



# press release

Contact: Diane Steinert  
steinert@wneo.org  
330-677-4549

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **PBS 45 & 49 to provide videoconference holiday hook-up for local family with loved one serving in Iraq**

*Freedom Calls Foundation and Ohio's education network will have military families around the state connected with loved ones in Iraq on Dec. 13 and 14*

Kent, Ohio – Dec. 13, 2007 — Tomorrow from 11:30 a.m. to noon, PBS 45 & 49 will connect Major Matthew W. Roman with his wife, Heather, their two preschool-aged children and his parents, William and Judith Roman of Mansfield, via the station's videoconferencing equipment at its facility in Kent.

Both Major Roman, a Cleveland native and Elyria Catholic High School graduate, and his wife are Kent State University graduates. An ROTC student at KSU, Roman was commissioned in 1995 and deployed to Iraq in November 2007, where he will serve a one-year tour of duty. He is currently stationed at Camp Taji.

On Dec. 13 and 14, the Romans join families across Ohio for the chance to see and talk with their soldiers stationed in one of five camps in Iraq — Camp Taji, Camp Fallujah, Camp Taqaddum, Al Asad Airbase and Camp Victory in Baghdad — with the help of the state's videoconferencing network and the efforts of the Freedom Calls Foundation.

Freedom Calls, working with public schools and other educational organizations in the state such as PBS 45 & 49, has harnessed Ohio's state-of-the-art videoconferencing capabilities to connect military families separated by thousands of miles and offer them the opportunity to bring holiday cheer to one another.

PBS 45 & 49 is one of only two public television affiliates participating in this Freedom Calls event. The station is located at 1750 Campus Center Drive in Kent.

The Freedom Calls Foundation is dedicated to deploying state-of-the-art technology to keep American troops in Iraq in touch with their families. The Foundation's communications services are free of charge to military families. The organization provides more than 2,000 enterprise-class videoconferences and more than 1.5 million minutes of free telephone calls every month, saving military families approximately \$300,000 per month.

#### **About PBS 45 & 49**

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. The only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio, PBS 45 & 49 is available to 1.8 million households and 4.6 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 257,400 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit [www.pbs4549.org](http://www.pbs4549.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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## **PBS 45 & 49**

Northeastern  
Educational Television of  
Ohio, Inc.

**1750 Campus  
Center Drive**

**P. O. Box 5191**

**Kent, Ohio**

**44240-5191**

#### **Phone**

330.677.4549

#### **Fax**

330.678.0688

#### **E-mail**

[questions@wneo.org](mailto:questions@wneo.org)

#### **Web Site**

[www.pbs4549.org](http://www.pbs4549.org)