
Soldier in Iraq sees son born

By GINGER SHIRAS, Carroll County Bureau
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BERRYVILLE - Chester Jayd Cooper was born here Wednesday night as his dad looked on from Iraq.

First-time mom Delaiah Henton-Cooper of Harrison had wanted him to be here and St. John's Hospital set it up with technical help from St. John's at Springfield and a group named Freedom Calls, which has equipped American bases in Iraq so soldiers can communicate with their families at home.

Chester Cooper was at Camp Tagji outside Baghdad when nurse-midwife Antia Rissler delivered his namesake son.

Leanne Wingrave was with her daughter in the homelike hospital room as she gave birth.

Michele Gann, the hospital's vice president for patient services, said earlier last night that tears were shed here and abroad as the parents listened to the baby's heartbeat in the womb.

When the baby emerged at 11:17 p.m. Wednesday, the soldier-father was "very excited but really nervous," Mrs. Wingrave said.