

TO IRAQ AND BACK

(DEPLOYMENT 2008)



Chris Pedersen, LT, USN

Biography

□ Professional

- Joined Navy 2003
- Naval Flight Officer (S-3 / P-3)
- VS-41 Coronado, CA
- VS-22 Jacksonville, FL
- VX-30 Pt. Mugu, CA
- 1100 Military Hours (270 Combat)
- S-3 Training/NATOPS Officer
- Deployments:
 - 2007-Curacao
 - 2008-USS George Washington
 - 2008-Al Asad, AB, Iraq

Personal

- 33 Years Old
- M.A.S. Embry-Riddle
- B.A. Northwestern
- Civilian Flight Instructor (2600 Hours)
- Married w/2 kids



Phases of Deployment

- Pre-Deployment
 - ▣ Learning
 - ▣ Coping
 - ▣ Planning
- Deployment
 - ▣ Executing
 - ▣ Returning
- Post-Deployment
 - ▣ Assimilating



Pre-Deployment

- Learning
 - Finding out about deployment
 - Rumors, Gossip, Fears, Anger
 - Informing family
 - Family anxiety
 - Extended family and questions
- Coping
 - Acceptance, bonding w/friends
 - Appreciation of time left
 - What if this is it?
- Planning
 - Operational tempo increase
 - Lots of work/stress
 - Intensity
 - Increasing proficiency
 - Packing
 - Personal effects
 - Office Equipment
 - Preparing Spouse for life alone
 - Finances, Passwords, Wills, Power of Attorney

Deployment

- Executing

- Departure

- Tearful goodbye?
 - “Don’t look back”



- Enroute

- Where is Iraq?
 - 5 day journey, lots of ocean
 - Comraderie/Fun

- Arrival

- Crossing the border (Saudi Arabia/Iraq)
 - Dusty/Hot/Windy/Miserable
 - Where’s my gun? My bed? Shower? Food? Is this a dream



Deployment

▣ Missions

- ▣ 1st mission jitters
 - Praying, Crying, Homesick
 - Routine flights, Complacency
 - Are we being shot at?



▣ Life

- ▣ Settling in
 - Internet, Cable, MWR, Mail
 - Strong Bonds
 - Simple life/Simple Pleasures
 - Connecting with home and old friends
 - Fun Guilt



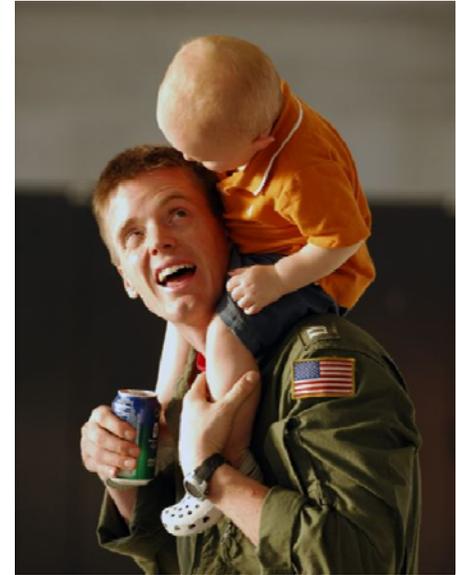
Deployment

- Returning
 - Mixed feelings
 - Excitement/Anxiety/Pride
 - What Now?
 - A lot of ocean/Get-Home-Itis
 - “Get me outta this jet”



Post Deployment

- Assimilating
 - Reintegration
 - Honeymoon effect
 - Overdoing things
 - Not-so-simple life
 - Noise, weather, responsibilities
 - Spouse needs a break?
 - Emotional High, Low, then even keel
 - Pride/Awards
 - Life goes on



Questions

