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By Kirby Kaufman

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Sgt. Dan Vrtiska wasn't around for many of his boy's football games.

The 45-year-old from Hooper, Neb., couldn't always be there when his son, Christopher, 16, needed someone to listen.

"I try to be there as much as I can," Vrtiska said. "If he has a problem, he knows he can talk to me."

Vrtiska was one of about 145 soldiers from the 402nd Military Police Battalion who received an official welcome home Saturday during a ceremony at the Hilton Omaha.

"I was really excited and glad to be home," Vrtiska said.

The soldiers had returned late the night before Thanksgiving, so there wasn't time then for a ceremony.

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