

Two years ago we had our equipment at a Fire Base at ther Chico Fair Grounds. It was a Friday or a Saturday and the Drag Races were on. What noise, just did not appreciate the finer points of the "Sport".

Before the races started the National Anthem was played. We had bunch of firefighters waiting for their shower. I turned (standing) and had the rest of the crew face the back of the Stadium at attention until it was over. Not one person stood with us. I turned and address this noble group and only said, "Their is a real reason why we stand". Who knows what these folks were thinking??? or were they thinking. Jim

When the Music Stopped...

When the Music Stopped... (For those who are unaware: At all military base theaters, the National Anthem is played before the movie begins!)

This is written from a Chaplain in Iraq :

I recently attended a showing of 'Superman 3' here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium we use for movies, as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom at all military bases, we stood to attention when the National Anthem began before the main feature. All was going well until three-quarters of the way through The National Anthem, the music stopped.

Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-22 year-olds back in the States? I imagine there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for the movie to begin. Of course, that is, if they had stood for the National Anthem in the first place.

Here in Iraq, 1,000 Soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again and the Soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. But again, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect 1000 Soldiers standing at attention to do?? Frankly, I expected some laughter, and everyone would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start.

But No!!!... You could have heard a pin drop, while every Soldier continued to stand at attention.

Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium, then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off: *"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."*

It was the most inspiring moment I have had in Iraq and I wanted you to know what kind of Soldier

are serving you. Remember them as they fight for us!

Pass this along as a reminder to others to be ever in prayer for all our soldiers serving us here at home and abroad. Many have already paid the ultimate price.

Written by Chaplain Jim Higgins LSA Anaconda is at the Ballad Airport in Iraq, north of Baghdad .

Please share only if you are so inclined.

God Bless America and all of our troops serving through out the world.