



## Family Sees Soldier Son

By Marissa Scherer

A local family gets to see and talk to their loved one serving in Iraq through the internet.

A program with the University of Illinois and 'Freedom Calls' offers videoconferencing across the state. When Kathy Quast heard about the program, she signed up right away.

Thursday was the first time the Quast family saw their son, Army Private First Class Matthew Quast, since March. His grandmother Ruth Legel says, "It was actually like the day he was born, I was so excited for him to get here." Mom Kathy says, "It was nothing like seeing him move around and talking. It's so much different from the phone or the internet because there he is right there with his little uniform and smile. It's just great, its just wonderful."

This may have been one of the last video-conferences they'll be able to do. Satellite time costs tens of thousands of dollars a month and Freedom Calls may not have enough money to last through July.