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## Community shows appreciation to Cannon Airmen

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27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Clovis radio personalities Steve Rooney and Duffy Moon of 107.5 FM traveled to Balad Air Base, Iraq, over the Thanksgiving holiday bringing holiday messages and gifts from home to the deployed members of the 27th Fighter Wing in what they called "Operation Thank You."

Operation Thank You was put together as a way for Rooney and Moon to personally thank each and every Airman they came in contact with for their service and wish each of them a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

The radio hosts were able to fly on military medical aircraft into and out of Balad to gain a better understanding of the military's medical mission in Iraq.

While at Balad, the disc jockeys were taken to many of the bases' group headquarters and received briefings from various group commanders as to the Air Force's overall mission in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and at Balad specifically.

Rooney and Moon performed their usual morning show live from Balad, entertaining troops and giving deployed Airmen from the 27th Fighter Wing the opportunity to send holiday greetings back home to their loved ones live on the radio.

The radio hosts also brought a video compiled of deployed members' families here at Cannon sending their well wishes and holiday greetings to the Airmen stationed there.

The radio show was broadcast from one of the base's four dining facilities

on Thanksgiving, another broadcast from the recreation center and the final broadcast on the flightline with the 524th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit deployed from Cannon.

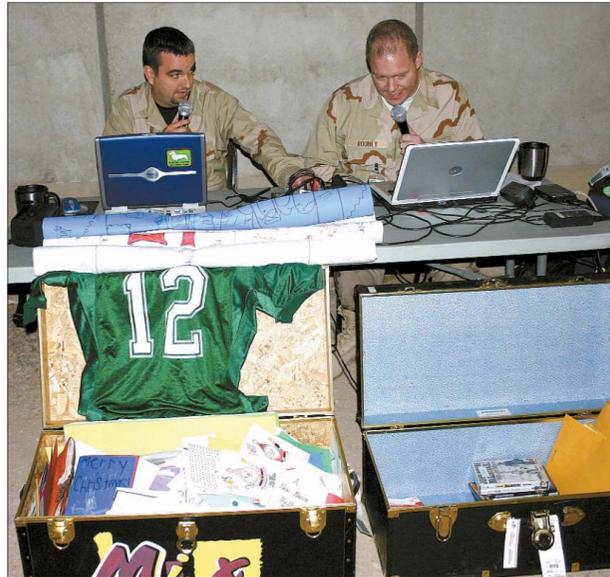
After their broadcast from the recreation center, Rooney and Moon were invited to be guest judges for the Balad Idol karaoke competition. Deployed Airmen were greatly appreciative of the efforts of Rooney and Moon, but the radio hosts were quick to turn the thank you back to the Airmen, thanking them for their service and sacrifice, especially over the holidays.

Their visit was well received by the Airmen as well as Balad's command section. Brig. Gen. Robin Rand personally visited two of the three broadcasts thanking Rooney and Moon for making the trip and bringing holiday messages to the Airmen.

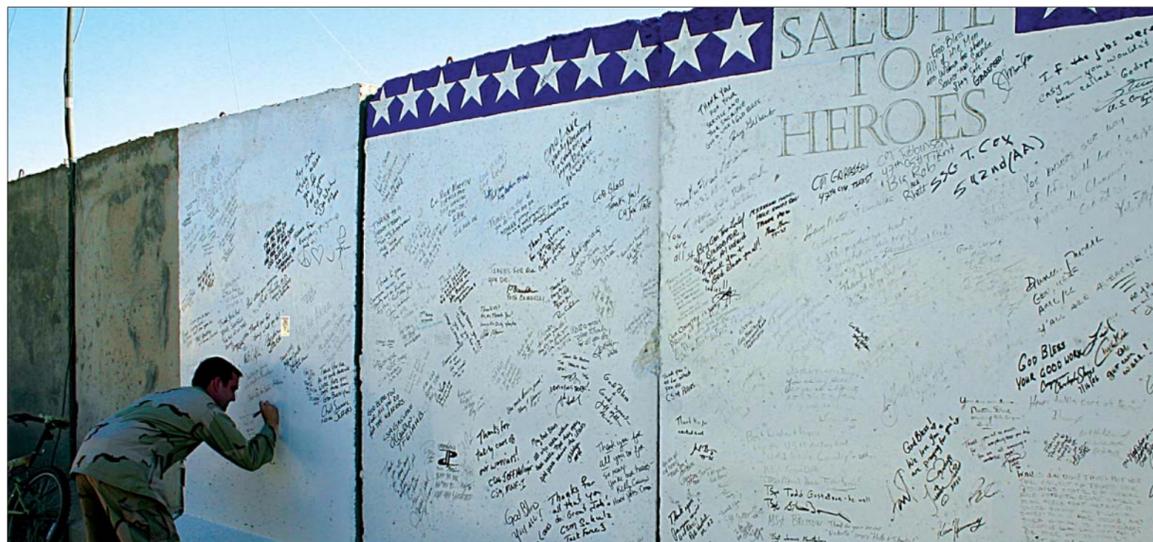
The trip ended on a sobering note as the radio hosts traveled back to Germany on a military medevac C-17 aircraft loaded with ambulatory patients en route to receive medical care for battle related injuries.

"We are absolutely humbled by the herculean efforts of every Airmen we came across on our visit and we have really gained a better understanding for the bigger picture of what the Air Force is engaged in out there," said Rooney.

"I think Operation Thank You was a huge success," said Moon. "Not just because we were able to do a radio show out there, but because we really got to see what these Airmen are doing and it is absolutely incredible. Wow."

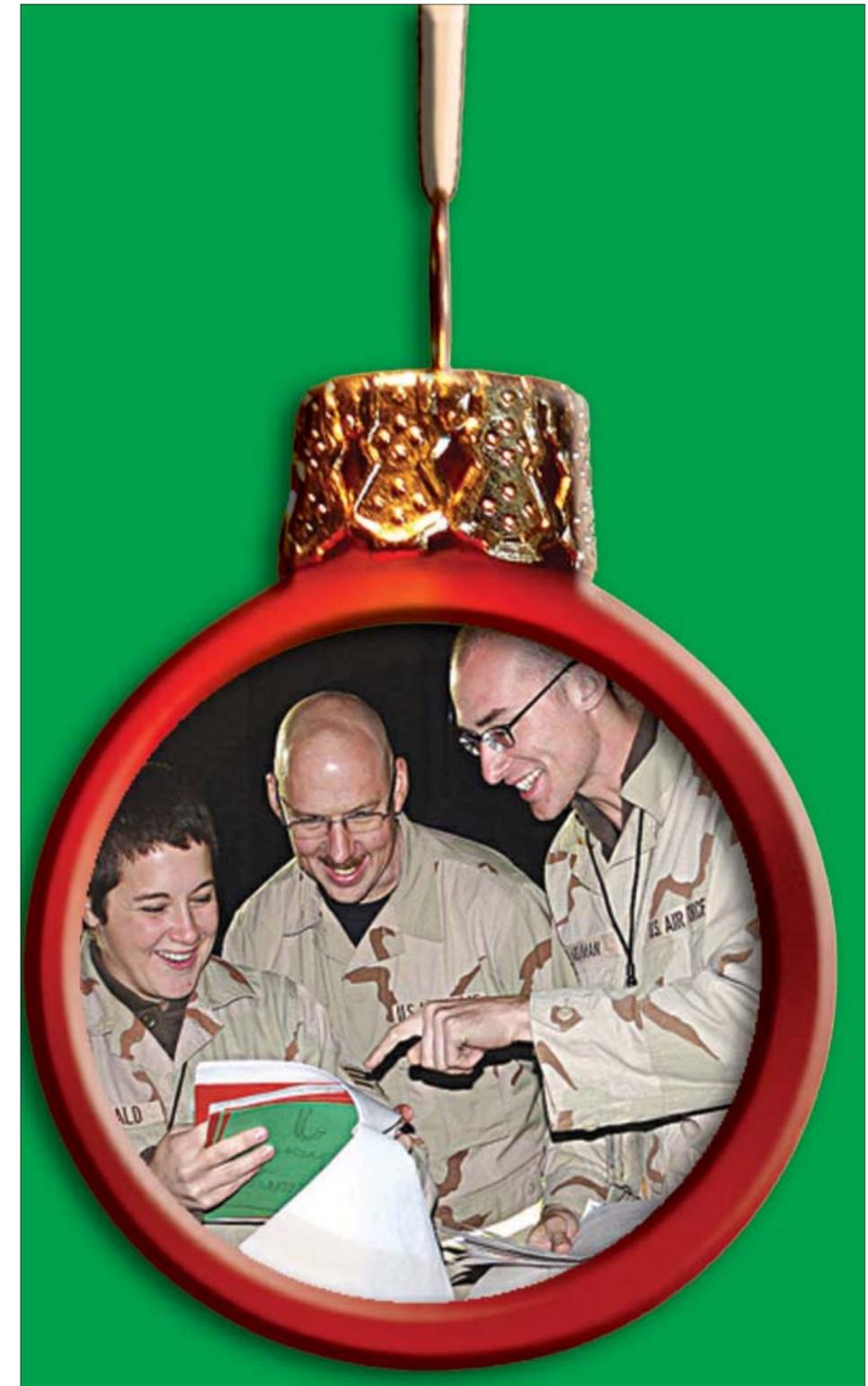
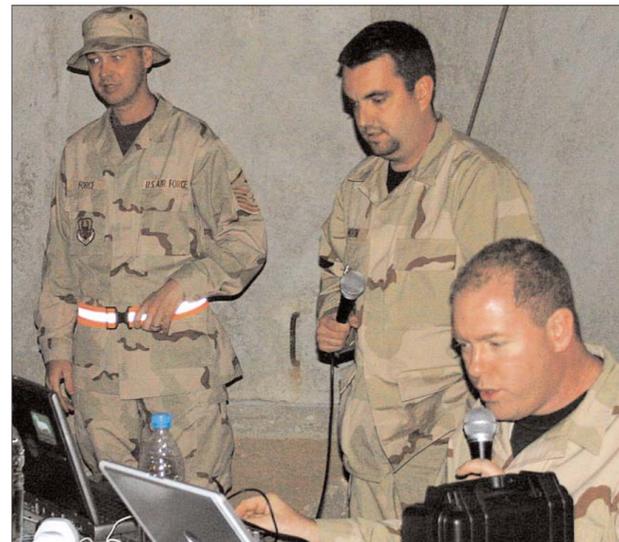


Clovis radio personalities Duffy Moon (left) and Steve Rooney perform their usual morning show live from Balad Air Base, Iraq, outside the recreation center. Airmen from the 27th Fighter Wing sent live holiday greetings home. In front of them are two footlockers they brought containing messages, CDs, DVDs and phone cards donated by members of the community.



Right, Master Sgt. William Force, 524th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron first sergeant, prepares to send holiday greetings back to Cannon while Clovis disc jockeys Duffy Moon (middle) and Steve Rooney prepare to air live during one of their broadcasts from Balad Air Base, Iraq. This was one of three live broadcasts from Balad as part of Operation Thank You, bringing holiday messages from home to Cannon Airmen deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Left, Duffy Moon signs the Salute to Heroes wall outside the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group hospital at Balad Air Base. During their visit, local radio personalities Duffy Moon and Steve Rooney toured Balad's medical facility for a first hand look at the operations of a forward deployed medical unit.



Several Airmen from the 524th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit sort through the hundreds of letters to them as part of Operation Thank You. Several weeks before leaving, Rooney and Moon collected hundreds of letters put together by several local schools as well as gifts from local organizations such as phone cards and DVDs to distribute among the deployed 27th Fighter Wing members.