



The Louisiana Citizen Soldier

"Preserving Our Legacy"

VOL. 1 No. 1

AUGUST 2000

World War II re-enactors march in the D-Day Parade in New Orleans June 6. The parade was part of the grand opening celebration of the National D-Day Museum in the Crescent City and just one of many events honoring veterans.

The official publication of the Louisiana National Guard



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Veterans who served with the 2nd and 3rd Marine Divisions during World War II were just a few of the hundreds who boarded Louisiana National Guard deuce-and-a-halfs for the June 6 grand parade that helped celebrate the grand opening of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans.

World War II veterans honored

Over half a century after end of conflict, nation pays tribute

By **Dusty M. Shenofsky**
State Public Affairs Officer

To many, June 6, 2000, will forever be etched in their memory as a day when dreams came true in the Crescent City.

For noted historian and author Dr. Stephen Ambrose, the grand opening of the National D-Day Museum was the realization of a lifelong dream — a dream to honor the men and women who won World War II.

For the soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy and Omaha, and were entrenched in the battles of World War II over 50 years ago, the dedication of a museum in their honor brought tears, cheers and affirmation that their efforts had not been made in vain.

Fifty-six years ago, they were young men fighting to save the world. Today, World War II veterans are heroes to whom a debt of gratitude is owed. They were the brave and they ensured America remained home of the free.

On the 56th anniversary of D-Day, hundreds of World War II and D-Day veterans rolled down the streets of New Orleans aboard military

vehicles of all types — many of which belong to the Louisiana National Guard.

They saw that debt of gratitude paid in full as thousands of spectators lining the streets cheered, waved, cried, saluted and tipped their hats to the men and women of “The Greatest Generation” for their sacrifices.

Each of the Guard’s 2 ½-ton trucks, as well as all the other military vehicles in the parade, were decorated with banners that identified their combat units. Most all of the veterans could be seen wearing baseball caps decorated with their unit names and insignia.

Eight World War II Medal of Honor recipients served as the parade’s grand marshals. Each rode through the parade in a vintage Jeep decorated with a banner identifying each recipient.

Showers of red, white and blue confetti drifted over the veterans, units, military re-enactors and spectators alike along the parade route.

See **PARADE** on Page 3



Parade

Continued from Page 2

Overhead, the roar of a B-52 Bomber, jet fighters and combat helicopters flown in part by Louisiana Guard soldiers and airmen, could be heard for miles as they saluted veterans from the sky over downtown New Orleans.

The parade included nine military marching bands from the United States, France and the United Kingdom, along with active duty marching units representing each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Each marching band had its own individual style, look and pace including that of a Revolutionary War-era fife and drum corps; the Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers of Britain; and the French Naval Bagpipe Band.

The Louisiana National Guard's 156th Army Band looked sharp as they marched in step and demonstrated their talent and capabilities to onlookers during the parade.

The day's festivities, which coincided with the 56-year anniversary of the June 6, 1944, landing at Normandy, ended with a celebrity-studded public celebration at the New Orleans Arena.

The 3 ½-hour ceremony included performances from the 82nd Airborne Chorus, United States Marine Corps Band, and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and more.

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg, whose movie "Saving Private Ryan" helped put D-Day in the public's consciousness, told the arena crowd that the D-Day Museum represents a pledge to veterans that "we will never forget



Photo by Dusty M. Shenofsky

Dr. Steven Ambrose, founder of the National D-Day Museum and reknown World War II historian, gives World War II veterans a "thumbs-up" during the parade at the museum's grand opening festivities in New Orleans.

what you did to preserve our democracy."

"We must celebrate you not just every June 6," Spielberg, whose father is a World War

II veteran, said. "We must celebrate you every day."

Ambrose, whose passion — aside from bringing the D-Day Museum to life — has been documenting the battle stories of World War II veterans, said the museum is a "love song to democracy" which will serve as a permanent teaching tool for generations to come.

"We want our children, our grandchildren and their grandchildren to know who it was that preserved their freedom," Ambrose said.

Ambrose explained the reason New Orleans was chosen to be the home for the museum is due to the fact that "Andrew Jackson Higgins was here. Who is Andrew Jackson Higgins, many people ask?"

Ambrose, a Dwight D. Eisenhower biographer, explained that long ago while interviewing Eisenhower for his story, the famous general and president told him that "Higgins won the war for us."

Higgins is responsible for designing and building the Higgins Boats, the amphibious landing vessels used for the D-Day Invasion.

He owned and operated factories in New Orleans in which the boats were built by locals doing their part for the war effort.

A replica of the Higgins landing craft is a centerpiece of the museum's Louisiana Memorial Pavilion.



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Capt. LaDenna Piper pokes her head out of this deuce-and-a-half to view the D-Day Parade. Piper was one of the many Guard soldiers who served as military escorts to veterans during the festivities.



D-Day Photo Album

The grand opening of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans was an exciting event in which the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard played a large part. Serving in various roles as military escorts to drivers of parade vehicles; from bearing flags to marching in the parade; and from flying aircraft for fly-overs to behind-the-scene and on-the-scene coordinating, soldiers and airmen of Louisiana's Great Guard were involved in every aspect of the celebration and commemoration festivities. What follows on this page and pages 5-6 are a few more snapshots by which to remember the event.



Guardsmen and Guardwomen served as flag bearers during the D-Day festivities.

They presented the Flags of Honor as part of the Joint Services Color Guard at many of the various grand-opening events.

Photos by:

*Dusty M. Shenofsky
&
Capt. Ed Bush*

Many soldiers drove veterans in the parade through downtown New Orleans.

These soldiers and airman escorted one of the parade's eight grand marshals -- each of whom is a World War II Medal of Honor recipient.



See D-Day on Page 5



D-Day

Continued from Page 4



The 156th Army Band



Above:

Distinguished guests including Sec. of Defense William Cohen, Actor Tom Hanks, Filmmaker Steven Spielberg, Sen. Mary Landrieu, Sen. John Breaux, New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, and D-Day Museum Founder Dr. Stephen Ambrose and Co-Founder Dr. Nick Mueller cut the red ribbon June 6 to officially open the facility.

Below:

Hundreds of World War II veterans were carried along the parade route on military vehicles such as this Louisiana National Guard 2 1/2-ton cargo truck.



See D-Day on Page 6



D-Day

Continued from Page 5



Maj. Bob Levy (rear, left) escorted this distinguished veteran and Medal of Honor recipient along with several of the many military re-enactors participating in the D-Day parade.

Actor Tom Hanks left the grandstand to speak with military re-enactors during a brief pause in the parade.

One of the re-enactors whipped out a camera to take Hanks' photo prompting Hanks to autograph the re-enactor's uniform.



Banners such as this one decorated each military vehicle -- in this case a 2 1/2-ton cargo truck commonly known as a deuce and a-half -- carrying World War II veterans through the parade.

Each of the banners corresponded with units to which veterans riding in each vehicle belonged.

Red, white and blue confetti fell from the sky marking the colors of the true American spirit these war heroes exhibited 56 years ago.





.....From the Frontlines.....

Recruiting is every soldier's, airman's duty

Ordinary Americans responding to the call of service is a particularly important message for a new generation of young Americans to hear.

Reemphasizing the notion of military service as an essential obligation of citizenship and articulating the value of such service, to the nation and to the individual, is the key to solving our challenges in manning our Guard.

Service shouldn't be thought of as something that keeps you from achieving your goals, but rather as one of those life-forming goals.

One of the great strengths of the Guard is that every year, we return thousands of soldiers to this state who are better citizens for having served.

As Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard, I have heard countless testimonials from soldiers that prove the sincerity of their commitment to serving our country selflessly and honorably and the ways in which it has helped them grow.

These are young men and women who came to the aid of hurricane victims in Honduras by delivering food and medical supplies to devastated survivors; building schools and medical facilities in Belize for the advancement of her youth and care of her citizens; assisting tornado victims in Bossier City; hauling water to drought-stricken communities; patrolling airspace in Iceland; and training with buddies at Fort Hood.

They speak with great pride about how they, as Americans, are making a difference in the world and how their experiences have made them grateful for all the blessings we enjoy as Ameri-



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau

cans.

But military service does so much more than boost self-esteem. Service in the Guard offers many ways in which to self-improve.

Where else can you find a job that will pay for you to obtain a college degree while getting paid, encourages you to go to school to further obtain greater job skills, arms you with skills to succeed in life, and helps form you as a citizen and adult in ways that cannot be fully measured?

The honor of serving one's country and rising to the challenge of serving faithfully and well is something no other employer can offer. The honor of serving is high on the list of reasons why our soldiers tell us they stay.

They deeply understand as soldiers/airmen and civilians the idea that democracy and freedom are not just gifts, but come with requirements to which we as citizens must rise.

There is something very special about military service. Some of our greatest heroes have made the sacrifice to serve.

Heroes such as Joe DiMaggio, who in 1943 and at age 28, gave up his deferment as a married

man and three of his most productive years in baseball, to serve in the United States Army Air Corps.

Stress to potential recruits it is time to give back to our nation and learn the true meaning of citizenship by joining the Louisiana National Guard. From service within our great organization, they will gain more as an American than they could ever imagine.

Challenge them to stand up and be counted as have so many Americans before them as someone willing to stand up for our country's principles and ideals.

Remind them that the freedoms and liberties we enjoy as Americans were hard fought and won by soldiers who were no different from them.

Soldiers enable America to fulfill its world leadership responsibilities of safeguarding our national interests, preventing global calamity and making the world a safer place. What could be more fulfilling than playing a role in such an important mission?

I firmly believe it is our generation's responsibility to sustain and pass on a greater Louisiana National Guard and thereby a greater total Army and Air Force than the one we inherited. I need your help to do this.

I need you to communicate the Guard story – it is a great one. By doing so, you will help us fill the ranks. It all boils down to soldiers taking care of soldiers ... we know how to do that, so get out there and do it!

Get one for the Guard!

The Louisiana Citizen Soldier

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Looking Ahead

In September, look for a special supplement of "The Louisiana Citizen Soldier!"

It will contain the latest, greatest stories and photos from this year's Annual Training.

Following the supplement, look for stories on these events and more in the next issue of "The Louisiana Citizen Soldier:"

- Kids AT
- Job Challenge
- 773rd Tank Battalion Reunion



SERGEANT'S TIME

Communication key to soldiers' success

I am honored and pleased to be able to convey a few of my thoughts through "The Louisiana Citizen Soldier."

I am very proud and pleased with all that's going on with the Enlisted Soldiers and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

During the past few years, our soldiers have served all over the world. From Baton Rouge to Bosnia, our soldiers are doing an outstanding job and meeting mission requirements.

This Training Year, I have visited soldiers in Belize; Germany; Camp Beauregard; Fort Hood, Texas; Gillis Long Center and Jackson Barracks.

These visits have shown me that more and more young soldiers and junior NCOs are stepping up the plate and making things happen — a fact of which we all can be proud.

Most of the soldiers whom I visited during Annual Training told me they were satisfied and motivated. Another positive sign.

Quality of Life continues to be a main concern of mine. We have made great strides with soldier care, however, there is still work to be done in this area.

I believe that concerns such as inadequate pay, housing and health care cause poor soldier job performance.

Be assured that the leadership of the Louisiana Army National Guard is



**Command
Sergeant Major
John R. Morrow**

committed to and working very hard to eliminate as many of these concerns as possible.

I fully support the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

These two organizations belong to you and they, too, are committed to making life better for each of us.

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of these two organizations, along with our Senior Leaders, Congress is beginning to recognize and address many of our quality of life issues.

Communications or lack of communication is an issue that each and every soldier in the Louisiana Army National Guard should be concerned about.

Most of the problems we encounter within our organization could be prevented, if the lines of communication were open.

Up and down the chain, this is an area that each and every one should work on improving. Perceived problems

are just as serious as real problems.

Open communication lines will eliminate perceived problems and probably fix most of the real problems.

Observations show increased awareness on soldier PMCS (Uniforms and Equipment) in most units. This must remain a tasking for those of us in Leadership positions.

Many young soldiers who I have talked to recently still do not understand our Enlisted Promotion System (**Communication!**).

We need to address this to every soldier during our IDT periods. Pay problems seem to be a thing of the past.

We must be cautious not to become complacent in this area, however. Increased safety awareness was observed during my recent visit.

This compliments our leadership and their ability to provide a safe environment for our soldiers.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't mention our "Force Behind the Force." My hat goes off to our Guard Families.

Without their support, we would be unable to accomplish the things that we do.

I feel very fortunate to belong to an organization made up of individuals such as the soldiers and families of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Fellow soldier sings praises of 1088th Engineer Battalion

Members pulled together as combat lifesavers at work in real-world crisis situation

**By Lt. Col. Suzanne Riche, R.N.
Detachment 5, HQ STARC, LAARNG**

I recently witnessed an amazing scene which I felt warranted special recognition.

The 1088th Engineer Battalion is worthy of high praise and great admiration for their extraordinary efforts during a recent civilian emergency.

Following a Combat Lifesavers Course conducted during the Jan. 6-7

drill, several soldiers from the 1088th witnessed a serious automobile accident.

Upon hearing the initial crash, Medics Spec. Barbay and Spec. Henry, who had just completed our Combat Lifesavers Course, responded immediately.

They took the Combat Lifesavers medical supply bag to the accident scene, quickly treated the victim's fracture, lacerations and provided

emotional support to all victims.

The situation was controlled by Sgt. Saint, who called 911; Spec. Clark who obtained a fire extinguisher; Staff Sgt. Nicolesi, Private 1st Class Tate, and Private Averate, who organized and conducted traffic.

Because the 1088th was immediately on the scene, all was in order when the city's Police, fire department and ambulance arrived.



Why 'The Louisiana Citizen Soldier?'

Publication name denotes service, commitment, patriotism ...

*'The King's Name is a
Tower of Strength'*
-- William Shakespeare

Perhaps William Shakespeare said it best when highlighting the importance of a name that reflects perfectly that which it represents.

Since the origin of the National Guard, the words "Citizen Soldier" describe what is at the very heart of this organization.

"Citizen Soldier" depicts the commitment and loyalty of the common man who stands up for that in which he believes.

Taken separately, the words "citizen" and "soldier" represent the

duality of the members of this assembly.

It is this versatility which serves as the foundation upon which the National Guard has been built and continues to flourish.

Each of you -- whatever the color of your uniform, blue or green -- is primarily a member or "citizen" of a collection of states that forms the greatest nation in the world.

Like your neighbors, you have jobs and families to whom you come home at the end of the work day.

But what makes you unique and sets you apart is that you are a soldier

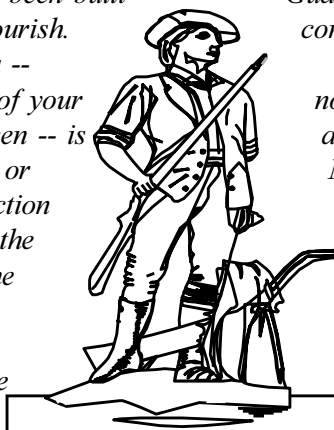
as well.

One weekend a month you don the uniform of the Louisiana National Guard performing a set of duties for the common good of all.

You are ready at a moment's notice to leave familiar surroundings and answer the call, as did the Minuteman who preceded you.

You are willing to take up arms and defend the freedom for which our forefathers fought and died to secure as both dedicated citizens and valiant soldiers.

We felt it appropriate in creating a publication for you, the patriot who has sworn allegiance to this great organization and our country, that it bear as its name that which best describes you.



Public Affairs Office undergoes staff changes

Since the beginning of the year, soldiers may have been seeing a lot of new faces in public affairs. These faces belong to the camera-packing, note-taking and story-writing staff of the Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office.

In January, Dusty M. Shenofsky took over the helm as State Public Affairs Officer. Shenofsky formerly served as the public information officer for the Youth Challenge Program, Job Challenge Program and Starbase.



Prior to coming on board with the National Guard, Shenofsky worked as a staff reporter at "The Alexandria Daily Town Talk" in Alexandria.

She was the military; parish government and politics; and transportation reporter.

Her beat included the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard, U.S. Army at Fort Polk, Veterans Affairs, Rapides Parish Police Jury and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Shenofsky is originally from Toledo, Ohio, and is a graduate of Louisiana Tech

University, Ruston. While at Louisiana Tech, she obtained a bachelor's degree in Journalism and served as the editor of "The Tech Talk," Louisiana Tech's student newspaper.

She has won state and national awards for her coverage of government and politics, including stories on the Louisiana National Guard's humanitarian mission in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch; editorial writing; feature stories; and hard and spot news coverage.

Shenofsky replaces Maj. Maria LoVasco, who served as state public affairs officer from 1985-1999. LoVasco resigned from the Public Affairs Office in December 1999 to take a position as a public affairs specialist at the Navy Information Technology Center at the University of New Orleans Research and Technology Park.

In March, Capt. Ed Bush joined forces with Shenofsky as Deputy Public Affairs Officer.

Bush was commissioned in 1990 through Army ROTC Program and served approximately three and one-half years on Active Duty.

He attended U.S. Army Airborne School



Bush

and NBC Defense School and joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1994.

Bush was HHC Commander for 159th MASH for almost two years and served as HHC Commander for Task Force Pelican in 1997.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with an English minor.

Before coming on board with the Public Affairs Office, he worked as Operations Section Manager at the Federal Reserve Bank of New Orleans. Bush is married to Capt. Susan Bush. They have two daughters, Meghan and Emma.

More recently, Sgt. Carlos H. Sanchez Jr. has joined the PAO mix.

Sanchez has been a member of the Guard since 1987.

His military career started with the 159th MASH, which deployed to Southwest Asia for Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

He attended both Joint Task Force Bayou and JTF Pelican, the latter as duration staff.

Currently, he is attached to the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion and serves as the Assistant Public Affairs Officer.



Sanchez



Photo by Dusty M. Shenofsky

Cadets with the Youth Challenge Program call cadence during a brief stop made while marching back to the platoon's barracks. Cadets can usually be seen marching in formation and always calling cadence, which they say helps "keep them motivated."

YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM: BEST IN NATION!

By Dusty M. Shenofsky
State Public Affairs Officer

Competing against 26 states who operate Youth Challenge Programs, Louisiana's has come out on top. The Louisiana National Guard's Youth Challenge Program recently took top honors by the United Services Organization as the recipient of the Volunteer Service to Education's Best All-Around Award.

"To be named the top program in the nation is certainly a great accomplishment and we are proud to be recognized for all of the hard work our staff does at making this program top notch," Brig. Gen. Richard E. Averitt, director of the Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard, said.

Louisiana's program received high marks in each of the eight core components that make up the Youth Challenge Program core curriculum.

These components are life coping skills; educational excellence; skills and training; responsible citizenship; leadership/followership; health, hygiene and sex education; physical fitness; and community involvement projects.

YCP has been in existence in Louisiana since opening its doors at Camp Beauregard in 1993 as a pilot program.

In 1997, it was granted permanent status. Early in 1999 through the persistence of Louisiana Legislators and Governor Mike Foster, the Gillis W. Long Center was opened

in Carville, making Louisiana the first and only state to sponsor two Youth Challenge Programs.

"I am very proud of the Youth Challenge Program," Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, said, "and especially proud of the Guard soldiers and civilians who work so hard to make the program the best in the nation."

The United Services Organization of Washington, D.C., presents these awards each year. This year's will be presented in May at which time leaders of the Louisiana Youth Challenge Program will attend a special

See YCP on Page 22



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Members of the 102nd Public Affairs Detachment depart for Bosnia early in April for a nine-month mission in support of the Dayton Peace Accord.

PAD deploys to Bosnia

Soldiers participating in peace-keeping mission

By Dusty M. Shenofsky
State Public Affairs Officer

The smallest unit in the Louisiana National Guard — the seven-member Public Affairs Detachment — deployed for duty in Bosnia April 9, as part of Operation Joint Forge, NATO's peace-keeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Detachment 1, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment, stationed at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, is under the command of Capt. Theresa Pleming.

The unit joined their headquarters unit stationed in Jackson, Miss., and initially traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., for approximately one week for final joint training and preparation before heading to Bosnia.

The 102nd Public Affairs Detachment will be in country for nine months providing public affairs support to the Texas National Guard's 49th Armored Division and the U.S. Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Carson, Colo.

The unit is also playing a part in the history-making deployment of

the 49th Armored Division, whose activation for Bosnia marks the first time a National Guard division has been called to active duty since World War II.

PAD soldiers originate from New Orleans, Lafayette, Ville Platte and Baton Rouge whose backgrounds vary as civilian media, students and full-time military personnel.

Meanwhile, in Bosnia ...

By Capt. Theresa Pleming
PAD Commander

Here in Bosnia, the 102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is providing media support, building morale and contributing our finest skills to one of the "best Task Force Eagle rotations yet."

See PAD on Page 13

Personnel Changes

- Col. Randy Hilborn is the Deputy STARC Commander and the new commander of the 199th Leadership Regiment.

- Col. Stephen C. Dabadie is the Army Guard Chief of Staff.

- Lt. Col. Cliff Oliver is the Plans, Training and Operation.

- Lt. Col. Ron Johnson is Oliver's Chief of Training

- Ms. Dusty Shenofsky is the State Public Affairs Officer.

- Capt. Ed Bush is Deputy PAO.

- Sgt. Carlos Sanchez is Assistant PAO.

- Lt. Col. Gary Hammett is the Recruiting and Retention Manager.

- Lt. Col. Mike Gregory is the commander of the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron.

- Lt. Col. Ike Nomey is the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry.

- Maj. Mike Deville is the commander of the 769th Engineer Battalion.

- Maj. William O'Neal is the commander of the 205th Engineer Battalion.

- The 415th Military Intelligence Battalion commander is Maj. Tom Beron.

- The 415th's Command Sgt. Maj. is Gerrard Jeansonne.

- Retired Lt. Col. John Hennigan is new Deputy Director for the Youth Challenge Program at the Gillis W. Long Center.

- Maj. Pete Schneider is the Counter-drug Coordinator.

- Brig. Gen. Harry Trosclair of the Louisiana Air National Guard retired.

- Col. Brod Veillon assumed the duties of the Assistant Adjutant General (Air).

- The commander of the 159th Fighter Wing is now Col. Ben Soileau.

- Lt. Col. Glen Curtis assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry from Lt. Col. Kerry,

- Kerry will assume command of the new Weapons of Mass Destruction team.

- Maj. John Angelloz assumed command of the 1088th Engineer Battalion

- Lt. Col. James Marze took over the 773rd Maintenance Battalion.



Task Force Pelican soldiers return home

Louisiana takes Partnership for Peace program into new Millennium

By Capt. Ed Bush

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Big smiles and sunburned faces marked the return home for members of Task Force Pelican 2000. Under the watchful eye of Lt. Col. Terry Hammett, task force commander, Louisiana Engineers, working hand in hand with Marine Corps Engineers, engineers from the Mississippi National Guard and the soldiers of the Belize Defense Force, successfully completed their projects highlighted by the building of six schools.

Task Force 00 was the third such humanitarian mission for the Louisiana National Guard to Belize, Central America, since adopting the country under the auspices of the State Partnership for Peace Program in 1996.

Capt. Shane Elkins, the Task Force 00 base camp commander, said "missions like this are important because not only do they provide realistic training to everyone involved but you come away with such a great feeling after doing good things for people who need help."

The men and women of the Task



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Belizean school children sing the national anthem during the closing ceremony of Task Force Pelican on May 10.

Force worked in Belize for approximately four months, laboring under tough conditions and extreme heat.

But on May 10, a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the closing of the mission and the official opening of the doors to the new schools.

The closing ceremony, held at the Holy Ghost School project site, was attended by representatives from all parties involved including Carolyn Curiel, U.S. Ambassador to Belize; Brig. Gen. Keith Huber, commander U.S. Southern Command; Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard; and Jorge Espat, Belize minister of national security and economic development.

Local schoolchildren singing the Belizean National Anthem kicked off the closing ceremony, and principals from each of the project schools were presented with a set of shiny keys.

A ribbon cutting marked the official conclusion for Task Force Pelican as preparations for the return to Louisiana kicked into high gear. Less than a week later, the men and women of Task Force 00 were stepping onto Louisiana soil.

Task Force Member Capt. Richard Kunz said, "It's really good to be home."



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Touring the Holy Ghost School project site, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Philip Kensinger, commander of U.S. Army South, are greeted by a Belizean school-teacher."



PAD

Continued from Page 11

As far as providing media support, print journalists, Sgt. Kevin Cowan, Spec. Destiny Smith, and Private 1st Class Jessica Revell, contribute two or more stories a week for the Talon, the Task Force Eagle weekly magazine.

They also publish five hometown news releases a week; and provide coverage of individual units' events across post.

Additionally, the editorial staff at the Talon said that half of the magazine would be missing if Louisiana's print journalists weren't here.

We build morale by doing a "soldier spotlight" once a week in the Talon on an outstanding soldier -- one who is doing a bang-up job and making the Army proud.

We also build morale by covering individual units' events and taking pictures that are displayed on our Task Force Eagle News webpage.

Broadcast journalist Sgt. Robert Whitaker produces two 60-second video packages a week, which are then aired on the Armed Forces Network — television and radio.

These video packages offer coverage of very specific events on and off post.

Our broadcast journalists also do special projects such as "Hi Mom" videos, in which the soldiers are allowed to make a video greeting for their families back in the states.

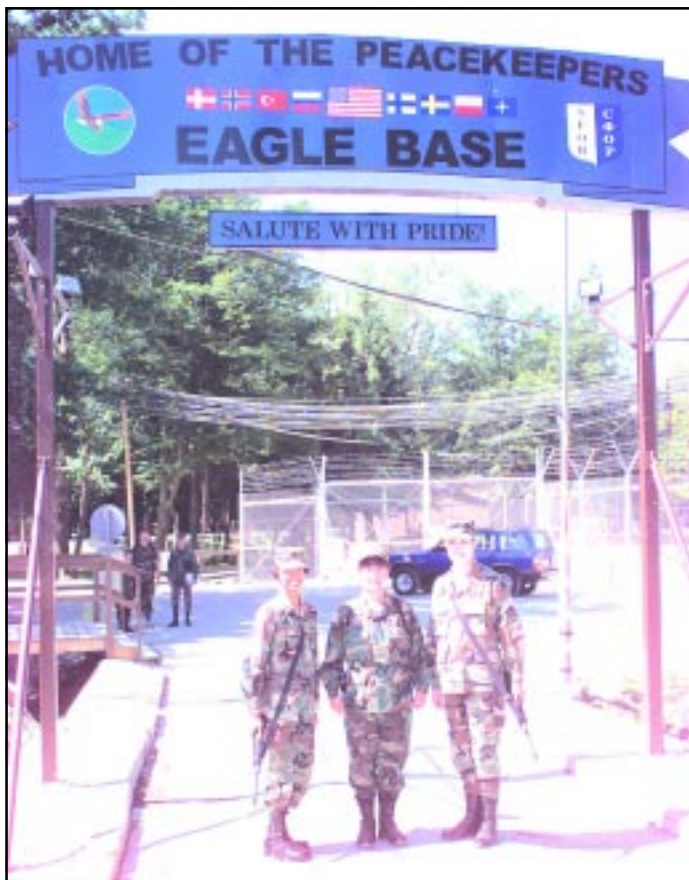
Capt. Theresa Pleming is the public affairs officer for the Coalition Press Information Center.

She is responsible for marketing published stories about National Guard, Reserve and Department of Defense civilians to United States media and stateside public affairs officers.

She also sends support letters to civilian employers and commanders in regard to published stories within Multinational Division-North.

Another big part of her job is escorting all media that come to Eagle Base.

This includes planning their itinerary and setting up interviews for them.



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Spec. Destiny Smith, Capt. Theresa Pleming and Private 1st Class Jessica Revell are a part of the seven members Detachment 1, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment who deployed to Bosnia in April.

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Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Family members and fellow Guardsmen and Guardwomen gather in New Orleans at the airport to bid a fond farewell to soldiers with the Detachment 1, 102nd Public Affairs Detachment. The PAD's members deployed to Bosnia in April for nine months.



Service pays tribute to fallen soldiers

Volunteers plant flags at the Chalmette Battlefield Cemetery for Memorial Day

By Capt. Ed Bush
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

In the true spirit of Memorial Day, approximately 70 volunteers gathered at the Chalmette Battlefield Cemetery to participate in what has become an annual event – planting flags.

Markers decorate the cemetery for nearly 11,000 fallen soldiers. Each year in preparation for the Memorial Day Service, a flag is planted at each grave.

“I look forward to this every year. It really sets the tone for the rest of the holiday,” Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Zerringue, a member of the 141st Washington Artillery, said.

All branches of service were present at the event, signifying the importance in keeping our military history alive.

Working hand-in-hand with soldiers of today were Veterans from the past, as well as family members who had lost a loved one in combat.

Symbolizing the connection with our past, a young active duty Marine was sweating in the morning sun as he methodically made his way down a long row of white crosses, digging a small hole at the base of each marker.

By his side was a WWII veteran,



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

This was a common sight on Memorial Day at the Chalmette National Cemetery where local citizens gathered to honor fallen war heroes. Col. John Douglas (above right) and his granddaughter place a flag on a gravesite.

who placed a flag in each freshly dug hole.

“This year is the best turnout (volunteers) we’ve ever had,” retired Chief Warrant Officer William P. Schultz,

coordinator of the event, said.

“It’s inspiring to see so many young people and all the service branches out here,” he said. “It’s the right thing to do.”



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Nearly 11,000 flags were planted in honor of veterans on Memorial Day at Chalmette National Cemetery.



Guard unit garners top award for blood donations

141st Field Artillery's increase in donations, dedication to community sets platinum standard

By Dusty M. Shenofsky
State Public Affairs Officer

Earlier this year, the Louisiana Army National Guard's 141st Field Artillery garnered the top award in the nation from America's Blood Centers for its commitment to the community blood drive program.

Additionally, the battalion's members contributions to the "From the Heart" program sent a New Orleans area youth to summer camp in Leesville.

Their adoptee is Keisha Santiago, eight years old, who was diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia in 1997.

The 1-141st Field Artillery Battalion, won the 1999 Platinum Award for blood drives from America's Blood Centers, the nation's largest network of nonprofit, independent, community blood centers that collects about half of the United States' blood supply.

ABC member, Blood Center of Southeast Louisiana, in New Orleans, nominated the 1-141st for the national award.

"We are proud to present this award to the members of the 1-141st," ABC President Celso Bianco, M.D., said. "This award honors their acts of generosity that deserve national recognition."

"It is a selfless commitment to saving lives through blood donation and it reminds us all in blood banking of our humanitarian mission, which is to be a community resource, save lives and to educate Americans about the importance

composed of 666 active duty and reserve soldiers. The battalion has been sponsoring blood drives since 1994 and averages 50 pints of blood per year.

In 1999, the 141st donated more than 300 pints of blood, increasing donations by 439 percent.

These units were collected over three blood drives, all within a one-month period.

In addition, more than 120 soldiers gave blood for the first time.

"It's such a great honor for the National Guard and in particular, the 141st Field Artillery, to be bestowed such a prestigious award," Capt. Jeffery Volpe, 141st blood drive coordinator, said.

"To be chosen as tops among so many other corporations that are much larger than us is a distinct honor," Volpe said.

"From the Heart" is a program that runs simultaneously with blood drives.

For every 250 donors who choose the "From the Heart" option instead of receiving a T-shirt or other recognition item, one child is sponsored to attend Camp Challenge, a week-long summer camp for children with serious bleeding problems.

Volpe led the 141st to this honor by working closely with his officers to coordinate the drives and also by staying committed to not only surpassing the 250 necessary donations, but to holding the battalion personally responsible for sending Santiago to Camp Challenge. Hooah! Keep up the good work!



Submitted photo
Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Butler (left) and Maj. Russell Hooper (right) present Keisha Santiago with a certificate from The Blood Center.

of volunteer blood donation," Bianco said.

The 141st Field Artillery is



Non-commissioned officer of the year named

The Louisiana Army National Guard has selected a mother of two from Fort Polk as its Non-commissioned Officer of the Year. She represented the state in national competition this spring.

Sgt. Alecia Diane Gonzalez, 28, said she has appreciated her time with the LAARNG and her unit -- Detachment 1, Company A, of the 199th Support Battalion in Colfax, Louisiana.

"I am grateful to the LAARNG for the opportunities it has given me to improve and to develop a greater sense of responsibility," Gonzalez said, "and for the skills I have acquired that I can



Sgt. Alecia
Gonzalez

-- *NCO of the Year*

apply to everyday life.

"I would highly recommend the National Guard to someone thinking about joining the military," Gonzalez said.

At home, she and husband Felix

care for their daughters, three-year-old Marianna, and eight-month-old Ashlyn.

Gonzalez works as a Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant while taking a senior-level college courses in Meteorology.

She loves drawing, painting, music and fishing, but her favorite interest is spending time with her growing family.

Gonzalez joined the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1997 after a three-year stint in the Active Army and one year with the Colorado National Guard.

She is the daughter of Rick and Dianna Hughes of Muskogee, Okla.

Lake Charles native selected soldier of the year

The Louisiana Army National Guard has selected a 28-year-old Lake Charles native as its Soldier of the Year.

Spec. Robert Francis Rondeau represented Louisiana in a national competition to be held in Colorado this spring.

"The National Guard opened doors and showed me the way to new opportunities," Rondeau said of his service in the National Guard.



Spec. Robert
Rondeau

-- *Soldier
of the Year*

Currently, Rondeau is assigned with Headquarters Company, 3rd Battal-

ion, 156th Infantry Brigade.

Rondeau is the son of Charles J. and Margaret Rondeau of Lake Charles.

He graduated from Sam Houston High School in 1996 and joined the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1997.

He is currently enrolled in Drafting & Design and Theater Arts at McNeese State University.

Rondeau is employed by Lowes Home Improvement Warehouse.

Retired Officers Reunion



Retired Officers of the Louisiana Guard enjoyed camaraderie and some good war stories as they gathered for their annual reunion at Jackson Barracks.

The retirees began the evening at the Jackson Barracks museum where they were brought up to speed on recent Guard activities, received the Command Briefing and an Education Briefing.

The group then adjourned to the Officer's Club where Chief Warrant Officer Allen Couvillion served his finest spread.

Photo by Sgt. Tammie Cordray



Submitted photo

Soldiers and civilians gathered at Jackson Barracks to honor the memory of two LANG pilots lost at sea in 1942.

LANG pilots lost at sea are honored with wreath-laying ceremony

A memorial ceremony in honor of 1st Lt. Walter F. Gardner and 2nd Lt. Arthur F. Davis was held Wednesday, Feb. 9, at Jackson Barracks. Gardner and Davis were officers in the Louisiana National Guard assigned to the 122nd Observation Squadron, headquartered at Jackson Barracks and Shusan/Lakefront Airport.

Less than two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Gardner and Davis were on submarine patrol over the Gulf of Mexico when their plane developed trouble and went down -- it was Jan. 30, 1942. They were spotted afloat in the water and an immediate search and rescue was conducted by all aircraft of the 122nd Observation Squadron and the U.S. Coast Guard. However, neither they nor the life raft dropped to them was ever found.

The memorial service included a wreath laying in the Mississippi River from a Coast Guard vessel, a 21-gun salute by the 159th Fighter Wing's Security Police, and a fly-over in the missing man formation by the F-15 jets of the 159th Fighter Group, Louisiana Air National Guard. Surviving members of the 122nd Observation Squadron and many other veterans participated in the ceremony.



Submitted photo

An unidentified Coast Guard soldier lays a memorial wreath in the Mississippi.



National Guard honors Seminole Indians

Every year, the Seminole Tribe of Florida conducts a visit to sites important to their history. This annual event gives participants the opportunity to take an active role in the activities celebrating the unique heritage of the Seminole people.

This year's "Seminole Diaspora" took place in New Orleans, commemorating the route traveled by the Seminole ancestors who were being forced out of their homeland during the United States Wars of Removal in the early 1800s. During Andrew Jackson's administration, members of the Seminole Nation traveled through Jackson Barracks as they were relocated to the Oklahoma territory, historically known as the "Trail of Tears."

Prisoners who were captured or gave themselves up to the soldiers of Florida were held at Fort Brooke and sent out of the Port of Tampa, across the Gulf of Mexico, and temporarily housed at Jackson Barracks.

Members of the Louisiana National Guard honored the Seminole Tribe of Florida with a monument dedication, including remarks from Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and Seminole Chief James E. Billie.

The tribute was attended by approximately 75 Seminoles from Florida and 31 from Oklahoma. "We have always had a connection to our ancestors. The trip to New Orleans is a good

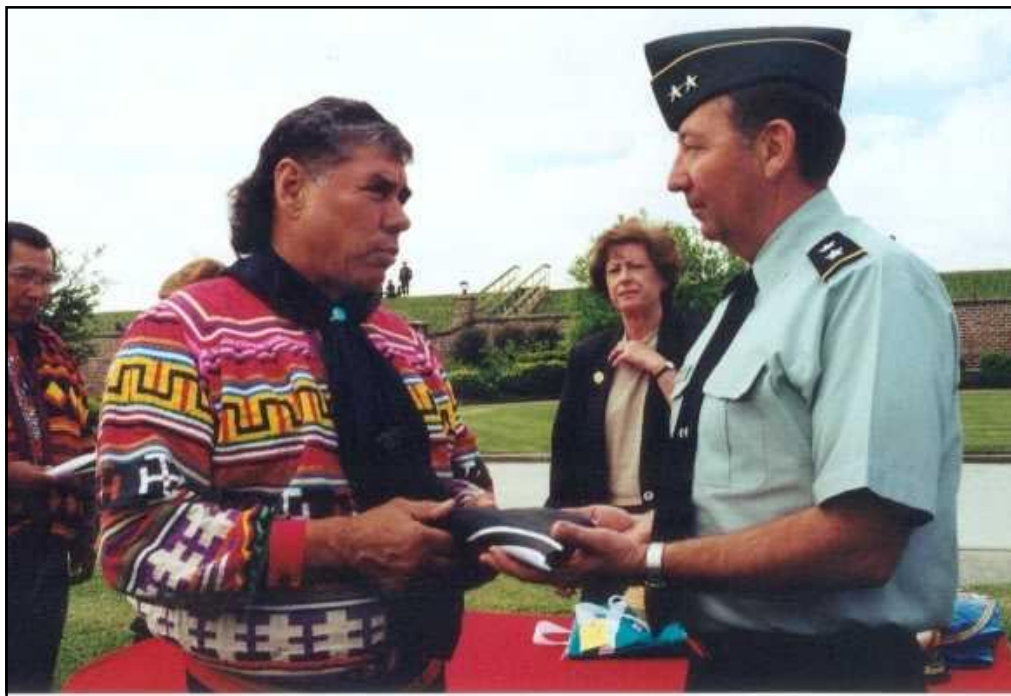


Photo by Dusty M. Shenofsky

Chief Billie presents a gift to Maj. Gen. Landreneau during a tribute to Seminole Indians.

lesson in history," Billie said.

Billie, 56, who brought family members with him on the trip, elaborated on the forced move of his people, "We have heard legends and stories over the years of something that seems like it

never happened," he said. "I wanted to come here and retrace it myself."

Landreneau said he was glad to sponsor the event. "What happened with the Seminoles is part of our Jackson Barracks history."

Former Louisiana Army National Guard chief of staff laid to rest

**By Maj. Maria LoVasco
Louisiana National Guard**

Karl N. Smith Sr., a retired brigadier general and former chief of staff of the Louisiana Army National Guard, died at his home in New Orleans East on June 22, 2000. He was 83 years old.

Smith, a World War II veteran and lifelong resident of New Orleans graduated from Warren Easton High School and Louisiana State University. He also attended Tulane University.

He first joined the Army in 1938. During World War II he served with the 83rd Infantry Division and was involved with the invasion of Normandy on D-Day + 7.

He joined the Louisiana Army National Guard in 1947 and served as the chief of staff at Jackson Barracks from 1972 to 1976.

Smith's three sons, retired Lt. Col. Karl N. Smith Jr., Sgt. Alan G. Smith and Sgt. 1st Class David B. Smith all served in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

A grandson, Karl N. Smith III, deployed to the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm in 1991 with the 812th Medical Company (Air Ambulance),



Louisiana Army National Guard. Another grandson, Karl A. Smith, served with the Florida National Guard.

Numerous guardsmen attended and participated in his funeral ceremony, serving as honor guards, pallbearers and providing a 21-gun salute.

Smith served on numerous military and civilian organizations and boards and was best known for being an organized, take-charge individual.

He was the founder and first captain of the Krewe of Pegasus; a member of the Citizens Committee Against Crime; the National Security Committee; the LSU Medical Foundation; the Louisiana and U.S. National Guard associations; VFW Post 7194; and the Mayor's Mardi Gras Coordinating Committee.

He served on the Executive Board of the St. Claude General Medical Foundation, was a member of The Greater New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, and past district commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. He also served with numerous other organizations.

Smith was inducted into both the Warren Easton High School and the Louisiana National Guard halls of fame.

He leaves behind a wife to whom he was married for 58 years, three sons, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was laid to rest on June 26 in Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans.



Trosclair retires after 42 years of service

By Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chailot
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Saying good-bye is never easy. For members of the Louisiana Air National Guard it was especially hard to say good-bye to Brig. Gen. Harry A. Trosclair.

After all, he was and will always be the embodiment of what the Louisiana Air National Guard is all about ... integrity.

Trosclair served as Chief of Staff for the Louisiana Air National Guard since 1996 and retired in May after 42 years of service.

He enlisted in Guard in 1958. He began his military career as a cable splicer with the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron.

He literally held almost every rank from airman basic to master sergeant, and from 2nd lieutenant to brigadier general.

He was the first nonrated officer to make it to the rank of general in the history of the La. Air National Guard.

Standing as proud as the stately live oaks that surrounded the parade field at historic Jackson Barracks, Trosclair bid farewell to the organization he loves so dearly.

Similar to the ancient oaks, he cultivated his Guard to withstand changes and adversity that would topple a weak root system.

"It is because of Brig. Gen. Trosclair that the roots of the La. Air National Guard are as strong as they are," said Maj. Mary Alice Salcido, chief of staff for the 159th Fighter Wing.

"His belief in taking care of everyone, regardless of rank, was his foundation for leadership. He took care of the Guard, one airman at a time."

His attention to everyone was evident as Trosclair inspected his troops for the last time.

As he walked on the grounds many great

military leaders had walked on in the past, he would pause in front of each squadron and look into the eyes of the airmen with his unique look of wisdom.

A look so many airmen have come to know as the symbol of a truly remarkable man. He was the man with the answers," Salcido

continue to be so regardless of his retirement," Schambach said.

This ability to be an example for so many reflected even on his supervisor, the highest-ranking Air National Guard officer in the state.

Brig. Gen. Sam DeGeneres, commander of the Louisiana Air National Guard, thanked him

for being his teacher and adviser. "He was famous for his unselfish service and never taking credit for his accomplishments."

This unselfish service was one of the reasons Trosclair made his decision to retire. "I felt it was time to go, time to step aside and make room for others," he said.

Trosclair recalled his career as a truly fantastic adventure.

He remembered his early days as an enlisted airman wearing surplus uniforms.

He saw incredible improvements and witnessed



Photo by Capt. Ed Bush

Brig. Gen. Trosclair's flag is retired during his official retirement ceremony on the parade field at Jackson Barracks. Trosclair served 42 years culminating as chief of staff of the Air Guard.

said.

"We have something we refer to as the Trosclair standard," Col. Brod Veillon, special assistant to the Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard, said. "If ever we are faced with a difficult decision, we ask ourselves, what would Trosclair do?"

It is this standard that most of his constituents spoke of as they recalled their time with Trosclair.

"No problem was too big for him to handle," Chief Master Sgt. Stacy Schambach, military personnel programs manager, said.

She personally worked with Trosclair for many years, so many in fact he referred to her as his right hand during the ceremony. She had the honor of furling his flag of command for the last time.

"He was a mentor for so many, and will

the Guard become the cornerstone of our nation's freedom.

"He is leaving the Guard he loves and has dedicated his life to," Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general for the Louisiana National Guard, said.

"One of the finest general officers I have ever served with. I have the fondest admiration for this seasoned airman," Landreneau said.

Near the closing of the ceremony, four F-15 jets, piloted by members of the 122nd Fighter Squadron, flew majestically over the ceremony, saluting Trosclair on his incredible career.

According to Trosclair, now is the time for him to spend quality time with his wife Barbara; his mother and father-in-law; children; and grandchildren.

And as he put it, doing whatever I like, whenever I like.



Angelloz takes command of 1088th from Curtis

By Capt. Patrick A. Simon
Deputy STARC PAO

The historic 1088th Engineer Battalion, based out of Plaquemine has a new commander.

After a little over two years as leader of the 1088th Engineer Battalion, Lt. Col. Glen Curtis passed the leadership torch to incoming

commander Maj. John Angelloz on May 8.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Louisiana's adjutant general, joined soldiers, guests, and family members of Curtis and Angelloz for the ceremony, held at Edward Jay Gay Middle School in Plaquemine.

Curtis credits much of his success as

commander to his successor. "Major Angelloz taught me the valuable lesson of setting soldiers up for success," Curtis said.

Curtis began his military career March 3, 1982, and is a graduate of Louisiana State University. Curtis resides with his wife and three children in Baton Rouge.

His military honors include the Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award and the Louisiana Legion of Merit Medal.

Under Curtis' "watch" the 1088th won numerous Army Communities of Excellence Awards to include the Gold Fleur-de-Lis award.

Angelloz, the former executive officer of the 1088th Engineer Battalion, is also a graduate of Louisiana State University and has a Bachelor of Engineering Technology Degree. He and his wife Angela and three children reside in Baton Rouge.

He received his commission as a second lieutenant from LSU's ROTC program.

Since then he has served as a platoon leader, construction officer, company commander, battalion personnel officer, plans officer, battalion operations officer and battalion executive officer of the 769th Engineer Battalion.

Landreneau welcomed Angelloz and his wife Angela to the team.

"To you the soldiers of the 1088th, you've had the opportunity to be led by one of the most caring soldiers in the National Guard," he said. "Now with Maj. Angelloz, that opportunity repeats itself."



Photo by Capt. Patrick Simon

Maj. John Angelloz takes command of the 1088th Engineer Battalion from Lt. Col. Glen Curtis.

Maintenance battalion welcomes new commander

Russell relinquishes 773rd baton of leadership baton to Marze

By Capt. Patrick A. Simon
Deputy STARC PAO

After fronting the historic 773rd Maintenance Battalion for four years, Lt. Col. Michael Russell passed the leadership torch to Lt. Col. James Marze May 7.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, joined soldiers, guests and family members for the ceremony held on the parade field at Camp Beauregard.

The 773rd Maintenance Battalion is headquartered at Camp Beauregard in

Pineville.

"Colonel Russell has led and helped fine tune the mobilization plans and port support activities of the 773rd Battalion," Landreneau said.

"He has been a tremendous asset to the community."

Russell, 54, is a native of Urania and holds a Business and Education degree from Louisiana Tech University, Ruston.

He and his wife Markita Lynn have



See 773rd on Page 21



Soileau takes 159th under his wing

By Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chailot
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Col. John Bennett Soileau Jr., accepted the 159th Fighter Wing flag of command from Col. Joseph "Brod" Veillon during a change of command ceremony held May 6 at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse.

Soileau, a native of Ville Platte, joined the Louisiana Air National Guard after active duty service with the Air Force where he completed assignments at Wheeler Air Force Base, Hawaii; and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

In 1985, he joined the Louisiana Air National Guard as a traditional guardsman flying the F-15 for the 122nd Fighter Squadron and simultaneously joined the U.S. Customs Service as a pilot for the New Orleans Aviation Branch.

Soileau and the outgoing commander (Veillon) both grew up in Ville Platte. They graduated from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, (formally USL) and Sacred Heart High School.

Veillon recalled the days spent with his childhood friend. "We go back a long way," he said. "We used to play touch football in his uncle's backyard, we both attended USL and worked at the same flying service."

He remembered the time Soileau visited him at pilot training at McDill Air Force Base, Florida. "I can remember us just wanting to feel the ground shake as the jets took off," he said.

Soileau has been shaking the ground ever since with more than 2,500 hours in the O-2A Skymaster and F-15 Eagle.

"It's a great day for the 159th," Veillon said during the ceremony. "Ben is an outstanding leader and will reach heights where only eagles fly."



Photo by Kristi Moon

Col. Ben Soileau takes charge of the 159th Fighter Wing from Col. Brod Veillon.

The command duties of the Fighter Wing include the management of over 1,400 personnel including an F-15 Fighter Squadron, an Air Traffic Control Squadron, an Air Support Operations Squadron, a Combat Communications Squadron, an Engineering Installation Squadron and a Weather Flight.

"I have a distinct sense of honor and pride, and feel privileged to be in uniform and a part of the armed forces," Soileau said during his ceremony. "My father instilled a sense of duty and honor associated with military service."

Soileau's roots as a traditional guardsman give him an uncanny understanding of the

challenges facing our National Guard today.

"I was a traditional guardsman and realize the difficult task of balancing family, job and guard responsibilities," he said. He addressed his troops and said, "Together we can turn obstacles into opportunities; I ask you to walk with me, side by side, with dignity, honor and pride."

Soileau is married to the former Donna Verrette and together they have two children, Jessica and John Ben III.

He is the son of Mrs. Rose Emily Soileau and the late John B. Soileau Sr., of Ville Platte. His father and mother-in-law are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Verrette, also of Ville Platte.

773rd

Continued from Page 20

two children.

His military honors include the Army Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

He moves on to a position at the Camp Beauregard Training Site.

Marze, incoming commander, is a native of Pineville and a graduate of Northwestern State University, Natchitoches. He and his wife Louella currently reside in Rapides Parish.

Marze's career began on active duty in 1968 when he spent seven years with the U.S. Navy. He joined the Louisiana National Guard in 1977.

He has held a multitude of positions with the 199th Support Battalion, 415th Maintenance Company, 225th Engineer Group, the NCO Academy and the 528th Engineer Battalion.

He works full-time for the Directorate of Surface Maintenance.

Among his awards are the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Louisiana Cross of Merit.

"Lt. Col. Marze brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table," Landreneau said. "I am confident that the 773rd will continue on its road to success in his capable hands."



Curtis takes helm as 3-156th commander

New leader former frontman of the 1088th Engineer Battalion

By Maj. Maria LoVasco
Louisiana National Guard

In early summer, the baton of leadership passed from one man to the next as the troops of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry, welcomed aboard Lt. Col. Glenn H. Curtis as their new battalion commander.

He replaced Lt. Col. Mark E. Kerry during a brief ceremony in Lake Charles at the Chennault International Airport June 11.

Curtis previously commanded the 1088th Engineer Battalion.

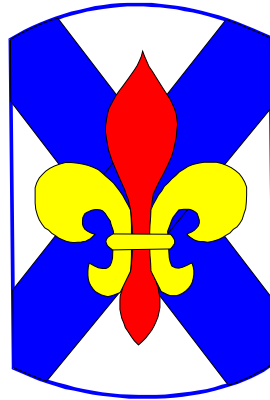
He began his military career in 1982 as a private in the Louisiana National Guard.

Originally trained as a plumber in Pineville, he was selected to attend Officer Candidate School and received his commission in 1984.

He has served as a platoon leader, battalion logistics officer, company commander, battalion operations officer and battalion executive officer.

Curtis received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture Business from Louisiana State University.

Among his numerous awards are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Louisiana Commendation Medal.



He is also the recipient of the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal from the National Engineer Association, the General Douglas MacArthur

Leadership Award and was named Louisiana National Guard Battalion Commander of the Year for 1999.

Curtis works full-time in his civilian

life as the vice president of IMR Inc.

"He brings knowledge and experience to this organization," Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, said.

"I am confident that the 3rd Battalion will continue on their road of success in his capable hands."

Kerry, the outgoing commander, is a veteran of the Gulf War.

He came to the Louisiana National Guard in 1984 after serving on active duty with the 8th Infantry Division in Germany.

Kerry goes on to take command of the 62nd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, Louisiana Army National Guard, out of Carville.

"I thank him for his efforts and the commitment and dedication he has given and continues to give to the Louisiana National Guard," Landreneau said.

"Under his watchful eye the Bayou Bandits achieved success and recognition throughout the state," he said.

YCP

Continued from Page 10

ceremony to accept the prestigious award.

The Youth Challenge Program is a 17-month program that offers at-risk adolescents an opportunity to change their future in many ways, culminating with the opportunity to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.

The initial program consists of a five-month residential phase during which cadets learn self-discipline, leadership and responsibility and begin paving their road to success.

Participants live and work in a controlled military environment, at either Camp Beauregard or the Gillis Long Center, which encourages teamwork and personal growth.

A second, 12-month post-residential phase consists of helping to enroll students in continued education, a technical school program or an entry-

level job.

During the post-residential phase, students are assisted by a trained and matched mentor from their home community for postgraduate development. If a cadet does not have a mentor in mind when coming to YCP, program administrators will match them with a volunteer.

YCP combines classroom work, community service, and challenging individual and team activities into one unique experience revolving around the program's eight core components.

While enrolled in YCP, participants have demonstrated outstanding academic excellence, raising their grade levels on the average of three to four grades.

Although there is no cost to participants or families for this program, students are required to furnish toiletries

as well as specified personal clothing that will be used for the first two weeks of the program prior to issuance of uniforms.

The Youth Challenge Program is run by trained National Guard personnel and employs Louisiana certified instructors.

One counselor is assigned to an appropriate ratio of corps members, and classroom size is limited to ensure maximum personal attention.

Additional Guard support staff includes certified physical fitness trainers, medical personnel, administrative staff and placement counselors.

For more information on the Youth Challenge Program or to apply, please call 1-800-CAMP-KID 24 hours-a-day.

The Youth Challenge Program does not exclude any person based on race, color, national origin, gender or religion.



Louisiana Guard holds conventions

Officers, enlisted gather to reflect, look ahead, honor distinguished soldiers

By Capt. Ed Bush
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers and airmen of the Louisiana Guard gathered in Alexandria for what has become one of the longest running traditions for members of the organization; the annual officer's and enlisted conventions. This year marked the 70th such gathering for officers and the 23rd for enlisted personnel.

This high spirited event was a combination of business and pleasure as soldiers began the weekend activities by seeking out their respective unit's hospitality rooms to partake in libations and good conversation.

Friday night was a night of campaigning for hopeful committee nominees as hallways, elevators and unsuspecting passersby were adorned with "Vote for me" signs. One crafty candidate offered free drinks in the hospitality room for the wearing of his campaign button (not bothering to point out that all the drinks were free).

Formal activities began Saturday morning with the "State of the Guard Address" given by the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau. He spoke to officers and enlisted soldiers, emphasizing the importance of the convention and the "opportunity to look back and reflect on the truly great things we have accomplished."

Landreneau highlighted events from 1999 before discussing plans for the future. "History is most important when we learn



Photo by Dusty M. Shenofsky

U.S. Rep. John Cooksey, R-La., speaks to officers at this year's Officer's Convention before attending the Enlisted Convention to speak to soldiers.

from it," he said.

Guest speaker for the day was U.S. Rep. John W. Cooksey, R-La. Cooksey discussed the important role of today's National Guard and praised Guardsmen for their commitment and dedication.

Saturday evening, the officers and enlisted donned their formal attire for the

formal dinner and award presentations.

Saturday's dinner also marked the passing of the baton from the outgoing Executive Council members to the incoming members.

Col. Brod Veillon is the newly-elected president of the Officers Association and Master Sgt. Robbie Nutt is the President of the Enlisted Association.

Battalion participates in intel exercise

Soldiers of 415th bring home most awards for excellence in field

Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 415th Military Intelligence Battalion packed their bags and headed to Fort Gordon, Ga., in May for Exercise Southern Knight 2000 where they garnered more awards than any other battalion in the active or reserve components for superior performance exhibited during the exercise.

Lt. Col. Michael W. Pick, commander of the battalion at Fort Gordon that conducted the exercise, awarded the Army Achievement Medal to seven of the 31 members of the 415th MI Battalion present and four Certificates of Achievement.

Pick said these soldiers' "outstanding contributions made Southern Knight 2000 the

Army's premiere tactical counterintelligence, interrogation and human intelligence exercise.

"Your extraordinary efforts and accomplishments reflect distinct credit upon you, your unit, the 202nd MI Battalion and the United States Army," Pick said upon awarding the medals.

Southern Knight took place from May 7-19 and is part of a Total Army training event conducted by the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, headquartered at Fort Gordon. The 202nd MI Battalion is part of the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, which is the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command's contingency force unit that provides theater level intelligence support to the

U.S. Central Command.

Soldiers from military intelligence battalions of the Utah and Florida Army National Guard, as well as soldiers from four U.S. Army Reserve military intelligence battalions also participated.

Additionally, several active component military intelligence battalions from Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and other units stationed at Fort Gordon participated in the exercise.

Rounding out the forces involved in Southern Knight 2000 were personnel from the U.S. Naval and Marine Corps Reserves and some

See Intel on Page 24



Veillon takes position as special assistant to TAG

Col. Joseph "Brod" Veillon is no stranger to change and is known to face challenges head on.

In a mere seven years with the Louisiana Air National Guard, he has soared to new career heights as he recently met a National Board for promotion to brigadier general.

In May, Veillon turned his three-year command of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing over to Col. John Ben Soileau Jr.

He leaves the wing to accept the position of special assistant to the Adjutant General of Louisiana Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau.

He will be stationed at the Louisiana National Guard headquarters, located at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans.

"The 159th has excelled in many activities and accomplishments, both on the state and national levels under Colonel Veillon's command," Landreneau said during the 159th change-of-command ceremony. "I feel he will continue to develop great programs for the National Guard at the headquarters level."

Veillon joined the Louisiana Air National Guard in 1993 after active duty Air Force assignments as a pilot, flight commander and instructor pilot at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; Homestead Air Force Base, Florida; Kunson Air Base, Korea; and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

He began his career with the Louisiana Air National Guard as the founding commander of the

122nd Air Support Observation Squadron in Alexandria.

In 1994 he moved to New Orleans to become the 159th Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron commander and in June 1995, he was assigned as the 159th Logistics Group commander.

In March 1997 he was selected as the vice-commander for the Wing and by October, he assumed command of the 159th Fighter Wing.

Retired Brig. Gen. Harry Trosclair, former assistant adjutant general of the Louisiana Air National Guard, first met Veillon in 1992 when the formation of the 122nd was in process.

He witnessed the 122nd become a success and followed Veillon's career climb within the Guard.

"He made the 122nd an outstanding unit and his involvement with the entire Louisiana Air National Guard has built a record of accomplishments," Trosclair said. "It takes a motivated individual to devote himself like Veillon has toward the Guard."

It is the norm for Veillon to devote countless hours toward accomplishing missions of the Louisiana Air National Guard.

"He has been the best commander for enlisted people," 159th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant Randy Volpi, said. "He empowered the enlisted ranks to take part in leading the wing."

Veillon encouraged the formation of enlisted

organizations in order to ensure their voice was heard on every issue that affected their health, welfare and morale.

"He has strengthened the enlisted core with numerous programs and participated extensively with the Top 3 and Bottom 6," Brig. Gen. Samuel DeGeneres, commander of the Louisiana Air National Guard, said. "Veillon's career has been outstanding and he has a bright future at Jackson Barracks."

Veillon will be both the special-assistant to the adjutant general and director of the highly acclaimed Pelican State Starbase Program.

His minuteman spirit will now affect both Air and Army National Guard programs, as well as the civilian population.

Starbase is geared toward improving math and science skills for at-risk children in grades K-12.

Beginning at the elementary school level, the program prepares students at an early age for careers in engineering and other science-related fields.

Being a director will come naturally for Veillon. With over 2,700 flight hours, he is a command fighter pilot in the F-4 Phantom, F-16 Falcon, F-15 Eagle, and C-130 Hercules.

Veillon is married to the former Angie LaFleur and together they have two children, Zachary and Katherine. The Veillons hail from Ville Platte where both their families reside.

Intel

Continued from Page 23

national level intelligence agencies, bringing the total participation to over 400 Department of Defense personnel.

Southern Knight participants began their two-week training period with a four-day train-up reviewing their counterintelligence and interrogator skills and MOS tasks. They were also introduced to the latest technology such as concealed communications devices, satellite telecommunication systems, and motion stabilized binoculars for surveillance activities that were being fielded for use in intelligence operations.

Operation Southern Knight began May 12 and continued for six days. The objective of the exercise was to test the 202nd MI Battalion's ability, with reserve augmentation, to conduct real word Counterintelligence and other Human Intelligence operations in both a peacetime and wartime environment in the Southwest Asia / Middle East Theater.

Louisiana Guardsmen participated in all major training activities of the exercise, working side by side with their active component and

USAR counterparts. They worked in the Joint Document Exploitation Center processing real-world documents under the supervision of representatives of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

LAARNG / 415th MI Battalion Counterintelligence agents operated in simulated field offices conducting national agency and foreign liaison; security interviews; investigations; and other activities aimed at detecting and neutralizing espionage, sabotage and terrorism directed at U.S. Armed Forces.

Both Counterintelligence and Interrogator personnel worked in the Joint Interrogation Facility conducting personnel screening, interrogations and intelligence report writing. Finally some LAARNG / 415th MI Battalion personnel performed as role-players playing real-world personalities from the theater of operations based on information from intelligence files.

Louisiana's Guardsmen were impressed with the depth of individual training and the scope of the situation scenario used in the exercise. All LAARNG / 415th MI Battalion members com-

mented favorably on their integration with the Active Component and readily agreed with the comments of the 513th MI Brigade commander that the 513th is the strongest supporter of AC/RC integration in the Army today.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the 202nd conferred awards upon individual soldiers for outstanding work. LAARNG / 415th MI Battalion members received more awards than any other army battalion — Active Component, Army Reserve or National Guard.

The number of Army Achievement Medals and Certificates of Achievement received by members of the LAARNG / 415th MI Battalion exceeded the total received by the other six National Guard and Army Reserve battalions combined.

Soldiers with the 415th who received Army Achievement Medals are Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Motto, C Company; Staff Sgt. Leo Davis, C Company; Sgt. Charles Kuebel, A Company; Sgt. James Marze, C Company; Spec. Brian Casey, B Company; Spec. Andrew Atkinson, A Company; and Spec. Leah St. Romain, B Company.