

Marine sees new baby boy via video conference

By: North County Times wire services – June 9, 2006

LOS ANGELES -- Thanks to a video conference call from across the world, a Marine corporal stationed in Iraq got to see his new baby boy in Los Angeles today.

"I wish I could be there," Cpl. Pedro Perez said during the video conference from Al Asad, Iraq.

Dianne Perez gave birth to the couple's fourth child, Brandon Isaiah, at 4:26 a.m. Monday at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center.

"It would have been different if he was by my side," Dianne Perez told reporters. "But I know he's out there for a reason and that's his job."

The video hook-up was made possible by the hospital and the Freedom Calls Foundation, which provides free satellite connections for soldiers to see their families at home.

Dianne Perez held young Brandon up to the cameras so her husband could get a close look. He asked her to wave his hands and feet.

"It's like I can see him move. I see everything," Pedro Perez said. "It's just incredible."

Pedro Perez said he would "be home soon."

"Most of all I want to make you proud," he told his family. "Rest assured I want to be a good father and want you to know that no matter what, you will make me proud."