

Satellite Link brings family together

Marine deployed to Iraq sees 1-day-old daughter

Francine Sawyer
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Marine Capt. Nick Marciano saw his 1-day-old daughter Thursday — all the way from Iraq.

"She's little isn't she," Marciano asked his wife Jenny as she held the baby in front of a video camera for a live Web feed at Craven Regional Medical Center.

"Put your hand next to her hand so I can compare," the Cherry Point Marine asked his wife.

He met his unnamed baby for the first time at 11 a.m. Thursday thanks to technology provided by the Freedom Calls Foundation and the hospital.

Marciano also saw his wife and other children for the first time in six months as they huddled together in a conference room on the maternity floor.

It's the second time the technology has been used to reunite father and family.

The couple celebrated the birth of their first daughter, Lily, on Oct. 19, 2005. Jenny Marciano gave birth while her husband, in Iraq, listened by phone.

"We decided after Lily was born that he would definitely be here for the next birth," Jenny Marciano said. "You see how those plans turned out. Dad goes away and the stork comes."

She said her husband has no idea how the process of giving birth all works.

"He makes me giggle," she said. "The last time he asked me when Lily's eyes would open. I told him her eyes are already open."

His questions this time were more sophisticated, such as how much his new daughter weighed. She came in at a healthy 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Also in the conference room was Lily. At 18 months, she is saying words and waving at her daddy.



Jenny Marciano, along with daughters, from left, London, Lily, and Lakyn, smile at the reaction of their father, Capt. Nick Marciano, who saw his newborn daughter for the first time via a computer video conference on Thursday. Marciano is in Iraq. Byron Holland/Sun Journal

Two older girls, London and Lakyn, were on hand to say hello to their adopted father and send their love to him.

Lily was 3 months old when her dad first saw her. Jenny Marcino said she expected the newest member of the family to be about three months when dad sees her in person.

He was asked during the video conference if he would be in Iraq if another baby were to come along.

"I'd better be in New Bern or she will kill me," he said.

Nick Marciano, a 13-year member of the Marine Corps, is in his third deployment to Iraq.