine Reserve: www.marforres.usmc.mil

National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve: www.esgr.org

National Guard Bureau Joint Services Support: http://www.jointservicessupport.org/

National Guard Family Program: http://www.jointservicessupport.org/fp/

Naval Reserve: www.navalreserve.com/ps Reserve Affairs: www.defenselink.mil/ra

Companion Animals Websites

Useful websites about companion animals, including sites that provide dogs for veterans:

Assistance Dogs International (ADI): http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org

Assistance Dog United Campaign (ADUC): http://www. assistancedogunitedcampaign/org

Canines for Service: www.caninesforservice.org

Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers: http://www.ccpdt.org

Companions for Heroes (C4H): http://www.companionsforheroes.org

Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans: www.neads.org

4 Paws for Ability: http://www.4pawsforability.org

Freedom Service Dogs of America (FSD): www.freedomservicedogs.org

K9s for Warriors: www.k9sforwarriors.org

National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors: http://www.nadoi.org

Paws Assisting Veterans: www.paveusa.org

Pet Partners (formerly the Delta Society): http://www.deltasociety.org

Pets for Vets: http://www.pets-for-vets.com

Nonprofit organization that trains shelter dogs and pairs them with veterans.

Power Paws Assistance Dogs: www.azpowerpaws.org

Service Dogs for America (Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundation Inc.): www. servicedogsforamerica.com

This Able Veteran (TAV): www.thisableveteran.org

U.S. Vets Adopt Pets: www.usvetsadoptpets.org

Vets Adopt Pets: www.vetsadoptpets.org

Resources by Interests, Topics, Age Groups

The following lists of resources have been sorted by interests and topics for ease of access to materials about specific activity or program topics. Each category includes a list of titles followed by pertinent websites.

Military Service

Korb, Lawrence J., Sean E. Duggan, Peter M. Juul and Max A. Bergmann. Serving America's Veterans: A Reference Handbook. Praeger, 2009.

Powers, Kevin. The Yellow Birds: A Novel. Back Bay Books, 2013.

Sherman, Nancy. The Untold War: Inside the Hearts, Minds, and Souls of Our Soldiers. Norton, 2011.

Armed Forces Resources

http://www.faflrt.ala.org/president/

Official blog for the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table

Army Well-Being: Sustaining the All-Volunteer Force

http://www.armywell-being.org/skins/WBLO/home.aspx

Military101.com

http://www.military101.com/

Source for information on the resources available to those who serve, and those who have served in the US Armed Forces.

VA Kids

http://www.va.gov/kids/

VA Kids: Helping kids understand what it means to be a veteran.

Military Marriage

- Evans, Shannon, ed. Operation Military Family: How to Strengthen Your Military Marriage and Save Your Family. Aviva Publishing, 2007.
- Hill, Janelle. The Military Marriage Manual: Tactics for Successful Relationships. Government Institutes, 2011.
- Houppert, Karen. Home Fires Burning: Married to the Military, for Better or Worse. Ballantine Books, 2006.

Spouses, Partners

- Canfield, Jack. Chicken Soup for the Military Wife's Soul: 101 Stories to Touch the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit. Health Communications, 2005.
- Caputo, Jessica. The Other Side of War. Author House, 2009.
- Dawalt, Sara. 365 Deployment Days: A Wife's Survival Story. Daisy & Ivy Books, 2007.
- Green, Jocelyn. Faith Deployed... Again: More Daily Encouragement for Military Wives. Moody Publishers, 2011.
- —. Faith Deployed: Daily Encouragement for Military Wives. Moody Publishers, 2008.
- Hightower, Kathie and Holly Scherer. Help! I'm a Military Spouse—I Get a Life Too!: How to Craft a Life for You as You Move with the Military. Potomac Books, 2007.
- Redmond, Jessica. A Year of Absence: Six Women's Stories of Courage, Hope and Love. Elva Resa Publishing LLC, 2005.
- Seals-Allers, Kimberly and Pamela M. McBride. *The Mocha Manual to Military* Life: A Savvy Guide for Wives, Girlfriends, and Female Service Members. Harper Paperbacks, 2009.
- Vandevoorde, Shellie. Separated by Duty, United in Love: A Guide to Long-Distance Relationships for Military Couples. Citadel Press, 2006.

Family Adjustment

- Bender, Janet M. Getting Yourself Together When Your Family Comes Apart: Coping with Family Changes. National Center for Youth Issues, 2004.
- Buckholtz, Alison. Standing By: The Making of an American Military Family in a Time of War. Tarcher, 2009.
- Dumler, Elaine Gray. I'm Already Home—Again: Keeping Your Family Close While on Assignment or Deployment. Frankly Speaking, 2006.
- Henderson, Kristin. While They're at War: The True Story of American Families on the Homefront. Mariner Books, 2006.
- Kay, Ellie. Heroes at Home: Help and Hope for America's Military Families. Bethany House, 2008.

Maxwell, Marc C. B. Surviving Military Separation: A 365-Days Activity Guide for the Families of Deployed Personnel. Savas Beatie, 2008.

Pavlicin, Karen M. Surviving Deployment: A Guide for Military Families. Elva Resa Publishing, 2003.

Vandesteeg, Carol. When Duty Calls: A Handbook for Families Facing Military Separation. Life Journey/Cook Communications Ministries, 2005.

Books for Military Families

www.militaryfamilybooks.com

Defense Threat Reduction Agency: Deployed Military Family Support

http://www.dtra.mil/be/deployed/index.cfm

Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library

http://deploymenthealthlibrary.fhp.osd.mil/

Deploymentkids.com

www.deploymentkids.com

Contains activities to do with kids whose family members are deployed.

Joining Forces

http://www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces

Joining Forces "is a national initiative by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden that mobilizes all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned" (from website). It promotes ways for individuals to get involved, including activities that could be hosted by libraries.

MilitaryHOMEFRONT

http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/

Military HOMEFRONT is the Department of Defense website for official Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) program information, policy and guidance designed to help troops and their families, leaders, and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you'll find what you need!

The Military Family Research Institute

http://www.mfri.purdue.edu/

The Military Family Research Institute is one of the leading organizations in the nation with the mission of conducting research about, with, and for military families.

Military Youth on the Move

http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/pls/psgprod/f?p=MYOM:HOME:4529426912561325

National Child Traumatic Stress Network

http://nctsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_top_military

The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress—an NCTSN member site—and FOCUS (Families OverComing Under Stress)—a project cosponsored by the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress—perform research on, develop resources about, and provide assistance to military families.

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The National Military Family Association website also includes a tookit for Military Teens at: http://www.militaryfamily.org/publications/deployment-family-research/ toolkits.html

Reader's Digest

http://www.rd.com/your-america-inspiring-people-and-stories/resources-formilitary-families/article142004.html

Resources for military families compiled by Kathryn M. Tyranski from Reader's Digest.

SesameWorkshop.org

http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc

Videos for children about coping with deployments, homecomings, changes, and grieving.

Surviving Deployment.com: Information and Resources for Military Families http://www.survivingdeployment.com/

SurvivingDeployment.com is a site for and about military families written by military family members. Our mission is to inform and support military families during the difficult time of deployment. Contains articles and books on many topics, including homecoming. Many links to other websites.

Education of Military Children

Military Child Education Coalition

http://www.militarychild.org/

Military-Connected Students and Public School Attendance Policies

http://www.militarychild.org/files/pdfs/2010_SchoolAttendancePolicies.pdf

Military Impacted Schools Association

http://www.militarystudent.org/

National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies

http://www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/.

Lists the NACCRRA (National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies) accredited child care programs for each branch of the military.

SchoolQuest.org, an Initiative of Military Child Education Coalition

http://www.schoolquest.org

http://www.schoolquest.org/state-education-resources/

A compilation of school requirements and resources for all 50 states, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and Washington, D.C.

http://www.schoolquest.org/library/

Full of resources to answer questions about educational transitions, college and workplace readiness, special needs, and many other subjects.

U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services

http://www.armymwr.com/family/childandyouth/default.aspx

Deployed Women

Holmstedt, Kirsten. The Girls Come Marching Home: Stories of Women Warriors Returning from the War in Iraq. Stackpole Books, 2011.

- Leyva, Meredith. Married to the Military: A Survival Guide for Military Wives, Girlfriends, and Women in Uniform. Simon & Schuster, 2003.
- Salbi, Zainab. The Other Side of War: Women's Stories of Survival and Hope. National Geographic, 2006.
- Seals-Allers, Kimberly and Pamela M. McBride. The Mocha Manual to Military Life: A Savvy Guide for Wives, Girlfriends, and Female Service Members. Harper Paperbacks, 2009.

Returning Veteran

- Armstrong, Keith, Suzanne Best and Paula Domenici. Courage After Fire: Coping Strategies for Troops Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and Their Families. Ulysses Press, 2005.
- Cantrell, Bridget C. Once a Warrior: Wired for Life. Hearts Toward Home Int'l, 2007.
- Carroll, Andrew, ed. Operation Homecoming: Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front, in the Words of U.S. Troops and Their Families. University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Friedman, Matthew J., Ph.D., and Laurie B. Slone, Ph.D. After the War Zone: A Practical Guide for Returning Troops and Their Families. DaCapo Press, 2008.
- Pavlicin, Karen M. Life After Deployment: Military Families Share Reunion Stories and Advice. Elva Resa, 2007.

After Deployment: Wellness Resources for the Military Community http://www.afterdeployment.org

Resources especially for veterans and service members related to job performance, making the transition to civilian life, and how to recognize other issues you may be dealing with.

Make the Connection: Shared Experiences and Support for Veterans http://maketheconnection.net

A website of the US Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans returning home.

Returning Wounded Veteran

- Hill, Janelle, Cheryl Lawhorne and Don Philpott. The Wounded Warrior Handbook: A Resource Guide for Returning Veterans. 2nd ed. Government Institutes, 2012.
- Hoge, Charles W. Once a Warrior—Always a Warrior: Navigating the Transition from Combat to Home—Including Combat Stress, PTSD, and mTBI. GPP Life, 2010.
- Martinez, J. R. and Alexandra Rockey Fleming. Full of Heart: My Story of Survival, Strength and Spirit. Hyperion, 2012.
- Trudeau, G. B. The War Within: One More Step at a Time. Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2006. Kindle Edition, 2012.

Defense Centers of Excellence

http://www.dcoe.health.mil/

DCoE assesses, validates, oversees, and facilitates prevention, resilience, identification, treatment, outreach, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs for psychological health and traumatic brain injury to ensure the Department of Defense meets the needs of the nation's military communities, warriors, and families.

DCoE brings together a variety of interdisciplinary resources and centers of excellence that can help family members identify community and military resources

to help better understand and cope with psychological health and traumatic brain injury concerns affecting them or the warriors they love at: http://www.dcoe.health. mil/forfamilies.aspx

Mental Health America

http://www.mentalhealthanswers.org/page.asp?pageid=0|117|135&id=0|armed_ forces_resources

National Mental Health Information Center

http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/ChildrensCampaign/

Benefits

Brown, Bruce C. Returning from the War on Terrorism: What Every Iraq, Afghanistan, and Deployed Veteran Needs to Know to Receive Their Maximum Benefits. Atlantic Publishing Company, 2008.

Powers, Rod. Veterans Benefits for Dummies. For Dummies, 2009.

Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment. January 2011, 24 pp., available at www.whitehouse.gov.

A report of a government-wide review of federal and private sector resources that will lay the foundation for a coordinated approach to supporting military families.

The Armed Forces Legal Assistance

http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/index.php

The Armed Forces Legal Assistance (AFLA) website is a joint initiative of the Armed Forces legal assistance offices that aims to provide general legal information to the military community to enhance its readiness.

The Military.com

http://www.military.com/NewContent/1,13190,Spouse,00.html

Spouse and Family Benefits & Resources: Know your benefits as the spouse or family member of a military service member or veteran—keep up with benefits and resources in the Insider's Spouse and Family Benefits & Resources section, and find useful guides on deployment, careers, relocation, and more.

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

http://www.mirecc.va.gov

Additional resources, bibliography, and websites can be found at:

http://www.mirecc.va.gov/VISN16/docs/Resources_OIF_Families_090319.pdf

VA GI Bill

http://www.gibill.va.gov/

This website is the home for all educational benefits provided by VA with tools and resources to help veterans pursue college degrees, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, or non-college degree programs.

Books for Children by Age Group

Kindergarten-Grade 2

Bunting, Eve. My Red Balloon. Boyds Mills Press, 2005.

Ehrmantraut, Brenda. Night Catch. Bubble Gum Press, 2005.

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