

“Every family member is impacted when Mom or Dad takes the pledge to defend our country and risk his or her life to do so. When military members know that their spouse (family) believes in what they do for a living, they are better able to concentrate, (which may mean the difference between life and death). Behind every hero is a unit, a team, or a family-people both on and off the battlefield. Military family members quickly develop four characteristics in order to survive: a keen sense of humor; a sense of adventure; the ability to develop courage in a variety of challenges; and a strong sense of family. (Military families need) affirmation, encouragement, and helping hands.”

Ellie Kay in “Heroes at Home.” Bethany House, 2002

Production Concept: Families are affected by being separated as a result of deployment. Children are probably the most confused by the changes they see and feel when their parent returns. They, perhaps, have the most difficulty adjusting when the family comes back together after a major deployment, unaware that it was not they who are responsible for the palpable changes in family relationship dynamics. While many good programs are in place for the deployed soldier and their spouse, there is a paucity of simple (“helping hands”) tools available specifically for children of elementary school ages. Using puppets and input from children, presenting common scenarios that most families experience, questions are raised and answered about what they are feeling, what they think is happening, and what they can do to deal with the real changes in their relationships, not only with the deployed active duty family member, but also with other people in their circle of contacts. This production will provide them with simple, understandable reasons why tension exists and things they can do to help the family readjust and become “normal” again as soon as possible.

Vision: *Proactive management and training support for the military mission, addressing soldier, airman, sailor, marine family (especially the children) and community stress reactions to the deployment cycle, offering healthy ways to deal with it and thus prevent future problems.

Objectives:

1. Produce a viable DoD script that is reproducible by live actors, puppets, or by DVD that is useful for children, adolescents, parents, and military community professionals, both medical and non-medical commands (the ‘line’), and schools, dealing with short and long-term family deployment reintegration stress.
2. Develop an accompanying study guide to assist community professionals in use of this tool.
3. Strengthen family ties and a spiritual foundation for children.
4. Address issues of loneliness, grief, depression, loss, etc.
5. Be age-appropriate in context (target elementary school age children 6-12 years old).
6. Explain the 7-day reintegration philosophy of ½-day contact with the family for the 1st week Vs an immediate block leave.

1A - Deployment Collage Intro

The Reintegration Family Video begins with music (soothing, happy) and a collage of pictures showing the deployment cycle, from predeployment to deployment, to reintegration. We may hear sounds of happy families at home and children on the playground, at school; laughing, shouting, kids practicing instruments, teachers teaching class, family activities under way. Video clips/photo's show military service members (SM) with their families, working, getting ready to leave for war, training, packing, and getting on the plane. The music gets more somber (but not depressing). Tears are shed as the SM leaves. We see pictures of war, most of helping people, rebuilding cities and schools. SM families stay connected, talk on the phone, internet email, and video communication, write letters, send drawings, and prepare for the return. All approach and collect at the airport, hopeful (along with the music), waiting for a glimpse of their loved one. Soldiers look for their kids, families their hero returning from war (see sign).

1B - Studio Intro

(Fade out & in to chaplain who is sitting with Mr. Po on stools in a studio, waiting to introduce the video. They are talking until Mr. Po notices the camera red light is on, and motions to the chaplain to begin. The chaplain thanks Mr. Po with a gesture and turns to face the camera. As he talks, Mr. Po nods in agreement, maybe looks at his watch as it drags on, until it's over.)

Chaplain Hello everyone! I'm Chaplain Drew, and this is my friend, Mr. Po. *(He gestures to Po, who bows his head and makes a hand gesture graciously)* A group of our friends got together *(Po looks at him, nods)* to put on this program to help kids understand what families go through when they get back together after someone in the family has been away for a long time. *(Po looks at chaplain, and then back to camera, nodding in agreement)* You know Mr. Po, our soldiers, airman, sailors, and marines are very brave, and so are the families and friends who wait at home for them to return.

Mr. Po That's for sure! Most everyone wonders how things will be once they get back together. Will things be the same as they were before, or different in some way and what can we do to make things go well afterwards?
(Chaplain now nods in agreement.)

Chaplain Kids are perhaps most affected by separation and confused by the changes they see and feel when their parent returns. Most everyone has some kind of problems with getting used to the family being back together. Children may not know that they are not responsible for the changes in the family. The stories you are about to see will explain why we feel uncomfortable sometimes; why we sometimes worry, get nervous, feel scared, and wonder why things have changed. *(He looks at Po and smiles)* After watching this video, you'll know that you are not alone in feeling these things. Share any other thoughts or ideas you have with those watching the video with you. Above all, sit back, relax, and enjoy our Puppet Friends as they explore, "Getting back together as a family after being apart... Let's watch. *(Fade to black, airport sounds begin.)*

SECTION #1 CONCEPT: Children are confused about why the relationship with their parent feels different by separation. They are likely unaware that they, the deployed SM, and other FMs and friends have also been affected by the separation events, but didn't cause the change. They want to know what happened and why. How does a child view the changes that come with separation? What phases do most go through with the stages of deployment? What are some healthy ways families deal with the separation and prepare for the return? Keep in contact? Prepare for the return?

2- Airport Opening Scene

*(Black screen. We hear busy airport noises, announcements - "Don't leave your bags unattended, etc" Open to a busy airport waiting area. As scene progresses, we are introduced to all of the puppet characters and families who will be in the coming scenarios. Each comes in and out of the busy waiting area at the airport (perhaps on the escalator?), where all are waiting for their family member to return, talking excitedly about all that has occurred since the SM left. They present enough dialogue from their later scene to give the flavor of the issue they will present and resolve later. Some are milling around, talking excitedly, others simply sit and wait. **Grandma** sits with **Jaymeson**. Older brother (**Paul**) brings little brother (**Sammy**) to bathroom. **Kid 1 (Artist)** sits drawing. **Lisa** reads comic books. Two **Girlfriends** giggle over a secret. **Mother** holds **baby**. **Billy** sits gazing out a window.)*

Mr. Po Hello. I'm Mr. Po, but you know that already, don't you? Do you have a mom or a dad who's gone away for a while? Yes? These families (*he indicates behind him*) are waiting for their mom or dad or brother or sister to get back home, too. It's hard to wait so long for them to come back, isn't it? Sometimes you wonder if they'll recognize you, or if you'll recognize them...but know what? You will! Other kids wonder if their mom or dad will be different in any way than they were before they left home. Sometimes kids worry when they're getting ready for their mom or dad to come home, like Billy here. (*He turns to watch Billy. Camera moves in on Billy, a 5 yo boy, looking forlornly out the window.*)

3 - Billy and Mr. Po

Billy's Mom *(Voice only)* Billy, are you coming to get something to eat?

Billy In a minute, mom.

Mr. Po walks up to him, Billy looks up, Mr. Po kneels.

Mr. Po Hi ya' Billy. Whatcha' doin'? *(Billy looks up at him.)*

Billy Oh hi, Mr. Po, I was just thinking about my Dad. He's been gone, living on a rock!

Mr. Po Living on a rock?! Don't you mean I-raq?

Billy Iraq? *(Mr. Po kneels down.)*

Mr. Po Yes. Iraq is the place where your dad went to help people. There are lots of moms and dads in all sorts of places around the world helping people live better lives. I'll bet you're excited to have him home!

Billy Well yeah, I am, but... *(Billy stands)*

Mr. Po What's the matter, Billy? *(He puts both arms on his shoulders, looking eye to eye)*
Is something bothering you? *(Billy nods, looks at his exposed belly, pulling down on his shirt to cover it.)*

Billy Well, you see, I hope dad recognizes me! He has been gone such a long Time. I'm scared that he might not remember what I look like... and... well...I don't know *(with a sigh)*...I wanted to be sure that he remembered me... so I wore the same shirt today that I wore the day he left, hoping that...well, that he will remember me when he gets off the plane. Oh, you know!

Mr. Po Hey, Billy, your Dad's gonna' remember you! He loves you.

Billy Yeah, I know, but maybe...he's changed...and doesn't remember me?

Mr. Po Billy, I know he's been gone almost a year now, and that seems like an awfully long time, but when you love someone a lot, like your Dad loves you, he will remember you. In fact I'll bet that there hasn't been a day that that he didn't think about you.

Billy Yeah...I know...but...*(sigh)* Well, I don't know...

Mr. Po Billy, everyone changes, that's a part of life. Look at all things that you're doing now that you didn't used to do; like playing soccer, going to Sunday School, and riding your bike. But you still remember and love your Dad a whole lot, don't you? *(Billy nods)* Maybe even more now than you did before he went away?

Billy *(Billy nods eagerly, then stands.)* Well yeah, I do, but what about Dad? I'm not worried about me...Dad is the one who's been gone. Maybe he's changed. What

if he doesn't like the grown up me...how I've changed? What if he doesn't like my new bike or my playing soccer?

Mr. Po It's OK to be a little scared and wonder about these things. The bottom line is that although you've changed, and your Dad may have changed some, everyone stays the same in some ways, too.

Billy Yeah, I see now... and it's the same for my Dad? *(excitedly)*

Mr. Po Yes, Billy, just the same. Dads and moms change when they are away, just like you change. Your Dad will have changed. There's no question. Just being away for a long time will have changed him some. He may be thinner, or fatter. He might have a tan, or bigger muscles! He has talked to new people and learned new things, just like you! In many ways, he'll be just the same, though. Look at you. You eat the same food now and do some of the same things as when your dad left, right. *(Billy nods)* When your dad is here again, you'll still go to the same school, wear the same clothes, and take the garbage out the same way....and deep down inside, in your heart, *(Po points)* where it really counts, you are both still the same when it comes to loving each other. That hasn't changed. You just wait and see. *(They hug)*

Billy *(Brightened)* OK! Thanks, Mr. Po. Thanks a lot!

4 - Moms

*(Mom 1 sits on chair with baby on her lap. Billy sits left of her.
Mom 2 and Franky stand behind them.)*

Mom 1 Hi, Susan. Hi Franky. How's it goin'? Waitin' for John?

Mom 2 *(Susan nods.)* Yes...yes, we are. *(We hear happy baby cooing sounds, see arms and legs raised, kicking, etc.)* Cathy, can I ask you something?

Mom 1 Sure, what's up?

Mom 2 Before John left the house; he was doing long, long hours at work, getting ready to go. We didn't see him much, did we? *(She looks at Franky, who nods in agreement)* It was like he was already gone before he had even left!

Mom 1 I know what you mean. It was like that for my husband and me, too. But you know they have to do training they need to get ready to go. They had a lot of equipment to get in order, too.

Mom 2 I know, you're right, but I just wish we wouldn't have argued so much about it just before he left *(wistfully)*. We had so little time to be together at the end.

Franky I know what you mean, mom. I asked dad to help me with my math problems one night and he started complaining and saying he didn't have enough time. I got mad and went to my room. I wish I wouldn't have done that!

Mom 1 I'm sure you're dad is sorry he reacted that way, too. When people know that they're going to be away from each other for a long time, they sometimes will

start arguing and fighting over silly things that they wouldn't otherwise do. They make such a big deal about nothing. It's almost like it's easier to go away from each other mad, rather than sad. Then they wish they'd said they were sorry before they left.

Mom 2 After my husband left I couldn't seem to remember what I was doing some days. I was so mixed up and couldn't even remember how to start the car one day. I wondered if I was going crazy!

Franky I felt that way, too. I couldn't get my homework done at all. But after dad called and helped explain my math problems over the phone, I could do them all by myself!

Mom 2 That's great, honey! You didn't tell me about that! Super! For me, the problem was that there were so many things to do, being both mom and a dad. At first it was just too much. I felt so sad and alone. I couldn't sleep. (pause)

Mom 1 You know how I calmed myself when I was stressed out? I took a walk, listened to music, read a book... I cried sometimes, too.

Billy I called grandma just to talk when I got upset and worried. She was so good at helping me see that things weren't so bad and that everything would be OK.

5 - Kids and Girls

(Close up on Mr. Po.)

Mr. Po People often talk about these things, about how they have to figure out how to do things for themselves. People begin doing things differently than when mom or dad was around.

(As he talks, Kid 1 walks into camera view behind Mr. Po, listening, looking into the camera, mugging, waving, etc.)

They have to, to be able to get things done! Sometimes they discover they can do things all by themselves that they didn't do before! That's a good thing that often comes from being apart. People discover other people to help them; the pastor, a teacher, or a friend!

(Kid 1 nods in agreement. Mr. Po looks slowly at him.)

And what did you do to stay in touch? *(Po sits)*

Kid 1 *(Stops in mid-mug...)* I drew pictures of me and my dad. Wanna' see one? I brought it with me to give him when he gets here, to remind him I was thinking about him all the time. *(Holds up picture. Close up is shown. Kid 2 wanders up and looks at picture.)* My dad and I also made a video before he left. It was fun. We taped ourselves talking about all the fun things we liked to do together, gave each other hugs, and planned all the things that we were going to do when he got back. I must've watched it a hundred times!

Mr. Po *(to Kid 1)* Those are great ways to stay in touch. *(To camera.)* All of us need to talk about things. Help your little brother or sister draw a picture, or draw a picture

yourself, and then talk about it. It's a good way to get fears and worries out in the open. *(Back to Kid 1)* I'll bet you even sent him letters by email.

Kid 1 I sure did! I gotta' go now. Bye! *(He runs off.)*

Kid 2 My mom, brother, sister, and I went to the community center and talked to dad a couple times live, on TV! It was so cool to see him. He told us all about what he was eating, and how he got a chance to swim in a big swimming pool.

Mr. Po Neat! Did he tell you what he was doing?

Kid 2 Well, actually, he said he couldn't tell us too much about what he was doing...it was kind of secret. But he said he was glad he was there, and that what he was doing was going to change him and how he reacted to things around him once he got home.

Mr. Po Did you feel sad or scared? *(Two girls overhear Po's question, move over to listen.)*

Kid 2 One time, when I told my teacher, she said I shouldn't be scared, but I was. He was where people were fighting! She said, I guess you're right, it is scary, isn't it, but we don't need to be afraid, 'cuz God's watching over all of us. She said I should look at the picture of my dad each night and hold the football we're going to throw around once he gets back, and it would help me feel better. And it did! It helped me to say my prayers, too, to remind God to watch over my dad while he was half way 'round the world!

Mr. Po Almost everyone acts so different just before they leave. Some people start yelling, others cry a lot; some get mad, and some get very quiet...everyone's different.

Kid 2 So how do people go back to the way they were, Mr. Po?

Mr. Po Some do, some don't. It depends.

Airport Announcer Mr. Po, please report to security. Mr. Po, please report to security.

Mr. Po Oops, gotta' go. Must have left my camera at the counter. I'd forget my head if it wasn't sewed on straight!

6 - Kids and Girls

(Fade to girls taking about their dads getting ready to welcome home their moms.)

Girl 1 I'll be so glad when this time is over and things go back to normal at my house. At first, just after mom left, my dad was pretty nervous. He was buying all kinds of food we didn't even eat and complained about how much everything cost, but then he settled down. Now, just before mom comes home, he's running all over the house, cleaning like a crazy man. I don't know where he gets the energy. I said, "Dad! Mom will be so glad to be home, she won't even notice."

Girl 2 I know. Like, I think my dad cleaned the bathroom, like, 4 times...and it wasn't, like, even dirty. I guess people get pretty nervous and have to do what makes

them feel like they're ready to be back together again. All I know is, like, I was only going to clean my room once!

(They nod and leave.)

7 - Lisa

Mr. Po *(Sitting next to Lisa on an airport bench; speaks to camera.)* Yup. It was my camera!

Lisa *(Tugs at Mr. Po's sleeve)* Mr Po?

Mr. Po Yes, Lisa? *(He sits next to Lisa.)*

Lisa My big brother went away. He went to do another soldier's job in another town so that soldier could go to fight in a war. I'm glad he's helpin' them out, but I've felt sad, and have missed him. Mr. Po, I was wonderin' if maybe it was something I did that made him want to go away? I wonder if maybe he went away because I read his comic books without asking. He told me not to, but I did, and then he left. Do you think that's it?

Mr. Po No, Lisa, I'm sure that's not it. He went away to do his job for the military. It's NOT your fault at all. He loves you and has missed you, too. I'll bet it's been a big help to him that you've been brave and strong while he was gone.

Lisa Do you think so?

Mr. Po Yes, I do. Your brother might have been upset, back then, but everything will be OK when he gets back, and so will you.

Lisa Oh, great...but just in case, I bought him two new comics to read when he gets back! Thanks, Mr. Po!

Mr. Po You're welcome. *(Camera moves to Mr. Po)* Hey, guys! I need to take a break. You, too? Why don't you stop the tape and talk among yourselves or stretch for a few minutes, and I'll be right back. *(Mr. Po leaves. Black screen.)*

SECTION #2 CONCEPT: Perhaps the most common area for family stress and tension is the area of authority and discipline. Children need help in understanding that the authority had to shift to the at-home parent in charge of family discipline during the separation. Sometimes an older sibling moved into the role of caregiver for the younger children, to help out. Now that the deployed parent has returned, a new equilibrium needs to be established. In most cases, family members will return to their former roles. In some cases, the authority will stay with the “stayed-at-home” parent. Children can do their part by obeying both parents and avoid going between them for the response they want to hear. The older sib can now relax and stop being “the dad!”

8 - Paul and Sammy

Mr. Po OK. Everyone ready? *(He pauses to collect thoughts.)* One of the most common areas for family tension and confusion is about who was “in charge” before they left, and who will be in charge now. While mom or dad was gone, the other parent had to step in and be both mom and dad, in charge of the whole family. Sometimes an older brother or sister is asked to help out and be in charge of the kids, or grandma and grandpa are asked to take care of a child. What do we do when dad or mom comes back? Well, we need to think about what will be the same, and what will be different, but, in most cases, things will go back to the way that they were before. Let’s see how the Nelsons are handling things.

(He turns to indicate a family discussing things at the snack table.)

Mom 3 Now, when your dad gets here, we’ll take turns hugging him, OK?

Paul Yeah, sure. *(Dejectedly, playing with a pretzel.)*

Sam (2yo) Me first, me first.

Mom 3 Yes, you can be first, Sammy. *(Turning to Paul)* Paul, if your dad asks you to carry his stuff, do it without a fuss, OK?

Sam (2yo) No fuss. No fuss! *(Getting pretzels out of basket.)*

Paul OK, OK! *(He will no longer be ‘the man’ of the house, and is already missing being #1.)*

Mom 3 Paul, what’s wrong? You should be happy now that your dad’s coming home.

Paul I am, it’s just that...

Mom 3 ...that what?

Paul Oh. With dad gone you asked me to watch after Sammy, and I did. You let me be in charge of locking up the house when we went out, and I even got to pay for the food at Anthony’s pizza. I ‘spose with dad coming back I’ll be treated like a kid again.

Mom 3 You know what? You’ve grown up so fast since your dad’s been gone. You’ve been such a great help to me, taking care of things. I’m sorry you had to take charge of Sammy so many times, when we couldn’t afford a baby sitter. You know, you’ll be able to spend more time with your friends now, with both your dad

and me here to do OUR jobs again. You can go back to being the young man that you are, and have fun with your friends.

Paul Well, I did kinda miss out on a few things with my friends to help out at home, but that's OK, I wanted to help out. It'll be great to be able to do more stuff with them again, but could I still pay for things sometimes, and maybe have a key of my own now?

Mom 3 Sure, buddy. In fact, when your dad gets back, and sees how much you've grown up, I think we'll need to have a talk about starting an allowance and getting your own house key. How about that!?

(Sammy, who has been oblivious to all this, spills pretzels on the table.)

Paul Cool! I sure won't miss having to pick after him *(indicating Sammy)*, that's for sure.

Mom 3 Oh, and Paul?

Paul Yes, m'am?

Mom 3 You remember how dad always got after you to take the garbage out?

Paul *(Looks down)* Uh huh.

Mom 3 Well, I'll be glad to let him have that job back! What do you say?

Paul OK. It's a deal! *(They laugh and give each other a big hug.)*

Sammy No deal, me first.

(Camera pans to a Grandmother talking to her 5 yo grandchild.)

9 - Grandma

G'ma Jaymie, I have been so proud of you. You've been such a big boy staying with grandma while mommy was away. Are you excited about her coming home today? *(Grandma's a bit shaky with the excitement herself.)*

Jaymeson Yes, Grandma.

G'ma That's wonderful. Me, too. Do you remember how you slept in Grammy's bed sometimes when we were both feeling sad...and I'd read stories?

Jaymeson Yes, Grandma. That happened lots of times.

G'ma *(G'ma chuckles.)* Yes, it did. Well, now you'll be going home, and you'll need to start sleeping in your own big bed again. Do you understand?

Jaymeson Yes, Grammy. But will I still be able to come over to your house and sleep over sometimes, still?

G'ma Yes, honey, you sure will. And we'll make cookies, again, and laugh and play games together, just like old times. OK?

Jaymeson Yes, Grandma. I love you. *(They hug.)*

G'ma ...and I love you too, sweetie.

(Back to Mr. Po.)

Mr. Po So you see, every family situation is different. Don't let "who's in charge" become a problem. Talk about it and decide, now that EVERYONE is older, who will be in charge of what...and who. If you need time to talk about this, now would be a good time to stop the tape again. *(Black screen.)*

SECTION #3 CONCEPT: Dynamics of sharing time/affection with the returning SM and getting re-acquainted. Once children begin to understand why and how they and the parent have changed they would be interested in specific ideas on sharing time and affection in a balanced way with their SM parent. They want to get re-acquainted and re-establish the relationship, making room in their lives for the returning service member ASAP. They need to know about the military plan to return the parent to them gradually, by ½ days. How does a child welcome a parent back home; make room for both parents, without rushing things? Guilt feelings may arise given the fact that all need time alone, too, without offending the returned parent.

10 - Girls

Mr. Po Ready already? O-K! Getting back together with mom or dad after they've been gone is very exciting. Remember, if you've been apart for a long time, you are used to NOT being together. Don't rush it. You need to be OK with letting everyone in the family have as much alone time as they need, especially at first. Let's see how Sally and Laura are planning to spend time.

(Two girls stand nearby)

Girl 1 My dad said that mom won't be home everyday, all day, when she gets back. We will be together this weekend, but then she'll go back to work ½ day a week, I think. I guess she needs to put things away that she took with her and fill out paperwork. You know, that kind of stuff. That way, she'll only be home for ½ the day, and we have a chance to get used to each other again before being together all the time. After a while, we'll be able to take vacation. They say things will go back "normal" *(she gestures in quotes)* after a month or so.

Girl 2 Sweet! That's, like, what we're doing, too. My dad went to my school, and made sure it was OK to take a vacation, to be sure I'd have my homework, which will be sort of OK. It'll be kind of fun to do my homework, even on vacation, because mom will be here to help me with it again.

Girl 1 Hmm. I never thought about it that way. I guess I'd better ask my mom about getting my homework, too. Oh, and by the way, remember our parents haven't seen each other for a long time. If you see them get all googly-eyed and kissy-kissy, leave them alone for awhile. Their gonna' need time with just themselves.

(They giggle)

Girl 2 OK, like, good advice. See ya' later. *(They leave)*

11 - Paul Grows Up

(Camera goes back to Paul, Sammy, and Mom at the snack table.)

Mom Do you remember what dad said he wants to do when he gets back home?

Paul He said he wants to sleep all day and play all night, right?

Mom Well, not exactly. But remember he isn't used to being around you kids all day like I am. He'll need a break. Now, how long should you plan on playing with daddy the first day he's back?

Sam Two minutes? *(Holding up two 2 yo fingers.)*

Mom Well, it can be a little longer than that! We've been able to play games for an hour sometimes, right, Paul?

Paul Uh-uh.

Mom Well, now, when daddy is home, we need to do things with him, too, but he may not be able to pay attention for a long time like he used to.

Sam Daddy can help me go potty!

Mom Well, yes, I'm sure he'll appreciate, and will want to do that. But what else will he want to do?

Paul He'll want to help me with homework...and you with housework!

(Sammy is raising his hand to answer. "Me, me.")

Mom Yeah... right! Dad will find out we were able to fix the leaking faucet all by ourselves, and get the car fixed. How do you think that will make him feel?

Paul Like we don't need a plumber? *(Sammy raises his hand higher.)*

Mom *(She laughs)* Well, he may feel like he's not needed at home anymore, or like he doesn't fit in.

Paul That's silly! I need him just as much as ever.

Sam And I need him to help me go potty!

Mom Well, make sure you tell him that, OK? Daddy is going to be so surprised at how big you are, Sammy. We'll be sure to show him the scrapbook we made for him while he was gone so he can catch up.

Sam Great. *(Sticking his finger in his ear?)*

Mom I've been taking care of you kids all along. Even though mommy has learned to do new things, let's let dad take charge and do some of those things again, when he gets back, OK? (They both nod.) Your Dad will remember how things were before he left. With him gone, we changed things to work with us at home. Some of those changes are good, and better than before, and we'll want to stick with them.

Paul Like how we moved the kitchen table and put the dishes in the sink right away after eating?

Mom Yes, Paul, that's a good example. Well, Dad will need time to learn the new way to do things, just like we did when we made them up. While Daddy was away, I'll bet he's been thinking about us and remembering a lot about doing things the way we did them before. Let's be patient with him. But some of the things I've learned to do, I'm going to keep doing.

Paul Like paying all the bills on time, right mom?

Mom Well, that may be one thing, yes. *(Pause, looking at him, with a grin.)* Say, you really have been paying attention, haven't you?! And let's remember, his work will still need him, too. We have to share.

Sam I'm going to let daddy help me color, and play, and ...

Paul We already know! *(He shouts.)* GO POTTY!

(This causes everyone to look at the snack table, all is quiet, still for a moment, embarrassing Paul. Sammy puts his head in the bowl.)

12 - Dads

(Two dads walk by, with one's daughter.)

Dad 1 Is it true what they say? That things will be great for a while, and then we'll start getting on each other's nerves?

Dad 2 Yes, it's called the "honeymoon period."

Girl 2 Are you getting married again, dad?

Dad 2 No, Sally. It just means that mom and I will be so happy to be back together, things will be just wonderful for a while, but then we might start getting on each others nerves. It's normal for that to happen.

Girl 2 I don't want that to happen, Dad. How can we stop it?

Dad 2 Well, we can start off by being very patient with each other, and saying we're sorry when we do something that bugs someone else. We can also remind each other that it's OK if one of us says we need a little time alone, by ourselves. Do you think we can do that?

Girl 2 Sure, dad.

Dad 1 I'm sure we could also ask to speak to our chaplain, or the doctor, if we start losing our tempers and begin shouting at each other.

Girl 2 I can't imagine I'm going to start shouting at mom!

Dad 2 Well, I can't either, but let's make sure we keep talking to each other. We don't exactly know what mom's been through. She may have seen some things that, when she remembers them, will make her feel angry, or sad, or just blah. We'll need to watch for that, and give her some time to adjust.

Girl 2 We need to give ourselves time to adjust, too, don't we?

Dad 2 You're exactly right. I think things are going to be just fine for us with a thoughtful girl like you around!

13 - Ending

Mr. Po Kids, some parents get home and have trouble getting used to being back. They might have trouble going to sleep at night, or only eat a little food, or even have nightmares. They might be remembering something from when they were gone that's bothering them. You can be a big help to them just by putting your arm around them and asking them if they are OK. Your teachers or other parents might be good people to talk to if mom or dad doesn't seem very happy after a while.

Airport Operator Flight 112 has just landed. Those waiting to greet the great Americans returning to the States please go to gate 5.

(Segment ends with each family getting up and going by Mr. Po, thanking him and making comments about their situation.)

Paul I can't wait to get home and show dad how big I am and how I can do tricks on my bike!

Sam I am going to show daddy how I can use the toilet!

Grandma Let's go show mommy how much you've grown!

Kid 1 I've got my pictures, mom!

Franky Hey dad, wait'll ya' see how good I can do my math, now!

Lisa Hey, there's my big brother. Hey Stewart! I got you some new comic books!

Billy: Look, look ...there's my Dad! ...

(Close up of Billy running up to his dad. Jumps into his arms. They hug.)

Dad! Dad! Dad! I missed you!

Dad: I missed you, too!

Mr. Po: Well, Billy's dad didn't forget about him. I'm sure you'll do many things just the same when they get home and some things will be new. The main thing is - give it some time, and don't rush it. What works for one family may not work for another. Plan time, especially on busy days, whether at home or on vacation, to talk about things that have changed, and whether you'd like to go back to the old way, or keep it new. Make a list of things you'll want to talk about. Include every family member in your talks. Bye, bye, now go have fun!

*(Fade out on PO to pictures of families reuniting, hugging, smiling.)
(Music is upbeat, patriotic, fade into credits and acknowledgements, thanks.)*

CREDITS

Producer	Mr. (LTC-Res) Gregg Drew, DAC 104th ASG	
Director	Dr. (LTC) George Patrin, TAO-E Medical Director, Pediatrician	
Puppet Master	Mr. Ken Gallion	(Chaplain)
Puppeteers	LTC Gregg Drew (as himself)	(104 th ASG)
	LTC Lois Borsay	(ERMC)
	Mr. Ken Gallion	(Chaplain)
	Mrs. Linda Glynn	(TAO-E)
	Ms. Lauren Glynn	(Sembach CDC)
	Mrs. Peggy Ley	(104 th ASG)
	Mrs. Muriel Metcalf	(TAO-E)
	LTC (Dr.) George Patrin	(TAO-E)
	LTC Dave Smith	(LRMC)
Scriptwriters	LTC (Dr.) George Patrin	(TAO-E)
	Mr. Ken Gallion	(Chaplain)
	LTC Dave Smith	(LRMC)
	Mrs. Pam Patrin	(Military Spouse)
	LTC Gregg Drew	(104 th ASG)
	LTC Jeff Voyles	(104 th ASG)
Script Advisors	CH (MAJ) David Cooper	(104 th ASG)
Script Revision	LTC Lois Borsay	(ERMC)
	Ms. Barb Abbott	(DoDDS)
	LTC Lois Borsay	(ERMC)
	Mrs. Julie Kelly	(Military Spouse)
	Ms. Lauren Glynn	(Sembach CDC)
	Mrs. Linda Glynn	(TAO-E)
	Ms. Linda Mattson	(Civilian School Teacher)
	Mrs. Muriel Metcalf	(TAO-E)
	Mr. Andrew Patrin	(Military Son)
	Mrs. Pam Patrin	(Military Spouse)
	Mrs. Diana Smith	(Military Spouse)
	The Scott Family	(LRMC)
Seamstress	Mrs. Pam Patrin	(Military Spouse)
Technical Consultants	Mr. Geoffrey Carter	(104 th ASG)
	CH (LTC) Scott Carson	(104th ASG)
Family Life Consultant	CH (MAJ) Jeff Voyles	(104 th ASG)
Family Deployment Consultants	Dr. (LTC) George Patrin, Pediatrician	(TAO-E)
	Dr. (COL) Simon Pincus, Psychiatrist	(TAMC)
Funding (Grant)	USAREUR, CTOF	

Video Production

VIDCO-VIDEO Communications Studio
Herr Oliver Diener
Herr Olaf Weinrebe
Andreas Nehrkorn

DVD Label

Ms Beth Stegall

Special Thanks to ...

104th ASG

104th ASG Marketing

CH (LTC) Frank Bruning, 104th ASG

CTOF

ERMC

KMC World Outreach Christian Center

Hainerberg Kaserne Chapel

CH (COL) Lawrence Krause, Chief of Chaplains, 104th ASG

Mrs. Sharon Gallion, Admin Asst, 221st BSB, Office of the Chaplain

Sembach Child Developmental Center

TAS-E

TRICARE Area Office-Europe

VIDCO-VIDEO Communications Studio, Frankfurt

Ramstein Air Base

USAFE

USAREUR

Resources/ POCs (SME Consultants, Performers, & Production Technicians)

(COL-Res) Gregg Drew, DAC 104th ASG, Producer DSN 323-2476, Cell 01731506501

gregg.drew@us.army.mil, greggdrew7@yahoo.com, greggdrew@hotmail.com

COL (Dr.) George Patrin, Director, Pediatrician Home 210-455-0764; Cell 210-833-9152

george.patrin@amedd.army.mil, george.patrin@us.army.mil, patrin.george@gmail.com

Mr. Ken Gallion, CH, Puppeteer therevkennyg@yahoo.com

Mrs Peggy Ley, Puppeteer Leyr@hotmail.com, robert.ley@us.army.mil 0611-565-7662

Ms Beth Stegall, CD Label, beth.stegall@gmail.com

VIDCO Communications Studio, Koberstadter Str 3, Drieich, (Frankfurt), 63303

Website: www.vidco.de, info@vidco.de; 06103-98010, 06103-9801-31

Oliver Diener, oliver.diener@vidco.de, Andreas Nehrkorn, andreas.nehrkorn@vidco.de

DVD Editing - TAS-E, labeling and burning DVD Copies

CAST LIST for Putting on the Program 'Live'

Cast (in order of appearance):

Chaplain

Mr. Po

Billy

Billy's Mom 1

Baby

Franky's Mom 2

Franky

Kid 1 (Artist)

Kid 2 (Freckles)

Airport Announcer

Girl 1 (Laura)

Girl 2 (Sally)

Lisa (comics)

Paul's Mom 3

Paul

Sammy

Grandma

Jaymeson

Dad 1

Dad 2