

Marine meets his daughter for the first time, via satellite

By Ann McGlynn | Friday, August 03, 2007

SILVIS, Ill. — From too many miles away over a satellite feed, Angel Mojica met Maddisyn Ann Mojica for the very first time Friday.

She was a bit sleepy and occasionally a tad fussy, but so incredibly beautiful and perfect that the tough Marine had to stop himself from crying.

Angel is in Iraq. His wife, Ashley, gave birth Thursday at [Genesis Medical Center—Illini Campus](#), Silvis. She had the labor induced in time for the video conference.



Larry Fisher/Quad-City Times

Ashley Mojica shows off newborn daughter Maddisyn Ann to husband Angel Mojica, who is serving in Iraq.

“Look, I have something for you,” Ashley said as she held 18-hour-old Maddisyn up to the camera that shot video of mom and baby halfway around the world. The moment was made possible through Freedom Calls, a nonprofit organization that works to connect families with their loved ones in Iraq.

Angel said just one word: “Beautiful.” Then he moved closer to the camera to get a better look and stayed there.

One of Ashley’s first orders of business in her life as a mom will be to send Angel photos to hang near his military bunk.

Ashley grew up in Davenport, but she moved to California to be with her husband. When he left for Iraq, she came home to wait for the birth of their child.

They both wanted a girl. They had her name picked before she was even conceived.

“She’ll still be little when he gets home,” Ashley said of Angel’s anticipated November return.

Trina Beall sat quietly in the corner while a camera allowed Ashley, Angel and Maddisyn to spend their first moments together as a family.

Trina drove for three days from California along with her 2-month-old daughter to be on hand for the birth. She was by Ashley’s side as she went through 10 hours of labor and delivered 7-pound, 12-ounce Maddisyn.

Why? Because she understands. Trina’s husband is also in the Marines and stationed in Iraq, too. He arrived at the hospital five minutes before their daughter, Kylie, was born.

“You make lifelong friends as military wives,” she said. “We have to stick together because it’s hard during deployment.”

Labor was tough for Ashley, Dr. Anita Pinc told Angel. “But she did a fantastic job. And I am sure she is going to be a great mom.”

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