



Valentine's Day 'Free Call Day' Keeps Sweethearts Connected

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Valentine's Day is the annual holiday celebrating love and affection between companions. But, it's hard to celebrate when your companion is overseas.

Thanks to the VFW Department of Minnesota, for a full 24 hours, troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait were able to send their love to their Valentine on February 14 for free. A total of 69,805 connections were made.

Minnesota native SFC Brandon Fank, who is part of the B Company 412th Task Force XII, was just one of thousands of our troops who took advantage of *VFW Operation Uplink's*[™] "Free Call Day."

Fank is stationed at Camp Adder, Iraq, and was glad to hear the VFW Department of Minnesota was the Free Call Day sponsor. "As a U.S. Army soldier...and a home-grown Minnesotan, I want to say thank you for providing myself and other soldiers with free phone calls on Valentine's Day. As a Minnesota native I am proud to tell my peers and subordinates that it was my state that led the way in this endeavor," he said.

Free Call Days are available at more than 800 MWR internet cafes using SPAWAR located on military installations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

The next Free Call Day will be March 14, for "VFW Salutes the Armed Forces."

For a full schedule of Free Call Days, visit our website:

<http://www.vfw.org/PR/NMS/OperationUplink/2009%20Free%20Call%20Dates%20Sponsors.pdf>

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National Military Services is a department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW). If you have questions about this Update, please contact Michael Penney, National Military Services Director, at mpenney@vfw.org or 816-756-3390.