

COMMUNICATION: Far from home

(Continued from Page 7)

Hines says his family communicates with his nephew through live videos sometimes.

"I think it is great you can communicate faster and better," Hines said. "Last Thanksgiving when he was over there, he called us via video phone online, and it was like for a few moments he was there with us. You can't do that without the Internet. I really believe it has brought my family closer together."

But Hines said he still sees the value of handwritten letters.

"Letters done via postage will always have a place," he said. "I feel they have more of a personal touch to them, too. You have to take the time to handwrite them and to mail them."

He said he remembers a time when he was deployed and his mother wrote him letters.

"It would just warm my heart when I received it," he said. "I think that is how they feel when they receive one as well."

Instant interaction

Wright said soldiers who are de-

When Internet service isn't readily available, that's where Richie Hines says handwritten letters come in.

ployed might not be able to tell you what they are doing, but at least they can tell you they are alive.

That's what's so special about the Internet, she said.

"The wonderful thing about that is even when they couldn't contact you personally, you would get an e-mail that was empty and only they knew the password for their e-mail," she said of her grandsons' deployments in 2000. "That way we knew they were alive and OK when they were on missions."

When Internet service isn't readily available, that's where Hines says handwritten letters come in.

"Whether it be over the Internet or by handwritten letters, I feel communication with our soldiers over there is the very core of their morale," he said. "It reminds them what they are fighting for and what they have to come home to."

NOTIFICATION: News of a loss

(Continued from Page 5)

notification officer to deliver the news.

An Army manual produced by the Army Signal Center, Fort Gordon, Ga., outlines some of the training such military personnel receive, such as notifying next of kin "promptly in an appropriate dignified and understanding manner by a uniformed service representative."

Notification should be made within four hours after learning of the death, the manual reads.

It's a solemn job, but one that Greg Seymour, Ottawa, found very fulfilling when he performed the duty in the 1960s.

"In those days you were authorized to do anything the family needed," Seymour said. "If they were behind with car payments, I could go to the bank and get them caught up."

Seymour served about two years

An Army manual produced by the Army Signal Center, Fort Gordon, Ga., outlines some of the training such military personnel receive, such as notifying next of kin "promptly in an appropriate dignified and understanding manner by a uniformed service representative."

as a casualty notification officer at an Air Force base in Montana that represented several states in the northwestern U.S. He took part in more than 100 notifications.

"It was very fulfilling to know you were there and could help," he said.

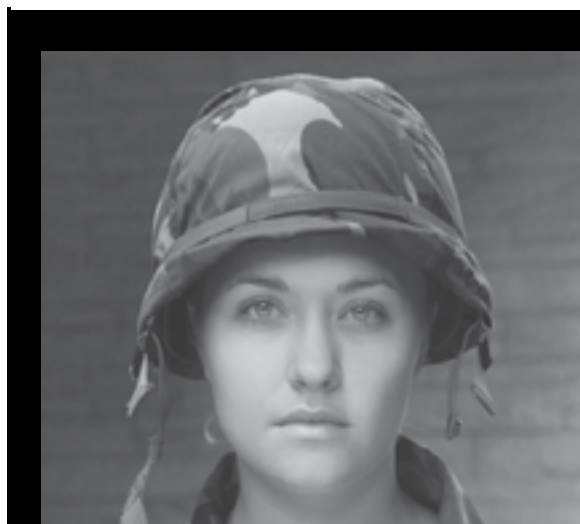
Honoring Our US Veterans

Ottawa University proudly recognizes all service men and women who have and continue to serve the United States of America. Your service and dedication are a shining example of the proud heritage of this country.

Thank you for all you do to keep citizens of the United States safe to exhibit their rights and freedoms.

We salute you!

Ottawa University
Live. Learn. Lead!



*Thank you to all
Veteran's Past &
Present for your
Sacrifice that all
Citizens can Live in
a Free Country.
God Bless You and
God Bless the United
States of America.*

Remembering Those Who Served



**CROWN
REALTY**

"Selling The American Dream Since 1973"
336 S. Main • Ottawa • (785) 242-7700
www.crownrealty.com

Local news online: www.ottawaherald.com