# Freedom Calls Foundation Quotes & Backgrounder

Contact:

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#### PLEASE CHYRON OUR WEBSITE IN YOUR TV COVERAGE AND INCLUDE OUR URL INYOUR NEWSPAPER ARTICLES SO THAT WE CAN EXPAND OUR SERVICES TO INCLUDE ALL THE SOLDIERS, MARINES AND AIRMEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Quotes:

According to John Harlow, Executive Director of the Freedom Calls Foundation, "The foundation was formed as a public charity because we believe family is important, particularly in wartime and that this is the least that the American people can do to show their appreciation for the sacrifices being made by our soldiers and their families"

"Throughout history, tours of duty in wartime have served to separate families. The Freedom Calls Foundation is transforming the experience of soldiers on extended deployments in wartime; Though separated from their families by overseas duty, Soldiers no longer need be estranged from their families in time of war; They can now participate in milestone family events such as births, school graduations, anniversaries, etc. from the front lines via video conference over the Freedom Calls Network." stated John Harlow, Executive Director of the Freedom Calls Foundation, "Soldiers may now keep their commitments to their families while keeping their commitments to their country thousands of miles away"

"If just 1 million Americans donate the cost of a family dinner on the Foundation's website <u>www.freedomcalls.org</u>, the foundation can provide state of the art communication services to virtually every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan free of charge."

"We foresee a time when all warfighters can virtually come home to their families on a daily basis after a hard day on the battlefield utilizing the foundation's state of the art video conferencing technology", stated Harlow.

## Freedom Calls Foundation Media Backgrounder

The Freedom Calls Foundation is a 501(c)3 public charity which has built a satellite network to support state of the art communications for military families free of charge because our soldiers overseas deserved to have FRFF communication services at their front line camps to keep in close touch with their families and loved ones here at home 24/7. Services on



SPC Joshua Strickland, deployed for 9 months at Camp Taji in Iraq, sees his Daughter, Shelby, walk and hears her call him "dada" for the first time on her 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday in Valdosta, Georgia

the Foundation's satellite network include secure high quality multiparty video conferencing on a computer over a broadband internet connection, telephone service and email.

According to John B. Harlow II, Executive director of Freedom Calls, "Throughout history, tours of duty in wartime have served to separate families. The Freedom Calls Foundation is transforming the experience of soldiers on extended deployments in wartime; Though separated from their families by overseas duty, Soldiers no longer need be estranged from their families in time of war; They can now participate in milestone family events such as births, school graduations, anniversaries, etc. from the front lines via video conference over the Freedom Calls Network. Soldiers may now keep their commitments to their families while keeping their commitments to their country thousands of miles away"



Shadow at Camp Taji in Iraq wipes a tear from her eye as she sees her fiancé for the first time in 6 months in Durango Colorado, just prior to her wedding over the Freedom Calls Network

The Foundations satellite network is connected to Freedom Calls Facilities situated military in camps in Iraq under authority of the Dept. of the Army and the Marines. At present, the Foundation has 4 facilities in Iraq with 50 computers and 20 telephones at Camp Taji located north of Baghdad in the Sunni

triangle and video conferencing facilities at Camp Fallujah AI Asad Airbase and Camp Victory in Baghdad. More than 30,000 soldiers and Marines in these camps now have 24/7 access to Freedom Calls' services to keep in close touch with their families and loved ones at home *free of charge*. We are working to install Freedom Calls facilities at 8 additional Army camps on the front lines in Iraq, 2 Army camps in Afghanistan and 8 more Marine camps this year. We need public support to meet this need. According to Mr. Harlow, "If just 1 million Americans donate the cost of a family dinner on the Foundation's website <u>www.freedomcalls.org</u>, the foundation can provide state of the art communication services to virtually every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan free of charge."



Family visits with son at Camp Taji in Iraq from Operation Hometown Link participant, Raytheon Company's headquarters

More than 2,000 soldiers and use Freedom Calls facilities in Iraq everyday. Families in the United States can video conference from their homes across the dinner table (if they have a broadband connection) or from more than 10,000 partner sites nationwide to military families open by corporations, universities, telemedicine sites participating in the foundation's Operation Hometown Link. The



3 year old Christian Hughes talks to his dad in Iraq over the dinner table in the first of weekly conferences at his grandfather's house in Clayton, California

foundation also arranges for soldiers and Marines to attend and participate in milestone family events in public venues such as graduations, weddings, and new births etc. from the war zone.

The foundation has conducted many conference events at such venues as NFL football; games, NHL hockey games, Team USA hockey games – college basketball and football games among other events.



Future pilot in Ohio sees her dad, a Marine in Iraq, for the first time

Freedom Calls is transforming a paradigm of family communication during wartime that is centuries old – soldiers and Marines may now keep their commitments to their families while keeping their commitments to their country.

Recently, the foundation has been extending its mission of keeping families connected from the war zone. The

foundation conducted two weddings over its network with grooms in Djibouti and Korea and brides in Florida officiated from Montana. Last year, Freedom Calls conducted a video conference for LTCOL Adam Parsons, the copilot of the Argonia, the lead C47 flying into Normandy on D-Day from his Akron, Ohio nursing home to the street naming ceremony in Châteaudun, France in honor of the LtCol. And, last week, the foundation video conferenced the family of a war hero to the Camp Pendleton ceremony where he received the Navy Cross.

The Foundation is a public charity and a New York not-for-profit organization registered with the Attorney General of the State of New York, accepting donations from the public and its contribution of services to the military has been formally accepted by the Acting Secretary of the Army.

Major corporations and ordinary Americans are contributing to Freedom Calls' effort to show their appreciation for the sacrifices being made by our soldiers and their families in these difficult times and because they believe that family is important; even more important in wartime.

### Contact:

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