



Satellite Helps Unite Military Families For Holidays

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SAN DIEGO -- Being away from home this time of year is never easy, especially for San Diego's military families separated by deployment.

But thanks to a little technology, families were reunited -- at least for a little while. Though the armed forces do what they can to brighten the season for troops overseas, for many, a big part of the holiday is thousands of miles away.

But in an AT&T transmission building, within shouting distance of the Marine Corps Air Station, families are catching up.

From personal messages to Christmas wishes, families were able to talk live via satellite. It was something program volunteer Charles Love couldn't imagine.

"I went through the Big War, as they call World War I. I was a bombardier flying out of Italy and if I got a letter from my folks back in the states once a month, I was lucky," Love said. The satellite connection was made possible through a grant provided by AT&T to the Freedom Calls Foundation.

Families cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time, 10News reported.

"(We covered) personal (things), Christmas -- you name it, (we covered it) in a half hour," said Sheila Nichols, who was able to talk to her husband overseas.

"I'm the one that's cried more than the families. But, like I say, it's tears of joy," Love admitted.