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New activity book gives young children a safe way to ask questions, talk about feelings, and feel connected to a deployed parent

Title: *My Dad's Deployment: A deployment and reunion activity book for young children*

Author: Julie LaBelle, illus by Christina Rodriguez

Publisher: Elva Resa Publishing

www.elvaresa.com/pressACTD.html

ISBN: 978-1-934617-07-6

Publication Date: November 2009

Retail Price: \$9.95

Format: 8-1/2"x11" Softcover, 112 pages

(St. Paul, MN) Elva Resa Publishing is pleased to announce the release of *My Dad's Deployment: A deployment and reunion activity book for young children*. The fun activities in this 112-page activity book offer young children a safe way to ask questions, talk about their feelings, and feel connected to a deployed parent.

Deployment-related mazes, dot-to-dots, counting, matching, coloring, and craft activities help children feel a part of the deployment process and prepare for what's coming next. Four sections (Getting Ready for Deployment, Deployment, Getting Ready for Reunion, and Reunion) provide appropriate activities for each stage of deployment, from packing and saying goodbye to welcoming Dad home.

As a former preschool teacher and mother of three, author Julie LaBelle combined her professional and personal experiences to create *My Dad's Deployment*. "This book is entirely based on things I should have done with my children, but didn't, during deployments," Julie says. "As a teacher, I was armed with many tools to keep children creatively engaged. But as parents, we can get so swept up in the emotions and demands that deployment brings. Keeping children involved is a challenge we all face."

About the Author and Illustrator

Julie LaBelle has been making a difference in children's lives for many years. She raised three young children during her Marine husband's deployments, and then years later supported her son when he deployed with the Marines.

An award-winning children's book illustrator, Christina Rodriguez grew up as an Air Force brat, moving from place to place. Christina was awarded a scholarship to the Rhode Island School of Design, where she earned a fine arts degree in illustration.

My Dad's Deployment: A deployment and reunion activity book for young children is available from local retailers as well as www.MilitaryFamilyBooks.com and Amazon.com. *My Mom's Deployment* will be available in 2010.

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ELVA RESA PUBLISHING LLC is an independent publisher based in St Paul, Minnesota, whose mission is to make a positive difference in people's lives. Its primary imprint specializes in books for and about military families. For more information, visit www.elvaresa.com