



Barry Franklin helps an ITS employee troubleshoot a problem. Wetumpka-based ITS played a significant role in allowing parents serving overseas to see their son or daughter graduate from high school this year.

Herald Photo/Catherine Bailey

ITS delivers pomp and circumstance

Wetumpka-based company help military moms, dads see high school graduation

By **CATHERINE BAILEY**
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Technology just keeps getting better. Thanks to Wetumpka-based Information Transport Solutions, people are benefitting from the wave of new technological innovations. ITS is a company that specializes in integrating computer systems.

High school distance learning labs have ITS to thank for being connected to other school systems within the county.

But ITS is doing more than just integrat-

ing systems these days. In the past few years, ITS has been filming high school commencement ceremonies, many of which involve teenagers who have a parent overseas in Iraq.

This year, one such case was in Sweet Water in rural Morengo County. A father got to see his child graduate live on the internet because of ITS technology. "Basically, we videoed the graduation there [at Sweet Water], dialed back to our office, which connected the feed to our contact server," said Barry Franklin, ITS senior systems engineer.

Christen Gerlach of Baker High School's class of 2008 has received the most coverage this year, mainly because "Mobile had a press conference the day before the graduation," said Henry Zeigler of ITS.

In all, ITS covered 18 graduations this year, a decent number considering the expense. However, "most schools already have the equipment thanks to their distance learning classes," said Jeff Towry, another employee of ITS.

But what's next on ITS's list of things to do?

"We hope to start having two-way communications pretty soon," Franklin said.

So far, the parents in Iraq have only been allowed to watch the graduations live. The next step is for the children to be able to have a two-way conversation with their parents.

If anyone wants to watch a graduation that ITS covered this year, it is available free online at their Web site, www.its-networks.com.