

Military families get early present

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Internet technology connected Fort Bragg soldiers in Iraq with their families back home Tuesday for some holiday time together.

A group, called Freedom Calls, set-up a live webcam at the [Airborne and Special Operations Museum](#) in Fayetteville.

A little technology helped share a lot of Christmas spirit half a world away.

Karen Croy puts on a brave face holding back tears as she sees her husband for the first time since he deployed for war.

Chaplain Dwight Croy will spend Christmas and his 50th birthday in Iraq. Croy said her husband is right where he belongs, with the troops.

"He says they have a prayer time on Sunday night. A lot of soldiers come and pray for their families. He says there are a lot of strong prayer warriors there." She said.

Meghan Stock waits her turn to speak with her father via the internet webcam. She's never had a chance to share Christmas day with him.



Webcams help connect families

Kristina Stock, her mother, explained, "This is our second Christmas without daddy. But we get to talk to him. I mean, we'll make do. We'd like him to be here."

Families said it's encouraging to hear their loved ones talk about how they're celebrating the holiday in Iraq.

"They had a door decorating contest. They had Christmas decoration, I guess family members have sent them," Denise McMillin, wife of 46th support commander, explained. "They have a brand new dining facility. He's serving the troops on Christmas day and they have a big dinner planned, so I think as well as they can pull it off, you know to have a good Christmas."

Families said they're proud of their soldiers and pray for a happy and safe holiday.

Karen Croy added, "He loves the lord and he loves those soldiers. I'm glad he's there."

Military officials said they will continue to use video technology to keep families connected with soldiers stationed in Iraq.

Family members told News 14 that the chance to talk with loved ones face to face means a lot, particularly this time of year.

