

A baby born on an evacuation flight is named Reach, after the aircraft's call sign.



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The Afghan parents of a baby born on a C-17 aircraft evacuating passengers to Germany named their daughter after the aircraft's call sign, a senior U.S. general said this week.

"They named the little girl Reach, and they did so because the call sign of the C-17 aircraft that flew them from Qatar to Ramstein was Reach," Gen. Tod Wolters, the commander of U.S. European Command, said in a Pentagon news conference on Wednesday.

The Afghan mother, who has not been named, went into labor and began experiencing complications on a flight leaving a base in Qatar for Ramstein Air Base in southwestern Germany on Saturday, the U.S. Air Force said on Twitter.

In response, the C-17 — identified as Reach 828 in radio transmission — descended in altitude to increase air pressure inside the aircraft, "which helped stabilize and save the mother's life," the Air Force said.

After the plane landed, medics boarded and helped deliver the baby in the cargo bay. A group of women had protected the mother's privacy with their shawls, Capt. Erin Brymer, a nurse who helped deliver the child, told CNN.

By the time they reached her, the woman had been "past the point of no return," she said. "That baby was going to be delivered before we could possibly transfer her to another facility."

Pictures released by the U.S. Air Force showed the woman being transported, shortly after her daughter's birth, from the aircraft to a nearby medical facility.

General Wolters said the baby was one of three — all in good condition — born to women who boarded evacuation flights out of Afghanistan. Two others were delivered at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, a military hospital in southern Germany.

"It's my dream to watch that young child, called Reach, grow up and be a U.S. citizen and fly United States Air Force fighters in our air force," General Wolters told reporters.