

OPERATION A.L.F.

Deployment Protocols

Thank you for attending this deployment ceremony and assisting with the distribution of Operation A.L.F. dogs. While this is an honor and a privilege to participate, it also comes with responsibility.

With that in mind, please observe the following:

- This is a private time with service members and their families.
- Do not initiate contact or engagement with service members or their families, let them come to you.
- Do not ask questions about their deployment.
- Do not ask questions about their family or their family life.
- Be cautious when taking pictures:
 - Pictures of children should only be taken with the permission of their parent or guardian.
 - Be sure to arrange the picture in a way to mask any identifying information.
 - This includes masking their name tag, and any uniform insignia that identifies their unit.
 - If it is a picture you might want to share at some point later (see below), you should ask permission of the parent or guardian if it would be ok to do so at a later date.
- No pictures can be posted on social media the day of the event.
- Be aware they may ask you not to take any pictures at all.
- If you are allowed to take pictures, when posting or sharing pictures at a later date (which should be *at least six weeks* after the event) on social media, your website, your newsletter, your reports, etc., you should follow these protocols:
 - Do not indicate the date of the deployment.
 - Do not indicate the location of the deployment.
 - Do not indicate the military or Legion Family units involved in the deployment.
 - Do not indicate the number of service members that were part of the deployment.
- They may also ask to review any pictures you have taken and may delete them.
- If you learn of any details while attending the event, such as where they are going, for how long, what they are going to be doing, etc. you may not share this information with anyone.
- Always be cheerful and be sure to thank them for their service. This applies equally to military members and their families.

Again, thank you for attending and assisting with this very important service offered to our nation's military members and their families.