

The Long Wait of a Military Spouse

Keri Messerich anxiously awaits calls from her husband, Darian. She knows each time he calls, he's that much closer to coming home.

"Every time I talk to him, I feel better knowing that another day has passed, and he'll be home soon," Messerich says.

Messerich expects her husband to be deployed to Afghanistan for approximately one year . . . the longest amount of time the two have been apart during their seven-year marriage.

While her husband is overseas, Messerich has her hands full taking care of the couple's two sets of twins. One set is five years old (Logan and Spencer) and the other is two and a half (Cade and Lara).

"The first time Darian called, the boys were happy to talk to dad, but sad to realize how far away he was and that he was going to be gone a long time," explains Messerich.

The **Operation Uplink** program allows Messerich to stay in touch with her husband while he's deployed.

"I never knew this program existed until my friend Amber found it online," she says. "Both of our husbands are deployed; I couldn't believe how quickly my friend's husband received his card."

"My heart just spills with joy because I know that Darian and other spouses far away from their loved ones can call their families."



Keri Messerich with her beloved husband, Darian, taken on the day he deployed to Afghanistan. He is set to return February of 2007.

Messerich and her children are thankful for the support and service that **Operation Uplink** provides for our troops.

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Operation Uplink helps families like the Messerich's endure the deployment of a family member.

"It helps knowing that I can talk to him," Messerich offers. "When he calls, I know that the time I have with him might be made possible from someone who has supported **Operation Uplink**, and that support means a lot.

"Talking to him makes me realize that I can make it through another day," she says. "This is our first deployment, and we are going to get through this with the help of **Operation Uplink**."