

PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

SUMMER 2009



page 4

**Guardsman saves
two lives**

page 6

**LANG tests
disaster readiness**

page 11

**Air Guard holds
first Hometown Heroes
Salute Awards Ceremony**

page 12

**Louisiana Soldier
wins Regional Soldier
of the Year Competition**





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2 A LETTER FROM THE STATE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR

4 GUARDSMAN SAVES TWO LIVES IN A MOMENT'S NOTICE

6 LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD TESTS DISASTER READINESS

9 G-RAP PAYS OFF FOR THREE GUARD SOLDIERS

10 LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD HOLDS FIRST JOINT YELLOW RIBBON EVENT

11 AIR GUARD HOLDS FIRST HOMETOWN HEROES SALUTE AWARDS CEREMONY

12 LOUISIANA SOLDIER WINS REGIONAL SOLDIER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

14 TASK FORCE GATOR LEAVES ITS MARK ON NEW ORLEANS

15 FROM ACUs TO POLICE BLUES

16 BEFORE YOU CONTACT YOUR INSPECTOR GENERAL

20 AROUND THE STATE

22 AIR GUARD COMPLETES SIMULATED DEPLOYMENT TRAINING

24 WARRIOR SUPPORT NEWS

26 EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICE



Louisiana Army National Guardsman Spc. Corey Donaldson of the 928th Sapper Company, 769th Engineer Battalion, stands to be recognized after being named winner of the regional Soldier of the Year competition held in Missouri, April 30-May 2.

Cover Photo: Sgt. Jon E. Dougherty

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A letter from the State Senior Enlisted Advisor



Guardsmen,

The Department of the Army has deemed 2009 the "Year of the NCO," as it has been over 20 years since its last recognition. Since 2001, we have been at war, and many NCOs and warriors have done great things in the face of adversity. Bringing awareness of the NCO Corps is highly important to not only the military, but to the civilian sector and other countries as well. What is an NCO? What do NCOs do? Why are NCOs known as the backbone of the Army? I challenge all of you to keep this in mind throughout your career.

We recently had a successful Sergeants Major banquet, and I would like to personally congratulate all of the noncommissioned officers, Soldiers and Airmen who were given awards at the ceremony. A special recognition is needed for our Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year, who represented the state of Louisiana at the regional competition in Missouri. Staff Sgt. Aja Lanclos placed third overall in a close race, and Spc. Corey Donaldson took first place. Spc. Donaldson will move on to compete at the national level in August with the support of our Guard behind him every step of the way.

A key issue I would like to stress is the importance of Soldier and Airmen career development and progression. It is your personal responsibility to become as involved as possible with your EPS packets.....educate and familiarize yourselves on it through the mentor system. There needs to be a better hands-on

approach to take more of an interest in YOUR own career. New NCOs should make a point to get with their leadership, and vice-versa, to ensure you are capturing everything associated with the point system. Guardsmen can easily raise their points through higher scores on their physical training, weapons qualification, civilian education.....to name a few.

Due to the high number of deployments and hurricanes, it is extremely important that you are good to go on your personal readiness. Having a plan in place well before a deployment or emergency will help ease the stresses and prevent any problems that you or your family may incur. I want all Soldiers and Airmen to talk to their families about the "what ifs" and become familiarized with the programs and benefits that are available to you, such as Family Readiness Groups (FRG), Tricare medical insurance, legal, and finance.

My goal is for each of you to understand that you are responsible for your own career and accomplishment.....which I hope is long and successful. As we move into the summer months and annual training periods, safety must be a top priority.

- Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier

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Guardman saves two lives in a moment's notice

By 2nd Lt. Angela K. Fry
State Unit Public Affairs Representative



As a Louisiana National Guard engineer, Pfc. Jeremy Easley is trained as a general construction equipment operator. But his training as a Soldier prepared this Franklinton, La., resident for the life-threatening events he faced on May 13.

As Easley was working in the maintenance shop for the Franklinton Country Club, the sounds of a motorized glider taking off in the distance were apparent. The Guardsman witnessed the glider rise, take an immediate nose-dive, then crash to the ground in an explosion.

"All I thought was...react," explained Easley, a member of the 843rd Engineer Company, 205th Engineer Battalion. "My military training immediately kicked in."

Easley said that he called 911 and then ran to the small airport located across from the golf course to offer assistance in any way possible. As he approached the glider, he saw the two passengers tangled in the wires and straps of the aircraft.

Despite the men's yells of agony, Easley worked around protruding bones to untangle them from the mess of wires. At that point, the 20-year-old noticed fuel pouring onto the men and their wounds and dragged the passengers to safety, one-by-one, before the glider potentially exploded.

After both men had been dragged from the aircraft, Easley explained that he attempted to shut off its engine before it ignited the fuel and everyone in the general vicinity. Unable to disengage the engine, he ripped out the electrical system before further injuries could occur.

"I did what I had to do," said Easley. "This is why I joined the Louisiana National Guard: to protect my country, my state and the people...no matter what occurs."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Scott R. Sawyer, the readiness noncommissioned officer for the 843rd, Easley's



Louisiana National Guardsman Pfc. Jeremy Easley, 843rd Engineer Company

An electric glider lies in pieces after nose diving into the ground. Two men were rescued immediately following the crash by Louisiana National Guardsman Pfc. Jeremy Easley.

reaction is no surprise to the Soldiers who serve with him.

"He represents the type of Soldier we are proud to have as a member of our unit," Sawyer added. "It's no surprise that he would react the way he did with little or no regard to his own personal safety."

Sawyer described Easley's work ethic in a fashion that is fitting with the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"Pfc. Easley is a Soldier in great standing with the unit," he added. "He

is always on time for drill and is willing to accomplish any task given to him, as was apparent today."

The day after the incident, Easley left the U.S. to complete overseas deployment training with his unit in Hohenfels, Germany. Upon his return, he will complete the LANG Honor Guard training to provide funeral honors for his fallen comrades. ■

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LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD TESTS DISASTER READINESS

Training exercises conducted in New Orleans, Hackberry, throughout state



Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company rescue a dog during a simulated disaster response exercise at the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans, April 4. The purpose of this exercise was to test the current LANG response plan, identify deficiencies and evaluate their ability to respond to multiple missions simultaneously prior to the 2009 hurricane season.

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

By Staff Sgt. Jerry Rushing and Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph

The Louisiana National Guard, in coordination with local, state and federal emergency management agencies, teamed up to test its disaster response capabilities at training exercises around the state April 4, with major operations at the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans and in Hackberry, La.

The exercise tested the LANG's response plan to identify deficiencies prior to the 2009 hurricane season and also to evaluate the LANG's ability to respond to multiple missions simultaneously.

1. Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct watercraft search and rescue missions and medical aid to role-playing evacuees during a disaster response exercise in preparation for the 2009 hurricane season in Hackberry, April 4. The purpose of the exercise was to test the LANG's current disaster response plan and identify deficiencies through the execution of multiple, concurrent missions.

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



"Training exercises like these help us to evaluate our overall plan and enable us to make the necessary modifications as needed," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, LANG Adjutant General. "A lot of the times we focus on hurricanes, but it has to be an all-hazards approach. This exercise allows us to showcase just that, in order to respond to whatever the situation may be."

"This exercise is to validate our hurricane exercise plan and to make sure that it fits well with the state emergency response plan," added Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, LANG director of the joint staff. "We want to make sure that our citizens know that we are prepared and able to come to their aid."

The training showcased the LANG's ability to respond quickly to any and all emergency situations by conducting simulated air, water and ground search and rescue operations, while also maintaining sound coordination throughout.

"Our overall goal is to continue to refine our services and challenge our Soldiers so that they can know what to expect and how to react in case we have to respond," stressed Capt. Joshua Davis, commander of the 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Marrero, La. "They are put in realistic situations to define what we need to improve on, and it gives them a chance to showcase the tools that they have been taught."

Other areas of training tested included security training, commodities distribution and interoperability communication operations.

"Good communication enables us to coordinate better between ourselves and other agencies that we work closely with," said Col. John Angelloz, officer in charge of the disaster response exercise. "If you



2. Members of the Louisiana National Guard's State Aviation Command rescue evacuees during a simulated disaster response exercise at the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans, April 4. The purpose of this exercise was to test the current LANG response plan, identify deficiencies and evaluate their ability to respond to multiple missions simultaneously prior to the 2009 hurricane season. Photo: Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph, Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

3. Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company rescue evacuees during a simulated disaster response exercise at the Lakefront Airport in New Orleans, April 4. The purpose of this exercise was to test the current LANG response plan, identify deficiencies and evaluate their ability to respond to multiple missions simultaneously prior to the 2009 hurricane season. Photo: Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph, Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative



can communicate, and everyone is clear on what has to be done, you can always make a positive impact on any situation."

With the addition of the more enhanced training, Soldiers say that they are more capable of assisting and saving lives during disasters.

"It gives us a better insight on how our unit operates and reiterates the fact that we want our guys to be well trained and know what they are doing," added Staff Sgt. Bobby G. Branton of the State Aviation Command in Pineville, La.

This training exercise was meant to not only test the level of preparedness, but to provide an opportunity for each participating agency to become familiar with each other and their ways of aiding and approaching emergencies.

"It's just tremendous to see the local, state and federal agencies come out to assist the National Guard with the training exercise," said Landreneau. "It really demonstrates how important it is to have a joint coordinated effort and support to be able to do a better job for

the citizens of our state."

"I feel very confident that we'll be more ready than before because of the partnerships that are represented here today," added Mark Cooper, director of the Governor's Office for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. "We can have all the plans in the world, but if we don't have the partnerships and communications, we are not going to be successful."

Hackberry was selected as the site to be used in Cameron Parish after Hurricane Ike left a majority of homes flooded and many citizens stranded in high water.

Hackberry High School served as the Incident Command Post from which all helicopter "lily pad," search and rescue, and commodities distribution operations were directed.

"Our mission in Hackberry is to handle the lily pad operations," said Capt. Jeremy D. Falanga, commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "The lily pad is a temporary staging area

Continued on page 8

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for evacuees who are rescued; from here, we prepare to move them to a safe place.”

“It means so much to the residents of Cameron Parish,” said Magnus “Sonny” McGee, president of the Cameron Parish Police Jury. “It’s great to have the Guard’s presence here in Hackberry. It makes everyone feel more at ease if another hurricane comes this way.”

Participating agencies included the Governor’s Office for Homeland Security and Emergency Preparation, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana State Police Department, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana Department of Transportation, the Louisiana SPCA and more. ■

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G-RAP pays off for three Guard Soldiers

Recruiting checks and service ribbons serve as reminder of hard work

By Spc. Scott D. Longstreet, State Unit Public Affairs Representative

Three Louisiana National Guard Soldiers received checks for thousands of dollars and Louisiana Achievement Ribbons for their recruiting efforts during a recent ceremony at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La.

Guard Soldiers who are in a traditional one-weekend-a-month drilling status and retirees of the Army National Guard with 20 or more years of service are currently able to participate in the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program. The program was also made available to Active Guard Reserve enlisted Soldiers, military technicians, currently mobilized ARNG members and other Soldiers on full-time status.

Zachary, La., native Pfc. Justin W. Arnone, of the 927th Sapper Company, 769th Engineer Battalion, received a check for \$16,000 for the eight recruits he assisted in enlisting into the LANG. The part-time member of the Guard works for Acadian Ambulance Services in the civilian sector.

"I talk to everyone, everywhere I go," he said. "It takes experience to get someone interested, and the more you talk to that person, the more you learn about them and how to determine what their wants and needs are."

Arnone, a combat medic, learned all he possibly could about the Guard and its benefits.

"I have gone out with recruiters to see what they say and do with potential recruits," he added. "It is like going down-range without ammunition, you have to school yourself on the National Guard and its benefits to best prepare you."

Spc. Nicole L. Hauffe of the 1087th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, received \$8,000 for her four recruits. The Pineville, La., native currently serves as the Youth Challenge Program operations manager at Camp Beauregard.

"Recruits usually come up to me when I am in uniform or National Guard apparel and ask about the Guard," said Hauffe. "Being in uniform or just wearing a Guard shirt in public draws attention."

Spc. Taylor E. Ballard with the 756th Medical Company, 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, also received a check for \$8,000 for her recruiting efforts.

"I went to school with most of the people who I talked to," the Pollock, La., native said. "I was an at-risk youth, and the people interested in what the Guard has to offer see where I've come from to where I am now," she added. "Much of that is due to the Guard, and they decide to look into joining."

Col. Jonathan T. Ball, Recruiting and Retention commander, assisted in presenting the checks to the three Soldiers.



Pineville, La., native Spc. Nicole L. Hauffe of the Louisiana National Guard's 1087th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, receives an \$8,000 check for the four Soldiers she assisted in enlisting into the Guard in a recent ceremony at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La. She also received the Louisiana Achievement Ribbon for her Recruiting Assistance Program efforts. The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, along with State Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier, Recruiting and Retention Commander Col. Jonathan T. Ball and RRC Deputy Lt. Col. Lee W. Hopkins presented her with the check.

Photos: Spc. Scott D. Longstreet, State Unit Public Affairs Representative



Pollock, La., native Spc. Taylor E. Ballard of the Louisiana National Guard's 756th Medical Company, 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, receives the Louisiana Achievement Ribbon for Guard Recruiting Assistance Program efforts in a recent ceremony at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La. She also received an \$8,000 check for the four Soldiers she assisted in enlisting into the LANG. Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the Adjutant General of the LANG, presented her with the check and ribbon.

"We are renewing our focus on the G-RAP program," said Ball, the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander. "We want the units to be excited about these recruiting events. Approximately 53 percent of our recruiting gains come from G-RAP."

To enroll in G-RAP or to obtain additional information, please visit the G-RAP website at <http://www.guardrecruiting-assistant.com/>. ■

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

Louisiana National Guard holds first joint Yellow Ribbon event

Story and photos by Sgt. Michael L. Owens
State Public Affairs Representative

Support Our Troops



The Louisiana National Guard held its first post-deployment training for both Army and Air Guardsmen and their families at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans this May.

This Yellow Ribbon, or reintegration, training was unique because it was the first time that both Army and Air Guardsmen attended and participated in the event together.

On Friday evening, the Guardsmen and their family members strolled into the elegant hotel and received their complimentary hotel rooms in anticipation of an important but fun weekend.

"We chose New Orleans because many of the Guardsmen are from this area, and it is an exciting place to spend the weekend," said Col. John R. Angelloz, director of the LANG's reintegration office.

Many of the Airmen and Soldiers who attended were deployed for most or all of 2008 and have been home for at least three to six months.

"Once the Soldiers redeploy, we give them about three months to ease themselves back into life as they knew it prior to leaving," said Angelloz. "After that time, we bring them together so they, along with their loved-ones, can discuss the issues and challenges that came with adjusting back to civilian life."

After spending an evening enjoying the sights in and around the Crescent City, everyone gathered to begin their training.

Throughout the three-day event, attendees participated in classes that help with post-deployment issues and a resource fair that allowed them to learn of every benefit allotted to veterans.

"When Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the LANG adjutant general, and his unit returned from Operation Desert Storm,

there were no resources available for them," said Angelloz. "He did not want the same to happen for the men and women that deployed for Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom."

One of the sessions the Soldiers and Airmen attended was a "round-robin" type discussion on anger management. In this class, the Guardsmen and families introduced themselves to one another and talked about the challenges of being deployed or having a loved-one away for an extended period.

"Teaching this class for the first time in a joint environment was an awesome experience for me," said LANG Chaplain Maj. Stephen A. Sanders. "It makes you realize that even though these men and women wear different uniforms, the problems they face are very similar in nature."

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard, pins the Louisiana War Cross on Col. Joanne Sheridan at the LANG's first combined Freedom Salute and Hometown Hero's awards ceremony, which was the final event at the joint Yellow Ribbon reintegration training at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, 15-17 May. Yellow Ribbon training is designed to help Guardsmen and their families cope with returning to a normal life after a deployment.

Continued on page 18



Louisiana Air National Guardsman Airman 1st Class Emily Galloway receives a Hometown Heroes Salute Award from Command Sgt. Major Tommy Caillier, the state senior enlisted advisor, at a joint Freedom Salute and Hometown Heroes Awards Ceremony at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, May 17.

Photo: Senior Airman Jeffrey Baione, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Air Guard holds first Hometown Heroes Salute Awards Ceremony

By Senior Airman Rosie Stahl
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Representative

In conjunction with Louisiana's Army National Guard Freedom Salute Award Ceremony, the Louisiana Air National Guard honored 51 Airmen and their families in the first-ever Hometown Heroes Salute Award Ceremony at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, May 17, at the end of a weekend filled with reintegration training.

In August 2008, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, sanctioned the ANG Hometown Heroes Salute recognition program. The purpose of this program is to celebrate and honor Airmen, families, communities and those special supporters who have significantly contributed to supporting our Airmen and the ANG's mission.

Recognized in this ceremony are Guardsmen who have deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and other peacekeeping operations across the globe.

Command Chief Master Sgt. James E. Downing, LANG's Air senior enlisted advisor, was instrumental in putting on the ceremony. Downing met with the Salute Program Manager last November at a

Continued on page 18



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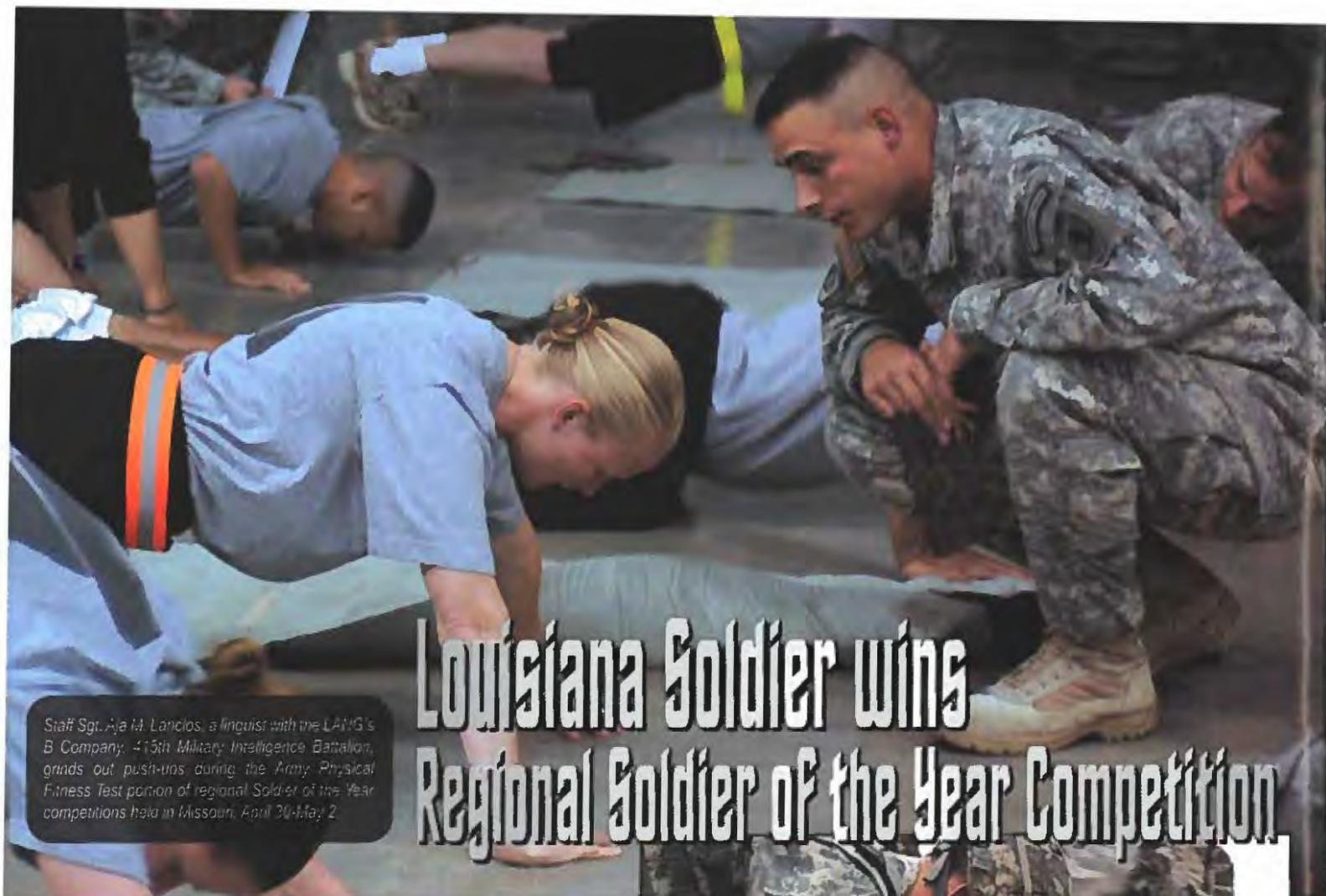
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Staff Sgt. Aja M. Lanclos, a linguist with the LANG's B Company, 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, grinds out push-ups during the Army Physical Fitness Test portion of regional Soldier of the Year competitions held in Missouri, April 30-May 2.

Louisiana Soldier wins Regional Soldier of the Year Competition

**Story and photos by Sgt. Jon E. Dougherty,
70th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment;
and Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou, LANG State Public Affairs Office**

CAMP CROWDER, Mo. – What do you get when you challenge a dozen highly motivated National Guardsmen to complete a range of daunting physical and mental Soldier tasks?

One heck of a competition.

Anyone fortunate enough to have watched the dozen Guard enlisted Soldiers and noncommissioned officers in action against each other April 30-May 2 during regional annual Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year competitions would surely have to agree on one thing – the nation is in good hands.

Competitors matched skills during day and night land navigation, various scored and timed warrior tasks, question-and-answer boards, essays, written exams, M-4 weapons qualification, a physical fitness test, and a 12-mile forced march in full combat gear while wearing a 30-pound rucksack.

Each Guardsman had strengths. Some excelled at the physical aspects of the challenge, while others put their minds to better use.

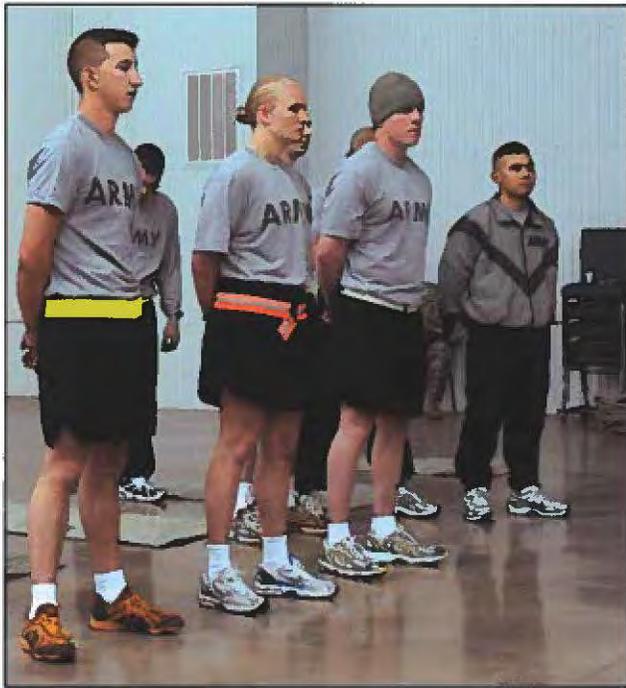
Spc. Corey Donaldson of the 928th Sapper Company, 769th Engineer Battalion – winner of the state and regional Soldier of the Year challenge – employed both aspects to garner top honors.



Spc. Corey Donaldson makes last minute adjustments to his ruck sack before the 12 mile road march. Photo: Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou

The 24-year-old said he trained solidly for more than three weeks before coming to Camp Crowder, which is nestled in picturesque southwest Missouri, near Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Training included taking repeated physical fitness tests, long-distance ruck marches, range firing, running obstacle courses and going through mock board reviews.

Now the Baton Rouge, La., native has won the right to advance to the next phase, and like a true National Guardsman, Donaldson



Spc. Corey Donaldson, far left, and Staff Sgt. Aja M. Lanclos, standing next to Donaldson, receive instructions prior to the Army Physical Fitness Test portion of the regional Soldier of the Year competition.

says he's already focused on the next level of competition.

"For that next phase, I will definitely need to step it up," he said. "Sleep will be a big issue," noting that competitors will be pushed even harder – and longer – to achieve their objectives.

"The U.S. Army and National Guard are among the most professional organizations in the world," observed Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Jenkins, the state command sergeant major for Missouri and master of ceremonies during the three-day event. "And certainly the most respected."

Watching the Soldiers and NCOs compete, it would be hard to convincingly argue with Matthews' assessment. That's because this year's group of Guardsmen, like those who came before them, poured their hearts, minds, and bodies into being the very best they could possibly be. The top Guardsmen from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas came here to engage each other in a friendly rivalry to see who among them would earn the opportunity to represent themselves, their state, and the National Guard in an Army-wide competition later this fall.

Staff Sgt. Aja M. Lanclos, a linguist with the LANG's B Company, 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, said she had been training for the competition since January. When it was all over, she was proud of herself for not only making it through, but placing third in a close race. But she's not sure she'll do it again.

"Maybe I'll change my mind after a year's rest," said the first-time competitor with a chuckle. Then again, she mused, "I think other Soldiers should have the opportunity" to compete as well.

Each Guardsman said they trained long and hard for the competition. But despite all of their preparation, there were still variables they didn't expect.

Like the weather. The skies over Neosho were a constant shade of gray, as rain fell throughout most of the competition.

The weather turned especially harsh during the 12-mile road march portion of the event, on Day 2. Already burdened with 30-pound rucksacks, individual body armor, an M-4 carbine, a Kevlar helmet, water and provisions, the Guardsmen were pelted with heavy rains and, at times, quarter-sized hail during much of the three-hour-plus event.

In fact, by the time they were finished, rain had added as much as 15 pounds of extra weight to their packs and clothing, according to post-event weigh-ins. But that didn't stop them. True to form, there were no quitters. All 12 competitors finished the event, with Donaldson finishing first among both Soldiers and NCOs.

When Day 3 arrived, the competitors downshifted. They put away their soggy gear, ditched their weapons and IBA, and sat down at metal tables on a dry drill floor to answer written questions and write an essay about what it means to be a Soldier. Later in the day, they donned Class A dress uniforms and went before a board of sergeants major to face a battery of questions about soldiering.

For some of the Guardsmen, there will be a next time. For the rest, one time was enough. All of them, however, gave their best – a fact not lost upon Jenkins.

"Nothing but winners here," he said. "Nothing but winners." ■

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



Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou, left, and Spc. Corey Donaldson, coach and competitor respectively, load ammunition into M-4 magazines prior to the rifle marksmanship portion of the regional Soldier of the Year competition held in Missouri.



Task Force Gator leaves its mark on New Orleans

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

New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren J. Riley took the opportunity at a special reception March 26 at Harrah's Casino Hotel in downtown New Orleans, to thank all of the Louisiana National Guardsmen that patrolled throughout the city as part of Joint Task Force Gator.

"I would like to personally thank the National Guard for their hard work around the city of New Orleans," said Chief Riley. "It was their unlimited commitment and dedication that kept so many residents and neighborhoods safe."

Task Force Gator originated when New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin requested that Louisiana Gov. Kathleen B. Blanco send Guardsmen to assist the New Orleans Police Department with providing security to the city and its residents after violent crimes increased the summer following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Originally named Operation Crescent Guard, the first 100 troops were deployed to the city within 24 hours. Over the course of three days, the total force grew to about 300.

During their assignment, the Guard unit was granted the same arrest power as local police, but required their



assistance when responding to more serious or fatal calls. These Soldiers assisted the NOPD in approximately 8,400 arrests, 640,000 residential alarm checks, 410,000 business checks, 20,000 vehicle checks and responded to about 700,000 citizen-related issues.

Louisiana National Guardsmen qualify with their side-arms, above, and train in combatives and holds, below, in order to make the Task Force Gator team. Photos: Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou



A Louisiana Army National Guardsman and a New Orleans police officer respond to a vehicle fire in the lower 9th Ward of New Orleans. The Soldier is assigned to Joint Task Force Gator, which was tasked with assisting the New Orleans Police Department with security operations in the city.

Photo: Sgt. Michael L. Owens, Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

From ACUs to police blues



Former Joint Task Force Gator Guardsmen graduate from New Orleans Police Academy

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

"When you really think about it, our patrolling areas were more populated than most people thought, because it seemed like we responded to something every five minutes," said 2nd Lt. Troy L. Johnson, a fifth district supervisor. "Seeing how we worked hand-in-hand with local police made most citizens really comfortable in post-Katrina New Orleans."

Many New Orleans residents, especially business owners, saw the troops so frequently that they knew the Soldiers by name.

"I would watch as their cars rolled through the streets frequently," said Martin J. Quezergue, owner of Marty's Diner in eastern New Orleans. "As a business owner, you feel a sense of security knowing that protection is always around."

Along with regular patrolling duties, members of the task force were frequently involved in many high-profile events and situations. They played a major role in the security of the 2007 and 2008 Mardi Gras seasons, the 2007 Sugar Bowl, the North American Leaders Conference and Sen. John McCain's visit. The Guardsmen also added to the success of operations during Hurricanes Ike and Gustav by helping with evacuation and security throughout the entire Greater New Orleans area.

"All of these Guardsmen volunteered their time to serve the city of New Orleans and passionately cared about the job at hand. When you have a motivated and dedicated group of people, the success rate tends to be high," said Brig. Gen. John B. Soileau, the task force commander.

"It was challenging at times, but they stepped up to the plate, and history will reward them for their efforts. I am honored and humbled to have had the chance to serve with these fine individuals," he said.

As crime in the city subsided, and the Guard's mission neared its end, the initial draw-down of troops began in July 2008, with 60 troops leaving the city.

Continued on page 28

"Through the door, from ACUs to Police Blues" is the motto of recruit Class 164, who recently became a part of the New Orleans Police Department.

Eighteen Louisiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who served on the LANG's Joint Task Force Gator, along with a separate recruit class of 36, graduated from the New Orleans Police Academy at Tulane University's McAlister Auditorium on May 15.

During the ceremony, Guardsmen were congratulated and thanked by Mayor Ray Nagin and Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis for continuing to serve and support the "Big Easy."

"The National Guard has been with us for a long time; you are a part of everything we have accomplished today, and we thank you for your

Continued on page 28

(Photo above) Louisiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who served on the LANG's Joint Task Force Gator, along with a separate recruit class of 36, gather outside as they await the start of their graduation from the New Orleans Police Academy at Tulane University's McAlister Auditorium on May 15. These Guardsmen were part of the JTF Gator that patrolled the streets of New Orleans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the city.

Photo: Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph



BEFORE you contact your Inspector General

- **Be sure you have a problem, not just a pet peeve.**
(Are the cooks turning out lousy chow or was it just one bad meal?)
- **Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.**
(Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway. Command can't fix it if they don't know it's broke. Don't assume they know. Bring it to their attention.)
- **Need IG assistance? Contact your command's IG first.**
(IG's at higher commands normally refer the case to the local IG for action.)
- **Be honest and don't provide misleading information.**
(IG's will discover the truth and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information or making false statements to Inspector Generals.)
- **Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.**
(If a policy is flawed, submit your proposed change to the proponent director.)
- **Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution.**
(Only Commanders can order; the role of the IG is to advise the Commander.)
- **Remember IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact.**
(Your claim that someone has violated the rules doesn't make it fact. A claim must be supported with evidence.)
- **Don't expect instant action on your request . . . Be patient.**
(Each inquiry is different. One may take more or less time than another to resolve.)
- **Be prepared to take "No" as the answer.**
(The answer you receive may not be the one you wanted to hear. In either case, the IG will explain why.)

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian, or Family Member seeking IG help.

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is one of the IG's
primary missions.***

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Gillis W. Long Center, Carville, LA Bldg #31 (225) 255-8514/8287/8283 or (800) 486-8287.

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Members of the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard participate in an anger management discussion conducted by LANG chaplain Maj. Stephen A. Sanders.

One of the perks of this class is that it gave everyone a chance to express their feelings in front of a group of comrades that may have shared the same difficulties or stresses.

The other two classes that were offered at the training focused on compulsive behavior and post traumatic stress disorder. These classes helped the Guardsmen understand some of the feelings they may have encountered after their deployment.

Between each of the sessions, everyone took the chance to walk and browse the many tables at the job and resource fair that was held in one of the hotel's conference rooms. There, the Guardsmen and their families were able to get information



Louisiana National Guardsman Col. John R. Angelloz, director of the reintegration program, talks to a group of Army and Air Guardsmen at the LANG's first joint Yellow Ribbon reintegration training event.

on the many benefits and opportunities that are afforded to war-time veterans, including full-

time opportunities within the LANG and other agencies.

"We want to make sure all of our Guardsmen are educated on each and every resource that is available to them," said Angelloz.

To cap off the weekend, everyone attended a joint ceremony where they received awards for the deployment.

The Army personnel were presented with an encased American flag, a sequentially numbered commemorative coin, a certificate of appreciation and a lapel insignia. Families and employers also received items recognizing their support and sacrifice.

After receiving those items, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau pinned the Louisiana War Cross on each Guardsman and thanked them for their honorable service. ■

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



leadership summit where there was a briefing about implementing the Hometown Heroes program.

After the briefing, Downing told the manager, "I want Louisiana to be first."

Six months later, Louisiana Air National Guardsmen and their families were honored in a ceremony fitting for an American Airman.

"It was difficult being away from family and dealing with different situations," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Keyes of the 159th Services Flight. "I appreciate this program."

The event was held as a joint ceremony combining the Army's Freedom Salute Ceremony and the Air National Guard's Hometown Heroes Salute Ceremony with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program.

Reintegration training is designed to help ease the stresses of returning to civilian life and to connect service members with service providers who can assist them in overcoming the challenges of returning home. During the training, the Guardsmen and their families attended classes that focused on transitioning back to families, jobs, schools and their communities.

"These men and women represent our proud tradition of selfless service, professionalism and excellence while serving our nation," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General of the LANG. ■

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

(Left) The Air National Guard Hometown Heroes Salute Awards signed by Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, are presented to Guardsmen at a joint Freedom Salute and Hometown Heroes Awards Ceremony at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, May 17.

Photo: Master Sgt. Daniel Faure, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

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BATON ROUGE

Louisiana State University honored Louisiana Guardsmen for their achievements at several LSU baseball games during this season.

During the Sunday Salute, each Soldier was given tickets for their families and friends, and brought down to the field to be recognized by a standing ovation of Tiger fans.

"We wanted a way to show our thanks," said Guy B. Gaster, the director of marketing for LSU.

DENHAM SPRINGS

After a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Soldiers of the **927th Engineer (Sapper) Company, 769th Engineer Battalion** returned home to reunite with loved-ones in Baton Rouge, March 5.

While in Afghanistan, the Sapper Company provided route and area clearance support throughout the Bagram and Jalalabad area. They were able to successfully clear 65 percent of improvised explosive devices in their areas of operation in order for new construction to begin.

PINEVILLE

After a successful mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, approximately 160 military policemen from the **2228th Military Police Company, 773rd Military Police Battalion** of Pineville, were welcomed home by Governor Bobby Jindal and Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, LANG adjutant general, March 6.

While deployed, the 2228th performed Police Transition Team operations, large scale operations conducted by coalition forces to assist in the policing and training of Iraqi police forces.

With an impressive list of accomplishments, the company conducted more than 15 professional law enforcement courses, which successfully trained approximately 700 senior Iraqi police officers at the Hammarabi Training Academy. The unit also implemented the

first Field Training Officer program responsible for accelerating Iraqi police performance standards in the Haditha District and organized and trained the Special Reaction Team in the Hit District to rapidly respond to various emergency situations.

HAMMOND

After a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers from the Louisiana Army National Guard's **1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment** returned home to reunite with loved-ones, March 31 and April 10.

While deployed, the 1-244th conducted air movement and air assault operations in support of Multi-National Corps Iraq while being assigned to the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade and subsequently the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade. The 1-244th conducted air assault operations in direct support of Special Operations and other Coalition Forces to capture and eradicate Al-Qaeda in Iraq.

"Over the course of nine-and-a-half months, we flew about 16,000 hours, pumped approximately three million gallons of fuel and our maintenance rate was over 85 percent," said New Orleans native Command Sgt. Maj. Myron J. Creecy, 1-244th senior enlisted advisor.

HAMMOND

After a six-month deployment in support of operations for the U.S. Africa Command, Soldiers from **Detachment 38, 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group** returned home to reunite with loved ones at the Hammond Army Aviation Support Facility, May 7.

Their missions included supporting humanitarian and region stabilization efforts in support of the Combined Task Force-Horn of Africa. The Horn of Africa includes the countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros.

During the deployment, Det. 38 executed more than 433 missions and accumulated more than 600 flight hours, while transporting approximately 500 passengers and 19,000 pounds of cargo via the C-12 Huron passenger aircraft. Det. 38, which was the first LANG and C-12 unit to deploy to the Horn of Africa, completed 100 percent of assigned missions.

MARKSVILLE

Louisiana Army National Guardsmen, family and friends gathered at the rain-soaked Spring Bayou Wildlife

Management Area in Marksville March 28 for the sixth annual **1020th Vertical Engineer Company's Family Readiness Group Bass Tournament**.

"We were expecting 40 boats but actually got 52," said Sgt. 1st Class Clint E. Armand, the unit's readiness noncommissioned officer. "We had to deal with fish kills from last year's hurricanes and another fishing tournament in the Saline area. The weather was also an issue this year," the Marksville resident added.

The tournament, which was open to the public, had an entry fee of \$50 per boat and is used as the main fundraiser for the unit's FRG. The unit also sold hamburger plates and bowls of jambalaya to raise additional funds.

This year's event featured free raffles for the families and the kids, with more than 70 sponsors donating cash and merchandise. Also on hand for the families was the National Guard Mobile Recruiting Office van. The MRO contains two Xbox 360 game consoles, a flat screen television with satellite, and satellite radio.

SLIDELL

The Louisiana National Guard began planning for possible flooding in areas along the southeast border of Louisiana and Mississippi near the town of Pearl River, April 2.

The planning consisted of the LANG's preparation for assisting parish officials, protecting property and ensuring the public safety of the citizens in St. Tammany Parish and surrounding areas, and it also served as disaster response training for the 2009 hurricane season.

The LANG staged personnel and approximately 30 High Water Vehicles at **Camp Villere** in order to facilitate emergency response and evacuation operations in nearby locations if needed, as well as placing **State Aviation Command** helicopter crews on stand-by in the case of search and rescue and medical evacuation.

SHREVEPORT

Louisiana National Guard Cavalymen from **C Troop, 2nd Battalion, 108th Cavalry Squadron** in Coushatta, La., dismounted and took to the water last March at LSU-S in Shreveport and the Grand Bayou Resort in Coushatta, as they completed two days of water safety and boat training for potential search and rescue missions in the event of state natural disasters.

The training was held in conjunction with the Guard's preparation for the 2009 hurricane season and included instruction on rescue swimming techniques, buddy retrieval and familiarization with the Zodiac, a 10-passenger inflatable boat used by the Guard and other state

agencies in rescue missions during the aftermath of natural disasters.

The swimming instruction given during the training exercise was based on the Army Water Survival Training course.

BELLE CHASSE

Lt. Col. H. Romie Galloway of New Orleans accepted the flag of command for the Louisiana Air National Guard's **159th Mission Support Group** during a change of command ceremony Jan. 11 at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse.

Galloway assumed command from Col. Mary Alice Salcido, who has held the position since 2000. Salcido is now the acting director of **Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention** at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Galloway's responsibilities as commander of the 159th Mission Support Group will include management and responsibility for all administrative functions for units including security forces, civil engineers, communications, services, supply, contracting, personnel and information management in support of the 159th Fighter Wing missions.

BELLE CHASSE

The Louisiana Air National Guard's **159th Fighter Wing** welcomed its new Maintenance Group Commander, Lt. Col. Peter R. Schneider, in an official ceremony at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse, Jan. 11.

With more than 500 Airmen in the group, Schneider knows it takes more than just dedication to get the job done. He defines leadership as getting up from behind the desk, shaking hands and getting to know his members and community. "This is my family. I want to know what's going on and how I can help. I admire anybody these days who decides to enlist in the military," he explained.

Schneider's past assignments have included aircraft maintenance officer; services flight commander; coordinator for the task force; joint director of military support; and the state public affairs office.

SLIDELL

The Louisiana National Guard officially opened its new multi-million dollar **Unit Training Equipment Site (UTES)** during a ribbon cutting ceremony at **Camp Villere** in Slidell, April 8.

The new \$14 million facility is a consolidation of Field Maintenance Shops 12 and 13, and UTES, which are three older shops that were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. The new maintenance shop will house approximately 24 federal technicians throughout the work week and will also support eight local units, with vehicles

ranging from Humvees to howitzers, during annual training and drill weekends.

Built by Lincoln Builders, Inc., headquartered in Ruston, La., and Chenevert Architects of Baton Rouge, La., the 31,241-square-foot maintenance shop is designed to house and manage equipment to uphold the standard regulations of the National Guard in order to facilitate readiness, and is centrally located to help support units during emergencies and disasters.

It consists of five work bays, with one inspection bay, administrative space, expansive storage for tools and supplies, educational classroom space and a fitness center. Each bay is serviced by a multi-functional service rack that includes connection to a central oil and grease distribution system, a central compressed air system and multi-voltage electrical connections with intranet at each workstation, allowing mechanics access to the latest electronic manuals available.

FERRIDAY

Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's **139th Regional Support Group** began transporting bottled water from Port Barre to six local schools in Ferriday, May 13.

The LANG started distributing potable water to the parish and pallets of bottled water to schools throughout Ferriday to ensure that residents have an adequate supply of drinking water due to problems with water wells in Concordia Parish.

The six distribution points are Ferriday High School, Ferriday Lower Elementary, Ferriday Upper Elementary, Ferriday Junior High, Ferriday Education Center and Huntington School.

ST. FRANCISVILLE

Louisiana Army National Guardsman Lee W. Hopkins of St. Francisville was promoted to the rank of colonel at the Stafford House on Camp Beauregard in Pineville, April 14.

Hopkins, who was recently assigned as the commander of the **Recruiting and Retention Command** at Camp Beauregard, has received several federal and state awards to include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Louisiana Cross of Merit and the Louisiana War Cross.

Hopkins has served the state in various positions during his prestigious 26-year career with the LANG. These positions include deputy commander of the **225th Engineer Brigade**, executive officer of the **256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team** and battalion commander for the former **1088th Engineer Battalion**.

MINDEN

The Louisiana National Guard served as host for the eighth annual Camp Minden Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Field Day in Minden, April 8-9.

More than 1,000 high school students from Caddo, Desoto, Bossier, Webster and Red River Parishes along with cadets from LANG's **Youth Challenge Program** attended the two-day event that featured various educational and career benefits provided by the Guard.

Guard units who participated in the event included: the **527th Engineer Battalion** in Ruston, the **122nd Air Support Operations Squadron** and the **244th Aviation Battalion** in Pineville, the **2nd Battalion, 108th Cavalry Squadron** in Shreveport, the **165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion** in Bossier City, the **199th Leadership Regiment** in Ball and the **62nd Civil Support Team** in Carville.

Static displays by the units included: heavy equipment transport trucks, Humvees, the family of medium tactical vehicles, dump trucks, the D-7 bulldozer, a grader, a front-loader, and communications, survey and computer equipment.

The main attraction was the National Guard Indy Car with product giveaways and demonstrations by the Indy Car team. In addition, rock wall and paintball simulation ranges were provided to give the cadets more options and entertainment.

NEW ORLEANS

Louisiana National Guardsmen added Army motivation to the 31st annual Crescent City Classic by packing their rucksacks and lugging them through the streets of New Orleans, April 11.

"This is a great way for us to support the city while having fun," said Maj. John Demartini of the **1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment** in New Orleans. "Even though most of us are a little old, we can still get some fitness out of this," he laughed.

The Crescent City Classic is a New Orleans Easter weekend tradition and a nationally-recognized 10k road race that brings in participants from all over the world.

Participants run and/or walk on a flat 6.2-mile course that leads them through the historic French Quarter and ends at the beautifully lined oaks of City Park, where they enjoy a New Orleans style post race party at Tad Gormely Stadium.

"It was nice to see our wonderful Soldiers taking part in the race," said Madison Sanders, New Orleans resident and CCC supporter. "It's truly a blessing, and it just shows how much they support us and the community." ■

Air Guard completes simulated deployment training

By Senior Airman Rosie Stahl
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Representative

More than 700 members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing finished their week-long operational readiness training at the Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., on March 28.

The operational readiness exercises represent real-world deployments to combat zones. The Fighter Wing completed its Operational Readiness Inspection, or Phase I, with an excellent rating and is now preparing for Phase II.

Operational and survival skills were tested during the exercise. Guardsmen wore protective over-garments and equipment during simulated attacks and continued completing their missions, such as maintaining force at a deployed location while launching and recovering jets. Practically all elements of the wing were represented, including communications, personnel, logistics, medical, services and aircraft maintenance.

"This is a good opportunity to train," said Staff Sgt. Lanitra Reed, who works as a Post Attack Reconnaissance Team member. "We are doing everything we will have to do in the final inspection."



Guard members stand in the personnel processing line on day one of the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing's Operational Readiness Exercise at the Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. The ORE represents real-world deployments to combat zones and tests readiness and training.

Photos: Senior Airman Jeffrey T. Barone

Commander Col. Roy V. Qualls said, "I am very proud of the outstanding performance by the entire wing."

Twenty-five Guard members from other states volunteered to participate in the exercise as evaluators and instructors. As experts in their field, they were able to share their knowledge with the fighter wing.

The wing was scheduled for an ORI Phase II in 2005, but it was delayed due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The new inspection date is scheduled for early 2010. ■

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



◀ A Post Attack Reconnaissance team member checks simulated detection paper for contamination, and radios in the results to Unit Control Center during the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing's Operational Readiness Exercise at the Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.

A Louisiana National Guardsman uses force protection procedures to detain a suspicious person outside the medical clinic during the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing's Operational Readiness Exercise at the Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. The ORE represents real-world deployments to combat zones and tests readiness and training. ▶



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Have You Received Your Letter From the VA?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mailed letters to veterans about the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. Have you received a letter? If not, see page 2 and contact your Transition Assistance Advisor to avoid missing out on important information about this new version of the GI Bill that goes into effect on August 1, 2009. The maximum basic benefit provides:

- ◆ Cost of tuition and fees, up to the most expensive in-state undergrad tuition at a public institution of higher learning in the state you are attending school.
- ◆ Additional funding may be available through VA's Yellow Ribbon program.
- ◆ Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to an E-5 with dependents, in the same zip code as the school.
- ◆ Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 per year.
- ◆ No enrollment fees.
- ◆ Undergrad and graduate degrees, voc/tech training, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement.

The maximum basic benefit is earned after serving an aggregate of 36 months of active duty service after 9/10/01 or after 30 days of continuous service if you were discharged for a service-connected disability. If you served between 90 days to 36 months of aggregate active duty service, you will be eligible for a percentage of the maximum benefit. Service academy grads or ROTC scholarship awardees may also qualify. Learn more about the new and improved GI Bill at www.gibill.va.gov or call 888.442.4551.

Wounded Warriors Family Support

The families of wounded, injured, or fallen Service Members suffer in many ways. Some are affected financially, some suffer psychologically, and some are adversely affected in both ways. Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) helps these folks find peace and solace as a family once more, in a family-friendly resort condominium unit that is provided at no cost to the family. The condo units are quiet havens where war-torn families can reunite and strengthen their ties.

Wounded Warriors Family Support, initiated in 2003 by COL John Folsom who serves with the United States Marine Corps Reserves, is a non-profit organization based in Nebraska. WWFS offers a one-week vacation for qualified military families in Orlando, a family pass to Walt Disney World Florida, or The Victorian Resort and Conference Center in Galveston, Texas. Also available are tickets to baseball and football games in Washington, DC and California. Box seats are usually provided and children may have a chance to meet the players before the games.

To qualify, beneficiaries must be the dependent families of those who, while serving in the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, or Air Force, were wounded, injured or lost their lives while engaged in direct combat operations as defined by the Department of Defense. In order to qualify, Service Members must have dependent children.

For more info or to register, please visit www.woundedwarriorsfamilysupport.org or call 402.502.7557.

TRICARE Launches New Web Page
Learn about alcohol abuse and promote responsible drinking.
www.tricare.mil/alcoholawareness

Employment Assistance

- ◆ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a new program called Veterans Employment Coordination Service (VECS). VA understands the sacrifices Guard and Reserve members have made in defending our country's freedom. VECS was established to attract, recruit, and hire veterans into VA, especially OEF/OIF vets who suffered severe injuries. VECS will ensure that you have the tools for success and access to the resources and networks necessary for a smooth transition to the VA workforce. There are 9 Regional Veterans Employment Coordinators (RVECs) who are dedicated to assisting severely injured vets across the country. More than 150 Local Veterans Employment Coordinators (VECs) are located at every VA human resources office to help vets find jobs. Services include placement assistance, case management, training and development counseling, skills and qualifications assessment, resume review and federal application tips, among others. For more info on career opportunities in VA or to locate the regional coordinator in your area, go to www.va.gov/VECS.
- ◆ The Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Program helps Service Members and veterans who have service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, and/or achieve independence in daily living. Services include assistance with reemployment post deployment in the Guard or Reserves, job readiness and job placement, long-term training leading to employment, self employment, and services to maximize independence in the community. For more info about VR&E Services, visit www.vetsuccess.gov.

Legal Assistance for You

The Army JAG Corps Legal Information Portal is a website which educates and informs military members on their personal legal affairs. This website allows you to search for a legal office or a private attorney close to you. You can also search for information on various legal issues, including: Tax, Estate Planning, Family Law Matters, Military Matters, Mobilization, Deployment and Demobilization, Reserve Components, Service Members' Civil Relief Act, Wounded Warriors, Advance Directives, Power of Attorney, etc.



It is not necessary for you to understand the meaning of all legal terms - an online legal dictionary is on the website. Log onto www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal. (Note: The information on this website is not to be considered official legal advice.)

Military OneSource Increases Counseling Benefits

Military OneSource counseling services are designed to provide help with short term issues such as adjustment to situational stressors, stress management, communication, and parenting issues, among others.

Each eligible Service Member or family member may receive up to twelve sessions, per issue, per counselor at no cost. The twelve sessions must be completed in 120 days. Participants already authorized for six sessions of counseling prior to April 1, 2009 will be authorized on a case-by-case basis when the Network Affiliate Provider requests the additional sessions.

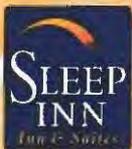
There are three different types of counseling available through Military OneSource. There is face-to-face counseling, telephone consultations, and online consultations. For more information, please call 800.342.9647 or you can also log onto <https://www.militaryonesource.com>.

Have you contacted the Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) in your state or territory to help guide you through the benefits and entitlements you have earned, or would you like to learn more about them? Call 703.607.0180 or go to www.taapmp.com/TAAPProgram.htm or email warriorsupport@ng.army.mil to locate the TAA in your state.

Website Especially For Returning OEF/ OIF Returning Service Members

Log onto: www.oefoif.va.gov

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ATTENTION

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Random Drug Testing should be expected at Every Drill Weekend

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- Mandatory referral to treatment
- Possible rank reduction
- Possible discharge

**Don't jeopardize
your military career!**

If you feel that you may have a problem
with alcohol or drugs, we can help.
Please contact us immediately - we have the
resources to get you the help that you need.

Louisiana Army and Air National Guard
Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinators

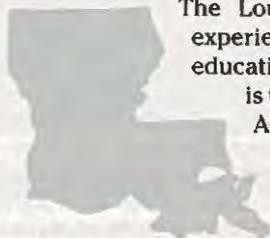
Derrick L. Urata, SGT
Derrick.L.Urata@ng.army.mil

Lash D. Naight, SSG
Lash.Naight@ng.army.mil

225.255.8647 or 225.255.8342

Education Services Office

New changes implemented



The Louisiana National Guard Education Service Office has experienced several changes recently in both personnel and education programs. One of our newest and most exciting benefits is the Post 9/11 GI Bill (CH 33). This benefit becomes effective Aug. 1, 2009. The Louisiana National Guard Education Service Office is currently waiting on Policy and Implementation Guidance for the new Post 9/11 GI Bill. Please see our current point-of-contact listing below.

**Look for our complete listing of
education benefits in the next publication.**

Education Service Officer:

Capt. Alfred Horridge
alfred.horridge@us.army.mil (504) 278-8532

Guidance Counselor:

GI Bill Manager
Testing Officer
Warrant Officer I Sidney Ward
sidney.ward@us.army.mil (318) 290-5411

Federal Tuition Assistance:

1st Lt. Austin Parker
austin.parker@us.army.mil (225) 255-8355

State Tuition Assistance:

Sgt. Talantia Carter
talantia.carter@us.army.mil (504) 278-8304

Bonus / Incentives:

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Webre
richard.webre1@us.army.mil (504) 278-8116

Student Loan Repayment:

Sgt. Robert Walker
robert.walker24@us.army.mil (318) 290-5558

Are you eligible for Federal Tuition Assistance to pay for a private high school?

- The Louisiana National Guard Education Services Office is authorized to fund privately funded high schools that are recognized by the Louisiana State Department of Education through the Federal Tuition Assistance Program. You must be in an active drilling status in order to be eligible.
- To find out if a school is recognized by the Louisiana State Department of Education go to: <http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/directory/1758.html> and click on the alphabetical listing of nonpublic schools.
- For further instructions on how to register for Federal Tuition Assistance or to have a school approved for use of this program, please contact Capt. Alfred Horridge at (504) 278-8532 or 1st Lt. Austin Parker at (225) 255-8355.

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Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal thanks members of the Louisiana National Guard's Joint Task Force Gator for their service as he prepares to attend a meeting with state and St. Bernard Parish officials in Chalmette, La. Task Force Gator is a LANG contingent that assisted the New Orleans Police Department with security operations throughout the city.

Photos: Sgt. Michael L. Owens, Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

The initial plan was to continue withdrawal until December 2008, when all of the Guardsmen were to be completely out of the city.

In December, Riley asked newly elected Gov. Bobby Jindal for an extension of LANG support. The governor agreed to keep 100 Guardsmen in the city until March 1, 2009, when the final wave left the city completely. "I am very grateful that Gov. Jindal honored our request to keep the Soldiers each time we asked," added Riley.

Many of the Soldiers and Airmen have returned to their hometowns and resumed their duties as traditional Guardsmen, but about 30 of them decided that police work was their passion and joined the NOPD after serving as their counterparts.

Guardsman Spc. Danielle A. Jones of G Company, 141st Field Artillery Regiment, is one of the former task force members who graduated from the NOPD academy in May 2009.

"Being from New Orleans and losing everything after Hurricane Katrina, it really hit home when I received the chance to help my city by becoming a member of Task Force Gator," said the New Orleans native just before her graduation. "Now that I am getting ready to graduate from the police academy, I will be able to continue the job that I started on Gator." ■

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

sacrifices," said Nagin. "You have worked truly hard and have continued to push forward to ensure that the safety of our city remains."

As the recruits were officially sworn in, New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren J. Riley expressed his gratitude to the Guard for doing such a tremendous job assisting the NOPD while serving on JTF Gator.

"I am happy to welcome these Guardsmen into our ranks," said Riley. "These men and women answered the call of duty when this city needed them the most...after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"When dealing with police work, it is a plus to have experienced individuals that can think quickly on their feet during high stress situations but can also be friendly to the members of the community. This is what Class 164 brings to our fine department."

Prior to the departure of LANG's JTF Gator, many Guardsmen were given the chance to continue their efforts and commitment to the city, but in a different uniform...the "blues" of the NOPD.

"Since they were already familiar with the job, we sent them through an abbreviated academy that allowed them to quickly hit the streets," said Officer Summer Turner, who is an instructor at the academy.

Many of the Soldiers and Airmen stressed how excited they were to be able to continue serving the city they call home.



Louisiana National Guardsman Spc. Maria T. Pearson of the 1084th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, receives a diploma from New Orleans Police Superintendent Warren J. Riley after graduating from the New Orleans Police Academy at Tulane University in New Orleans, May 15. Pearson is a former member of the LANG's Joint Task Force Gator, which assisted the NOPD after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Photo: Sgt. Michael L. Owens, Louisiana National Guard State Unit Public Affairs Representative

"I am very proud of myself for what I have accomplished here today," said Spc. Danielle A. Jones of G Company, 1st Battalion of the 141st Field Artillery Regiment. "This has given me a chance to help protect and keep my family, friends and community safe once again." ■

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

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What can it do for you?"

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- ▶ I AM NOT IN HIGH SCHOOL
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- ▶ I HAVE ADMISSIBLE GUNS LICENSES/PERMITS
- ▶ I HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE

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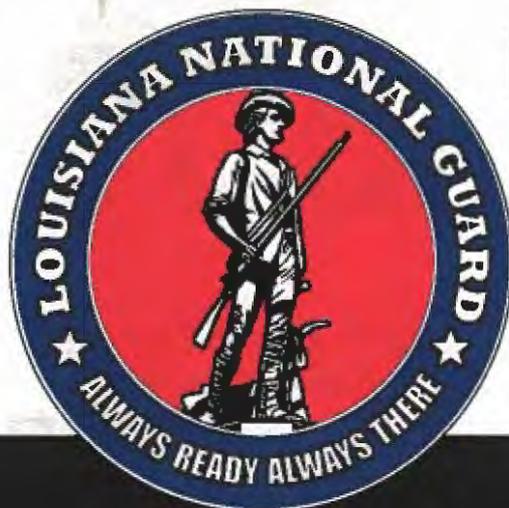
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