



THE QUEBEC INQUIRY

U.S. NAVY CUSTOMS BATTALION QUEBEC



- HQ COMPANY - ALPHA COMPANY - BRAVO COMPANY - CHARLIE COMPANY -

Custom Battalion QUEBEC's Corpsmen provide 24-hour health care

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By MC2 Michael O'Day

Kuwait—As the sun rises over the Middle East, and U.S. Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC's day shift prepares to muster, many of their corpsman have been hard at work for hours. QUEBEC, the third customs unit supported by Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group in Williamsburg, Va., is assigned the mission of protecting the borders and enforcing the laws of the United States regarding the re-deployment of military personnel and equipment involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The corpsmen of QUEBEC are assigned the task of keeping the Sailors healthy enough to perform that mission.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Pascale Mialy, a station officer for Loveland, Colorado Fire and Rescue Department and the lead petty officer for QUEBEC's

Photos by MC2 Michael O'Day

Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC's corpsmen provide many services ensuring the well-being of QUEBEC's personnel as well as assisting the Troop Medical Clinic and the U.S. Army's Combat Life Savers courses. Top left: Ouch!!! HM2 Laree Slusser gives Master Chief David Esposito an inoculation. Top right : HM2 Kristin Nixon provides aid to a soldier during a rotator mission. Middle left: HM1 Jonathan Greene provides assistance teaching students in the CLS class. Lower left: HM2 Laree Slusser aids a student as he learns to administer an IV during the CLS class.

Bravo Company, joined the Navy Reserve to be a corpsman because of September 11, 2001. Mialy is a Navy Reservist from Operational Health Support Unit Bremerton, Det. O, Denver, Colo. and has a strong desire to help in an effort that she believes in deeply.

"I feel very much a part of a bigger picture," Mialy said. "I feel like I'm contributing something important by supporting our Navy personal working so hard to make sure that our brave men and women are going home quickly and safely."

Navy corpsmen need a wide range of skills. They handle everything from record keeping to emergency medicine to assisting doctors in surgery. Providing health care to the Sailors of Navy Custom Battalion QUEBEC demands the coordinated effort of personnel at several levels. The eight Navy Reserve medical professionals assigned to QUEBEC have both the military and civilian training necessary to respond to the needs of an operational battalion in a combat theater.

The battalion medical department's lead petty officer, HM1 Jonathan Greene, a Navy Reservist from Navy Operational Support Center New London, Conn., Submarine Support Center Det. 101 from Richmond, Va., is an

(continued on p. 7)

Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC



Proudly serving in Iraq and Kuwait!

Inter-theatre Travel

By MC2 Michael O'Day

Travel in the United States is something that most of us take for granted. Whether it be a few miles to the next town or across the country, we just jump in our cars or on a plane and go. For military and civilian personal serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom it is not so simple.

Even after carefully planning the itinerary and getting the proper approvals anything can still go wrong. Trips can easily become a cross between something like Chevy Chase in "Middle East Vacation" and a good old fashion western.

A recent trip for three QUEBEC Sailors had it all, mishaps, delays, cancellations, and a mid-flight turn around. After waiting on standby, enduring numerous delays, and a cancellation, the three sailors finally became airborne on their way out of Kuwait. Neatly packed in the cargo hold of a C-17 transport plane with pallets of supplies and baggage, they settled in for the two hour flight.

As the plane touched down on the runway, the jolt woke both the passages and the Air Force cargo handlers on board. Everyone checked their watches and smiled gratefully that they were on schedule. A voice then came over the intercom and informed everyone they were

still in Kuwait. A malfunctioning tail forced the plane back to its point of origin. After two hours in the air the QUEBEC Sailors found themselves exactly where they were nine hours earlier: standing by for the next available, unscheduled flight.

Long after the expected four hour travel time had elapsed, the three travel-weary Sailors did manage to reach their destination - 23 hours after they departed their home camp. It only took 16 hours for QUEBEC to arrive in theater from Virginia.

For the return trip the Sailors decided to see if the Army's planes could perform better in the air than the fateful C-17 they started with .

The journey seemed to be very much like riding in a covered wagon through Indian country in the new territories of the American Old West. The passengers, dressed in their body armor and helmets, were loaded into a box shaped plane with bench seats down both sides. The trail boss briefed them on all the safety rules including where to meet if the plane were to be shot down.

Once the aircraft took off in the

dark it became obvious that this was no ordinary flight. The pilot turned all the lights off while the trail boss donned night vision goggles to assist him in seeing radio-controlled planes that are sometimes flown into low flying aircraft.

Traveling as a civilian in the United States is just one of many things the sailors of Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC look forward to when they come home.

A view of the flight line and the Army's "covered wagon", the C-23 Sherpa.

Photo by MC2 Michael O'Day



Contributors this issue



YN2 DeeAnna Brown
Charlie Company



OS2(SS) Nathan Keith
Bravo Company



MA1 Mark Kozee
Bravo Company



MC1 Doug Mappin
Headquarters Company



MC2 Michael O'Day
Charlie Company



MC2 Martha Ruiz
Headquarters Company

CRUISE BOOK NOTE!

Call for photos! Anyone wishing to contribute photos for consideration in the cruise book must submit them on a CD-ROM/DVD disk ONLY by Monday, July 17, 2006.



Each submission must be labeled with the contributors' names and company name on the disk.

Give your submission disks to your company Admin Office and please ask they be forwarded to MC1 Doug Mappin.

Sailor Spotlight: MM3 Devon Patillo's quick action saves life

By OS2(SS) Nathan Keith and MC1 Doug Mappin

Kuwait—It was a standard day for Machinists Mate 3rd Class Devon Patillo. For Mohmoud, a staff worker at Bravo Company's compound, the day also started like any other. Neither man could have known that events would soon cause their lives to cross paths.

Mohmoud, 35, from Cairo, Egypt, was performing his usual duties as a sanitation removal worker. He had learned recently that his father had suffered a heart attack. While performing his daily duties Mohmoud started to have a heat-induced panic attack and then passed out.

MM3 Patillo, a native of Lincoln Park, Mich., and a member of Bravo Company's Armory was on his way to another part of the camp when he saw one of Mohmoud's co-workers acting frantically.

"I was walking along when Mohmoud's co-worker flagged me over," Patillo said. "He was talking excitedly about his coworker acting strangely."

Patillo immediately noticed Mohmoud was slumped in the vehicle and he rushed over to ascertain the man's condition. Fortunately, Patillo has been trained as a first responder.

"The first thing I did I checked his vitals," Patillo said. "I took his pulse and checked to make sure he was breathing."

Utilizing his training, Patillo quickly determined that Mohmoud had a pulse and he was breathing rapidly.

Patillo ran to the Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) and summoned assistance from the medical staff. After rushing back to provide aid to the victim, Mohmoud was then transported back to the TMC for emergency aid.

After a doctor arrived on the scene, he took charge of the situation. When Mohmoud awoke, he complained that he was suffering from abdominal and chest pains. While being treated, Patillo made himself useful by helping all involved overcome the language barriers. Mohmoud's Egyptian supervisor only spoke broken English.

After Mohmoud was stabilized, the medical staff made the determination that even though they wanted to medivac him to a larger military hospital they were required to turn him over to Kuwait hospital.



Photo by MC1 Doug Mappin

MM3(SW) Devon Patillo (right) accepts a Navy Achievement Medal from Commanding Officer, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group FWD Headquarters, Capt. Gordon Livingston (left) for his quick actions that helped save the life of one of the camp workers at Bravo Company's compound. At the time of the incident Patillo was a member of Bravo Company.

Mohmoud has since recuperated and has returned back to his home country of Egypt where he once again resides.

Had it not been for Petty Officer Patillo's quick reactions, attention to detail, and advanced training from both the military and civilian worlds Mohmoud would more than likely have not survived this ordeal.

Patillo, who was mobilized for duty and trained for Customs work by NAV-ELSG in Williamsburg, Va., was recalled to active duty to support the U.S. Navy Customs mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom. At the time of the incident Patillo was assigned to Bravo Company's armory section. He has since been reassigned to the armory with Alpha Co.

"I would like to return to active duty as part of the Navy nurse corps," Patillo said. "Since being assigned here, I've been busy studying to become a Navy corpsman."

Patillo was recognized by Capt. Gordon Livingston, commanding officer for NAV-ELSG FWD HQ, for his quick action and



Photo by MC1 Doug Mappin

Capt. Gordon Livingston pins a Navy Achievement Medal onto MM3 Devon Patillo's uniform after recognizing the petty officer for his quick thinking and taking actions that resulted in saving a worker's life.

valor in assessing the situation and acting quickly. His actions reflect highly on his part as a member of the crew of Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC.

58 QUEBEC Sailors advance! What an amazing feat!

58 Sailors of Customs Battalion QUEBEC advanced in paygrade from the last advancement cycle. Two of our officers were promoted; one E-6 advanced to Chief; 34 Sailors advanced to First Class and 21 advanced to Second Class.

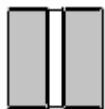
The following is a list of personnel who were promoted and advanced:

Officers:



O-5

Cmdr. Carl Isett
- Headquarters



O-3

Lt. Rory Russell
- Headquarters

Senior Enlisted:



E-7:

ITC(sel) Kat Wacker
- Headquarters



E-6:

CTR1 Daniel Adkins - Bravo Co.
OS1 Jessenia Avalostarira - Alpha Co.
BM1 Richard Ballwanz - Alpha Co.
OS1 Tanya Brooks - Charlie Co.
BM1 Angwo Chai - Charlie Co.
OS1 Jackson Connaughton - Charlie Co.
OS1 Kim Craig - Bravo Co.
OS1 David Ellerson - Charlie Co.
BM1 Kate Ennis - Alpha Co.
CE1 Todd Fiske - Charlie Co.
OS1 Sean Fitzpatrick - Charlie Co.
OS1 Eric Fletcher - Bravo Co.
BM1 William Haertjens - Alpha Co.
UT1 James Hager - Charlie Co.
OS1 Oriental Johnson - Charlie Co.
OS1 Nolan Joseph - Bravo Co.
BM1 Benjamin Kelly - Bravo Co.
OS1 Daniel Larkin - Bravo Co.
OS1 Kizzalibah Lavala - Charlie Co.
OS1 Eric Magee - Bravo Co.
GM1 Craig Marker - Alpha Co.
HM1 Pascale Mialy - Bravo Co.
OS1 Nicholas Misch - Bravo Co.
OS1 Jessica Patterson - Alpha Co.
OS1 Joshua Perkins - Bravo Co.
EO1 John Rose - Headquarters
CTT1 Derrick Rutter - Charlie Co.
HT1 Mark Sermon - Alpha Co.
SK1 Jeffrey Stockard - Headquarters
BM1 Franklin Town - Bravo Co.
OS1 Refugia Trujillo - Alpha Co.
CTA1 Lisa Walter - Bravo Co.
OS1 Christopher White - Charlie Co.
OS1 Johnny Woolf - Bravo Co.

E-5:

BM2 Marcus Allen - Headquarters
ABE2 Hamilton Argueta-Mendez - Charlie Co.
EN2 Alan Carlsborg - Bravo Co.
OS2 David Craig - Charlie Co.
PS2 Juan Cruz Roman - Charlie Co.
PS2 Anthony Dayton - Charlie Co.
BM2 Deborah Dilmore - Alpha Co.
YN2 Erica Estrada - Charlie Co.
BM2 Bernard Glenn - Alpha Co.
BM2 James Grier - Alpha Co.
EO2 Calvin Hines - Charlie Co.
AO2 Joana Jonas - Bravo Co.
OS2 Efstathia Marinou - Alpha Co.
OS2 Claude McGowans - Headquarters
HM2 Kristin Nixon - Alpha Co.
MC2 Michael O'Day - Charlie Co.
BM2 Missy Parker - Alpha Co.
YN2 Jo Preston - Charlie Co.
EM2 Frank Rodriguez - Charlie Co.
AZ2 Pedro Rosario Charles - Bravo Co.
PS2 Vuoch Taing - Alpha Co.

Frockings from around the battalion!



Congratulations to all who advanced!

A recreational Oasis in the Sand: QUEBEC Sailors provide morale relief

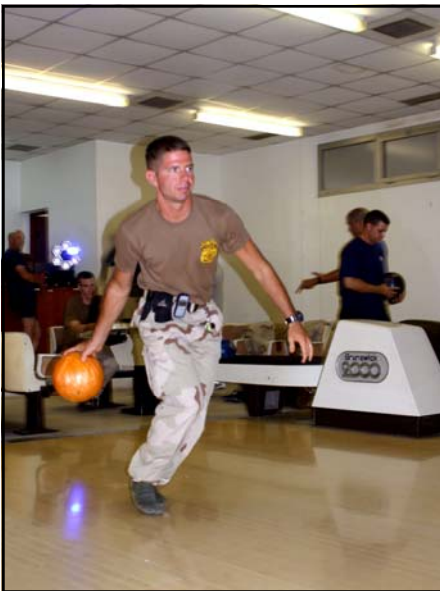


Photos by MC1 Doug Mappin

The bowling lanes provide an oasis of recreational relief for all who visit.

Left: OS1 Jason Kiritschenko and friends partake in the activities available at the lanes.

Kuwait Navy Officer Lt. Col. Hussain joins the staff of the bowling lanes. (left to right) SH1 Neales, Lt. Col. Al-Mutairi Hussain, HM2 Jill Partin, SH2 Charles Sparks and facilities manager STG1(SW) J. Edmonds. The bowling lanes are quite popular with both American and Kuwaiti military personnel.



provided an outlet. It's a great place to meet a wide variety of people who work on base – Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and even Kuwaiti nationals," Yeoman 2nd Class DeeAnna Brown said.

With the help from other members of Charlie Company, the bowling hall is open from 10:00 AM to midnight on Monday through Saturday, and until 3:00 AM on Sundays. As requested by Hussain, the primary source of revenue is received through donations. Bowling is not the only reason visitors frequent the lanes.

"We are the only place here open to the U.S. military that has installed satellite television," Edmonds said. "And with acquiring more comfortable furniture and a popcorn machine, the Bowling Hall has become a great place to spend leisure time even if you do not plan to bowl. In fact, the bowling alley has already hosted several events this year including Navy Customs Battalion Wardroom and First Class Petty Officer's Association social gatherings."

Even Hussain has adopted the alley as his own on-base lounge and can be seen frequenting the lanes on a daily basis.

"I enjoy [bowling] often, but I come to build relationships and show that we have more in common," Hussain said.

A 1991 Kuwaiti war veteran, Hussain has great respect for the US military and welcomes everyone on base to enjoy the experience of visiting the lanes.

"One of the best thing is this proves that [the] relationship is working," he said.

"Our group comes here three to four times a week. It is a great place to get away from work on board our boat," said Army SSGT Josh Wilson, LSV 6, 411th Transportation.

Whether you are stationed with Charlie Company or just passing through, all agree that the Bowling Hall is great for morale.

Earlier this year, in March, Edmonds and Sparks heard scuttlebutt about a bowling alley on base that was in need of repair. The 30-year old building and equipment, which is managed by Lt. Col. Al-Mutairi Hussain of the Kuwaiti Navy, had been abandoned for several years and needed a lot of attention.

A Sailor from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion CHARLIE—Machinery Repairman 2nd Class Kingsbury—had actually initiated the project but needed more resources, expertise, and time to finish the job. Edmonds and Sparks gladly accepted the challenge after receiving Hussain's approval.

As the newly assigned bowling hall manager and assistant manager, Edmonds and Sparks have collectively worked more than 150 hours on improvements. They have refurbished the lanes, cleaned pins, painted, and maintained the machinery (daily)...all while standing customs watches 30 hours a week.

"The Iraqi Army damaged the building during the occupation, so we have worked hard to rebuild it," Hussain said.

U.S. companies, such as Brunswick and several small owned bowling alleys have donated equipment, shoes, and machinery parts equaling more than \$2,000.00. This pleases Hussain.

"I believe that it is wonderful that people who are so far away care about my base," said Hussain.

By YN2 DeeAnna Brown

At Kuwaiti Naval Base, where recent temperatures have soared over 125 degrees Fahrenheit, the frequent dust storms reduce visibility to a few feet, and a plane ride to Virginia would take over 20 hours nonstop, the Sailors of Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC have adopted a very unexpected hobby—bowling.

For two Navy Reservists from Naval Operational Support Center Knoxville, Tenn., bowling is a passion that has followed them all the way to the deserts of the Middle East.

"The last thing I thought I would be doing while on deployment would be working in a bowling alley," Sonar Technician 2nd Class (SW) J. Edmonds said.

"I think it is the coolest thing in the world to be able to network with other units, the Kuwaitis, and to boost morale on base," Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Charles Sparks said.

"During our first weeks on base, even I found the Bowling Hall to be a great source of stress relief. It eased the transition from home, and

News from Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS)—The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced June 3 that active-duty Sailors may be affected by the theft in May of military personnel data.

According to the VA, a duplicate database with data files was stolen from a VA employee's home May 3. While the VA has received no reports that the stolen data has been used for fraudulent purposes, they are asking all veterans to be extra vigilant and to carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements and any statements relating to recent financial transactions.

Several resources are available for people to go to for more information. The Department of Veterans Affairs has set up a special Web site (www.firstgov.gov) and a toll-free telephone number (800-FED-INFO or 800-333-4636) that feature up-to-date news and information on the data compromise. The site offers tips on how to check credit reports, how to guard against identity theft and whom to call if an individual believes any fraudulent activity is occurring using his or her personal information.

The Navy and Department of Defense are working closely with the VA to determine how many Sailors and other service

members may be affected by the compromise of records. Sailors whose information has been compromised will be notified by a letter from the VA and the Navy so they can take the appropriate steps.

Tips on how to watch for suspicious activity include the following:

Closely monitor your bank and credit card statements for fraudulent transactions. Monitoring accounts online is the best way to detect fraud early.

Place a 90-day fraud alert on your credit report, which tells creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts. This action may cause some delays if you are trying to obtain new credit.

It is only necessary to contact one of three companies to place an alert. That company is then required to contact the other two.

The three companies are Equifax (800-525-6285, www.equifax.com), Experian (888-397-3742, www.experian.com) and TransUnion (800-680-7289, www.transunion.com).

Once the fraud alert has been posted, you are entitled to free copies of your credit

reports. Review these reports for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted or accounts you didn't open. The alert can be renewed after 90 days.

Sailors are advised to take the following steps if they discover fraudulent accounts or transactions:

Contact the financial institution to close the fraudulent account(s) that have been tampered with.

File a report with the local police department.

File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by phone at 877-438-4338, online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft or by mail a letter to Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580.

Other Web sites with more information on how to guard against identity theft include:

www.privacy.ca.gov/sheets/cis3_english.htm

www.co.boulder.co.us/da/consumer/idtheft.htm

End of an era: Four rates merge to become MC—Mass Communication Specialist

By MC1 Doug Mappin

Readers of earlier issues might notice something missing with this release. Journalist (JO) and Photographer's Mates (PH) ratings will no longer be seen on these or any other pages of Navy publications anywhere. As of July 6, 2006, the rates no longer exist! In addition to the disappearance of the two rates, two others will also go by the wayside.

In a move to modernize and streamline the Navy ratings structure a number of ratings will merge to create new job opportunities.

JOs, PHs, Lithographers (LIs) and Illustrator Draftsmen (DMs) will soon be history. Gone. The Mass Communications Specialist (MCs) rate replaces them all and ushers in a new era of media communications for the U.S. Navy.

For those interested in Navy history, this will be the first time since 1921, photographers—the oldest of the four rates—no longer will be listed as a career title for those interested in joining the U.S. Navy.



The new Mass Communication Specialist ratings badge replaces the four badges worn by the former rates of JOs, PHs, LIs and DMs.

From 1921 to 1942, the rate was simply as Photographer. In 1942, the PH rate became known as Photographer's Mate.

The Navy extensively overhauled its rating system in 1948 to reflect changes that were recognized and deemed necessary after World War II.

The Journalist rate, the second oldest of the four rates was originally called Specialist X (established in 1945). The Journalist title was launched in 1948.

That same year the Navy established the LI and DM rates.

Six QUEBEC Sailors are affected by this change (two JOs, three PHs and one LI).

The new badge reflects the changes in the ways our Navy communicates. For the JO ratings the scroll and pen is gone. The new badge gives reference to the way today's media communicates. Paper medium is rapidly being replaced by an electronic-based media (just ask a PH when was the last time they shot a photo that actually used film and paper). This newspaper is an example of where those changes are leading—we are a publication solely produced for online distribution.

As of July 6, 2006, the new Mass Communication Specialists ratings badge will become commonplace to those who previously wore the badges of the four rates it now replaces. No more PHs, no more JOs, LIs or DMs—welcome MC!

An article in the June 5, 2006, issue of 'The Navy Times' announced this is but the first phase (for this year) of ratings mergers that by 2008 will affect 19 rates and 70,000 Sailors! So for all you traditionalist out there, get set for changes yet to come. The Navy is moving full speed ahead into the 21st century!

QUEBEC Corpsmen provide 24-hour care

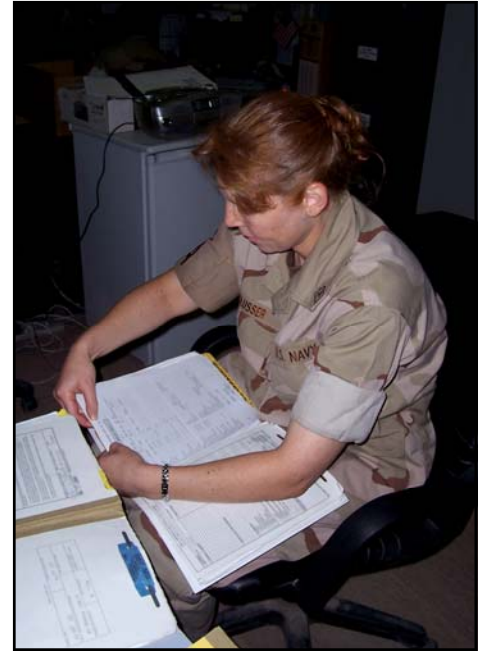


Photos by MC2 Michael O'Day

HM1 Jamie Watson gives an inoculation to YN2 Steven Mundy during a recent shot-ex conducted for Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC's Alpha Co.



HM2 Kristin Nixon allows a student to practice administering an I.V. on herself during a combat life saver training course.



HM2 Laree Slusser revalues the medical records of the 87 Sailors she serves as part of their annual health assessment.

(continued from page one)

experienced paramedic back home. He talks with pride about how close 400 Reservists came together in a few short months to form a battalion.

"We were able to build—from the ground up—a battalion with a medical department that provides quality service to our folks everyday," Greene said. "We also provide operational support to the other commands on the bases where we work. Our command wants us to give as much support as possible, be they Army, Navy or Air Force. We often support evolutions at the Naval Hospital Kuwait and the local Troop Medical Clinics."

"The corpsmen are the backbone. If we didn't have corpsmen we would need a lot more nurses and doctors to do the things the corpsmen do." Lieutenant Commander Lynda Spencer, the Officer in Charge of the TMC said. "The corpsmen are out there doing a tremendous amount of work and a lot of procedures. I just don't think the Navy



HM2 Laree Slusser of Navy Customs Battalion's Alpha Co. Medical Dept., assesses students in administering an I.V. during a combat life saver training class.



could function without them."

In addition to supporting the TMC, QUEBEC's corpsmen are the first level of health care to the battalion. They provide first aid, trauma care, preventive medicine, and care checks of Sailors at work sites. Also, by running a battalion level sick call, administering immunization, and responding to work site injuries, QUEBEC allows the TMCs to focus on the needs that can only be addressed by a medical officer.

"I go where I'm needed when I'm needed. I go to the work site, my office, or the TMC. If it's one of my people I want to be there," said HM2 Jill Partin, lead petty officer for QUEBEC's Charlie Company and a Navy

Reservist from Navy Operational Support Center Greensboro, N.C., Navy Hospital Camp Lejeune, Det. B from Maiden, N.C. "I'm responsible for the wellness of 97 people here and I take that seriously."

QUEBEC's corpsmen have proven themselves a valuable asset to the battalion they serve, the TMC they support, and to the camps where they are stationed. But none are more grateful for their presence than the Sailors who have the pleasure of knowing and working closely with this dedicated group.

Customs Battalion QUEBEC Family news



Bravo Company's CM2 Michael Corsetti and his wife Melissa have welcomed a new daughter to the family.

Mariah Marie Corsetti was born on May 15, 2006. She weighed 6 lbs., 8 oz. and was 18 inches long.

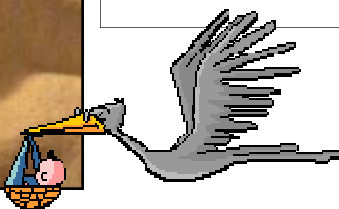
This is the Corsetti's sixth child. They have three sons and Mariah makes it three daughters.



Alpha Company's GM1 Craig Marker and his wife Heather have welcomed a new son to their family.

Calen Brent Marker was born on May 8, 2006, weighing in at 9 lbs., 8 oz. and was nearly 22 inches length.

Brent has two older brothers and one sister to help mom out during Dad's absence.



This Month in U.S. Navy History

- July 1, 1797 - Naval Regulations passed by Congress.
- July 2, 1937 - Amelia Earhart disappears over the Pacific. U.S. Navy vessels conduct unsuccessful search and rescue mission.
- July 4, 1776 - American colonies declare independence from Great Britain.
- July 6, 1911 - First naval aviation base established in Annapolis, Md.
- July 6, 1976 - First women enter the Naval Academy.
- July 7, 1948 - First six women sworn into the Regular Navy.
- July 14, 1853 - Commodore Matthew Perry lands and holds first meeting with the Japanese government at Uraga, Japan.
- July 14, 1952 - Laying of the keel of USS Forrestal, the first 59,900 ton aircraft carrier.
- July 15, 1942 - First photographic interpretation unit established in the Pacific region.
- July 16, 1915 - First Navy ships, battleships Ohio, Missouri and Wisconsin travel through the Panama Canal.
- July 20, 1969 - Former U.S. Navy pilot Neil Armstrong becomes first man to set foot on the moon.
- Invasion and recapture of Guam begins (WWII).
- July 23, 1958 - USS Nautilus (SSN-571) departs Pearl Harbor for the first submerged transit to the North Pole.
- July 25, 1934 - First U.S. President to visit Hawaii, Franklin D. Roosevelt, reaches Hilo on board USS Houston.
- July 30, 1945 - Japanese submarine, I-58, sinks USS Indianapolis (CA-35) in Philippine Sea. 316 out 1199 crewmembers survive.
- July 31, 1874 - Commissioning of USS Intrepid, first U.S. warship armed with torpedoes.

Next Issue

- Sports in the Desert: healthy recreation!
- Prepare yourself to demobilize the right way!
- Our Army friends—one team, one fight!
- OPQ: Our Sailors who have been here through OSCAR, PAPA and QUEBEC.
- ROMEO? ROMEO? Wherefore art thou, ROMEO?

This and more...

See you next month!

July Birthdays

OS2 Jessica Patterson
BM1 Andeas Baker
OS2 Nicholas Misch
CE2 Robert Rudis
ABH3 Edward Franco
AT2 Michael Bailey
SK2 Cordelia Magwood
PH2 Martha Ruiz
QM2 Michael Mengarelli
PS3 Linda Wilson
SK2 David Somerville
GMC Robert Hocutt
SK2 Janelle Archie
OS2 Nicholas Abel
CE2 Todd Fiske
CS3 Myisha Johnson

July 2 Alpha
July 3 Alpha
July 3 Bravo
July 3 Charlie
July 4 Charlie
July 6 Alpha
July 8 Bravo
July 8 HQ
July 10 Alpha
July 10 Alpha
July 11 Bravo
July 11 Armory
July 14 Alpha
July 14 Alpha
July 14 Charlie
July 14 Charlie

BM2 Angwo Chai
BM2 Phillip Healy
OS2 Eric Magee
DCC Joseph Cozzo
AZ3 Nichole Wolanski
LCDR Juan Guerin
BU1 Vincent Vizcarrando
OS2 Cherry Riehle
SH3 Pierre Guiliano
HM1 Jamie Watson
BM2 Billy Russell
SH3 Victor Garfias Hernandez
HT2 Adam Hunter
EM2 Gilberto Alvarez-Martinez
OS3 Efstathia Marinou
GM1 Edward Mahoney
SK3 Brandon Bridges
BM1 Robert Benbow

July 15 Charlie
July 17 Bravo
July 20 Bravo
July 21 Bravo
July 23 Bravo
July 23 Charlie
July 23 Bravo
July 24 Alpha
July 24 Bravo
July 26 Alpha
July 26 Alpha
July 28 Bravo
July 28 Bravo
July 28 Charlie
July 28 Alpha
July 30 Armory
July 30 HQ
July 31 Alpha

TOA: QUEBEC goes from 115th ASG to 1st PERSCOM



Photo by SSG Belkys Morales

Col. James Robertson, Jr. addresses the audience as Cdr. Mark Failor and CMDCM Susan Frazier look on during the 115th ASG's final day with tactical control of QUEBEC.

By Lt. Rory Russell

Kuwait—July 7, 2006 marked a changing of the guard for Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC. Like all military units, QUEBEC has higher commands that maintain administrative, operational, and tactical control (TACON). For the past 12 months the Army's 115th Area Support Group (ASG) had tactical control over Navy Customs.

With their 12 months coming to an end, the Army needed to assign another unit to replace Colonel James Robertson, Jr and his Soldiers of the 115th ASG. Enter 1st Personnel Support Command (PERSCOM), commanded by Colonel Phillip Smith.

1st PERSCOM provides theatre-wide support to all commands, such as mail distribution, replacing lost ID cards, and approving the highly coveted Army awards which QUEBEC Sailors have a chance to earn. Similar to QUEBEC, 1st PERSCOM has personnel stationed in Iraq and Kuwait.

Prior to the transfer of authority (TOA) on July 7, 1st PERSCOM invited QUEBEC to attend a workshop where both

Photo by SPC Latanya Matthews

Cdr. Mark Failor presents Col. James Robertson, Jr with a framed Kuwaiti dhow as QUEBEC wishes "fair winds and following seas" to the 115th ASG.



units gave a PowerPoint presentation on their current operations. The afternoon was an educational one, as staff members from 1st PERSCOM and QUEBEC met and interacted for the first time. Both units were equally impressed with the other, and viewed this as an excellent first step in a long, supportive relationship.

The big day of the TOA ceremony was finally abreast, and there was much ado about awards to be given out, and ceremonial cakes to cut. QUEBEC Commanding Officer, Cdr. Mark Failor,

Photo by SPC Latanya Matthews

For his outstanding dedication to duty, CDR Mark Failor awards MSG Daniel Hurth of the 115th ASG with a Navy Achievement Medal.



Photo by SPC Latanya Matthews

Col. James Robertson, Jr gives QUEBEC Sailor PS1 Cedric Allen a Letter of Appreciation for the countless off-duty hours he spent completing QUEBEC's consistently changing muster report.

Col. Robertson spoke of the great relationship his unit enjoyed while working with QUEBEC. Col. Smith welcomed the opportunity to work with a branch other than the Army, and welcomed QUEBEC to his command. Cdr. Failor was positive throughout, wishing Col. Robertson good luck in the future and embracing Col. Smith as our new "top cover".

For their excellent support above and beyond the call of duty in assisting QUEBEC to maintain operational proficiency,



Photo by SPC Latanya Matthews

Col. Phillip Smith signs the TOA letter, as 1st PERSCOM assumes tactical control of QUEBEC.

efficiency, Master Sergeant Daniel Hurth and Specialist Eugene Marshall were awarded Navy Achievement Medals (NAMs) by Cdr. Failor.

Col. Robertson presented Personnelman 1st Class Cedric Allen with a Letter of Appreciation for his dedication to duty. Said PS1 Allen of receiving the accolade, "I thought it was a great honor. I do put in a lot of hours making the reports accurate." Col. Robertson was thankful for the effort put forth by PS1 Allen.

Cdr. Failor wrapped up the ceremony with a hope of continued excellent cooperation between QUEBEC and their Army counterparts. Cake, refreshments, and mingling of the all three units followed.

Hails and more introductions were shared with Col. Smith and his Soldiers of the 1st PERSCOM. Farewells and best wishes echoed as Col. Robertson and his staff made their way to the door, their last piece of official business with Navy Customs Battalion QUEBEC complete.

Several months from now, QUEBEC will be enjoying a TOA of their own.

Photo by SPC Latanya Matthews

Col. James Robertson, Jr presents Cdr. Mark Failor with a plaque and his gratitude for having the opportunity to work QUEBEC in this "joint" environment.



***Question of the Month:* How do you usually celebrate the 4th of July holiday back home?**

HQ



BM2 Kari Ross

The Fourth of July is perhaps my favorite holiday—warm weather, friends and family, cookouts, beer, blowing up stuff. In my single days—the party started as soon as I woke up and ended with lots of fireworks. Now I start the day by putting up the U.S. flag and just relaxing until my husband gets home from work. Once he—the grill master—is home, we have a little family cookout and light a few snakes and sparklers. I still enjoy the pageantry and explosions, but I leave the all-day festivities to folks that do not have to go work by 7 a.m.

ALPHA COMPANY



HM1 Jamie Watson

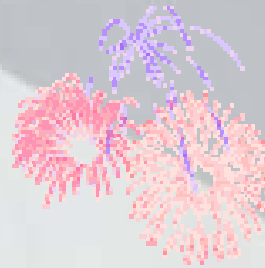
I would spend the day with friends at a picnic. Later in the night we would sit on the hill by Thorton Civic Center and watch the festivities of the fireworks.

BRAVO COMPANY Team 1



OS1 David Sudderth

For the Fourth of July this year, we are celebrating at our home with burgers and dogs. Feel free to bring desserts or other snacks. The kids are welcome too. BYOB!



BRAVO COMPANY Team 2



YN1 Shane Russell

We usually have over friends and family for a cookout—we usually serve country style barbecue ribs. We hang out by the pool and wait for the fireworks show.

CHARLIE COMPANY



OS1 Sean Fitzpatrick

We throw horseshoes, do a barbecue in the back, drink, watch the fireworks. We probably do the same as most everyone back home!



Humor in Uniform: Just how hot does is it get there anyway?

By MC1 Doug Mappin

Since mid-May, the daytime temperatures have been creeping upward. It has not been unusual for the members of QUEBEC to find the temperatures in excess of 110 degrees Fahrenheit. After June arrived, temperatures have consistently risen above 115 degrees. One recent morning, SKC Patricia Tibaudo noted at 0900 that the temperature at one of the armories was rising above 116 degrees!

The arrival of the Middle East's infamous heat has also been accompanied by its equally well known dry weather (the infamous "dry heat"

we were all warned about back in the States). In addition to the dry heat, the environment has provided our crews with a number of sand storms that nearly equal the white-out conditions of our winter snow storms back home.

And it is only June! July through September are traditionally the hottest days in the Middle East. The expected summer weather will bring us temperatures in excess of 125 degrees.

So for our readers back home, just how does the heat feel here?

More than one QUEBEC Sailor has likened

the recent heat to the following analogy: After turning up the furnace to its highest setting, go stand in your bathroom. Then turn on a hair blow dryer on its highest setting, stick it in your face and let it blow nonstop—and to fully experience the oven-like temperatures, while the blow dryer is blowing, throw a hand full of fine sand in the air stream. As it blows in your face you can get the fullest impression of the weather here.

The question then arises: Do we mind the heat? Most of our Sailors will tell you no—we are here with an important job to do.

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