

From the Editor

Family.

They celebrate with you in the good times and comfort you in the bad.

I can never get enough of seeing video and photos of families welcoming home their warriors from a long deployment—the unmitigated joy on the children's and parent's faces as they reunite is priceless. And it never fails to bring a tear to my eye.

The reunion is a wonderful time, but what about those months spent apart? Especially for children, being separated from a parent can be difficult and confusing.

In this issue of *the Families Magazine* by AmeriForce Publishing, we discuss how to make that separation a little easier for everyone involved—from keeping children connected with their absent parent to planning fun and memorable activities to help the time pass more quickly.

And for those service members and their families who may be dealing with what can be the darker side of coming home—post traumatic stress disorder or other mental health issues, our article on the rise in suicides and what is being done to prevent them may help save a life.

And for every family, military or civilian, these are trying economic times. Check out our financial package, starting on page 12, where you can learn how to make a budget that works for you or even fight off foreclosure.

Whatever your question or your need, you can turn to *the Families Magazine* to help you find the answer.

Warm Regards,



Jennifer G. Williams, Editor



Mother and daughter greet one another at one of many homecomings across the country. Helping children deal with separation from a parent during a deployment is just one of many articles being featured in this issue. Photo courtesy The Boys and Girls Club of America and the DoD.



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