



2011-2012

OPERATION UPLINK



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Post 1303-8



Operation Uplink starts with you! Connecting Those Who Serve... With Those Who Care. 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 and loved ones. Operation Uplink is an innovative program that is a part of the National Military Services Program (NMS) administrated by VFW National Headquarters. Operation Uplink provides **FREE PHONE TIME** to active-duty military personnel and to hospitalized veterans to help ease their loneliness while being away from home or confined to the hospital by one of two ways. Either by being able to use one of the many Moral Welfare Recreation (MWR) internet café locations throughout Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait on one of the monthly scheduled two (2) Free Call Days, (note your VFW Post / District and Ladies Auxiliaries could sponsor a free call day as well), or if the service member is in a location where (MWR) internet café's are not located or outside of Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait the Operation Uplink's virtual pin's would be accessible. The virtual pins are available for use within the United States by any and all hospitalized veterans.

The Operation Uplink program provides an easy way for VFW States/Posts/ and Ladies Auxiliaries, individuals and other caring organizations to make an immediate difference in the life of these active-duty military personnel, and hospitalized veterans. But Operation Uplink is unable to provide the free phone time without your full support. The whole program is supported by Donations and Volunteer efforts. Uplink's continued success requires commitment, hard work and generosity of so many dedicated VFW Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries, individuals and more. Your contributions are the only way that this premier program is able to provide this desperately needed phone time to our comrades in need. All donations received May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 go towards the (NMS) Operation Uplink combined awards program for total donations (formerly the Signal Corps Awards). The new awards levels are,

VFW POST/AUX/DIST/MOC	StateS
Certificate: \$100 - \$1,499	\$1,000 - \$14,999
Bronze: \$1,500 - \$2,999	\$15,000-\$29,999
Silver: \$3,000 - \$5,999	\$30,000 - \$59,999
Gold: \$6,000 - and above	\$60,000 - and above

ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AND IN THE NATIONAL DATABASE BY APRIL 30, 2012.
All donations must be sent through State Headquarters and State will forward to National. All posts are required

to make a minimum donation of \$50.00 cash to the Operation Uplink program through State in order to receive credit on our State "X" sheet.

All requests for Operation Uplink Virtual Pins must be submitted to State Headquarters by filling out the "**NEW OFFICIAL**" request form found on State's web page www.vfwil.org . You then forward it to our State Headquarters Office. No e-mail requests please, unless on the **NEW OFFICIAL** Operation Uplink request form. Requests for an individual who is serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait where the (MWR) Internet Cafés are located may be honored, but they must have an email address for National to send the Virtual Pin. Requests to these locations for a Unit will not be honored, due to the scheduled (2) Two Free Call Days per month. For VFW Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries that are participating in deployment ceremonies for a unit from their area, the Operation Uplink Virtual Pins can be requested to be issued at the ceremony to the members of that Unit.

Upon receipt of all request forms, the State Adjutant will approve and forward those requests to Operation Uplink at National Headquarters in Kansas City. Remember, it takes about two to three weeks to fill a request. Anyone may request an Operation Uplink Virtual Pin every 60 days for an individual Active-Duty Military Service Member serving overseas, or for Veterans in a VA Hospital. If you need a copy of the **NEW OFFICIAL** Request Form and are unable to download it from the web, call State Headquarters and they will mail you a copy.

The demand for Phone Time and Operation Uplink Virtual Pins has continued to increase, but our donations have continued to decrease and your full support is greatly needed. Please dig down, find those extra dollars, go out and solicit others, hold fund raisers and help support Operation Uplink. By fully supporting Operation Uplink we will be able to increase the number of free calls available and provide even more to our fellow comrades who continue to fight and support the freedoms we enjoy today. Remember, these Comrades will not forget those who supported them, who provided the call home on Mother's Day or the Free Call Day used to call and hear their first child's words. Whether they are on the battlefields of Iraq or in the VA hospital in Illinois; "**WE CONTINUE TO SERVE**" our fellow Veterans and Active Duty Military Personnel by showing that the members of the State of Illinois, VFW are committed to providing our veterans with the tools to stay in touch with their loved ones.





Virtual PIN Request Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FIELDS WITHIN THIS FORM. IF ALL INFORMATION IS NOT PROVIDED, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR REQUEST. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, E-MAIL UPLINK@VFW.ORG OR CALL (816) 756-3390. FAX (816) 968-2779

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU		
*Date:	Post/Aux (if applicable) 1	
*Rank/Title: (Mr/Mrs/Sgt)	*First Name:	*Last Name:
*Address:	*City/State/Zip:	
*Phone Number:	*Email Address:	
*Military Branch: (Army/Navy/etc.)	Installation:	Unit:
From what country or ship will calls be made? (EX: US, Germany, Iraq, aboard USS Nemetz, etc.)		
*Who will receive the virtual PIN(s)? (Please provide name of the VA facility or military unit)		
*Will the person or unit receiving the virtual PIN(s) have access to a MWR Internet Café in Iraq/Afghanistan/Kuwait? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
*Number of virtual PINs requested: (please limit to 1 PIN per person)		
SHIP TO ADDRESS, IF DIFFERENT THAN YOUR ADDRESS		
Post/Aux (if applicable)		
*Rank/Title:	*First Name:	*Last Name:
*Address:	*City/State/Zip:	
*Phone Number:	*Email Address:	
*Military Branch: (Army/Navy/etc.)	Installation:	Unit:

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.