

IN GENERAL EXCELLENCE

Savannah Morning News.

Marine in Iraq watches son graduate

Military Matters

Sean Harder | 912.652.0496
sean.harder@savannahnow.com

Marine Master Sgt. Michael Holcomb is on his second tour as an Avionics Chief in Al Asad in western Iraq, but he was able to see his stepson graduate from Marine boot camp Friday.

From a satellite facility in Al Asad, set up by the Freedom Calls Foundation, Holcomb was able to see and congratulate his stepson at Parris Island's parade deck via video link. Holcomb is assigned to the Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron, India Company, 3rd Battalion.

Christopher Michael Phibbs graduated Friday as 1st squadron leader of his platoon in the same battalion and company as his stepfather did 19 years ago at Parris Island.

Freedom Calls is "transforming a long standing family communication paradigm in time of war by enabling soldiers and marines in the war zone to attend and participate in milestone family events," said John Harlow, executive director of the public charity.