

ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: **GSAF 2005.04.13**

DATE: Wednesday April 13, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Crescent Beach, Sarasota County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Jessica Lynch

DESCRIPTION: She is a 70-year-old female from Canada.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, April 16, 2005

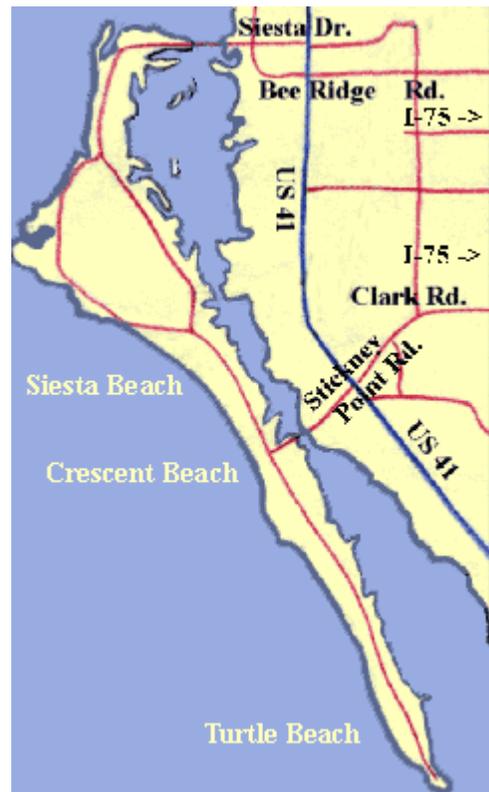
DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

NARRATIVE: "I could see the head. I could see the teeth. It was like out of a movie," Jessica Lynch said. "And then all of a sudden in the ride of a wave I saw the shark. I screamed and I turned to run to the shore and that's when I felt it." The shark bit down on Lynch's right leg below the knee, tugged for a split second, then let go and swam away.

Lynch's family, who heard her scream, helped her to the shore

INJURY: The shark left a crescent-shaped, double-row-of-teeth wound on the woman's calf. A "sizeable chunk of flesh" near her ankle was missing.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Bystanders kept Lynch's leg elevated while they waited for an ambulance to arrive. She was transported to Sarasota Memorial Hospital and admitted. On Friday, doctors said her leg will need reconstructive plastic surgery.



SPECIES INVOLVED: Robert Hueter, director of the Center for Shark Research at Sarasota's Mote Marine Laboratory, who met with Lynch and her family shortly after the incident, believed the incident most likely involved a blacktip shark about six feet in length. He thought that the shark was probably feeding in the surf when it ran into Lynch. It clamped down on the woman's leg either to find out if she was food or simply because it was as startled as Lynch. "Janet was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," Hueter said.

SOURCE: Tom Bayles, Sarasota Herald Tribune, tom.bayles@heraldtribune.com