

9 TIPS TO CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS DURING DEPLOYMENT

Celebrating special occasions while a loved one is deployed can be challenging. Here are some tips to help make these moments memorable and meaningful:



Plan Ahead: Start planning for the special occasion in advance. This includes deciding how you'll celebrate, what activities you'll do and any gifts or surprises you want to prepare.



Communicate: Keep open communication with your loved one about the upcoming occasion. Discuss their preferences, availability for communication and how they'd like to be involved in the celebration.



Include Them Virtually: If possible, involve your loved one in the celebration through video calls or messaging apps. Set up a time for them to join in on the festivities virtually, whether it's for opening presents, singing Happy Birthday or sharing a meal together.



Send Care Packages: Prepare a special care package filled with items that remind the member of home and the occasion you're celebrating. Include personalized notes, treats, photos and small gifts.



Create Traditions: Establish traditions that you can continue even when your loved one is deployed. Whether it's a special meal, a certain activity or a particular way of celebrating, traditions can help maintain a sense of connection and continuity.



Involve Family and Friends: Celebrate with other family members, friends or other military families who understand what you're going through. Their support and presence can make the occasion more enjoyable and memorable.



Focus on Quality Time: Make the most of the time you have together, whether it's in person or virtually. Focus on creating meaningful experiences and memories rather than solely on material gifts or extravagant celebrations.



Document the Celebration: Take photos or record videos during the celebration to share with your loved one afterward. This allows them to feel included and connected, even if they couldn't be there in person.



Stay Flexible: Understand that plans may need to change due to unexpected circumstances or last-minute commitments. Stay flexible and adaptable and remember that the most important thing is to show love and support, no matter how you celebrate.