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Son's birth seen in Iraq

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By Lindsay Field, RN-T staff writer

With the help of the Internet and a military satellite program, a U.S. Marine stationed in Iraq watched the birth of his first-born in Rome during the weekend.

Cpl. Robert Groover, a Cedartown native, was deployed to Iraq about six weeks before Landon Joseph Groover was born.

While trying to find ways to be included in Landon's birth, the first-time father heard about the Freedom Calls Foundation from fellow servicemen just after arriving in Iraq.



Jaclyn Groover gave birth to Landon Joseph Groover this weekend while Cpl. Robert Groover watched via Web cam. By Ryan Smith / RN-T

The nonprofit organization helps bring together families with their soldiers who are off serving their country.

The group helped Robert's wife, Jaclyn Groover, set up a webcam in the Family Birth Center at Floyd Medical Center, so, when Landon was born, Robert could watch from Camp Fallujah in Iraq.

Landon Joseph was born just after 1:30 p.m. Saturday. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long.



Cpl. Robert Groover is serving in Iraq.

"(Robert) was very excited. There was lots of emotion," Jaclyn said Sunday. "He was having

a really hard time with not being here and this just let him be a part of it as much as he could."

"It kind of happened last minute, but it was something we had been thinking about since before (Robert) went away," Jaclyn said. "It's been fairly easy, really nice and (Freedom Calls) has worked as hard as they can to help us out."

Just before delivery, nurses in labor and delivery put up signs for Robert thanking him time and time again for his service in the military, Jaclyn said.

"Everybody has been so cooperative ... so patriotic, and we really appreciate them doing this for us," Jaclyn added.

She is scheduled to leave the hospital today.

When Jaclyn gets home with Landon, Freedom Calls is to set up a video conference on her home computer so she can communicate with her husband as often as possible.

Jaclyn said she will stay with her family in Cedartown until her husband returns from the Iraq war.

Robert, who was deployed once before, is expected to return from Iraq at the end of October. He joined the U.S. Marines three years ago and is stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He is stationed with the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines.

Freedom Calls Centers, which are all supported by satellite links, are located at Camp Fallujah, Camp Taji, Camp Taqadum, Al Asad Airbase and Camp Victory in Iraq.

For more information, visit Freedom Calls Foundation online at www.freedomcalls.org or call the foundation at 973-290-7886.