



Columbus Man In Iraq Sees Daughter's Birth Over Internet

Daughter Born In Central Ohio

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BAGHDAD, Iraq -- A Columbus native who is working in Iraq was glued to the computer screen Monday at a military base near Baghdad so he could watch the birth of his daughter over the Internet.



Jeff Oxenreider (pictured, left), a Northrup Grumman employee working at Camp Cooke, received an e-mail from his wife, letting him know that she was going into labor.

According to the military, he had previously made arrangements so that he would be able to connect to his home in Columbus, but he needed reliable, high-speed access. Oxenreider was given access to the Freedom Calls Foundation facility and used the laptops, webcams, and IP phones there, so he could connect with his wife, Xali.

When the time came for the delivery, Jeff Oxenreider was able to share the experience with his wife and daughter, Lilit (pictured, right). He coached his wife, encouraging her to slow her breathing and take full breaths.

Xali, meanwhile, just wanted to be able to see her husband while she gave birth.

Tierna Anala was born, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces. "She's beautiful," Jeff Oxenreider said. "She's absolutely beautiful."



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