



## ***Should Spouse/Family Stay or Go?***

This should be a topic of discussion prior to the deployment. Making the decision to stay at your duty station or go “back home” during your Marine’s deployment may be something that you and your family are contemplating. You may want to consider the table provided below to help make the best decision for you and your family. For couples with children there are additional considerations listed.

<b>PROS:</b>	<b>Things to Consider:</b>
<p><b><u>Staying at Your Duty Station</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support from military friends that can directly relate to lifestyle.</li> <li>• Close to military resources.</li> <li>• Commissary, Marine Corps Exchange, theater savings, and usage of the base gym.</li> <li>• Opportunity to really delve into military lifestyle and become a part of the military community.</li> <li>• MCCS deployment-related education, support groups, and activities.</li> <li>• Close contact with Family Readiness Officer.</li> <li>• Gained sense of independence.</li> <li>• Programs through the Child and Youth Program.</li> <li>• Stability and familiar caregivers that help support you and your family during a deployment such as, schools, teachers, coaches, and friends.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Going Back Home</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to “catch up” and spend time with family and friends.</li> <li>• Still receive BAH and will have little or no household bills.</li> <li>• If pursuing education on-line, it can be continued regardless of location.</li> <li>• Kids can spend time with familiar family and surroundings.</li> <li>• Childcare assistance</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Staying at Your Duty Station</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loneliness if not getting actively involved in your community.</li> <li>• Isolation.</li> <li>• Boredom.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Going Back Home</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress of moving.</li> <li>• Move at own expense to include storage, flights home, first and last month rent and set-up fees if getting a place “back home.”</li> <li>• Finding and setting up a new house upon return.</li> <li>• Loss of base housing with possible additional wait time upon your Marine’s return to obtain housing again.</li> <li>• Switching schools.</li> <li>• Confusion amongst the children.</li> <li>• Away from familiar surroundings and personal comfort items.</li> </ul>