

Samantha Prince with some of the more than 3,000 cards of support sent to guards in the Joint Detention Group.

Encouraging words

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An unassuming request led to an unexpected result. Samantha Prince, a Joint Task Force contractor, had posted a request for letters of support for guards in the Joint Detention Group Dec. 3 on the website "anysoldier.com" and anticipated between 20 to 30 responses.

Monday, Dec. 15, she received more than 3,000.

The vast majority were messages from patrons of Golden Corral restaurants, as part of an effort called "Operation Thank You" organized by Brian Bohlman, executive director as well as a chaplain in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Among the brief messages:

"We wish you were all home for the holidays, but you are out there taking care of our country. Thank you for all you do."

"We really appreciate all that you do for us. God protect and send you home safe."

"Never doubt for a moment that you [are] prayed for or thought about, as well as your families."

According to Prince, the cards will be distributed to guards through their senior enlisted members.

"I've met some of the guards," Prince said. "If anybody needs daily encouragement, they do."

She encouraged anyone in the Joint Task Force to sign up as a sponsor on "anysoldier.com."

"Look at the response I got in a week or two," she said.



Around the

JTF

Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305 members Pam Smith, Sheldon Harley, Dana Coleman, Carl Taylor, D.J. Wassler and Charles Conley participated in the lighted boat parade Saturday, Dec. 13. The PSU, which provides maritime security for the Joint Task Force, had two boats in the parade. - JTF Guantanamo photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily J. Russell ▶

