



Until Every One Comes Home®

USO Operation Phone Home®



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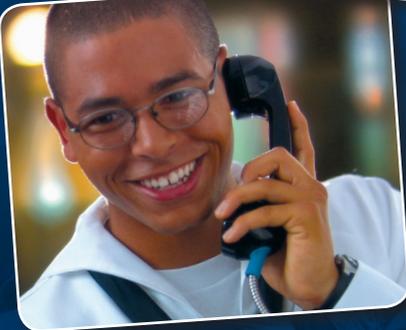
A connection to home. That's what a service man or woman values the most when stationed far away. The chance to say "good night" to a child, "I love you" to a spouse, "I miss you" to a parent.

It's probably no surprise that the USO's most requested items are prepaid international phone cards to call home. We make sure the cards are loaded with enough time to get beyond a rushed hello and goodbye. One sergeant thanked us by saying, "I knew you were going to send me some minutes, but I didn't know you were going to send me THAT many! I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to communicate with my loved ones."

The calls are equally as important on the home front. "I just want to let you know how much it means to us to hear our son's voice," said one mother. "So much goes on in a mother's head when her son or daughter is in an area of the world where there is so much danger. You cannot be there to help them or just be there for them on a rough day. Hearing their voice is a blessing."

Officers tell us that handing out USO Operation Phone Home® cards has become one of their favorite things to do. "I was not expecting 300-minute phone cards. I started passing them out last night, and I could tell by the look on their faces, they were thankful," said one. Another called giving the cards to his Marines and sailors "truly one of the most enjoyable tasks I have done over here in the sandbox."

Through discounts from the phone companies and generous support from donors large and small, we have distributed several million phone cards over the past few years. In addition to the cards, we are always exploring how technology can bridge the distance. We now have a satellite-based phone network at USO centers in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. When troops come in, they can use the network and call home for free.



This program is one of the many ways that the USO fulfills its mission to lift the spirits of U.S. troops and their families. Through special programs, targeted services, entertainment tours and in more than 140 USO centers around the world, this private, nonprofit organization continually seeks ways to build morale and express appreciation to active duty military personnel and their families.