



Connecting Those Who Serve . . . With Those Who Care

### About VFW Operation Uplink

Around the nation ... and around the world ... more than two million deployed military personnel and hospitalized veterans struggle with the hardships associated with being far from home. Unfortunately, the cost of long distance telephone calls can create a severe strain on a slender military pay packet or the depleted finances of an older veteran.

Launched in 1996, **VFW Operation Uplink** is an innovative program that provides free pre-paid phone cards to active-duty military personnel and hospitalized veterans. Through the generous support of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary VFW Posts and members, and other caring citizens, **VFW Operation Uplink** has already distributed millions of prepaid phone cards.

### Wartime Creates Dramatic Need

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the need for **VFW Operation Uplink** phone cards has risen dramatically. Thousands of troops have been deployed, many for a year or more. Countless phone cards have been distributed to Afghanistan, Iraq and other “hot spots” around the world to ease the pain of separation and keep morale high for America’s defenders.

In 2006, **VFW Operation Uplink** began hosting “Free Call Days” throughout Iraq. On special holidays like Independence Day and Christmas, troops can call home at no charge from more than 200 Internet cafes for a full 24-hour period.

### Responding in Times of Crisis

Reaching home becomes even more critical in times of crisis or emergency. That’s why **VFW Operation Uplink** regularly springs to action to provide **VFW Operation Uplink** phone cards in response to national or military tragedies. In addition, **VFW Operation Uplink** phone cards are regularly distributed just prior to deployments.

**VFW Operation Uplink** provides an easy way for individuals and organizations to make an immediate difference in the lives of hospitalized veterans and active-duty military personnel.

For more information, contact Linda Ferguson at 816-756-3390 or via email at [lferguson@vfw.org](mailto:lferguson@vfw.org), or Visit the **VFW Operation Uplink** website at [www.operationuplink.org](http://www.operationuplink.org) Or write to **VFW Operation Uplink**  
VFW National Headquarters  
406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111



*“... this project is a tribute to the many veterans who believed in the principles of freedom and democracy strongly enough to risk their lives in the name of freedom.”*

Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV)

*“Letters and emails are nice, but there’s no substitute for a phone call ... to be able to hear somebody’s voice, hear them laughing or to tell a joke. I know my phone card is a gift from the heart.”*

– U.S. servicemember stationed in Iraq

