



APRIL 2006

U.S. NAVY CUSTOMS  
BATTALION QUEBEC

# THE QUEBEC INQUIRY

LSA ANACONDA - LSA ALI AL SALEM - CAMP ARIFJAN - CAMP NAVISTAR - CAMP PATRIOT

## QUEBEC: BOOTS IN COUNTRY!



Photo by PH2 Greg Devereaux (top) ; photo by JO1 Doug Mappin (below)

Kuwait—Touchdown! U.S. Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC arrives in country.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- First battalion sporting event: Dodgeball! Headquarters vs. Alpha Company on Saturday, April 1, 2006.
- Training classes coming soon: Be sure to read the Plan of the Week!

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## WELCOME TO 'THE QUEBEC INQUIRY'

Shipmates, welcome to the first issue of your monthly battalion-wide newspaper! After you spent two months getting to know each other as members of U.S. Navy Customs QUEBEC while training in Williamsburg, the time finally has come for your arrival here in Kuwait and in Iraq. Many of you made friends and now find they are no longer as accessible, perhaps assigned to another work shift, company or another camp.

It is an old axiom that bad news sells newspapers. This may be true, however, this monthly newspaper is free and its focus will be on you and your shipmates!

There will be no sensationalism, no gossip, just interesting articles so that we all can keep up-to-date with the goings on of all four companies stationed at the five camps—and to a degree what is going on back home and around the world.

Not only is this paper meant to keep you informed, it is also meant to keep your families, friends and employers back home aware of our lives while we are away.

The purpose of this paper is to serve as a launch pad for our battalion cruise book, and in this day of internet immediacy, this newspaper will be available to anyone who wishes to catch up with us. Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group's (NAVELSG) web site will

serve as host to this publication.

Anyone wishing to read about us need go no further than their local computer keyboard, a quick click and find out how we are doing while serving with Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC. As the lead writer and editor of this publication, it will be my job and that of this staff, to keep you informed.

This is how you, the members of this battalion, can be of help. If any of you have a story idea or know of something interesting about one of your shipmates, let us know.

If any of our members of the battalion play in any of the MWR sporting activities, sing in the camps' gospel choirs, let us know. Karaoke? Team Scrabble? Bingo? Saturday night at the Grill? Library book clubs? Runners groups? If someone has an interesting job back home, let us know.

If someone becomes a new daddy (see page three of this issue) or grandparent while here, again—let us know.

You never know when one our roving photographers will show up.

The possibilities are endless. Members having served with Navy Customs Battalion OSCAR and PAPA can tell you there are many things to do to keep yourself occupied. Each of the camps have their own distinctive character.



Be it the libraries, internet labs, the gymnasiums, the camp community centers, Starbucks, Greenbeans or the BX. If you get bored here, you're not trying. And, of course, there is the reason we are all here. We have a mission to do.

Each of us has a story to tell and this paper will do its best to keep you informed, entertained and current.

Editor,  
JO1 Doug Mappin  
Asst. PAO, U.S. Navy Customs  
Battalion QUEBEC



**- MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER -**



CDR Mark Failor

Now that we have arrived in theatre and taken over the Custom's mission from PAPA, I wanted to convey a few thoughts as we move forward. First, Bravo Zulu to the entire Battalion for the professional way you accomplished your training in Williamsburg. As a Battalion we met or exceeded all expectations of us and began to form relationships which will last beyond this deployment.

Thank you all for the effort you put forth and the positive attitudes in the face of change that you demonstrated.

We wish "Fair winds and following Seas" to our PAPA predecessors. The RIPTOA went smoothly and by all accounts the training provided fully prepared us to accomplish our mission. There were several compliments directed to me regarding how cohesive and talented a group QUEBEC is.

Our challenge during this deployment is simple: Protect the borders of the United States against agricultural or the other types of threats for which we screen. I remain committed to you that

we will do everything in our power to return you to your families and friends safely when the mission is complete.

I have already had an opportunity to visit with many of you and I intend to visit all of our locations on a regular basis. The leaders of the companies share my commitment to ensure that you work and live in an environment that is conducive to your success.

It is my hope that this will be a fulfilling time of your life. If you see an area that needs improvement, I encourage you to bring it up your chain of command. Remember, that you can always request to see me if the situation warrants.

Let's keep the momentum we built in Williamsburg going.

R,

CDR Mark Failor, CO,  
Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC

**- MESSAGE FROM THE COMMAND MASTER CHIEF -**



CMDCM Susan Frazier

I am CMDCM Susan Frazier and want to welcome you all to Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC. To those who were with us during the training in Williamsburg, I ask that you utilize the knowledge you gained while in training and do your jobs to the best of your ability.

For all the PAPA extenders, welcome to our fold; your knowledge and experience can only enhance QUEBEC's success. I appreciate your willingness to extend and advise you to review our policies and procedures as they may be slightly different from Papa's.

To all, I want to take the time to say how proud I am of each and every one of you who has answered the call and is supporting the war on terrorism. I know the sacrifices and personal constraints put on you and your love ones while you are deployed. Keep in mind safety and remember that our number one mission is to bring each and every one of us home safely at the end of our deployment.

I will be passing out to your Senior Enlisted Leaders (SEL) in your companies the criteria we will be utilizing when we do evaluations. This will give you a clear understanding of what we are evaluating you on so that you can control your own evaluation. I will hold your SEL accountable for your welfare and growth.

If you are not performing up to standards, I will require there to be counseling; initially, informally and if the problem persists, formally.

R,

CMDCM Susan Frazier  
Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC



## Customs Battalion QUEBEC Family news

### Baby, baby, oh baby!



Nicholas Riley Cortes

HM3 Davey Cortes of Delta Company and his wife Brandy Cortes are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Nicholas Riley Cortes.

Birth date: March 22, 2006  
8 lbs., 12 oz.  
21 inches

Congrats to their family!  
Photo courtesy of the Cortes family



Photo by PS3 Claire Castaneda

Congrats to U.S. Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC's first papa during this tour of duty.

## This Month in U.S. Navy History

- Essex becomes first U.S. Navy vessel to pass the Cape of Good Hope.
- March 8-9, 1864 - Civil War battle between the Monitor and the Confederate States Ship Virginia.
- March 19, 1898 - USS Oregon departs San Francisco for 14,000 mile trip around South America (pre-Panama Canal era) to join U.S. forces off the coast of Cuba.
- March 24, 1903 - George Dewey is commissioned Admiral of the Navy.
- March 19, 1917 - U.S. navy authorizes enrollment of women in the Naval Reserve in ratings of yeoman, radio electrician and other essential ratings.
- March 24, 1918 - USS Idaho (BB-41) is commissioned.
- March 3, 1942 - USS Perch (SS-176) is scuttled by its crew in the Java Sea. USS Asheville (PG-21) is sunk by the Japanese in the Java Sea.
- March 12, 1943 - USS Champlin sinks German submarine U-130.
- 1975 - The evacuation of Danang, Vietnam began by sea.

## Next Issue

- Sailor Spotlight
- Making a home in Theatre
- Question of the Month
- May birthdays

See you next month!

The QUEBEC INQUIRY is saddened to report that YN3 Jo Preston's son Nicholas E. Carter, 21, was killed in an automobile accident on March 19, 2006.

Petty Officer Preston is a member of Charlie Company.

Her son was born on October 1, 1984 in the Philippines. He is survived by father Jerry and Jo Lynn Coffman Preston; a brother Jeremy and sister Amberlee; his grandparents Ed and Helen Coffman; great-grandmother Elsie Pinkston and his fiancé Staci Wilham.

We mourn our shipmate's loss.

## IN MEMORIAM



## April Birthdays

AO3 Sergio Salva	Apr 1	Alpha Co.	HT2 Nathan Crawshaw	Apr 12	Bravo Co.
BM2 Richard Ballwanz	Apr 3	Alpha Co.	SK2 Kevin Androff	Apr 13	Bravo Co.
OS2 John Dawkins	Apr 3	Bravo Co.	SK2 Robert Backus	Apr 13	Delta Co.
HT1 Harold Neales	Apr 3	Charlie Co.	CS3 Matthew Oberg	Apr 14	Bravo Co.
MM2 Raul Martinez	Apr 4	Alpha Co.	LN2 David Eye	Apr 14	HQ
OS2 Melvin Williams	Apr 5	Bravo Co.	SK3 Lisa Sansone	Apr 15	Bravo Co.
IT2 Jakob Moore	Apr 6	Delta Co.	AO2 Gilbert Sanchez	Apr 18	Alpha Co.
BM2 Chauncey Kelly	Apr 7	Alpha Co.	SK2 Cesar Acosta	Apr 18	Charlie Co.
SK2 John Diguango	Apr 8	Charlie Co.	CS2 Gary Austin	Apr 19	Bravo Co.
CM1 David Smith	Apr 8	Charlie Co.	OS2 Terrence Smith	Apr 19	Bravo Co.
OS2 Orenthial Johnson	Apr 8	Charlie Co.	MM3 Lukas Clees	Apr 20	Charlie Co.
LI2 Justin Williams	Apr 8	Charlie Co.	LCDR Michael LeFlore	Apr 21	Alpha Co.
SK3 Sheena Woods	Apr 8	Delta Co.	CS2 Eshman Bell	Apr 21	Charlie Co.
CM2 Carlos Ramirez	Apr 9	Alpha Co.	PS3 Claire Castaneda	Apr 21	Charlie Co.
MA2 George Edwards Rodriguez	Apr 9	Bravo Co.	GM2 Roberto Ticas-Ramirez	Apr 22	Alpha Co.
PS3 Maria E	Apr 9	Williamsburg	PR2 Harold Ward	Apr 22	Charlie Co.
AO1 Frank Saltzgeber	Apr 10	Charlie Co.	ABH2 Michael Shackelford	Apr 25	Bravo Co.
			IT3 Christopher Rasmussen	Apr 27	Bravo Co.
			SK2 Preston Easterday	Apr 27	Charlie Co.
			PCCS Kathleen Hotmer	Apr 30	Bravo Co.

## Quebec Arrives in Kuwait



Photos by JO1 Doug Mappin

Members from U.S. Navy Custom QUEBEC begin to process in country at LSA Ali Al Salem. Navy Customs QUEBEC arrived on Sunday, March 12, 2006. After two lay-overs and 15 hours in-flight, the crew of QUEBEC was ready to hit their racks.



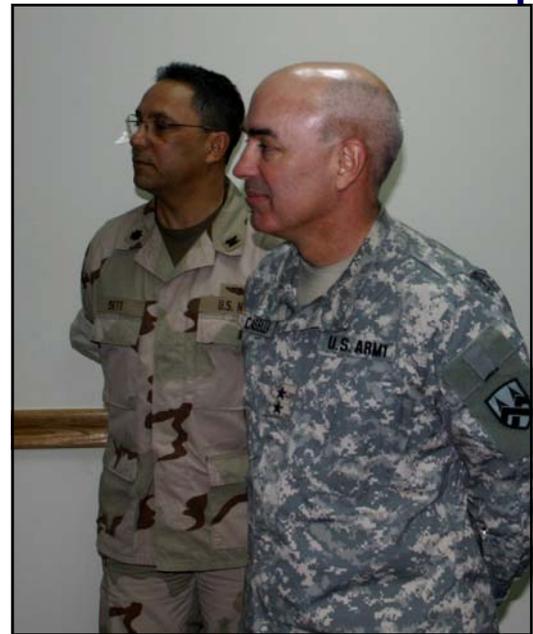
Photos by JO1 Doug Mappin

Navy Custom PAPA'S Bravo Company member CM1 William Anderson greets MA1(AW) Frank Karas to LSA Ali Al Salem. Both Anderson and Karas served together with US Navy Customs Battalion Oscar.



After going through indoctrination, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta Companies all split up to travel to their respective camps. Arriving to the camps in the dark of night, the crews were tired. The crew spent the next day acclimating to the travel, their new homes and surroundings. LSA Ali Al Salem, Camps Anaconda, Arifjan, Navistar and Patriot would be home for the next seven to eight months.

# RIP/TOA: RELIEF IN PLACE TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY



## RIP/TOA: 25 March 2006

Photos by JO1 Doug Mappin

After receiving comments from Col. Robertson, CDR Reyes addressed the members from both U.S. Navy Customs Battalion PAPA and QUEBEC. After signing over command to CDR Mark Faylor, Commanding Officer of QUEBEC, the turnover was complete and PAPA has been properly relieved. CDR Faylor thanked Reyes and the crew of PAPA for making the turnover a success.



## Sailor Spotlight: Junior Sailor gives thanks to Leadership



Photo by JO1 Doug Mappin

**HM3 Kristin Nixon checks a Sailor's medical record. Nixon is part of Alpha Company's Medical Department.**

By JO1 Doug Mappin  
Asst. PAO, U.S. Navy  
Customs Battalion QUEBEC

Kuwait—Being one of the youngest members of a battalion has its advantages. For 24-year old Hospital Corpsmen Third Class Kristin Nixon her youth is not an issue. She does admit, however, that being the youngest of the crew of Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC, stationed at Camp Arifjan, does feel a bit odd at times.

Nixon was tired and a bit sun-burned after a full day on the weapons range, but her enthusiasm for her job clearly shows. During that day's weapons qualifications for members of the battalion, Nixon served as the medical corpsmen on call. It was her duty to stand by to render medical aid should it be needed.

"Duty in the Navy—and in the military in general, is a great place for self-discovery," Nixon said. "This mobiliza-

tion is my first. It was my first time to travel to Virginia, my first time to Maine, first to Germany and my first time in Kuwait—all firsts, all in one month."

Nixon is one of about 450 Reservists mobilized to perform customs inspections by Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The battalion is tasked by Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG) specifically to meet the requirements of this mission. Mem-

bers of the battalion are tasked to provide U.S. Customs prescreenings for military organizations returning home after serving in the Persian Gulf area of operation.

Like its predecessors, OSCAR and PAPA, QUEBEC's entire complement consists of volunteers from the Individual Ready Reserve and members of the Navy Reserve Component. The members are trained to perform customs and agricultural inspections to ensure that no prohibited items return to the United States.

Where else can you meet so many new people? I enjoy the camaraderie of serving with other members of the Navy. You make a new family when serving," says Nixon, who began her career in the U.S. Navy Reserve three years ago.

"I joined because I wanted to make a contribution to my country, especially after September 11," she said. "The Navy affords so many opportunities, the chance to do

things you never thought you could do. The Navy is definitely what you make of it."

Nixon, the daughter of Henry and Paula Nixon of Lacon, Ill., is a second-year nursing student at Illinois central University and a graduate of Midland High School. Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Nixon, a hospital corpsman, enlisted in the Navy Reserves through the Advanced Paygrade (APG) program. Nixon performs her Navy training at Naval Reserve Center Peoria, Ill. She finished Basic Corpsmen School in December of 2005 and received the call to be mobilized shortly thereafter.

"I had already put my name on the volunteer list for Active Duty, something I have always wanted to do," Nixon said. "Originally, I was scheduled to come to Iraq attached to a Seabee unit when called to mobilize, and now here I am."

I am excited about the prospects here," she said. "I was a late addition to QUEBEC. I arrived three weeks after the rest of the battalion. The training in Williamsburg, Va., was great. The weapon's training was very good."

One thing Nixon looks forward to while serving with Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC is the experience she will gain.

"I expect to learn more in-depth knowledge in my rate," the corpsman said. "I hope to get the chance to work at the Troop Medical Clinic and the hospital."

"The protocol we've established is that we're going to work out in the field with the rest of the members of our battalion," she added.

Nixon emphasized that with the summer weather lying ahead, it is going to be very



Photo by JO1 Doug Mappin

**Hospital Corpsman Third Class Kristin Nixon administers an inoculation to LTC Lee Trueheart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, LNO of CFLCC-C7.**

hot and our Sailors need to take great care to avoid heat-related injuries.

"We want to be more interactive with the crew. This new environment is different for us all. We want to make sure everyone is comfortable and that they know we are here to support them."

Nixon is goal-driven and hopes to continue her education while serving in Kuwait if time permits. When asked where she sees herself going with the Navy, Nixon said, "I had once considered Officer Candidate School, but I have ruled that out for now. I'd like to be a Chief someday."

"I am a 'hands on' kind of person and I want to reach out to junior Sailors like the Chiefs I have had," Nixon said, offering praise for her leaders back at her home Reserve Center.

"I have had some excellent leaders and would like to pass that on. I know the Navy is a great place to make a contribution back to our country."

"I know the Navy isn't for everyone, but it's been a great ride for me," she concluded.



# U.S. Navy Customs Battalion Quebec: *from whence we come to ...*



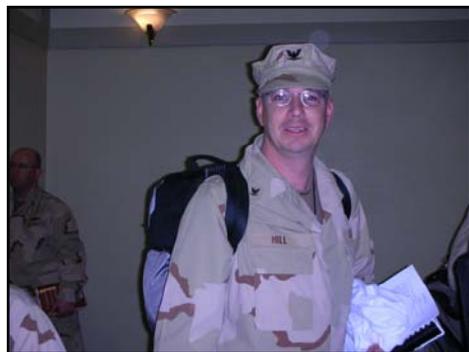
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# U.S. Navy Customs Battalion Quebec: *training for where...*



**We will soon be on the web!**

# U.S. Navy Customs Battalion Quebec: *we've come.*



**Question of the Month: What professional expectations have you set for yourself while serving for U.S. Navy Custom Battalion QUEBEC?**

HQ

Bravo Company



YN2 Maria Forestier



IT3 Chris Rasmussen

U.S. Navy Customs is a great opportunity in my Navy career. This is giving me the opportunity to learn other skills and explore other areas of homeland security as a CBCA; familiarize with equipment and military procedures that are not available as a Reservist and prepare and concentrate on my advancement as a Yeoman.

The training to become a CBCA shows how diversified and rewarding a job could be. I would like to be able to experience working at all our shops to become proficient as a CBCA. It would also allow to grow professionally and challenging my skills that I can take back and use productively in my civilian job such as leadership and quality of work.

Other projects I am working on are learning the Arabic language and illustrating a children's book.

My career expectations for this tour are: I'll be able to convert rate and advance to E-5. I want to continue my Navy career to advance through the ranks.

I volunteered for this duty to support my country and set a good example for my family.

Part of my duties include administration of the Navy Customs server and I want to take full advantage of this opportunity to help me pass the Microsoft XP Server Administrator exam.

This tour will help me with both personal and professional goals.

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