

The Frontline News
**Soldiers sing with
Dina Preston Band**



Casey Craig

Volunteer

Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Lt. Col. Eric Schwartz, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor commander, Maj. Michael Donovan, 1/64 Armor S-3, and Capt. Warren Sponsler, 1/64 Armor S-4, sing Shania Twain's "I feel like a woman" with singer Dina Preston and guitarist Don Ortiz during a USO concert Jan. 10 at Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait.

Spc. Mason T. Lowery

50th PAD

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**Soldiers took a break from training and maintaining
to let loose and blow off some steam with
The Dina Preston Band Jan. 10.**

**The band brought their mix of blues, country and rock 'n 'roll to the soldiers at Camp
Pennsylvania for a USO concert.**

Rather than just sing to the soldiers, Dina

Preston and company invited soldiers on stage to sing along and compete in the worst dancer competition.

About 10 soldiers contorted, do-si-doed and twisted as bad as they could as the crowd cheered and jeered. Preston let the crowd's applause determine the winner.

Spc. Jeremy Mckee, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, from Dora, Miss., and Spc. Tony Lyman, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, from Eugene, Ore., tied for the honor of worst dancer.

"It's pretty cool - it's better than being the best," said Mckee about tying as the worst dancer.

The band, which hails from Phoenix, covered songs by Hank Williams Jr., Stevie Ray Vaughan and Lynyrd Skynrd. They let soldiers sing along to Shania Twain's "I feel like a woman," Ritchie Valenz's "La Bomba," and Garth Brooks' "Friends in low places."

Lyman said he really appreciated the concert. "I play guitar. I'm in a band and I love watching this." Everyone seemed to enjoy the concert, according to Chap. (Capt.) Ron Cooper, Task Force 1-64 chaplain from Saginaw, Mich. "It's something different - something to break up the monotony. It's a morale boost for everyone, especially when they get our guys up there," he said. "I think it's as good for (the band) as it is for us. It lets them contribute to the cause."

This was the first concert at Camp Pennsylvania. The Dina Preston Band has been supporting troops since the Gulf War. They started their current USO tour one month ago in Afghanistan and got a taste of the seriousness of the situation troops face when the C-130 they were flying in came under enemy attack and had to make an emergency landing, according to Preston. But that didn't daunt them, Preston said.

"We keep coming because the troops are the best audience in the world, and it's our way of giving something back. Our job is not just to play for them, but to let them blow off some steam."

The band tries to time their USO tours during the holidays when troops need them most, Preston said. "God bless you all, we're so proud of you and respect what you do. We're so glad to be able to perform for you," she said to the troops.

To end the concert, Don Ortiz handed his guitar to Pfc. Carlos Santos, 3-15 Inf., from Livermore, Calif., who played a stirring rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner."