



PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

FALL 2009

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surprise Soldiers**

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**National Guardsman
honored for
ultimate sacrifice**

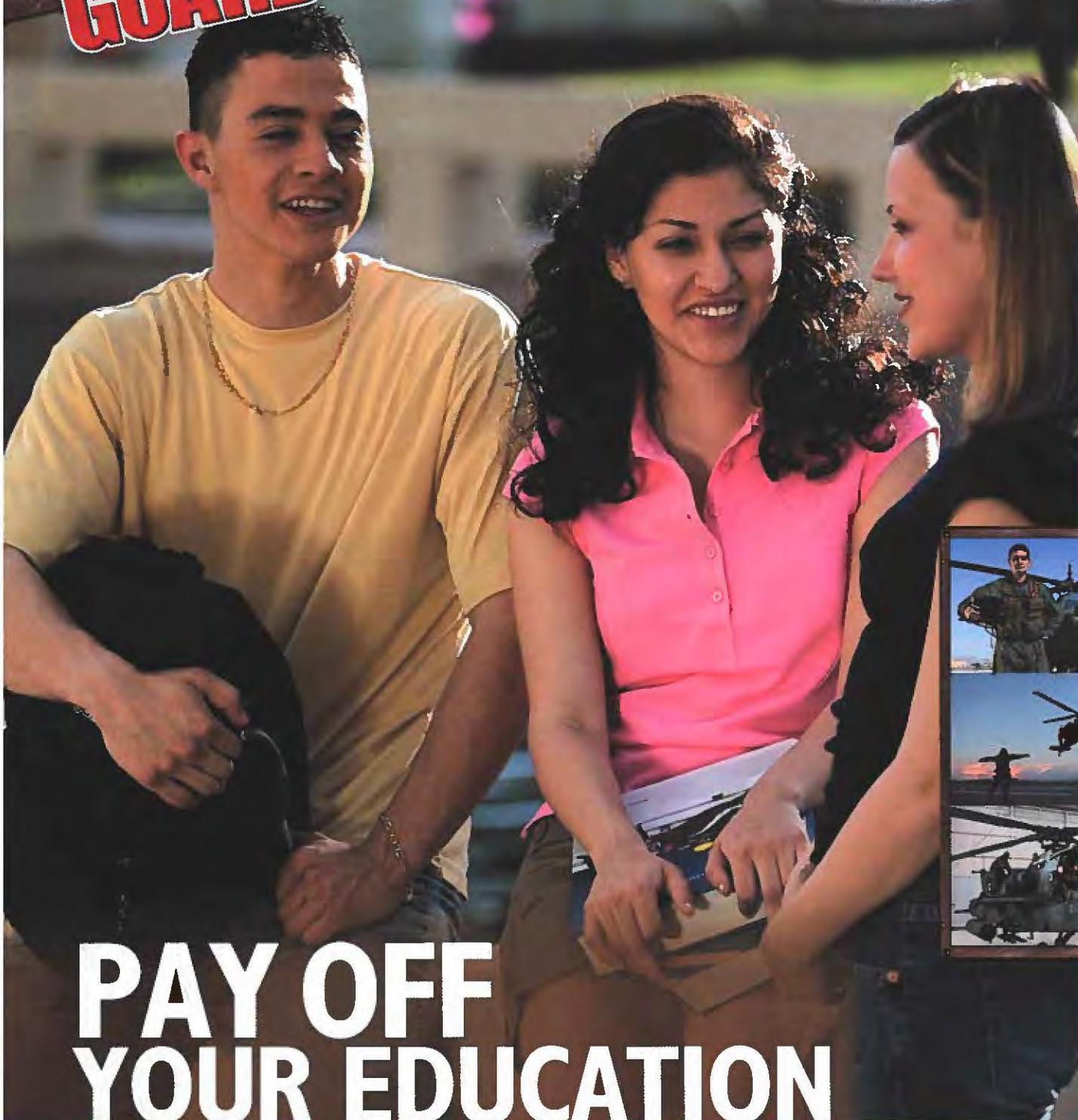
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Louisiana Army National Guardsman Sgt. Brandon Powell of the 39th Military Police Company, 773rd Military Police Battalion, of Minden, La., hugs his wife Briney, daughter Alexis & son Chandler at the Shreveport Regional Airport in Shreveport, La., Sept. 26 after returning from a year long deployment overseas. The 39th MP Company deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008.

Cover Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie, Louisiana National Guard State Public Affairs Office

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Soldiers of the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team practice their night operation tactical skills in Pineville, La. Approximately 280 Soldiers from around the state converged on Camp Beauregard for annual training for the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. This two-week training exercise was intended for the Soldiers who volunteered to deploy from other non deploying units or Soldiers who missed the traditional three week training in the summer.

Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie, State Public Affairs Office

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BRIDGE COMPANY RECEIVES SURPRISE BLACK AND GOLD VISIT

Story and photos by Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph
Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

The Louisiana Army National Guard's 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, sported huge smiles as they received one of the biggest surprises of the year, a chance to meet New Orleans' own Saints NFL football team during an Aug. 6 practice session at their training facility in Metairie.

"This is a big thing for our unit, and it is really nice to have the support of the Saints," said 1st Sgt. Kevin M. Giroir, the 2225th's top noncommissioned officer. "When you have outstanding Soldiers who are dedicated and are able to effectively accomplish missions, they deserve to be rewarded. Many of them can't stop smiling, so this was definitely the perfect surprise for them."

Tom Benson, team owner, showed his support before the start of practice. "It is an honor to have you all come out today," he said. "I love the military and appreciate all of your sacrifices."

Once the practice ended, the Soldiers were greeted by the team's leader, quarterback Drew Brees, and the rest of the players of the black and gold team.

"I was very excited to be given a chance to meet the team," said Spc. John C. Figaro of Marrero whose favorite



Soldiers of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Marrero, receive autographs from New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees after an Aug. 6 football practice session at the New Orleans Saints' training facility in Metairie. The Soldiers visited with the team as part of a reward for their outstanding performance during their two-week annual training.

players are Reggie Bush and linebacker Johnathan Vilma. "This shows how much our leadership cares and appreciates our hard work." ■

Please visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos.



(Above) Soldiers of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, receive autographs from the New Orleans Saints football team during a surprise Aug. 6 visit to a practice session at the Saints' training facility in Metairie.

(Left) New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush signs autographs for the Soldiers.

LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WELCOMES 25 NEW OFFICERS



By Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph
Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

The Louisiana Army National Guard commissioned 25 new officers from Officer Candidate School Classes 49 and 50A in an Aug. 29 graduation ceremony at Tioga High School in Pineville.

Approximately 17 of the newly commissioned officers completed their training through the 199th Leadership Regiment's traditional 18-month OCS program held at Camp Cook in Ball, La., while the others successfully completed eight weeks of continuous training through the accelerated OCS program at Fort Meade, S.D.

"It is a great honor to be here today to welcome this group of officers," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, LANG adjutant general. "You are embarking on a new career and journey as a commissioned officer. It is a path of tests, challenges and rewards that you shouldn't take lightly," he continued. "Your obligation as leaders is to take care of your Soldiers. You have the talent, drive, training, and the leadership to step up and make a lasting impact on every Soldier who you come in contact with."

During OCS, the candidates develop entry level leadership skills required of all officers regardless of their Army career field. They are also taught to take initiative, think clearly and to set a positive example for the Soldiers they will lead.

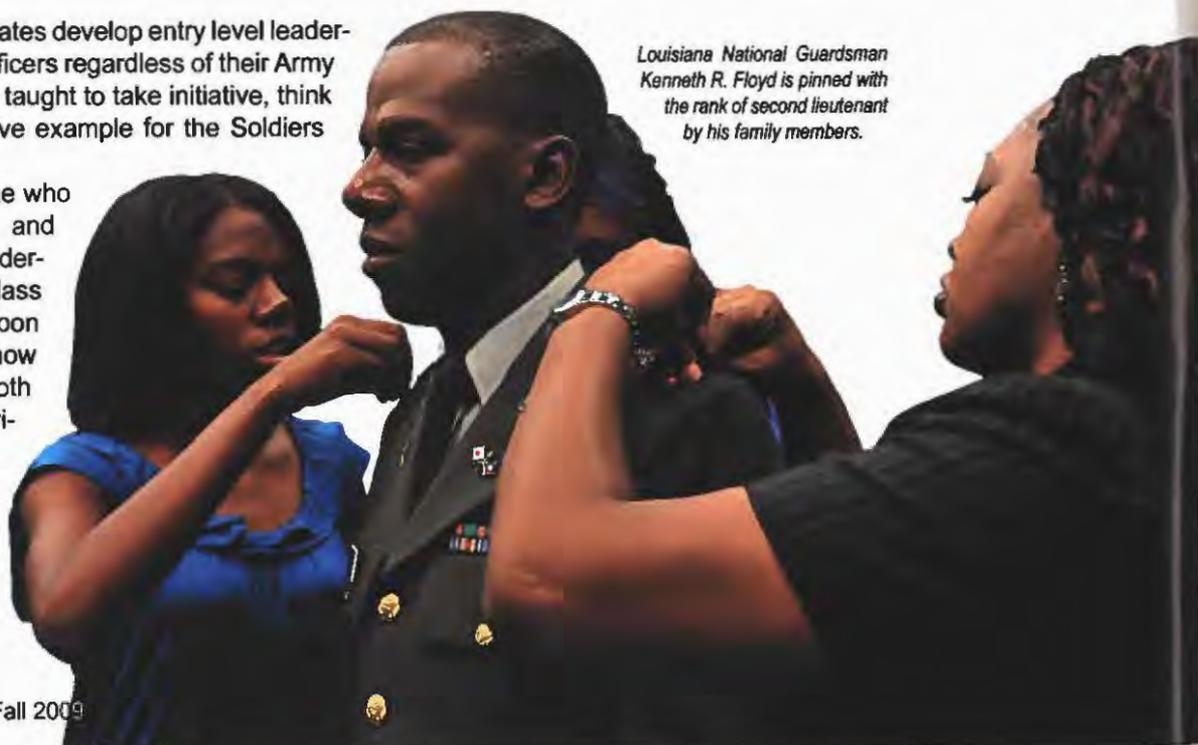
"We try to take someone who has limited experience and guide them into the leadership role," said Sgt. 1st Class Brett L. Travis, 199th platoon trainer. "We teach them how to be effective leaders in both a garrison and combat environment," he explained.

Candidates pass through a junior, intermediate and senior phase during their training. Academics include both classroom study



Louisiana National Guardsman Col. Jonathan T. Ball, commander of the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, congratulates the newest officer of his unit at an Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony Aug. 29 at Tioga High School in Pineville.

Photos: Master Sgt. Toby M. Vukladic, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office



Louisiana National Guardsman Kenneth R. Floyd is pinned with the rank of second lieutenant by his family members.



Members of the Louisiana National Guard's Officer Candidate School's Classes 49 and 50A recite the officer's oath at an OCS graduation ceremony.



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, presents newly commissioned 2nd Lt. Latoya R. Authement of Houma, La., with the Adjutant General's award for the top graduate for the LANG's Officer Candidate School's Class 49 at a commissioning ceremony Aug. 29 at Tioga High School in Pineville.



and field training exercises, which range from military courtesy and advanced land navigation, to troop leading procedures and training management.

"One thing that has always amazed me is the transformation that the candidates go through. From the beginning of the class to graduation, they mature into the leaders that are needed for the future of the Army," Travis stressed.

For 2nd Lt. Kenneth R. Floyd, graduating from accelerated OCS was a challenge but an accomplishment for one of the class's oldest members. "It's been a rigorous process for me," Floyd said. "Being one of the older guys, coming through OCS has been a challenge, but one that has been well worth it. I've always had that need to serve my country and fellow Soldiers, and I can't think of a better way of doing it than to become an officer.

"My advice is when you get that overwhelming feeling to quit...don't. The pain and suffering is very short-lived, and it will all work out in the end." ■

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National Guardsman honored for ultimate sacrifice

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Angela K. Fry
Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

Family, friends and fellow Soldiers gathered July 10 for a poignant ceremony to honor the memory of Louisiana Army National Guardsman Sgt. Craig L. Nelson in Shreveport.

The Bossier City, La., native was mortally wounded in 2004 by a roadside bomb in Baghdad while serving with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment. This sacrifice was recognized in a dedication ceremony at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Shreveport, as the Sgt. Craig Nelson Ceremony Room was unveiled for future recruits of the U.S. Armed Forces to take their formal oath of enlistment.

According to Maj. Steven T. Downey, local commander of MEPS, Nelson was the first Soldier who processed into the military through Shreveport to pay the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country. But to Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General of the LANG, the primary reason for honoring Nelson was his dedication and true American spirit.

"Today, we come together to honor the sacrifice of Sgt. Craig Nelson," said Landreneau.

As an emotional Landreneau addressed a capacity-filled room that included Nelson's mother, Lois J. Nelson; sister Carly Nelson-Thompson, brother-in-law Tommie Thompson, nephew Cade Thompson and close friends, he described Nelson's courage and dedication to duty.

"He is an American hero," the adjutant general stressed. "I remember well the day we received the news of this tragedy. But as I stand here today, I am filled with pride as we honor his memory."

"It is fitting to have a plaque in this room where so many recruits raise their hand just as Sgt. Nelson did eight years ago," he continued. "He lives on in our hearts and in our memories."

Many Soldiers with whom Nelson served in Iraq were also on hand to pay homage to their fallen comrade.

"He always wanted to join the military," remembered Sgt. 1st Class Eric Lee of Minden, La. "He was a great Soldier... always working on his equipment and keeping everyone around him motivated."

Lee, from B Troop, 2/108th Cavalry Squadron, formerly the 1/156th, explained his pride for serving with Nelson. "I want to tell everyone that I was his section sergeant because it's such an honor just to be associated with him," Lee said. "He is truly a hero. If there was ever anyone in this country who joined the military for purely selfless service, it was Craig." ■

Please visit <http://www.dividshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos.



Louisiana National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, United States Military Entrance Processing Station Commander Col. Charles S. Dunston and Shreveport, La., Military Entrance Processing Station Commander Maj. Steven T. Downey gather at the MEPS to honor the memory of Sgt. Craig L. Nelson of the LANG's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment. The Bossier City, La., native was mortally wounded in 2004 by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad while serving with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



A shadow box honoring the memory of Louisiana Army National Guardsman Sgt. Craig L. Nelson of Bossier City, La., is unveiled at the Military Entrance Processing Station in Shreveport, La., as Nelson's sister, Carly Nelson-Thompson; mother, Lois J. Nelson; and close friends look on. The shadow box, including a photo of Nelson and his Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart, will be displayed in the Sgt. Craig Nelson Ceremony Room at the Shreveport MEPS.

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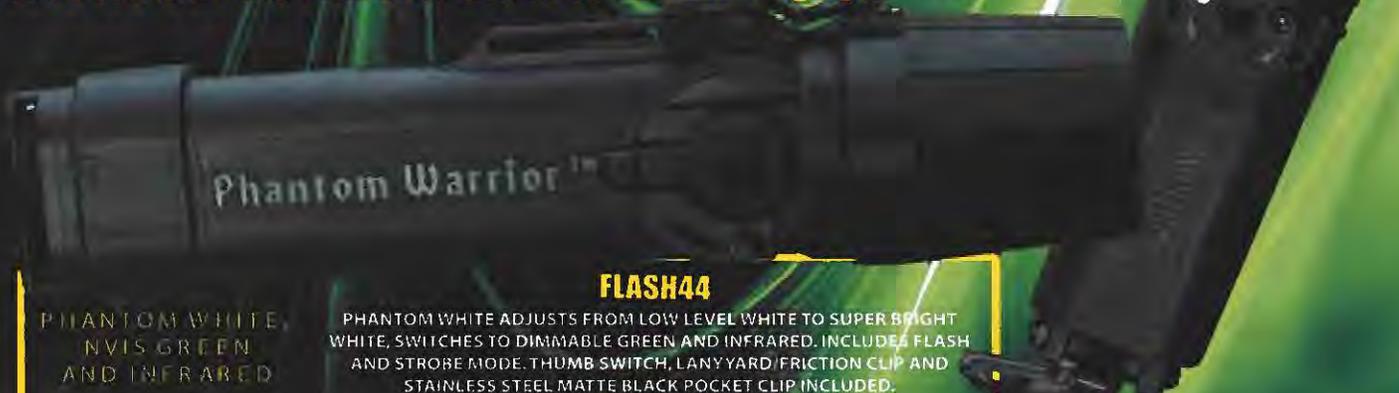
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Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force continues to have success

*Story and photos by Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph,
Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative*

After 20 years of success, the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force continues to serve as a positive reinforcement for drug demand reduction coalitions as noted at an annual Counter Drug Conference held July 30 at the Hilton Lafayette Hotel.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, LANG Adjutant General; Lt. Col. Raymond C. Schindler, LANG CDTF coordinator; and various law enforcement agencies supported by the CDTF, were present to congratulate the members of the task force for their prestigious accomplishments.

"As I travel throughout the state, agencies express the great respect they have for the technical capabilities and dedication the Guard brings to their organizations," Landreneau explained. "It pleases me to hear about the many accomplishments and the hard work that the task force is doing across Louisiana."

Schindler referred to the group as ambassadors of the National Guard. "Because of the job that you are doing, our citizens know that we are making an impact in helping their communities stay safe and fight the war on drugs," he said. "You truly embrace what our state mission is all about."

The LANG Counter Drug Task Force provides assistance to support local, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout Louisiana by helping to reduce the demand for drugs through education programs, working with community action groups and serving as role models for at-risk youths.

"The Guard has played a significant role in the success of our program and because of you, we were able to accomplish a lot," said Tony Soto, a representative for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program. "I can't emphasize enough how appreciative I am to have the support of the National Guard and to have them as a part of our team." ■

Please visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos.



Soldiers and Airmen of the Louisiana National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force receive awards for their achievements in drug prevention during an annual Counter Drug Conference held July 30 at the Hilton Lafayette Hotel. The LANG Counter Drug Task Force provides assistance to support local, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout Louisiana by helping to reduce the demand for drugs through education programs, working with community action groups and serving as role models for at-risk youth.



Louisiana Air National Guardsman Lt. Col. Raymond C. Schindler, LANG Counter Drug Task Force coordinator, honors Soldiers and Airmen of the LANG Counter Drug Task Force.

National Guard

positive influence for kids

Counter Drug Task Force gives lessons in team building

By Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph
Louisiana National Guard State Public Affairs Representative

Members of the Louisiana National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force team provided the students of St. Cletus Catholic School in Gretna with a lesson in team building during a Sept. 18 field trip to the Ropes Challenge Course at Camp Villere in Slidell.

"This course has been a good way for us to reach out to the kids," said Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Timmreck of the Louisiana Air National Guard. "It teaches them how to work together as a team and allows for a chance to see how working in a structured environment helps them communicate in a better way."

The one-day course, part of the LANG Counter Drug Demand Reduction Program, is a combination of low and high obstacles designed to encourage growth at both team and individual levels. It focuses on teamwork, communication and problem solving skills by challenging the participants to work together to complete its various obstacles.

Timmreck explained that the course also teaches them skills that can be used throughout life to prevent them from making the wrong choices.



Louisiana Air National Guard Master Sgt. David A. Quintero of Destrehan, 159th Fighter Squadron weapons specialist, talks with students from Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy in Jefferson during a tour of the Louisiana National Guard's New Orleans Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse April 23. The students were invited to visit the facility for their hard work and involvement in the Stay on Track program, sponsored by the LANG's Counter Drug Program. Photo: Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph



Louisiana Army National Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Melissa V. Flatau of the LANG Counter Drug Demand Reduction program, watches as students from St. Cletus Catholic School in Gretna work together to overcome obstacles during a Sept. 18 field trip to the Ropes Challenge Course at Camp Villere in Slidell. The one-day course is a combination of low and high obstacles designed to encourage growth at both team and individual levels in teamwork, communication and problem solving skills. Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie



Louisiana Air National Guardsman Tech Sgt. Michael J. Timmreck of the LANG Counter Drug Demand Reduction program briefs students from St. Cletus Catholic School in Gretna during a Sept. 18 field trip to the Ropes Challenge Course at Camp Villere in Slidell. Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie



Students from St. Cletus Catholic School in Gretna use team work to overcome obstacles during a field trip to the Ropes Challenge Course at Camp Villere in Slidell Sept. 18. The one-day course, part of the LANG Counter Drug Demand Reduction Program, is a combination of low and high obstacles designed to encourage growth at both team and individual levels in teamwork, communication and problem solving skills. Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie

"We want to educate them on the negative effects of drug use but also provide them with life skills," he said. "As they get older, we hope they will be less likely to get involved in the wrong things; it helps keep them on a positive path."

For 13-year-old Rachel Lusk, the course allowed her a way to open up to her classmates.

"The course was really helpful and fun," Lusk said. "It taught me about team work and how to talk to my classmates."

"Seeing the kids' faces, their excitement and growth, makes my job that much more meaningful," said Sgt. 1st Class Melissa V. Flatau of the LANG. "It reassures me that our program and relationships with the students are making a positive influence in their lives."

Flatau is also an active part of the Too Good for Drugs Program, a school-based prevention program aimed at reducing the intent to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in middle and high school students. ■

Please visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos.



Two of the last three UH-1V Huey helicopters in the Louisiana National Guard take off for their final mission from Esler Airfield in Pineville, June 9. One of the three Hueys will continue to be used in Fort Hood, Texas, while the other two will be used as spare parts in Temple, Texas, and Fort Polk, La.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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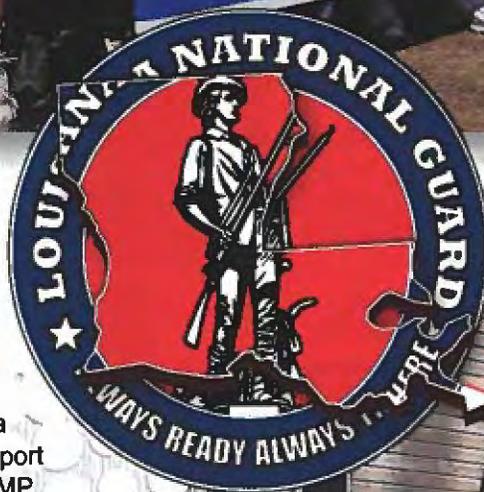
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Friends and family members of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 39th Military Police Company, 773rd Military Police Battalion, of Minden, wave flags and signs for loved ones returning from a year-long deployment during a homecoming reception at the Shreveport Regional Airport, Sept. 26. The 39th MP Company deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008.

Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Veladie, Louisiana National Guard State Public Affairs Office



Louisiana Army National Guardsman Capt. Michael Stevens, company commander for the 1084th Transportation Company, awards Sgt. Michael T. Hinrichs of New Orleans with a check for \$4,000 for his participation in the Guard's recruiting assistance program, after a pinning ceremony held during drill, Sept. 13. G-RAP is a program designed for traditional drill status Guardsmen who voluntarily apply to become eligible to serve as a recruiting assistant and earn extra money.

Photo: Sgt. Beyanka D. Joseph, Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative





Louisiana Army National Guardsman Lt. Col. Marc Kelly of Deville aims at his target before firing in the Patton Match during the annual The Adjutant General Marksmanship Matches at Camp Beauregard in Pineville the weekend of May 30-31. Kelly, the battalion commander of the 199th Brigade Support Battalion in Alexandria, was named to the Governor's Twenty in his first year of competition.

Marksmanship Matches prove competition is alive



Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Angela K. Fry
Louisiana National Guard Unit Public Affairs Representative

Louisiana National Guardsmen from across the state gunned down the competition in the annual The Adjutant General Marksmanship Matches the weekend of May 30-31, at Camp Beauregard in Pineville.

More than 65 members from the Army and Air National Guard gathered to compete in seven total matches, including three team matches and four individual matches, to promote marksmanship training and to gauge the LANG's overall marksmanship proficiency.

"This event provides a great opportunity for our troops to compete and improve their marksmanship skills," said Maj. Steve Nelson, a state training officer with Joint Forces Headquarters. "It also provides a great opportunity for these shooters to pass on that knowledge throughout the state."

The 2009 competition enlisted rivalry from 68 trained marksmen, the largest contingent of Airmen in the event's history, noted Nelson, a Leesville resident.

"Two-thirds of the competitors this year were new shooters," Nelson explained. "Half of last year's 12-member team will be deploying next year to support the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. These Soldiers will train the new team members. This allows the experienced shooters to provide that much-needed leadership to the new team members."

According to Master Sgt. Tommy McGee, LANG Marksmanship Team coordinator, the continued popularity of the event will ensure its future success.

Five Air Guardsmen were named to the Governor's Twenty, the largest group ever to receive the honor in a single year.

Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier, the state senior enlisted advisor, expressed sentiments on behalf of himself and Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of the LANG, at the close of the competition.

"Participation in this year's competition was great," Caillier



Louisiana Army National Guardsman Sgt. Mark Hutcheson of Bossier City competes in one of the rifle competitions. Hutcheson, a member of C Troop, 2/108th Cavalry Squadron in Coushatta, was named to the Governor's Twenty and received a third-place finish in the overall individual competition and third place in the overall rifle and pistol competitions.

said. "It's awesome to see this number of young Soldiers and Airmen competing."

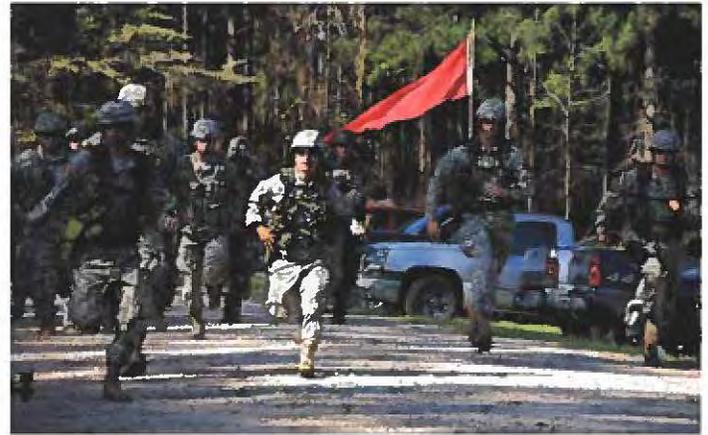
Caillier continued by noting that the involvement of female shooters in the competition is a testament to the composition of today's military.

Master Sgt. Nicole Volpi with the 159th Fighter Wing is the first female shooter to represent the Air Guard at the annual competition. Sgt. Kim Morgan with the 527th Engineer Battalion is one of a few female Soldiers to have competed on behalf of the Army throughout the years.

"Gender is no longer relative, as women are fighting side-by-side [with] men in Iraq and Afghanistan," Caillier said. "It is



Master Sgt. Nicole Volpi of the Louisiana Air National Guard scores the target of fellow competitor Staff Sgt. Matthew Spillers of the Louisiana Army National Guard during the annual The Adjutant General Marksmanship Matches at Camp Beauregard in Pineville the weekend of May 30-31. Volpi, with the 159th Fighter Wing, is the first female shooter to represent the Air Guard at the annual competition.



Marksmanship Matches at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, race to the firing line in the Patton Match, May 31. The 2009 competition enlisted rivalry from 68 trained marksmen, to include the largest contingent of Airmen in the event's history. Members from the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard gathered to compete in seven total matches, including three team matches and four individual matches, to promote marksmanship training and to gauge the LANG's overall marksmanship proficiency.

also great to see all of the families here involved with their support.”

The results of the matches will be used to recognize the Governor's Twenty, the top 20 shooters in the state. These top shooters are invited to join the LANG Marksmanship Team, which will represent the state at the Winston P. Wilson Combat Matches at Camp Robinson, Ark., in October.

The Wilson Combat Matches is a national competition of National Guard Soldiers who represent all 50 states and four territories.

The overall winner of this year's individual competition was Staff Sgt. Joseph Noe with the 199th Brigade Support Battalion in Alexandria. Noe, a distinguished rifleman and member of the national All Guard team, recently transferred to the LANG from Iowa to deploy with the 256th.

The overall team competition was won by Team A, 256th. The team, which also won the Patton Pistol Match, included Noe of Alexandria, Sgt. Steven Moore of Bastrop, Staff Sgt. Nathan Lacombe of Pineville and Lt. Col. Marc Kelly of Deville.

Moore finished second in the overall individual competition and took first-place honors in the Excellence in Competition match and the Close Quarter Combat match. Lacombe received a second-place finish in the overall individual pistol competition. All four members were named to the Governor's Twenty.

The team rifle competition was won by

Team C, 256th. This team consisted of Soldiers from C Troop, 2/108th Cavalry Squadron in Coushatta, and included Sgt. 1st Class Mack McCoy of Bossier City, Sgt. Mark Hutcheson of Bossier City, Sgt. Adam Ray of Shreveport and Spc. Quentin Koury of Bossier City.

Hutcheson finished in third place in the overall competition and third place

in the overall rifle and pistol competitions. McCoy finished in second place in the Run Down competition. McCoy, Hutcheson and Ray were named to the Governor's Twenty. ■

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UNITED CONCORDIA



Maj. Gen. Hunt B. Downer, assistant adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, stands with members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma after the unveiling of a plaque during a ceremony at Fort Pike in eastern New Orleans, June 14.

Louisiana National Guard

FORMS EVERLASTING BOND WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE

Story and photos by Sgt. Michael L. Owens
 Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

The Louisiana National Guard participated in a dedication ceremony last weekend held by the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma at Fort Pike in eastern New Orleans, in remembrance of the tribal members brought there in the 1800s.

"I am honored to celebrate our tribe in this special ceremony," said Enoch Kelly Haney, principal chief of the Seminole Nation. "In order to remain strong as a tribe, we have to remember everyone who came and died before us."

During the sacred and private ceremony, the Seminoles



honored their loved ones with songs, prayers and dances that symbolize love and peace, and invited the Guardsmen to join in on the occasion.

"I am also happy to share this moment with the Louisiana National Guard. They have really stepped up to help us, and we deeply appreciate their efforts," said Haney. "The Guardsmen have sincerely opened their arms to us and given us their peace and love."

The Seminoles also unveiled a plaque that honored Chief Huithli "Jumper" Emaltha, a Seminole war leader who died at the fort, along with other tribal members, during their relocation from Florida in the 1830s.

After the event at Fort Pike, everyone traveled to Jackson Barracks where Maj. Gen. Hunt B. Downer, assistant adjutant general of the LANG, gave a welcome speech and a briefing on the history of the LANG installation.

Downer was also presented with a gift that recognizes how the LANG and the Seminoles have built a great relationship with one another.

"What we have experienced today is what America is all about," said Downer. "We are all brothers in arms, and I am honored to have been invited to participate in this sacred day."

The tribe also blessed the area of Jackson Barracks where the remains of a Seminole woman were found during the installation's reconstruction.

"To know where you are going, you have to know where you have been. The fact that you are paying tribute to the past means that you are moving in a positive direction," said Downer.

Since 1997, the LANG has continued to work with the Indian nations who have any cultural affiliation with military land in Louisiana.

"The Louisiana National Guard maintains a government to government relationship with all federally recognized Indian tribes that have a cultural affiliation with Louisiana military lands," said retired Lt. Col. Michael Tarpley, the LANG Cultural Resources Program manager. "We have enjoyed working together with the tribal nations over the past twelve years to ensure protection of American Indian cultural sites and compliance with federal and state laws."



(Upper right) Maj. Gen. Hunt B. Downer, assistant adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and members of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma pay their respects June 14 at the spot where the remains of a Seminole woman were found during construction at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. The LANG participated in a dedication ceremony in remembrance of the tribal members brought to Fort Pike, located in eastern New Orleans, in the 1800s.

Throughout the entire day, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma expressed their gratitude towards the LANG's efforts to preserve all of their history and culture.

"The Louisiana National Guard plays a big part in recapturing our history and keeping our culture alive," said Haney. "As a result, this organization will be forever considered a part of us." ■

Please visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos.

Warrant Officer represents Louisiana in national video and ad

Story and photo by Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph
Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

For Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tammy M. Lang of the Louisiana National Guard, enlisting into the military was a sense of upholding patriotic duty, but it was a warrant officer who changed her life forever.

The Alexandria resident experienced yet another change as she got her feet wet, Hollywood style, representing the entire National Guard in a video and poster that highlight the benefits and opportunities of becoming a warrant officer.

"The concept for the video came from National Guard Bureau," said Lang. "They came up with a warrant officer recruiting 'Tool Kit' and part of that was the production of a DVD to assist warrant officer recruiters in explaining the process of becoming a warrant officer."

"I am absolutely honored to be in the video," she said when asked by a local television reporter.

Lang joked that although she gets "no special treatment," it has impacted her life, giving her the opportunity and challenge of speaking and "acting" in the video created to inform the Guard's target audience of the warrant officer program.

"Our target prospects are current enlisted members of the Army National Guard or warrant officers in other service branches such as active duty and the United States Army Reserve who are considering transferring to the National Guard," Lang said. "I've seen a draft of the video and it's really great; everyone did an outstanding job. I think it will be extremely effective for recruiting."

"The personal testimonies of the warrant officers in the video and just the concept itself are very clear – it is one of the most fulfilling things you could ever do. Every candidate that comes back from warrant officer candidate school says the same thing. 'Why did I wait so long?'"

Lang made the decision to become a warrant officer long before she knew the benefits involved in the transition. As a new Soldier, she met a warrant officer in her first unit who was the perfect example of the kind of Soldier she wanted to be.

"Chief Warrant Officer Four Theodore Slawinski was the first warrant officer I had ever

met, and he gave the same customer service to everyone, whether they were a private or a colonel," she said. "I was in awe over the way he treated Soldiers, and knew that I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I learned that if you just take time to help someone, it can make such a difference in their life. We have all been that person in need of help before."



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Lang enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army Reserves in Texas and began working with Louisiana Guardsmen on Task Force Jaguar in Honduras during a humanitarian mission building bridges and schools. She said she built such a great working relationship with Louisiana Guardsmen that she decided to move there and become a member of the Army National Guard.

Though her career and personal life brought her down different paths, including working as a cadre member for the Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard, working in various units and the office of the Joint Forces Headquarters Personnel Section for many years, and a deployment to Iraq with the 244th Aviation Battalion, she anxiously awaited the moment she would become eligible to make the transition to warrant officer.

"As with most people, I have had hurdles in my life to overcome: the timing just never seemed right," said the prior New Orleans resident who lost her home during Hurricane Katrina, "but I've overcome them and have managed to use the past as a spring board. I try to learn from it, rather than dwelling on it," she said.

In May 2007, 15 years after enlisting, Lang graduated from warrant officer candidate school and was finally pinned with the rank of warrant officer one. Not only did she fulfill her dream of becoming a warrant officer, but also to become a warrant officer recruiter. "It was a coincidence that a recruiting slot opened up when I graduated from warrant officer candidate school, but I knew immediately that was something I wanted to do," she said. "Warrant officer recruiting became the best platform for me to educate people on something that I am so passionate about. It has only propelled me to greater things personally and professionally."

"Ms. Lang has had a very big impact, not only on the warrant officer's program but the Louisiana National Guard as well," said Lang's supervisor, Maj. Jeff Musumeche of recruiting and retention. "She exemplifies a true role model for younger Soldiers in the military."

Lang said she knew when she earned her rank that she had to share this opportunity with others who do not know much about the program or how to apply for it. She said since the warrant officer branch is not as well known by the public as other commissioned officer ranks, she has had several people ask her what it meant and even some who thought it meant that she was involved in "warrants" for arrests. She laughs. "It's amazing how often I'm asked if warrant officers issue arrest warrants, but that just goes to show how much work we have to do in educating the general public about the warrant officer program. Everyone is a potential 'seed' for recruiting."

"Once I had the opportunity to apply for warrant officer candidate school, Lang was there to help me through the necessary steps that I needed to take," said a former recruit of Lang's, Warrant Officer Patricia M. Haynes, military personnel technician for the 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group. "She did an outstanding job and was enthusiastic through the whole process of me becoming a warrant officer, which motivated me as well. I think she is the perfect advocate for people who are interested in becoming a warrant officer."



Louisiana Army National Guard Soldier Staff Sgt. Raymond J. Harris looks over a warrant officer pamphlet May 8 with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tammy M. Lang, recruiter for the Louisiana National Guard Warrant Officer Corps at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. Harris is in the process of completing his packet for Warrant Officer Candidate School.

"Her desire to want more for the Soldiers shows the great qualities she has as a leader," added Musumeche. "She has excelled through her knowledge and education on both the military side as well as the civilian side and, I believe, in the future she will continue to accomplish greater things."

Since warrant officers are technical experts at their job, typically a Soldier must be a noncommissioned officer and have six to eight years experience in their military occupational specialty to become eligible. In the National Guard, there are 14 different fields Soldiers can specialize in. Each specialty has different criteria so Lang recommends anyone interested should talk to their local warrant officer recruiter or visit the National Guard website for more information.

The Army warrant officer is also a leader, trainer, and advisor. Through progressive levels of expertise in assignments, training, and education, warrant officers refine their field by staying in their specialty their entire careers - that's how they can be considered "experts." They support a wide range of Army missions throughout their career but work within their specific fields as advisors.

Lang says the rewards speak for themselves with an increase in pay and retirement benefits, educational benefits, and the possibility of an appointment bonus. "I think most warrant officers just love that they get to work in their chosen career fields and genuinely get satisfaction of assisting Soldiers and commanders. I know that was the driving force for me."

"This is one of the most fulfilling things that I have done so far," she stressed. "Words can't express how it feels to help others be able to achieve their goals and dreams." ■

Please visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos.

TRICARE's Web-based Assistance Program Demonstration for behavioral services fact sheet



The Web-based TRICARE Assistance Program, TRIAP, demonstration tests the effectiveness and efficiency of using Web-based technology to get information and employee assistance program behavioral services to certain beneficiaries. The goal is to identify mental health needs early and get beneficiaries referrals and access to medically necessary behavioral health services, especially in rural or underserved areas. The demonstration may determine if this level of service reduces the need for later, more intense, mental health care.

Eligibility for the TRIAP

All eligible beneficiaries must reside in the United States. Those eligible for TRIAP include:

- Active duty service members
- TRICARE Reserve Select enrollees
- Transitional Assistance Management Program – TAMP – eligible members
- Active duty family members – spouses of any age and eligible family members 18 years of age and older

Enrollment

No enrollment is required.

Benefit

Basically, TRIAP is a private, confidential counseling service accessed via the Web using online video chat technology to supplement the behavioral services currently available across the military health system. E-mail and instant messaging capabilities are included.

Eligible service members and family members can log on to TRIAP an unlimited number of times for supportive counseling or advice when dealing with personal problems impacting their work performance, health and well-being. TRIAP counseling allows for short-term, private, non-reportable discussions of personal life issues, relationships, crisis intervention, stress management, family issues, parent-child communications, family separations, dealing with anxiety, etc., on a one-to-one basis through a confidential relationship with a licensed professional.

Providers offering TRIAP services include TRICARE-authorized behavioral health providers, independently licensed masters-prepared clinicians, including, but not limited to, licensed psychotherapists, marriage and family counselors, and licensed professional counselors.

TRIAP does not cover medical management and psychoanalysis.

Here is how it works

Eligible beneficiaries contact their regional contractor to access TRIAP services. These can be reached through links on the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.mil/triap>, or by calling the regional contractor at:

- North Region: 1-800-404-5085
- South Region: No contact number, Web only
- West Region: 1-888-TRIWEST

The regional contractor's Web sites are:

- North Region <https://www.hnfs.net>
- South Region <http://www.humana-military.com>
- West Region <http://www.triwest.com>

Staff members then assess what level of care that best meets the beneficiary's needs. These may include:

- Using TRIAP counseling services, after determining if the beneficiary has the necessary hardware and software;
- TRIAP's Web based services are available 24/7.
- There is no limit on the number of times eligible members and their families can use TRIAP services for behavioral health assistance and non-medical counseling or advice.
- Web-based interactions such as e-mails, online video chat, or video instant messaging are TRIAP tools; e-mails can even be used to schedule appointments.
- TRIAP counselors may refer beneficiaries to a higher level of care if needed.
- Referral to Military OneSource for telephonic or face-to-face counseling.
- Military OneSource offers up to 12 confidential counseling sessions by phone to address short term, non-clinical needs.
- Face-to-face counseling with a military treatment facility or TRICARE-authorized, network behavioral health care provider with the appropriate referrals and authorizations.

If during the initial contact the regional contractor's staff determines that TRIAP counseling is a desirable and feasible alternative, an initial session with a licensed counselor occurs then or through a follow-up session within three business days of the initial contact:

- Beneficiaries need to provide requested beneficiary contact and demographic data for eligibility purposes and follow-up care; this information is kept strictly confidential.
- Regional contractors have processes for managing emergency, urgent and non-urgent calls when assessing or delivering services.

Audio-visual support requirement and additional information can be found on each contractor's Web site. Eligible beneficiaries can link to their regional contractor's TRIAP site and get more information about the program at <http://www.tricare.mil/TRIAP>.

Costs

There are no costs for TRIAP Services.

Sources

- Title 10, U.S.C, Chapter 55, Section 1092
- TRICARE Operations Manual, Chapter 20, Section 11

Important TRIAP contact information

TRICARE North Region
Health Net Federal Services, LLC
<https://www.hnfs.net>
1-800-404-5085

TRICARE South Region
Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc.
<http://www.humana-military.com>
1-800-444-5445
(main information number)

TRICARE West Region
TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp.
<http://www.triwest.com>
1-888-TRIWEST

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROVIDED to spouses of deployed service members

Military spouses of deployed military members are now able to receive additional benefits to continue or advance their education through the recent expansion of the Career Advancement Account program.

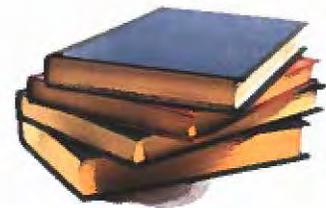
The CAA program provides assistance to military spouses seeking to gain the skills and credentials needed to pursue careers in high demand, high growth occupations.

The CAA grants up to \$6,000 of financial assistance for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment in changeable career fields. This includes associate, bachelor's, master's, doctoral and post-doctoral degree programs; continuing education classes; bar, CPA and other similar exams; and state certifications for teachers, medical professionals and other licensed professionals.

Like most new benefit programs, the CAA will be available at a limited number of military installations. The period of eligibility for spouses of Guard members is from the date of the alert or warning order for recall or mobilization, through activation and deployment until 180 days following demobilization.

For more information on the Career Advancement Account Program, visit <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>.

For more information on education assistance and benefits, contact 1st Lt. Austin Parker at austin.parker@us.army.mil, or 225-255-8355.



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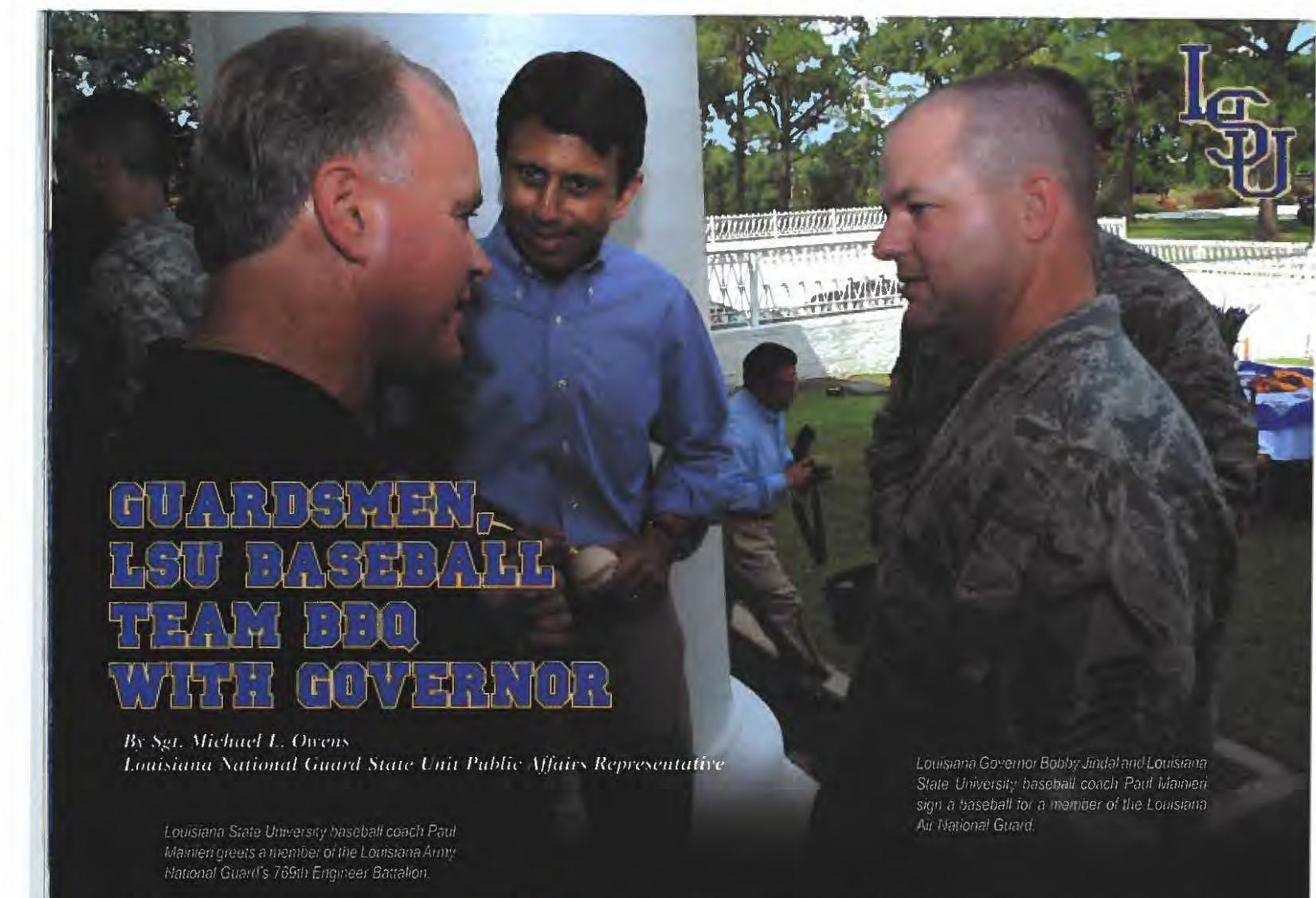
Maj. Lida Eichenauer
Cell: (225) 716-2531

Office: (225) 255-8663
ebony.carter@us.army.mil

Office: (318) 290-5382
lida.eichenauer@us.army.mil

Tips for victims on how to deal with sexual assault, abuse
Know what sexual assault, abuse and harassment are

1. Get to a safe place!
Do not change clothes, wash, or eat or drink anything!
2. Get medical treatment if you are sexually assaulted or hurt
3. Know you are not alone and you are not to blame
4. Contact your SARC for assistance
5. Consider telling the police about it



GUARDSMEN, LSU BASEBALL TEAM BBQ WITH GOVERNOR

By Sgt. Michael L. Owens
Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

Louisiana State University baseball coach Paul Mainieri greets a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 769th Engineer Battalion.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and Louisiana State University baseball coach Paul Mainieri sign a baseball for a member of the Louisiana Air National Guard.



Members of the Louisiana National Guard and Louisiana State University cheerleading squad enjoy some Texas-style barbecue at the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal invited members of the Louisiana National Guard, Louisiana State University baseball coach Paul Mainieri, outfielder Blake Dean and pitcher Anthony Ranaudo to a Texas-style barbecue Aug. 14 at the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge.

The barbecue was a celebration to honor the LSU baseball team for beating the Texas Longhorns in the College World Series.

"Today will be a great celebration," said Jindal. "Not only will we have the players coming, we have some of our troops as well."

Members of both the Army and Air Guard were invited to indulge in the feast sent from Texas Governor Rick Perry.

"This is a great privilege to be here with the governor, LSU baseball team and my fellow Guardsmen," said Sgt. 1st Class Carl D. Griffin, an assistant operations noncommissioned officer for the 769th Engineer Battalion. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I am excited to be a part of it."

"This is one of the most satisfying meals I have had in a long time," said coach Mainieri. "We are honored to join the governor and the National Guard; we are very proud to represent the people of our great state."

Please visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos. ■

AIR GUARD'S SUPPORT FLIGHTS JOIN FORCES



By Tech. Sgt. Tallace L. Madina
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Representative

Members of the 159th Services Flight and Mission Support Flight stand in formation during the standing up of the Force Support Squadron which merges the Services and Mission Support flights at a ceremony on the Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, Oct. 3.
Photos: Senior Airman Jeffrey I. Barton

An official ceremony merging the Louisiana Air National Guard's Services Flight and Mission Support Flight into the new 159th Fighter Wing Force Support Squadron was held Oct. 3.

"This is a very historic time for the Fighter Wing," said Brig. Gen. J. Ben Soileau, chief of staff for the LAANG. "The combining of mission support and services is not the loss of two flights but the gaining of a squadron."

The new squadron will be commanded by Maj. Elisa Blackwell, commander of the Services Flight prior to the combination of flights.

"I look forward to working jointly with Capt. Lionel Jones, who is the former commander of the Mission Support Flight and now Operations Officer for the new squadron," said Blackwell. "We have our challenges ahead of us but have already begun to develop ideas in conjunction with our senior leadership so that this transition will go smoothly."

Air Force wide implementation of the unifications began in January 2008 after being tested at select bases.

Combined, these newly streamlined organizations will increase efficiency while providing exemplary customer service, community support and bettering the Air Force quality of life. ■

Please visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/LAANG> for the latest Louisiana National Guard releases, photos and videos.



The 159th Mission Support Group First Sergeant, Master Sgt. Craig Juan, holds the 159th Mission Support Flight flag while the 159th MSG Vice Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Callahan, and the former 159 MSF Commander, Capt. Lionel Jones, roll up the flag during the Force Support Squadron. The rolling up of the flag symbolizes the standing down of the 159 MSF.



The 159th Mission Support Group Vice Commander, Lt. Col. Brian Callahan, passes the 159th Force Support Squadron flag to the new Squadron Commander, Maj. Elisa Blackwell, during the 159th FSS stand up ceremony. The passing of the flag is used to symbolize Major Blackwell's assumption of command.

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More than 100 Louisiana National Guardsmen march onto the field for the first Zachary High School home football game Sept. 11, during a special celebration honoring local first responders on the eighth anniversary of 9/11. The LANG also donated 1,500 mini flags, handed out to attendees of the game, plus other items such as National Guard cups used at the concession stand for the entire football season.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou, Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative





HAMMOND

The 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion in Hammond was recognized by the U.S. Army for its readiness efforts with its fleet of UH-60 Black Hawks.

At a ceremony in St. Louis, Mo., the 1-244th received the 2008 Master Readiness Award as the top assault battalion in the National Guard. This award is given each year for the highest overall operational readiness rate on their aircraft as reported on the monthly operational readiness reports submitted to the National Guard Bureau and the Army.

The 1-244th has received this award for master readiness three times in the past five years.

CARVILLE

The Louisiana National Guard 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment hosted a child safety seat inspection for families at Gillis W. Long Center in Carville during National Seat Check Sept. 12.

"Historically, 80 to 90 percent of child restraints that are in use have been installed improperly," said 1st Lt. Johnnie L. Brown Jr., a Soldier with the 241st and a Louisiana Senior State Trooper. "This can greatly affect the safety of a child."

Several child passenger seat technicians from the Louisiana Passenger Safety Task Force, Safety Council for Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital and the Office of Public Health came out to help support the seat check.

"Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of deaths in the state," said Crystal H. Pichon, a child passenger safety instructor who volunteered her time to help with the inspections. "I love kids, and I want to look out for their safety and well-being."

PINEVILLE

The Louisiana National Guard said a fond farewell to the last of its UH-1V Huey helicopters, as they departed for Killeen, Texas, from Esler Field in Pineville June 9.

More commonly known as the Huey, the UH-1V has been the workhorse of the Army since the Vietnam War. The Louisiana Army National Guard has utilized the helicopters since the 1960s.

The Huey has provided Louisiana with medevac, firefighting, troop and cargo transport and emergency response flights. During Hurricane Katrina, the Huey helicopters flew more than 200 hours of operation in five days where they hoisted 144 trapped people and moved more than 600 people from flooded areas.

"They call the Huey the legacy aircraft," said 1st Sgt. Gregory Patin of the 812th Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance), a 22-year veteran of flying the Huey.

"Anyone that has ever flown in a Huey knows the history and can appreciate everything that they have done."

ZACHARY

More than 100 Louisiana National Guardsmen took to the field for the first Zachary High School home football game during a special celebration honoring local first responders on the eighth anniversary of 9-11.

Louisiana Guardsman Staff Sgt. Joseph Milton, recruiting and retention noncommissioned officer, partnered with Zachary Chief of Police John Herty Jr. and Zachary High School officials in organizing this event, which included food and tickets to the game.

"The Guard wanted a way to show the school that we are here for them, and the school wanted to show their support for us," said Milton, a Zachary High graduate. "As a community, we wanted a chance to remember 9-11 and celebrate Patriot Day."

Along with the 769th Engineer Battalion Soldiers, local police and firefighters were on hand.

"Our school and students are devoted to serving the community because the community serves us, and we wanted to show our thanks," said Scott Devillier, principal of Zachary High School.

The Louisiana National Guard also donated 1,500 mini flags – handed out to game attendees – as well as other items, such as the National Guard cups used at the concession stand for the entire football season.

MOORINGSPOUT

With one water plant down and the other not operating at full capacity, the small town of Mooringsport needed assistance, and the Louisiana Army National Guard stepped up to help.

The 199th Brigade Support Battalion in Alexandria, receiving the assignment from the Joint Operations Center on Camp Beauregard, under the direction of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, assisted the town in the evening of June 18, during its annual training.

Though conducting pre-mobilization training in preparation for deployment, the 199th was able to have three 5,000-gallon water tankers en route to help quench the thirst of the Caddo Parish community before daylight the following morning.

The LANG Soldiers remained on site, transporting at least 50,000 gallons daily until the plant became self-sustaining.

ALEXANDRIA

More than 50 Louisiana National Guardsmen from the 2228th Military Police Company and 773rd Military Police Battalion at Camp Beauregard in Pineville provided their services to the Food Bank of Central Louisiana in Alexandria this summer.

Soldiers labeled cans and packed food boxes to be distributed to senior citizens of central Louisiana. Capt. Tonya D. Hill with the 773rd stressed the importance of the opportunity to provide this type of community service.

"Community outreach programs give Soldiers another opportunity to support the residents of Louisiana," Hill said. "The community and workers at the food bank gave thanks and showed their appreciation for the Louisiana Army National Guard."

The Soldiers labeled several pallets of canned salmon and yams and built food boxes with the staple list of items including rice, sugar, canned fruits, canned vegetables and snacks.

HAMMOND

Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group gathered at the Hammond Army Aviation Facility to bid farewell to family and friends during a deployment ceremony near the Northshore Regional Airport in Hammond June 5.

Approximately 40 Guardsmen will begin training at Camp Shelby, Miss., in preparation for their year-long deployment in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

For many of these Soldiers, this will be their second or third deployment in support of operations in the Middle East.

While deployed, the 204th's mission will be to provide command and control, staff planning, supervision and standardization of all airfields and air traffic in Iraq and surrounding areas. They will serve as subject matter experts in airfield and air traffic control functions.

LAFAYETTE

Two members of the Louisiana National Guard were presented with the Distinguished Citizen Award by Lafayette city officials at a city council meeting at the Consolidated Government Building in Lafayette June 23.

Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier, senior enlisted advisor for the LANG, and Chief Master Sgt. David W. Glaude, a quality assurance supervisor for the 159th Fighter Wing, were presented with this prestigious award by council Chairman Purvis Morrison and District Four Councilman Kenneth P. Boudreaux.

"This is a great day for the city of Lafayette," said Morrison. "These two gentlemen have risen through the enlisted ranks and have become great leaders within the Louisiana National Guard. Lafayette is very proud."

Caillier, who worked as a Lafayette police officer before becoming a full-time Guardsman,

became the second member of his family to receive this honor.

Glaude spent many years as a Lafayette fireman before leaving his post to serve as a full-time Guardsman for the 159th.

MARKSVILLE

Louisiana Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1020th Vertical Engineer Company, 527th Engineer Battalion in Marksville, recently participated in the Paragon Casino Employee Appreciation Day in Marksville.

The LANG rock wall was set up to challenge and inspire the employees to reach for new heights.

"This was my first time to do this," said Tiffany Tumminello, a VIP representative for the casino. "My arms are tired, but it was fun. Ringing that bell was such a huge accomplishment for me, and I really enjoyed it."

The local Guardsmen provided community goodwill and thanked the employees of Paragon for the support they continue to show the LANG.

"We support the community and show that we are here for them," said Spc. Richard A. DeCuir of Marksville. "The community and surrounding areas show their support by inviting us to events like this."

NEW ORLEANS

Louisiana Army National Guard's 1st Battalion of the 244th Aviation Regiment welcomed a new commander, Lt. Col. Johnathan W. Ballard Sr., in an official ceremony at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans July 12.

Ballard, a native of Geismar, assumed command from Lt. Col. Patrick R. Bossetta, who commanded the battalion during its Iraq deployment in 2008.

Bossetta will become the deputy commander of the State Aviation Command.

The 1-244th mobilized twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and logged more than 15,000 flying hours this year while serving overseas.

The battalion is located at the Hammond Northshore Regional Airport in Hammond and has Soldiers that live across Louisiana.

MINDEN

Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's 1083rd Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, said farewell to family and friends at a deployment ceremony held at the Minden Civic Center May 27.

Soldiers and their family members were thanked for their support and sacrifices by distinguished guest U.S. Congressman John Fleming.

"Each and every one of you here today in uniform is my hero, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continuous efforts for this country," said Fleming. "It's through your sacrifices and your bravery of putting your life on the line that ensures our freedoms."

Approximately 170 Soldiers from the LANG and additional troops from outside the state departed for Camp Atterbury, Ind., to begin

training for their one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1083rd's mission in Iraq will include providing heavy lift transportation support and assets to the theater of operations.

CARVILLE

After eight weeks of beating the heat and fighting off the pounds, members of the Louisiana National Guard and staff members came together to see who would emerge as the winner of the installation's "biggest loser competition" during a luncheon ceremony at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville July 14.

In an effort to encourage employees to work out and eat healthier, Sgt. Mackenzie K. Gehbauer Eady, the competition manager, decided to start her own version of NBC's hit show, *The Biggest Loser*.

Around 50 competitors signed up for the weight loss competition and formed nine teams consisting of two to 10 members each.

Participants were given the option to select a diet and workout plan of their choice, but were encouraged to choose a plan that was both healthy and well balanced. The contestants were weighed in weekly to determine their body mass index and to track their progress.

PINEVILLE

Louisiana Army National Guardsman Col. Randall "Beau" Bradford of Alexandria was promoted to the rank of colonel by Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the LANG, during a pinning ceremony at the Stafford House on Camp Beauregard in Pineville Aug. 7.

Bradford currently serves as the Joint Director of Military Support for the Louisiana National Guard.

While deployed to Iraq, he served as the commander of the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, which conducted a broad security and logistics mission. The 165th was the largest battalion in theater and returned home in December 2008 after a 12-month tour.

Bradford is a 15-year veteran of the LANG and was awarded the Bronze Star for his time in Iraq. He has also received five Meritorious Service Medals from his missions with Hurricane Katrina relief and Task Force Noble Eagle.

RESERVE

Soldiers of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 1084th Transportation Company in Reserve were promoted and received awards and checks by the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during September drill.

"These Soldiers were promoted in recognition of the progress they have made throughout the year," said 1st Sgt. Todd M. Marchand, the 1084th's top noncommissioned officer. "This is a perfect example of what happens when you have outstanding Soldiers who perform at high standards."

Following the pinning ceremony, Pfc. Christopher J. Frickey of Laplace and Sgt. Michael T. Hinrichs of New Orleans received checks for their participation in the Guard's recruiting as-

stance program.

Eleven Soldiers were also awarded with the Army Achievement Medal for their assistance in supporting the California Army National Guard's Task Force Grizzly Counter Drug-Border Patrol mission in San Diego, Calif.

The 1084th provides transportation support for federal, state and local missions throughout Louisiana.

BATON ROUGE

Soldiers from the Louisiana Army National Guard's 927th Engineer (Sapper) Company, 769th Engineer Battalion, shrugged off the persistent Louisiana rain while conducting rigorous training at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville Sept. 12.

The training entailed dismounted patrol marches, obstacle course maneuvers, rock wall climbing and rappelling operations. The 927th, which recently returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, took to the training activities with determination and a keen sense of purpose as they sought to hone skills unique to their sapper mission.

"Sappers are basically the multi-taskers of the combat engineer branch. We do everything – route clearance, demolition missions, obstacle emplacement and removal, as well as mountaineering, air assault and waterborne operations," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul D. Mounts of Zachary, the 927th's operations sergeant.

The 927th Engineer (Sapper) Company was organized in 2006 and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from March 2008 to March 2009. While in Afghanistan, the 927th provided route and clearance support throughout the Bagram and Jalalbad areas of operation.

SHREVEPORT

Approximately 97 military policemen from the Louisiana Army National Guard's 39th Military Police Company, 773rd Military Police Battalion, who deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008, were welcomed home by Gov. Bobby Jindal, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the LANG, and Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier, senior enlisted advisor of the LANG, as they stepped off the plane Sept. 26.

While deployed, the 39th, based at Camp Minden, successfully completed more than 700 combat missions throughout Iraq without serious injuries or loss of life.

They performed Police Transition Team operations by assisting with logistics, training and maintaining supplies on hand at local police stations in Baghdad, while also working with the Iraqi police conducting motor patrols, main supply route reconnaissance and establishment, and traffic control points.

Additionally, the company also trained and staffed the Police Center of Excellence, an academy where advanced crime scene and investigative techniques are taught to Iraqi police, and assisted in the center's relinquishment from coalition forces' control to Iraq provincial police jurisdiction and oversight. ■

Louisiana Army National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Marvin Seets of the Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element instructs a team of Soldiers on the markings of the land navigation course at the starting pylon. The course is located at Camp Beauregard, Pineville, La.

Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valatie, Louisiana National Guard State Public Affairs Office



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