

The Spirit of the Northwest

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Satellites help unite Oregon soldiers with their families

BEAVERTON, Ore. (AP) - The Freedom Calls Foundation in New York is helping soldiers in Iraq spend some face time with their families back home.

Via satellite, that is.

Today in Beaverton, more than 20 Oregon National Guard soldiers at Camp Cooke in Iraq will be reunited using the video conferencing.



Officials with the Freedom Calls Foundation say that seeing the soldier in person reassures the family in a totally different way and helps relieve anxiety.

Debi Key-Young certainly hopes so.

She's the Beaverton woman who contacted the foundation about bringing their service to Oregon. While she does not have a son in Iraq, she says she was motivated to do something precisely because she gets to talk to her son face-to-face every day, while families whose children are in Iraq do not.

Each family will have about 30 minutes to talk to their sons today.

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