



THE QUEBEC INQUIRY

U.S. NAVY CUSTOMS BATTALION QUEBEC



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



Photo by JO1 Doug Mappin

PS2 Jesus Gelly of Delta Company, SH3 Benjamin Falade, CS2 Greg Simmons and 54 military personnel became U.S. citizens at Camp Arifjan's Zone I chapel on Thursday, April 6, 2006.

Pictured (l-r): LN1 Mark Adams, SH3 Benjamin Falade, Capt. Stephen Nowak, CS2 Greg Simmons, Rear Adm. Michael Miller, Commander Strike Group Seven, PS2 Jesus Gelly and Lt. Joan Malik.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP FOR QUEBEC SAILOR

by JO1 Doug Mappin

Kuwait—Petty Officer 2nd Class Jesus Gelly sits holding a folded American flag in his lap. In a few hours Gelly will become a United States citizen, a dream he has long envisioned.

“This is the first American flag I have ever owned,” Gelly said. “I plan to fly it at our induction ceremony and at Balad where I am stationed. When I go home it will be a memento of my time here in Kuwait and Iraq.”

Mobilized in May 2005, Gelly is one of more than 410 Navy Reservists called to serve in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with Navy Customs Battalion PAPA. Now he is one of only 39 PAPA sailors serving a second tour with Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC. Both battalions were tasked by Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG) to conduct U.S. Customs operations for military organizations departing the Iraqi theater of operations and returning.

Gelly has served in the U.S. Navy Reserve since 2001 as a Navy personnel specialist. He has lived in the U.S. since 1993 when he came to visit his sister in Chicago.

“I was born in Mexico City,” Gelly said. “After I arrived in Chicago, I found I loved the city and I never left.”

“In September, a few other sailors and I decided to pursue becoming a citizen,” Gelly explained. “We found out that the process was involved but we knew it would be worth it. I wanted to become



Photo by JO1 Doug Mappin

PS2 Jesus Gelly is congratulated by LTG R. Stephen Whitcomb, Commanding General Third U.S. Army /ARCENT/CFLCC, after becoming an U.S. citizen.

a citizen because it would give me better opportunities to serve the Navy.

“I also wanted to become a citizen so that I could be more involved in our country’s political processes. Before, I could not vote in major elections. That will change.”

Petty Officer Gelly and 56 other military personnel from 29 different countries will stand together before a packed house in the Zone I Chapel at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and recite the oath of citizenship.

These Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen go to the chapel with a dream and leave as U.S. citizens.

These are emotional moments for

Gelly.

“You know, in a way I will be a different person,” Gelly said. “I’ll be saying good-bye to the country where I was born and raised. I only wish my wife Christine could have been here to share this moment with me.”

When asked what Gelly would like to take home from the experience of serving two deployments, he answered immediately.

“When I leave Iraq, I can say something I’ve never been able to say before. In two hours, I can say that I walked away from here with pride. And now I can say that served my country honorably.”

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Rear Adm. Henry Tomlin pays a visit to Kuwait



Photo by PH2 Martha Ruiz

Rear Adm. Tomlin visits Alpha Company crew members at the wash racks. Pictured (l-r): MR2 Jon Schlib and Rear Adm. Henry Tomlin



Photo by PH2 Martha Ruiz

Rear Adm. Tomlin met with members of Alpha Co.'s administrative team. Pictured (l-r): OS2 Jessenia Avalostarira, YN2 Steven Mundy, DCCM David Esposito, Rear Adm. Henry Tomlin and OS1 Roger Nelan



Photo by PH2 Martha Ruiz

Rear Adm. Tomlin (left) confers with Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC Commander, Cmdr. Mark Failor (center) and Commander, NAVELSG FWD HQ, Capt. Gordon Livingston (right).



Photo by PH2 Martha Ruiz

Rear Adm. Henry Tomlin visits with the members of Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC's HQ. Pictured (l-r): Lt. Christopher Lee, ICC Robert Methvin, Lt. Anthony Raneses, Rear Adm. Henry Tomlin, SKC Demetria Supiping, SKCM Stephen Clark, Lt.j.g. Timothy Sanchez, OS2 Bryan Miller, (kneeling l-r), QMC Troy Cox and Lt. Cmdr. Evan Cooper.



Photo by PH2 Martha Ruiz

Rear Adm. Tomlin meets with QUEBEC crew members from Camp Arifjan's wash racks during his visit to Kuwait. Pictured (l-r): OS2 Jessica Patterson, MR2 Jon Schlib and Rear Adm. Henry Tomlin.



Photo by PH2 Martha Ruiz

SKCS Don Middleton (right) provides a tour of the wash racks for Rear Adm. Henry Tomlin (left). During his visit, Tomlin met with members of Alpha and Charlie Company and with the Port Group DELTA.

Charlie Daniels Band Shows their Support for the Military



Photos by PH3 Michael Oday

Behold! We have a logo!

Creativity knows no bounds! During his spare time, SK2 Kevin Androff busied himself with a number of designs that he hoped could be adopted as a crest for Navy Customs. After coming up with the right mix of elements he presented the design to Cmdr. Mark Failor for consideration.

After bending the skipper's ear on a few occasions, Androff gave Cmdr. Failor his design who then handed it over to PH2 Martha Ruiz. In her civilian life, Ruiz is a graphics artist. With hours of brainstorming between three Petty Officers, PH2 Ruiz, SK2 Androff and CTT1 Jon Owen came up with a design that has since been finalized and become our battalion's adopted logo.

The logo has since also been integrated into the proposed Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC coin, which will be unveiled in an upcoming issue.

BZ to SK2 Androff, CTT1 Owen and PH2 Ruiz!



CTT1 Jon Owen



SK2 Kevin Androff



PH2 Martha Ruiz

Bravo Company (NAVISTAR) busts cigarette smuggling ring

By JO1 Doug Mappin

On a daily basis the crew of Camp Navistar performs inspections on all civilian vehicles entering Kuwait from Iraq. For the five crew members conducting inspections on April 5, 2006, this would be far from a normal day. PS3 Sean Mayo, CM2 Michael Corsetti, BM2(SS) Govan Andre Hill, BM2 Michael Hudson and BM3 Michael Gawlik would make the biggest cigarette bust since customs has been conducting this mission.

"This is the biggest cigarette bust we have had ever," said OS1 Jose Vargas, LPO at Camp Navistar. "In the space of three days we confiscated about 5,000 cartons of cigarettes."

The entry point for traffic from Iraq into Kuwait is a tightly policed facility. With both Kuwaiti officials and military personnel from Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC and the other military branches policing the area, this is a high volume area for incoming. The entry point sees from 70-500



Photo courtesy of Bravo Company

But a fraction of the nearly 5,000 cartons that the Bravo prevented from being smuggled into Kuwait, the cigarette cartons overflow from the tail end of their HUMVEE.

vehicles, averaging 150 vehicles passing through the entry point daily.

On any given day the line of vehicles wanting to enter Kuwait can stretch for miles. Navistar's mission is to ensure that no contraband, alcohol, weapons or explosives or explosive paraphernalia enter Kuwait

from Iraq. Working closely with Kuwaiti authorities, the daily inspections they conduct safeguard the people of Kuwait as well as the military personnel stationed there.

"They had cigarettes hidden under the sleeper cot of their semi-cab," said PS3 Sean Mayo. "If we find contraband, we seize the driver's passport."

"It is a crime for drivers to smuggle contraband into the country," said CM2 Michael Corsetti. "Over the course of three hours we found cigarette cartons in 17 trucks.

When the drivers in line behind realized we were finding things the drivers began dumping the contraband."

"When we realized this was big we called for backup to assist us," BM2(SS) Govan Hill said. "We called back to the camp and BM3 Gawlik came out to help out."

(continued on page 7)

Customs Battalion QUEBEC Family news



Photo courtesy of SKC Patricia Tibaudo

Chief Storekeeper Patricia Tibaudo, affectionately known to members as “Chief T” of Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC is a grandmother again. Her new granddaughter is Charlotte Rein McLaughlin. Born on March 24, 2006, she weighed 6 lbs, 14 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches. Her proud parents are Gina & Bill McLaughlin.

Congrats to Chief Tibaudo’s family!



Photo courtesy of OS2 David Ellerson

OS2 David Ellerson (right) of Charlie Company met up with his brother-in-law MA1 Kelly Cruz (left) at the recent USO Patriotic Concert. Country & Western artist Lee Greenwood (center)

This Month in U.S. Navy History

- May 1, 1898 - Battle of Manila Bay: Adm. Dewey defeats Spanish Navy at Manila, Philippines.
- May 2, 1975 - U.S. Navy departs Vietnamese waters at the end of the evacuation.
- May 5, 1961 - U.S. Navy Cmdr. Alan Shepard, Jr. makes the first U.S. manned spaceflight. His flight last 15 minutes and 28 seconds reaching 116.5 miles into space.
- May 7, 1940 - President Franklin Delano Roosevelt orders Pacific Fleet to remain in Hawaiian waters until further notice.
- May 8, 1911 - Navy orders its first airplane, a Curtiss A-1.
- May 13, 1908 - Navy Nurse Corps established.
- May 17, 1940 - FDR announces plans to re-commission 35 destroyers.
- May 18, 1775 - Benedict Arnold captures British sloop and renames her *Enterprise*, first of many famous ships bearing that name.
- May 22, 1968 - *USS Scorpion* (SSN-589) lost with all hands.
- May 24, 1945 - Nine U.S. ships damaged by kamikaze fire off the coast of Okinawa.
- May 26, 1945 - *USS England* sinks fifth Japanese sub in one week.

For more Naval history, go to www.history.navy.mil/wars/dates.htm

Next Issue

- Sailor Spotlight
- What is it like to work on a PAX team?
- Question of the Month
- June birthdays
- A Day on the Job
- Summer will be in full swing; what do QUEBEC people do for fun?

Call for a few good writers! If you want to see your name in print, we are looking for writers to assist with this publication. Please contact the editor (see page eleven). See you next month!

May Birthdays

ABE3 Hamilton Argueta-Mendez	May 1	Charlie Co.	SK2 Deneen Ferris	May 14	Bravo Co.
GM2 Edward Cassidy	May 2	Navistar	EN2 Milton White	May 15	Charlie Co.
BMSN Mylitta Henrikson	May 3	Bravo Co.	SKC Patricia Tibaudo	May 15	HQ
BM2 Kari Ross	May 4	HQ	IT3 Chris Adala	May 18	Alpha Co.
OS2 Jose Joubert-Negron	May 8	Alpha Co.	QM3 Larry Fowler	May 20	Bravo Co.
PR2 Ariel Gonzalez	May 8	Bravo Co.	IT2 Sae Kim	May 21	Charlie Co.
SK2 Eric Walker	May 9	Alpha Co.	AD2 Charles Perkins	May 23	Bravo Co.
DCC Bobby Hoglen	May 10	Alpha Co.	OS3 Claude McGowans	May 23	HQ
SH3 Todd Hanes	May 10	Charlie Co.	AZ2 Andrew Popp	May 24	Bravo Co.
EM3 Kong Vang	May 13	Bravo Co.	BM3 Jonathan Baca	May 27	Alpha Co.
GM2 Scott DeWater	May 13	Delta Co.	OS2 Adam Merrill	May 29	Charlie Co.
CTT1 Jon Owen	May 13	HQ	SK2 William Dudlicek	May 31	Bravo Co.
			IT3 John Gunterman	May 31	Bravo Co.



Photo by QMC Troy Cox

Cmdr. Mark Failor and Command Master Chief Susan Frazier take a moment to pose with members of Customs Battalion QUEBEC's Delta Company. Front row (l-r) kneeling: MA2 Pedro Perez, Cmdr. Mark Failor, Command Master Chief Susan Frazier, SK3 Sheena Woods, 2nd row: SK2 Robert Backus, OS3 Efstathia Marinou, HM2 Rhett Anderson, PC3 Gail Weeber, BM2 Kate Ennis, MA2 Shelly Williams, SK2 Carlos Cabrera, 3rd row: HM3 Davey Cortes, IT3 David Owens, YN1 Shane Russell, EM2 Wade Seigler, MMCS William Hamilton, IT2 Jakob Moore and ET2 Maria Newbold. Back row: PS2 Jesus Gelly, AE2 Clessie Simmons, QM2 Alexander Hayes and AT2 Michael Bailey.



LSA Anaconda welcomes Cmdr. Failor and CMDCM Frazier

By AE2 Clessie Simmons

Iraq—Cmdr. Mark Failor, Commander of Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC and Command Master Chief Susan Frazier paid a visit to the personnel of Delta Company on April 14, 2006.

Cmdr. Failor and the Command Master Chief were quickly introduced to the reason behind Balad's nickname of "Mortaritaville."

"It gave me the full experience of what Delta Company goes through," Cmdr. Failor said.

During their two-day visit, the CO and Command Master Chief inspected the facilities and observed their day-to-day operations.

The personnel provided a renewed vision of their customs

mission in Balad.

The Command team saw the newly painted office spaces, a task fulfilled by BM2 Kate Ennis. They also saw the improved procedures involving amnesty, HUMVEE operations and by all accounts, the CO was impressed with the improvements and progress being made.

During the visit Cmdr. Failor also presented a number of awards to PS2 Jesus Gelly, MA2 Pedro Perez, MA2 Shelly Williams, AT2 Michael Bailey, QM2 Alexander Hayes and BM2 Kate Ennis.

"We are doing a good job," Failor said. "The main thing we need to continue doing is to work on communication between the different camps. I believe that in just a short time QUEBEC has already put its stamp and mark on Navy Customs."

USO PATRIOTIC CONCERT: COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC & PATRIOT CHEERLEADERS



Photos by JOI Doug Mappin

The USO Patriotic Concert was a big hit with QUEBEC crew members. Providing entertainment was comedian Dick Hardwick, Country & Western artists Restless Heart, legendary Lee Greenwood and the New England Patriot Cheerleaders.



Sailor Spotlight: QUEBEC Sailors take customs mission to Africa



Photo courtesy of SK2 Cesar Acosta

YN2 David Fraley, SK2 Cesar Acosta and QM1 Paul Kertesz

By YN2 Dave Fraley and MA2 Mark Kozee

Djibouti, Africa—Africa was the destination for three intrepid QUEBEC customs inspectors during the month of March. SK2 Cesar Acosta of Charlie Company, YN2 David Fraley of Bravo and QM1 Paul Kertesz of Alpha traveled to Camp

Lemonier, a U.S. Marine base near the capital, to inspect the vehicles of the 22D Marine Expeditionary Unit who had spent the previous month performing joint exercises with the Djiboutian military.

All three readily agreed that while the work was hard, a chance to see even a little bit of Africa was too good a chance to pass up.

“This is like dream come true,” Acosta said, “All my life I’ve dreamt of going to Africa but I’ve never had a chance. My wife and kids are jealous and demanded that I take plenty of pictures.”

“The customs work done in Djibouti allowed the unit to avoid offloading in Rota, Spain,” 1st Lt. Shayne Yenzler, LNO of the 22 MEU said. “This not only saving the military thousands of dollars, but also allowing the Marines to return home to Camp

“The customs work done in Djibouti allowed the unit to avoid offloading in Rota, Spain,” 1st Lt. Shane Yenzler, LNO of the 22 MEU said. “This not only saving the military thousands of dollars, but also allowing the Marines to return home to Camp Lejeune much quicker.”

The three Sailors also traveled to the USS Austin (LDP-4) to perform a cleanliness inspection of two helicopters before returning to Camp Lemonier. Despite all the hard work, the three Sailors didn’t waste a minute of their down time either. They visited the Declan Cheetah refuge, where French and local volunteers and veterinarians provided a haven for the rapidly dwindling cheetah population, they also volunteered at a local baby orphanage where they assisted the Catholic nuns in holding and feeding the babies.

The group agreed that one of the most meaningful aspects of the trip was visit to the orphanage, and that they would enjoy going back to it.

Both Petty Officers Acosta and Fraley are extenders from PAPA and missed the farewell party and seeing their shipmates off as they returned to the United States. However, both agreed that while they will miss their friends, they appreciated even more the chance to make a unique contribution to the customs mission as well as lend a hand to the Djiboutian people.

Cigarette bust

(continued from page 3)

“We look for drugs, alcohol, explosives and even people,” said BM2 Michael Hudson. “You’d be surprised at the things we find.”

“You have to understand that smuggling cigarettes into the country is big money,” Vargas said. “They buy them for a buck or two in Iraq, but sell them for \$20-\$25 in Kuwait. The mark up is phenomenal. The mark up on alcohol is even higher! They can easily sell things for at least ten times the purchase price.”

“It is amazing where they (the drivers) try to hide this stuff,” said IC2 John Peterson. “They try stuffing things everywhere. We find things under their mattresses, in engine compartments, under their seats, and even in water crates.”

“I was watching through binoculars that day,” said Corsetti. “As we began the bust, I could see the drivers passing stuff back down the line. Petty Officer Gawlik even caught one driver taping things up on the under carriage of the semi flatbed.”

The word has evidently gotten around about the Navy Customs crews’ thoroughness since the bust occurred at the beginning of the month. The number of contraband



Photo by JO1 Doug Mappin

BM2 Michael Hudson, BM2(SS) Govan Andre Hill, CM2 Michael Corsetti and PS3 Sean Mayo stand on the inspection pad where the team stopped a cigarette smuggling ring from bringing in country over 5,000 cartons of black market cigarettes last month. Not pictured: BM3 Michael Gawlik

items—especially cigarettes—has dropped dramatically since then. In the matter of a few days leading up to the bust approximately 5,000 cartons of cigarettes were found. After that the number of attempts to smuggle cigarettes and alcohol has been less than 300 items.

“Our primary mission is to stop weapons and explosives from being smuggled in,” said Peterson. “But it is against the law for these other items too so we have a big job. We know we cannot let anything dangerous get through!”



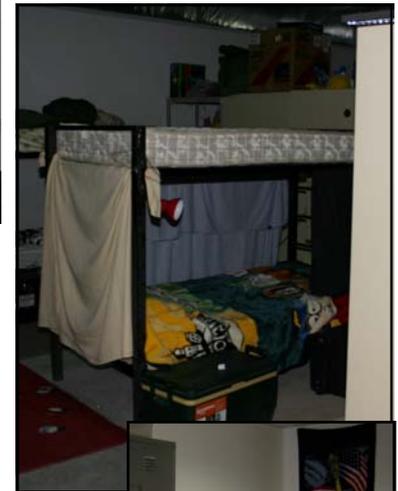
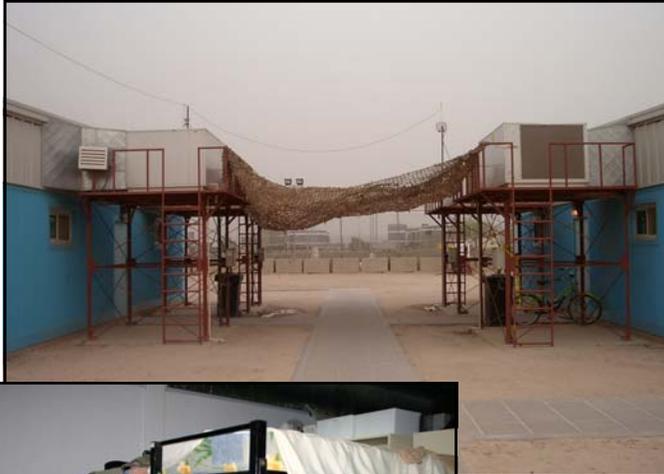
Photo by JO1 Doug Mappin

IC2 John Peterson inspects the contents of a truck driver’s rig after it enters the Kuwait-Iraq entry point. The crew’s job is to ensure that no contraband, drugs, alcohol or explosive devices enter Kuwait.

Making a home in the Desert: *Be it ever so humble...*



A home is where you make it!



We are on the web!

<http://navyreserve.navy.mil/Public/Staff/Centers/Forces+Command/Centers/Navy+Expeditionary+Logistics+Support+Group/WelcomeAboard/Quebec+Inquiry.htm>

THE QUEBEC INQUIRY

How mighty is the pen?



Photos by PH3 Michael Oday

“I’m writing to thank you for the pen. It’s nice to know that we have the support of people like yourself back home.”

By PH3 Michael Oday

Kuwait—“I’m writing to thank you for the pen. It’s nice to know that we have the support of people like yourself back home. Thank you for the kind words and prayers.” These simple words express the thoughts of QM3 Brian Courcey in a letter to a volunteer from The Freedom Pens Project.

“It was a great surprise; I never expected anything like this.” Petty Officer Courcey said.

Master Chief David Esposito was given a pen and tracked down the project from an e-mail on the attached card. He requested enough pens so that each of more than 400 hundred Sailors of U.S. Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC could receive one. Knowing that people back home supporting the troops is a morale boost of great magnitude.

“I liked the idea of the pens and wanted to do something to show the Sailors in our battalion that the people back home support us,” Esposito said.

The Freedom Pens Project is an all volunteer effort to provided custom handmade made pens to American service men and women overseas. The non-profit organization has donated more than 16,000 pens in 2005 and plans to surpass 20,000 pens this year.

According the organization’s web site, a concerted effort is being made to show the troops that people back home think of us daily. It reads:

“Every Freedom Pen that is delivered will serve as a constant reminder to our troops that they are not alone and will have our continued support until every one of them returns home.”

The members of the project has shipped more than 50,500 pens since the Saw Mill Creek Woodworkers Forum started this project in 2004.

Training Note

Kuwait—The following individuals recently participated in the Senior Custom Border Clearance Agents course. The three-day CBCA course was meant to provide supplemental training in addition to the what QUEBEC personnel received stateside.

The goal of the class was to further instruct personnel so that they in turn can provide CBCA training in theater to civilians and to other military personnel.

In addition to these goals, the outcomes of the course provide QUEBEC personnel the ability to expand and support additional missions that otherwise would not be open to us. An additional benefit to this course is that in-theater instruction saves manpower and money.

Lastly, by offering such courses in theater, military personnel in all regions can better learn to conduct customs missions with more immediate results.

Cmdr. Mark Failor	IT1 Kat Wacker
Lt. Cmdr. Evan Cooper	QM1 Paul Kertesz
SKCS Donald Middleton	MA1 Thomas Karas
BMCS Mark Turner	OS1 Juan Posada
MMCS William Hamilton	HT1 Harold Neales
ABHC Michael Salazar	YN1 Shane Russell
QMC Troy Cox	CM1 David Smith
DCC Joseph Cozzo	MN2 Bonnie Dykes
OS1 Roger Nelan	OS2 George Tsatsaronis
EO1 Richard Stiles	OS2 Jessica Patterson
MM1 Matthew Johnson	



Photos by DCCM David Esposito

Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC’s Alpha Company shows off their pens giving thanks to the Freedom Pens Project.

Name That Band!

By MA2 Mark Kozee – LSA

Kuwait—Several of members at LSA have formed a band. We bought equipment, or had it sent from home. The band consists of MA2 Mark Kozee on bass, AME2 (AW) Kenny Rymanowicz and HM2 Chris Smith on guitar, OS2 (SW) Jeremy Terrell on drums, OS2 and Terrence Smith and SK3 David Weyer on vocals. We play rock and roll, some classic and some contemporary.

On May 20, the plan is for the band to play at the cook-out at the customs compound. However, the band needs a name and that's where you come in. Something catchy, that somehow ties into the Navy, or our mission, or our Battalion QUEBEC. So if you have a suggestion for a name (keep it clean).

email: Mark.Kozee@apod.kuwait.swa.army.mil

"The winning name will be announced," Kozee said. "The lineup is not written in stone. If you are assigned to LSA and are interested in playing with us – we hate to use the word "audition." Drop by the armory and let me know. Or if you would merely like to join us on stage for a song or two, tell me what you'd like for us to play for you, and we will try to accommodate you."



Photo by GM2 William Kraus

Pictured (l-r): SK3 David Weyer, HM2 Chris Smith, AME2(AW) Kenny Rymanowicz (kneeling), OS2(SW) Jeremy Terrell, MA2 Mark Kozee and OS2 Terrence Smith

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Commanding Officer: Cmdr. Mark Failor
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Command Master Chief: ITCM Susan Frazier

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Question of the Month: How will you celebrate Mother's Day this year with your wife or mother now that we are in theater?

HQ



SK2 Jeffrey Stockard

I plan on celebrating Mother's Day this year with my wife now that I am in theater by sending her a dozen long-stemmed red roses and a gift certificate for a day of pampering at a local day spa. She is at home playing mommy and daddy to our nine year old daughter and a 17-month old son. She deserves the best.

ALPHA COMPANY



LCDR Michael LeFlore

I will be sending an Easter Lily with a Mother's Day gift certificate for a day spa to my wife Katie.

BRAVO COMPANY



HM1 Nancy Kroeker

I plan to be working on Mother's Day, just like I did last year while in theater. I will call my Mother and wish her a Happy Mother's Day. It will be hard for her this year as we lost my daddy in August 2005. All special days will be hard on us for a while. Thank you for caring and supporting us. My son will email me a special Mother's Day wish.

CHARLIE COMPANY



SH2 Charles Sparks

I plan to send her flowers and a card. I also have four daughters and a son that plan to have a get together with their mother.

DELTA COMPANY



MA2 Sheena Woods

It is hard being away from my two girls and mom on Mother's Day, but they understand why I'm away to help defend my country. And every time I get a chance to talk to them they give me so much love and support that it seems like everyday is Mother's Day.

CAMP NAVISTAR



HT2 Adam Hunter

Being in theater, I feel the best way to celebrate Mother's Day is by sending a card and a simple phone call.