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It's A (Space) Girl!

By Tom Brown

Danielle Star Lincoln was born today, aboard Moon Orbiter 59, at 1:19 A.M. Greenwich Mean Time, to U. S. Air Force Col. Janet Helene Lincoln. The father, Jules Jack Lincoln, an Australian physicist now working for the International Space Exploration Society (ISES), was also present at the birth. Parents and child are both reported to be doing fine. And while Danielle is not the first baby to be born in space, she is the first baby to be both conceived and born in space. Her parents have been on a three-year tour of duty aboard Moon Orbiter 59 since January 2064.

"Respecting the wishes of the parents, we will have no special arrangements for press interviews for at least 24 hours," said ISES Communications Director Indira Toli. "The Lincolns want to be absolutely sure everything is fine before making any statements or discussing what the birthing experience was like."

Only one color photo of Danielle was released by ISES. Video images are anticipated shortly.

However, Toli did say that doctors aboard Moon Orbiter 59 were closely monitoring the newborn, who appears to be "fine in all ways." Given the unusual conditions of space living — from synthetic space food to simulated gravitational conditions — it remains unknown if any part of the human birthing process has been affected.

Since the expectant mother revealed her condition last May to ISES headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal, most people on Earth have been begging for updates. During the last few weeks, Earthbound attention has been fixed on the Orbiter and the expectant parents, fed by endless reports and speculation by the media. |<



