

Current Programs for Deployed/Remote Army Spouses

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Hearts Apart Social/Party

The Hearts-Apart Social/Party is a monthly gathering of our Remote Tour and Deployed spouses. We usually get together at the Airman and Family Readiness Center starting at 6:00pm. This event is structured and has theme based activities for either the adults or kids. We may have a private pool party for the kids one month, a Ready for Reunion Social for adults the next, or a Holiday Cards and Pictures event depending on the time of year. Events vary widely based upon the season. Our goal is to bring our remote and deployed families together so they may meet others that are going through the same difficult time, share experiences, and network and build relationships with other spouses and children. Invitations and event details are e-mailed monthly to those remote tour and deployed spouses that are properly signed-up on the A&FRC's Remote/Deployed Spouse E-Mail List. Contact MSgt Melton at 895-1255 for further information.

Morale Call Program

The Morale Call program is for family members who have a loved one serving on a remote short tour or deployment. This program provides the family member with access to the base DSN telephone switch so that they may place calls to their loved one, anywhere in the world, from the comfort of their own home absolutely free. Family members may use this service by dialing 895-1110 and selecting option 7. Family members will need a PIN from the Airman and Family Readiness Center before using this service. If you need a PIN, please call MSgt Melton at 895-1255.

Monthly Remote/Deployed and Welcome Home Family Dinner **(Sponsored by Base Chapel)**

The monthly Remote/Deployed and Welcome Home Family Dinner is for family members who have a loved one currently serving on a remote tour or deployment, and for family members who's loved ones returned the month prior. The dinner is held on the 4th Monday of each month at the Carolina Skies Club on base, starting at 6:00pm, but you may drop in anytime after 6. We blow-up large bouncy houses for the kids, provide free food (buffet), and enjoy each other's company. There is no agenda; just an opportunity to "get out", have some fun, let the kids play, and make new friends. When you're loved one comes home, bring them to the next dinner so that we may welcome them back and they may meet the friends you made while they were gone.

Parent Night Out

The Parent Night Out child care program is designed to give parent(s) an option for safe, affordable child care when they just need a break. The Shaw AFB Child Development Center/Youth Center will open for a 4-hour period on the 1st Friday evening of each month, from 1830 to 2230, and provide child care for \$4.00 per hr, per child. You may use PLAYPass Youth Card Child Care Hours to cover the cost of this event. Contact MSgt Melton at 895-1255 for further information.

Location: Child Development Center (ages 6 months-5) and Youth Center (ages 6-12)

Telephone: CDC 895-2247/2248; Youth Center 895-2251

Hours/Dates: 1st Friday of each month, 1830 to 2230

Requirements: Sign up by the Thursday before the scheduled Parent Night Out. Bring a copy of your child's shot record the first time you use the service.

Child Respite Care

The child respite care program provides 16 hours of free hourly respite care, per month, per child, starting 30 days prior to deployment and running through 90 days after deployment. Services are provided at the Shaw AFB Child Development Center. Please contact the Child Development Center at the number below for more information.

Location: Child Development Center (ages 6 months-5 years)

Telephone: 895-2247/2248

Hours/Dates: Based on the needs of the parent and availability

Information Overload!

One of the most common stressors for family members left behind is the feeling of being alone, not knowing what is going on around them, and generally being left out of the loop. Active Duty Members have the opportunity to add their loved ones to the A&FRC Remote/Deployed Spouse E-Mail List when they attend the mandatory pre-deployment briefing. This e-mail list will be used to keep your family members up to date on all of the happenings at Shaw AFB while you are gone. For example, we will let your family know when there is a case lot sale at the commissary, if there are any gate closures due to construction, reminders on the various remote/deployed spouse socials and kids' parties and we even send out notes from the Wing Staff Meeting. As you can imagine, we strive to keep your family "in the know" on anything and everything that may affect them while you are gone. Don't worry though; it will not be an "Overload" of information as the title suggests. We usually send out just three or four e-mails over the course of a month. Just enough to ensure your family is kept up to date. Not receiving these e-mails? Not sure if your spouse signed you up before they left? Contact MSgt Melton at 895-1255 to be added to the list!

Contact Information

Airman & Family Readiness Center

524 Stuart Avenue

Shaw AFB SC 29152

Office: (803) 895-1252 Fax: (803) 895-4748

Monday - Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm