



LERCH BATES

Building Insight



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PRESS RELEASE

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Lerch Bates Donates 50 Computers to Operation Homelink

Donation allows military families to stay connected with deployed loved ones

Military families at the Army's Ft. Riley, Kansas Base will be better able to stay in touch with their loved ones deployed overseas thanks to the recent donation of 50 computers by Lerch Bates, an international consulting services firm that advises architects, developers, building owners and managers on the design and use of building systems for any size or type of building.

Deployed individuals generally have access to the Internet and email capabilities, even in the most remote locations. However, many are not able to connect with their families back home because the families could not afford to purchase their own computers. Daily e-mail connections provide an essential link to loved ones and are a much better option than depending upon expensive overseas phone calls and regular mail.

Lerch Bates and Operation Homelink, a non profit organization that provides free computers to qualified families of deployed military personnel to speed communication via email, worked together to identify the best place for their donation. Ft. Riley is called "America's Warfighting Center" and currently is experiencing many deployments. Families there face additional challenges, including recent housing cost increases and living on limited budgets, making it difficult to save for the purchase of a computer.

In thanking Operation Home Link and Lerch Bates, computer recipient Allison Blackwell said, "With the purchase of a web cam my husband will now be able to see our new baby grow and change while he is in Iraq". Specialist Patrice Roche happened to be home on leave from Iraq and came to pick up the computer for his wife, adding "This will be great, because now it will be easy to text and talk with my wife regularly".

"As a company we were very pleased to do something that will have a real impact for our troops and their families. Staying in regular contact is a critical element for the wellbeing of everyone," said Jeff Schultz, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Business Development for Denver based Lerch Bates. "We do business throughout the world – our people can relate to the importance of staying in touch with those back home."

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Lerch Bates understands the way buildings interact with people, and how all of a building's systems come together to enhance its overall use and effectiveness. Lerch Bates uses this insight to advise on all facets of vertical and horizontal transportation, materials management and handling, façade access and building systems. www.lerchbates.com

ABOUT OPERATION HOMELINK

Operation Homelink is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing free, refurbished computers to families of junior enlisted (E1- E5) military so that they can keep in touch with their loved ones overseas. Corporations nationwide are encouraged to participate by donating end of life computer assets. Computers should be in good working order, capable of running the Windows® 2000 operating system (or newer), or meet the following minimum technical specifications: Desktops: Pentium III; Laptops: Pentium II. In order to maximize operational cost efficiencies, Operation Homelink is only able to accept donations of 25 computers or more. www.operationhomelink.org

