

# Angels in camouflage

### By Spec. Robicheaux and Lt. Deaton

In times of terror and uncertainty, the Louisiana National Guard is often asked to serve as guardian angels who watch over their fellow citizens until turbulence subsides. During Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili, soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard earned their halos and aided surrounding communities in a myriad of ways.

Second Lt. Brian Croft was in charge of 56 soldiers assisting Louisiana State Police Troop I with various missions. "We have 40 military police helping with evacuations, clearing trees off I-10, and helping victims of flooding and downed power lines," Croft said.

In addition, 16 troops were sent to Henry and Franklin to be on standby for possible evacuation.

The Heyman Performing Arts Center in Lafayette was turned into a shelter for people with special needs. The facility was organized and operated by the Louisiana Department of Social Services and assisted by the soldiers of the Guard. The soldiers performed many tasks including transporting food, supplies and serving the initial security needs of the shelter.

Second Lt. Lawrence Salone said that each soldier's mission was to help make the patients as comfortable as possible. "This is a very unfortunate situation for everyone, however the detailed planning and genuine concern of many Guardsmen helped facilitate a successful operation," Salone said in a post Hurricane Lili environment.



Currently, the effort is concentrating on clean up and security with troops from all over the state. The soldiers are out in full force to get the job done. Should the state or the nation call upon the Louisiana National Guard, we stand ready!

# Guardsmen act quickly, admirably, impressively

The actions of the Louisiana National Guard in response to Hurricane Lili were as impressive as they were admirable. The Guard quickly executed a Task Force based emergency response plan that relied on the skill, tenacity, and dedication of everyone involved.

Not only did the Louisiana Military Department display its ability to swiftly and efficiently react to a large scale catastrophe but the residents of Louisiana received a first-hand demonstration of today's volunteer Citizen Soldier in action. The role of the National Guard in our

nation's Force Structure has never been more critical than today. Equally important is the support from the community because it is that same community that supplies the members of our Armed Forces.

Hurricane Lili provided the setting for the communities of Louisiana to see firsthand their National Guard in action – and those communities were thankful and proud. One resident was quoted on the evening news as saying, "There's nothing that depicts relief quite like that big Army Truck."

The following is a summary of the activities of the Louisiana Military Department's rellief efforts pertaining to Hurricane Lili.

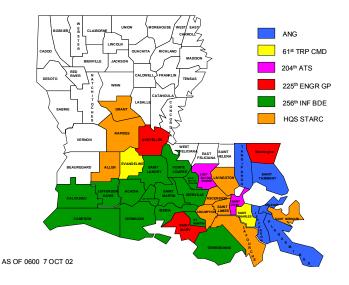
The Louisiana National Guard mission statement during the emergency is: The Louisiana National Guard provides military forces and equipment for assistance to Civil Authorities before, during and after Hurricane Lili.

Resources were utilized to supplement local and state agencies efforts to save lives, protect property and ensure public health and safety.

In response to Hurricane Lili, LANG activated 3 Emergency Operations Centers which were staffed for 24 hour operations. Twenty-four-hour operations continued for over a week at all locations. EOC locations are Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge; Jackson Barracks, New Orleans; and Camp Beauregard, Alexandria.

Over 30 Liaison Officers (LNO) were assigned to specific Parishes to act as the primary link between the respective Parish and the Louisiana Military Department. These LNO's proved to be an invaluable on the ground coordination point. [See chart at left for LNO assignments.]

## LILI LNO ACTIVATIONS







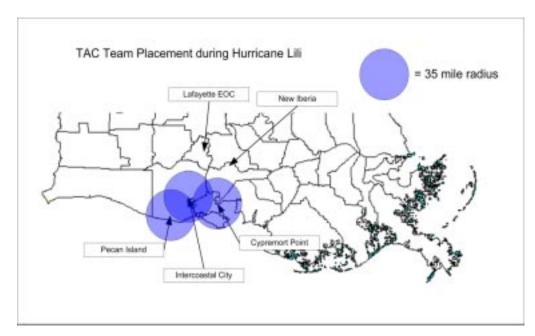
#### Lili

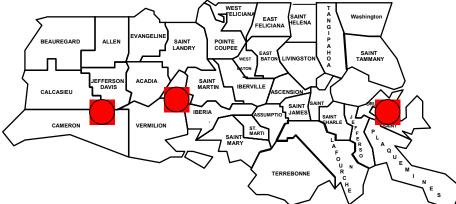
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As the Hurricane approached the Louisiana Coastline, the Louisiana Military Department began mobilizing soldiers and formed two separate Task Forces. These Task Forces were positioned in the Lafayette and Lake Charles areas to act as quick/first responders for the area Parishes and were manned and equipped to be able to respond to any number of emergencies.

The two Task Force commanders were: Lake Charles Area – Colonel Hunt Downer, Assistant Adjutant General for the Army National Guard. Lafayette Area – Lt. Col. Glenn Curtis, Commander of the 225th Engineer Group.

Three Engineer Reconnaissance Teams were formed and pre-positioned as far forward as possible. These teams coordinated with local law enforcement and provided on the ground observations and damage evaluations as the Hurricane made landfall. These teams were small and mobile and traveled with the Hurricane. *[See chart at right for diagram of Engineer Tactical Recon Teams.]* 





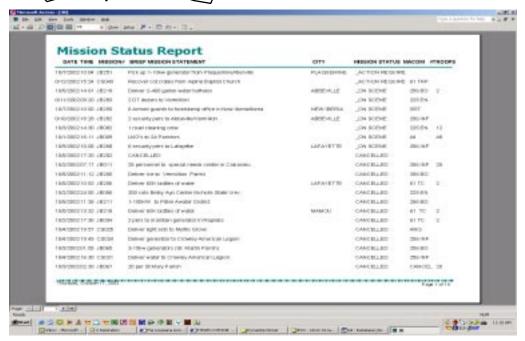
To support the forecasted needs of the Task Force, a large number of vehicles and equipment were pre-positioned at three primary locations. These "stockpiles" would serve the needs of the Task Force and emergency equipment could be quickly dispatched to support affected areas.

[See chart at left for pre-position locations in Lake Charles, Lafayette, and New Orleans.]

Once Hurricane Lili made landfall, the mission requests began pouring in to the Louisiana Military Department. The mission request flow was:

- Parish Representative works with LNO and requests support from the Baton Rouge Office of Emergency Preparedness.
- 2. Assigned LANG personnel at OEP validate the mission and forward approved mission to the Jackson Barracks EOC.
- Jackson Barracks EOC tasks specific LANG Major Command elements to deploy a response team to handle mission.
- 4. Response Team moves forward and falls under the command and control of the forward positioned Task Force.
- 5. Task Force takes control of the Response Team asset and responds to specific request.
  - Mission is completed.

In a 10-day period, over 300 missions were completed. Below is a copy of one page of the mission status report. This report grew quite lengthy as the status of all missions was tracked.





#### Lili

#### **Continued from Page 2**

Some of the primary missions that were handled by National Guard personnel included:

- **Evacuations**
- Power Generation
- Shelter Security
- Communications
- Water/Ice/Fuel transportation
- Law enforcement support
- Area salvage/debris removal
- Air and ground reconnaissance
- Levee stabilization

At the peak time, over 1,500 National Guardsmen were mobilized and on duty in response to Hurricane Lili.

The Total Mandays accrued were: 10,006 (as of 151200Oct02) Costs: \$826,171.69 (based on average of \$96.11/day)

The totals for pieces of equipment used in relief effort missions were:

Type	Number
Generators	101
5 ton truck	73
2 ½ ton truck	126
Engr Equip (D-7, loader)	12
Haul Assets (916/917, HE	MMT)
HMMWV	57
Water tanker/buffalo	11

#### Some of the Key Leadership in the Hurricane Lili relief effort was:

- · Major General Bennett C. Landreneau Adjutant General of Louisiana National Guard and the Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness in Baton Rouge
  - Command Sergeant Major (CSM) John Morrow State CSM
  - Colonel Mike Brown Assistant director of OEP at Baton Rouge
- Colonel Steve Dabadie Chief of Staff, LA Army National Guard: Principal coordinator of all Louisiana National Guard response actions.
  - Colonel Hunt Downer Assistant Adjutant General of the LA Army National Guard and Task Force Commander
  - LTC Glenn Curtis Commander of the 225th Engineer Group and Task Force Commander
  - Colonel Cliff Oliver Director of Plans Training and Operations for LANG
  - LTC Pat Santos Deputy Director of Military Support, Principal Coordinator of Emergency Operations Center, Jackson Barracks.

For additional information please see our Website at <a href="http://www.la.ngb.army.mil">http://www.la.ngb.army.mil</a>

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### The next issue of the Louisiana Citizen Soldier will contain the following stories and more:

- -- NFL, Saints show appreciation for America's military force
- -- State Command Sergeant Major holds awards banquet
  - -- 2225th Reenlistment
- -- Gen. George S. Patton's staff reunites at Jackson Barracks
- -- Washinton Artillery Pass In Review

individuals who wish to submit articles to The















