



PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

FALL 2010

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excellence
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Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. Jordan Jones, of Monroe, treads water using his ACU pants as a flotation device during the Combat Water Survival Test portion of the Region Five Best Warrior Competition at Camp Cook in Ball, June 24, 2010. Jones went on to win for noncommissioned officers and represented the region at the National Best Warrior Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., where he placed second.

Cover Photo: Spc. Scott D. Longstreet

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Guardsmen sworn in during Saints' Military Appreciation Day



Louisiana National Guard recruits recite the Oath of Enlistment on the field of the Louisiana Superdome, Aug. 27, 2010, before a National Football League preseason game between the New Orleans Saints and the San Diego Chargers. The National Guard recruits were also joined on the field by recruits from the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps.

Story and photos by Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo
Recruiting and Retention Command
Public Affairs Representative

New enlistees from the Louisiana National Guard, United States Army and the United States Marine Corps were sworn in on the field of the Louisiana Superdome before a National Football League preseason game between the New Orleans Saints and the San Diego Chargers, Aug. 27.

The ceremony was a part of Saints' Military Appreciation Day, for which the organization asked ticket holders to donate their unused tickets to service members and their families. This was another one of the many events that has brought the LANG and the Saints together.

"The Saints are a community organization just like the National Guard," said Capt. Frank Spiess, officer in charge of operations for the Recruiting and Retention Command. "This was a way for them to show their support for the everyday Soldiers and what they do for their community."

After the enlistment ceremony, the recruits got to watch the game while sitting field-side.

"It was a great experience," said New Orleans native Pvt. Timothy R. Holmes.



Louisiana National Guard recruits, along with other recruits and active duty members of the United States military, perform during halftime of a National Football League preseason game Aug. 27, 2010, between the New Orleans Saints and the San Diego Chargers in the Louisiana Superdome.

"I really enjoyed the excitement and support we received from the Saints' fans."

During the halftime show, the newly enlisted Guardsmen were joined by active duty Marines and Airmen on the field in a performance that displayed images of the Statue of Liberty and a portion of the American flag.

"The response from the crowd was

so positive," Spiess said. "You could see that they respected the enlistees for the commitment they were making."

"We're really grateful and appreciative of this opportunity that we were given," said Covington, La., native Pvt. Katie A. Dugas. "It was such a privilege to be on that field and hear all those people cheer for us." ■



50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Older officers celebrate OCS anniversary as new leaders graduate

By Sgt. Rebekah Malone
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

For retired Maj. Gen. Joe Gray, seeing officers – after 50 years – from the first class to graduate from the Louisiana National Guard's officer candidate school made Aug. 27 a memorable day.

"It makes your heart jump. You can't measure that," he said.

In a weekend-long celebration, old and new officers from the last half century gathered at Camp Beauregard in

Pineville, La., to reunite with previous classes and celebrate the graduation of 38 new officers.

Festivities began Friday with a barbecue which 11 of the 20 officers from the first class attended. More than 1,600 officers have graduated from the course.

Silver-haired Guardsmen told stories to the young officers of the difficult training they went through to earn their commissions.

"It teaches you to operate under stress," said former Capt. James E. McCarty from Madison, Miss., about the difficult journey of becoming an officer. The sight of friends from long ago brought smiles to faces wrinkled with time.

"I haven't seen some of these people in 50 years," said McCarty. "Seeing them for the first time – it was amazing."

Officer candidates may either attend the traditional officer candidate school one weekend a month and two annual training sessions over 18 months or attend the accelerated course. Here, Guardsmen complete the training active duty over three months. Classes 50



Members of Louisiana National Guard officer candidate school Class 1 gather together for a group photo at a barbecue celebrating 50 years of graduating officers, Aug. 27, 2010, at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. Photo: Master Sgt. Todd M. Valerio

(Above) Louisiana National Guard Class 50 and 51A recite the Army officer's oath of office during a commissioning ceremony Aug. 28, 2010, at Toga High School. These graduating classes mark 50 years of the Louisiana National Guard Officer Candidate School. Photo: Master Sgt. Todd M. Valerio



Louisiana National Guardsmen from Class 50 Officer Candidate Benjet Jones, and former Capt. Jim McCarty from Class 1, discuss the challenges of officer candidate school at a barbecue celebrating 50 years of excellence, Aug. 27, 2010, at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Volante

and 51A celebrated their graduation together with family and friends at Tioga High School.

Winner of the Leadership Award and Honor Graduate for Class 50, 2nd Lt. Jim Spurlin of Baton Rouge, La., said he felt relief at finally graduating and looked forward to the future. "I think the feeling is relief more than anything else," Spurlin said. "I'm happy it's finally over with a good outcome, and I can move on to a new step in my career."

"I'm very proud of him," said Laura Spurlin's wife of nine years.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, told the new officers they have remarkable opportunities to look forward to.

"You are embarking on a tremendous career," he told them. "You face a path full of exciting possibilities ... you have the drive, you have the training, you have the heart and the leadership to step across the line and make a lasting impact on every Soldier you have the opportunity to lead."

Awards for Class 50 presented to 2nd Lt. Daniel Stacks were the National Guard Association of Louisiana Award for best physical training and the Erickson Award, a combination of leadership, academics and physical training and the opportunity to attend Airborne School. Spurlin received the leadership

award, the opportunity to attend Airborne School and the Adjutant General's Award for being the honor graduate. The award for highest academic average went to 2nd Lt. John Scott.

Awards for Class 51A were presented to 2nd Lt. Lance Macalester, the National Guard Association of Louisiana Award for the best physical training; and to 2nd Lt. Nicholas Glatzer for highest academic average. The Association



Louisiana National Guard 2nd Lt. Melinda M. West is pinned by her husband Robert and son Brandon, 5, after taking the officer's oath of office during a commissioning ceremony Aug. 28, 2010, at Tioga High School. These graduating classes mark 50 years of the Louisiana National Guard Officer Candidate School.

Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Volante

of the United States Army Award, an average of scores for leadership and peer evaluation, and the opportunity to attend Airborne School, went to 2nd Lt. Brandon Jones. ■



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, presents 2nd Lt. Jim Spurlin of Baton Rouge, a sword for being the Honor Graduate for Class 50, Aug. 28, 2010, at Tioga High School in Tioga. The Louisiana National Guard celebrated 50 years of graduating officers from Officer Candidate School during the weekend.

Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Volante

Ask, Care, Escort:

By 2nd Lt. Alex Juan and
1st Lt. Cody Paulk
Reintegration Office

Suicide attempts are a frightening reality—more than 32,000 people die of suicide each year in the United States. The Louisiana National Guard is promoting intervention and education.

The Louisiana National Guard's Reintegration Office recognizes the stress that deployments and military life can have on Guardsmen and their families and has resources available to educate and assist them.

"Suicide awareness is everyone's responsibility," said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Stiefvater, suicide prevention program manager.

The rise of suicide attempts by service members over the past five years has prompted a change in the way the military is handling suicide and mental health issues.

"Among the most frequently associated risk factors for suicide in the military are relationship problems, depression and feelings of hopelessness," said Dr. Cindy Escandell, Louisiana National Guard director of psychological health.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen need to know that we, their senior enlisted leaders, personally care about them when they are NOT having problems. Then,



when problems arise in their personal lives, they will be more apt to come to us," said Chief Master Sgt. James E. Downing Sr., senior enlisted advisor, Air.

The military took a firm stance toward assisting service members in finding the resources needed to deal with issues being faced by forming the

Department of Defense Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces in August 2009.

"Guardsmen must look out for each other and not be afraid to ask their buddy if something is wrong, help their buddies when in need and report to their chain of command," said Stiefvater. "Leaders must help their organizations to reduce stigma associated with behavior health issues, learn to deal with these types of situations and train their subordinates to do the same."

"It is important that as leaders we ensure that suicide prevention resources are made available to all Guardsmen," said Capt. Catarina Donnelly, Reintegration Office Yellow Ribbon training officer in charge.

Educational resources such as yearly suicide prevention training for Guardsmen and trained staff to provide guidance and counseling are available. These resources allow them to address issues in a specific and appropriate manner.

"Suicide awareness training, programs that support and maintain

LANG – RIO emergency contacts:

Dr. Cindy Escandell, Director of Psychological Health, cindy.escandell@us.army.mil, (318) 290-7564

Maj. Jeff Mitchell, chaplain, jeffery.mitchell6@us.army.mil, (225) 319-4660

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Stiefvater, Suicide Prevention Program manager, robert.stiefvater@us.army.mil, (318) 641-5332

1st Lt. Cody Paulk, Assistant Suicide Prevention Program manager, cody.paulk@us.army.mil, (318) 290-5426

Related organizations and websites:

Military OneSource

Defense Center for Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Outreach Center

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Suicide Prevention Resource Council

Suicide Prevention Training Resources

"Even one suicide is too many"

— Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy

protection against suicide, should be ongoing. While the intent is not to turn commanders and battle buddies into mental health clinicians, having a basic understanding of what promotes or protects against suicide can have a great impact and potentially save lives," said Escandell.

According to the Department of Defense Inspector General report IE-2008-003 dated April 15, 2008, "Stigma in the military remains pervasive and often prevents service members from seeking needed care."

Leaders are also charged with the responsibility of implementing an anti-stigma education campaign regarding suicide and mental health issues. By openly discussing concerns, Guardsmen will realize that asking for help is not a sign of weakness.

"I was on a notification team, tasked with putting on my service dress uniform and informing one of our Air families that their son had committed suicide.

This was one of the worst experiences of my life," said Downing.

Guardsmen must use all available resources when handling suicide attempts and mental health issues by understanding the risk factors and warning signs of suicide not only themselves, but for the buddy next to them.

The Army is encouraging Soldiers to watch out for their battle buddies by promoting the concept: "ACE" – Ask, Care, Escort.

- **Ask** your buddy the question directly: Are you thinking about killing yourself?
- **Care** for your buddy by listening, staying calm and removing harmful items from his/her possession.
- **Escort** your buddy to someone within your chain of command—the chaplain or a behavioral health professional.

"Suicide awareness and resiliency building components such as stress management, effective coping and problem-solving skills should be taught as part of

the suicide intervention programs for all military personnel," said Escandell.

If you know someone who is dealing with high levels of stress or has had a drastic change in their behavior, don't ignore these signs. Talk to them and ensure them that everything will be ok and that you are there for them. Together we can prevent suicide attempts.

"When a person in great pain hears others that have walked in their moccasins and have made it through, it brings a cool breeze of hope and encouragement to them," said Chaplain Maj. Jeffrey Mitchell, Reintegration Office chaplain/Strong Bonds program manager.

Guardsmen and families in need of crisis assistance are encouraged to contact Reintegration Office employees for information. Military OneSource and the Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Outreach Center have trained consultants available around the clock, 365 days a year. ■

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LANG NCO of the Year named runner-up at national competition

By Spc. Scott D. Longstreet
Louisiana National Guard
Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Jordan Jones of Monroe recently competed in, and nearly won, the National Guard National Best Warrior Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. Having tested the limits of both his physical stamina and his mental toughness, Jones placed second overall for noncommissioned officers.

Jones previously won both the state and regional contests held at Camp Cook in Ball earlier this year.

"It was truly a great honor and privilege to represent both the state and region at Fort Benning," said Jones, the Recruit Sustainment Program supply sergeant. "I fought hard and am very proud of my performance."

The monumental accomplishment

Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. Jordan Jones, of Monroe, vies in the Urban Assault Course during the National Best Warrior Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., July 31, 2010. Jones placed second nationally in the contest for Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. He won the state and regional challenges earlier this year at Camp Cook in Ball. Photo: Staff Sgt. Bradley Hightower

will help the Louisiana National Guard recruit new Soldiers and retain existing ones. As a reward for his success at the national level, Jones will soon head to Air Assault School.

"An accomplishment like this is important for recruiting," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Mays, senior enlisted advisor, Army. "It will be a great tool to show Soldiers what can be accomplished in the Guard and in the military."

At the conclusion of the national event, the competitors spent a week in Washington, D.C., touring the Pentagon, the National Guard Association of the

Sgt. Jordan Jones contends in a first aid exercise during the National Best Warrior Competition at Fort Benning.



United States Museum, Capitol Hill, Arlington Cemetery and Fort Myer.

The Guardsmen concluded the two weeks of travel and competitive trials at the 39th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Conference in St. Louis, Mo., where the winner was announced.

"This was my first trip to D.C., and it was all so overwhelming," Jones said. "There is so much history in this area. To tour the Pentagon was remarkable and humbling. It's a good promotion for what the National Guard can do if you continue your training. You, as a Soldier, can get where you want to go."

Jones' wife, Paula, was able to join him on the trip. They are parents of a 14-month-old son, Luke.

"They have been behind me every step of the way," he bragged about their support. "I am so proud of my family, and they made this so much easier. The training was challenging enough, but they made it tolerable. And she was able to join me in D.C. and St. Louis after the competitions were over."

Jones competed in events that included land navigation, urban assault missions and weapons qualification. Events were scheduled during the day and night, starting some mornings at 3:30 after only a couple hours of sleep.

"The competition worked the Soldiers hard," Mays said. "Most of the competitors pushed until they dropped. They were running night and day on little sleep. It was tough and a good competition to test their physical and mental toughness."

Other events crammed into the 72-hour challenge included a road march, an obstacle course, a combat-ives contest with two-minute bouts, a warrior combat water training course and the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Also included was a written essay test, a uniform inspection and the NCO board interview.

The long, hard journey began in the Iraqi desert more than 18 months ago when Jones deployed with the 225th Engineer Brigade. His deployment prepared him for the heat and tough weather conditions that the hot summer Georgia weather threw at



Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. Jordan Jones contends in a room clearing exercise.

him, as well as the intense mental strain of the challenge.

"My road to this competition began while on deployment in Iraq in 2009," he said. "I competed in both unit and battalion level competitions while I was deployed."

Jones won as NCO of the Year for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 225th Engineer Brigade; and then the 225th brigade-level contest. He also won the NCO of the Year for the deployment.

Upon returning home, he geared up to contend for the Louisiana National Guard's NCO of the Year. After winning at the state level, he started training for the Region Five contest with his sponsor, Sgt. Christopher Powell. As the sponsor, Powell's role was to help Jones prepare for the grueling challenge. Jones humbly attributed his success to his training partner.

"Powell was invaluable to me, as he helped keep me motivated and on track to our goal of winning both the state and regional competitions," he said. "He is a really good friend and the only person I wanted beside me. I couldn't have done it without him. He is the definition of selfless service."

He said Powell pushed him during workouts that consisted of running and intense weight training, 1,000-meter swims followed by 10 solid minutes of treading water and six-mile road marches. During the nearly three-hour

road march at the Region Five contest, Powell carried food and water for Jones so he would not have to carry the extra weight.

"If I needed water or food or needed my clothes washed, he did it for me. If it wasn't for him, I would have starved (on the road march) or passed out in a ditch somewhere," he continued.

Many Soldiers suffered through painful blisters on the 12-mile road march, but Jones learned how to combat the excruciating wounds that left many Soldiers with blood-stained socks.

"I wore better socks and duct-taped the balls of my feet, and that kept me from getting blisters!" Jones laughed.

As for Powell, he felt that intense preparation and mental fortitude by both Jones and himself provided the winning formula.

"Winning this competition is a great achievement for us," said Powell, the Recruit Sustainment Program administrative and training NCO. "Confidence was the key, as well as motivation. We are both proud of what we have accomplished."

Jones' second place finish at the national event was an enormous accomplishment for the Louisiana National Guard and something all Guardsmen can take pride in.

"At the national level, he lost by only eight points. He, as well as the entire state, should be very proud," concluded Mays. ■



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3rd Annual 773rd Military Police Battalion Dining Out

1. Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Perry, Maj. Ken Bailie and Lt. Col. Kenneth Donnelly welcome Soldiers and family members to the 3rd Annual 773rd Military Police Battalion Dining Out held at the Country Inn & Suites in Pineville, Aug. 14, 2010.

2. Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Perry presents a set of battalion colors to Sgt. 1st Class Danny Verbridge and Maj. Clint Small, commemorating their service to the battalion.

3. Retired Brig. Gen. Sherian G. Cadonia of Marksville was the guest speaker for the dining out. Cadonia was one of the first females to serve as a military police officer and at one time was the U.S. Army's highest ranking African-American woman.

4. (From left) Spc. Devin Black, Sgt. Cameron Laborde, Pfc. Antonio Coutee and Pvt. Ian Hickman perform Color Guard honors for 3rd Annual 773rd Military Police Battalion Dining Out held at the Country Inn & Suites in Pineville, Aug. 14, 2010.

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Back to school:

Louisiana Guardsmen make the grade by using education benefits

*Story and photos by Sgt. Michael L. Owens
Louisiana National Guard Staff Journalist*

As summertime rolls to an end and fall begins to show its colors, brand new college students are preparing to embark on a new journey.

For most new college students, the biggest question is, how will they pay for their education? Some are lucky enough to get scholarships, while others take out student loans or pay out of their own pockets.

But for nearly 2,400 National Guardsmen this year alone, the how-to-pay question is easy – military educational benefits.

One option is the popular state tuition exemption program, which allows

Guardsmen to attend any public state college or university without the stress of worrying about how to pay for tuition.

Louisiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in good standing are automatically enrolled into STEP and can use their benefits for up to five academic years, which equals 15 semesters or 20 quarters. This benefit can be used for both undergraduate and graduate degrees as long as the Guardsman remains in good academic standing with the school.

"It's really a great feeling to know that you can attend school without having to worry about how you're going to pay for

tuition," said New Orleans native Staff Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph of the 139th Regional Support Group. "With class workloads, tests and pop quizzes occupying your mind, knowing that tuition isn't a problem allows you to better focus on the school work."

Joseph attended Delgado Community College in New Orleans, a public college, and used the tuition exemption program for three years before graduating with an associate of applied science degree in architectural design and construction technology.

"Every semester I would head to the bursar's office to ensure that my name

(Above) Louisiana National Guardsmen Staff Sgt. Beyonka D. Joseph, left, of the 139th Regional Support Group, and Sgt. Danica S. Ruffins, of the 61st Troop Command, chat as they head to a study session to prepare for their upcoming college exams. Joseph, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in project management from Ashford University, and Ruffins, who is pursuing her M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management, are using their National Guard education tuition benefits to help pay for their college education.



Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. Danica S. Ruffins of the 61st Troop Command takes some time to prepare for an upcoming college exam. Ruffins, who is pursuing her M.B.A. from Keller Graduate School of Management, is using her National Guard education tuition benefits to help pay for her college education.

was on the exemption list and never had a problem with it not being there," she said.

After graduating from Delgado, she enrolled in Ashford University's online program and is using the Federal Tuition Assistance program to help her pursue a bachelor's degree in project management.

Since Ashford is a private university and STEP is not allowed, Joseph chose to use a second option offered to National Guardsmen—federal tuition assistance program.

This option is mostly used by Guardsmen who are enrolled in private or online universities and colleges.

With FTA, Guardsmen apply with an online application. Once it is approved by the state education office, the payment is sent to the school. Guardsmen are allowed \$4,500 a fiscal year for FTA.

"It is a fairly easy process," said 1st Lt. Austin J. Parker, the state's FTA manager. "All the students have to do is log on to the FTA website, submit the application and once it's done, the application comes to our office. If it's approved, we send the payment to the school."

"It's an awesome plan," said New Orleans native Sgt. Danica S. Ruffins, a human resources specialist with the 61st Troop Command.

Ruffins used FTA while she was attending Upper Iowa University before

graduating with a bachelor of science degree in business. She is currently attending Keller Graduate School of Management pursuing an M.B.A. and has since begun using tuition assistance again to help her reach that goal.

"Tuition assistance is great because I do not have to worry about applying for and wondering if I will be approved for student loans," she said. "Using FTA gives me a sense of security because I won't have to worry about paying [student loans] back once I graduate, and that's a great feeling."

In order to remain eligible in the FTA program, Guardsmen must submit an initial degree plan given to them by the university and must submit their grades after each class, session or semester is completed.

"As long as the student stays on top of this and continues to make good grades, they should have no problem being able to reapply for FTA benefits," said Parker.

Ruffins has enjoyed using her education benefits and suggests that all Guardsmen take advantage of the opportunity to get a degree. "Use it; I understand that college isn't for everyone, but for those who want to go the extra mile to get a higher education, do not let these benefits go to waste. It will pay off in the long run." ■

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Louisiana Guardsmen take aim at elite marksman tab

By Sgt. Rebekah Malone
Louisiana National Guard
Public Affairs Office

Nearly 110-degree blistering heat did not keep the Louisiana National Guard's best pistol and rifle marksmen from competing in The Adjutant General's Marksmanship Matches, Aug. 20-22.

More than 50 Guardsmen from across the state spent two full days firing the 9-mm pistol and the M-16 rifle in a series of competitions aimed at testing each shooter's ability as an individual and as part of a four-person team.

The 20 competitors with the highest scores became members of an elite group of shooters authorized to wear the prestigious Governor's Twenty tab on their uniform and who may join the



Louisiana National Guardsmen score hits on a target during The Adjutant General's Marksmanship Matches, held at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Aug. 20-22, 2010. The top twenty shooters are invited to join the LANG Marksmanship Team and compete at the national Winston P. Wilson Combat Matches at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark., later this year. Photos: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey T. Barone

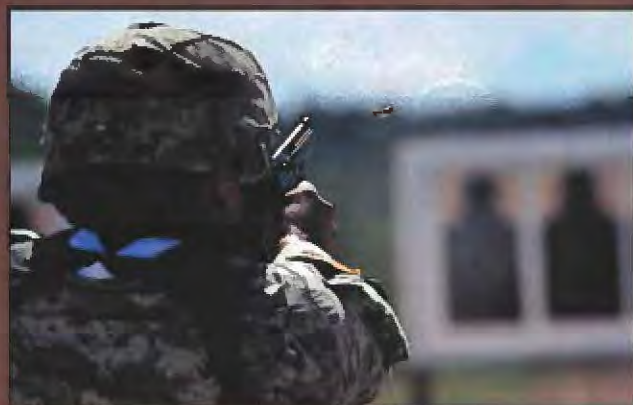
Louisiana National Guard's Marksmanship Team. The Guardsmen will represent Louisiana at the Winston P. Wilson Combat Matches, the national competition at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark., later this year.

Sgt. 1st Class Corbett Reddoch of Buras, La., a post FBI firearms instructor and event coordinator, explained that the love of shooting and the camaraderie of the team provide a unique

Louisiana
and



Louisiana National Guard's State Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier pins awards on the 20 shooters with the highest scores, Aug. 20-22, 2010. The marksmen competed at The Adjutant General's Marksmanship Matches, held at Camp Beauregard in Pineville.



Using an M-16 rifle, a Louisiana National Guardsman takes aim at his target during The Adjutant General's Marksmanship Matches, held at Camp Beauregard in Pineville.

(Left) Louisiana National Guardsman fires a 9-mm round. The top 20 shooters are invited to join the LANG Marksmanship Team and compete at the national Winston P. Wilson Combat Matches at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark., later this year.
Photos: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey T. Gennie

experience for Guardsmen.

"All the guys here want to be here ... to get their tab," he explained about the Governor's Twenty distinction. "It's an honor to wear the tab."

Reddoch said that even though he could retire, the opportunity to shoot will keep him in the Guard for a long time to come.

"I've been in the Guard for 21 years, but I'm not going anywhere," he said. With a smile, he added, "The Guard gives me free bullets!"

Shooters fired two individual and one team match with each weapon, for a total of six matches. One of the favorite contests is the Gen. George Patton Combat Pistol Team Match, which requires each marksman to sprint 100 yards in full gear and then rapidly fire 17 shots at targets ranging from 15-25 yards.

"A lot of guys like to talk about snipers," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Roberts from the Air Guard's 214th Engineering & Installation Squadron. "Here, you have six to 10 seconds to shoot

numerous shots. The guy that can shoot under pressure is a true marksman."

As a 25-year veteran of law enforcement, avid shooter and supporter, State Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier said teamwork is crucial to improving at such a high level.

"Most of these guys are not individuals," said Caillier. "It's an individual sport, but to get to their level, you also have to know how to work as a team."

"You know the old saying, if you can't follow, you can't lead — these are the type of people that are future leaders because they take that much pride in what they do," he said.

First place for top individual score went to Monroe resident Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan D. Chapman from the Guard's Special Reaction Team.

"It's more of a mind game than physical. There's a lot of physical stuff going on, but you still have to keep your mind right," said Chapman. He has been a law enforcement officer with the Monroe Police Department for six years and in

the military for 15.

One of the objectives of the shooting competition is to help increase marksmanship proficiency throughout the Guard by spreading knowledge from expert shooters to the unit level.

"I get more joy out of teaching others the knowledge I have, than actually shooting," said Chapman. "I don't know everything, but I learn something every day from something someone does or teaches me, and I enjoy passing that knowledge on."

The winning team for the competition was a group representing the 527th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade — Sgt. 1st Class Eric Hull from Bossier, Staff Sgt. Obie Simms from West Monroe, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Letendre and his son Cpl. John P. Letendre, both from Ruston.

The senior Letendre has been shooting competitively since 1992, but had the opportunity to compete with his son for the first time this year. Father to three boys, he said he taught them all to shoot at a young age.

"It was really nice to be able to compete on the same team as my son," said Letendre. "A lot of the guys that shot for the first time this year will be a lot more relaxed next year, plus be able to use all of the helpful hints they have learned. It really does what it is designed to do, which is to improve proficiency throughout the Guard."

For the rookie participants, the competitive spirit seemed to sink its claws into the marksmen, as all the members of the team quickly agreed they will participate again next year.

"I think once you shoot your first match, you're kind of hooked!" said Hull.

Other placing participants for individual top score include runner-up Spc. Ronald T. Cole from the 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group and third-place finisher 1st Sgt. Jeffery Carmouche from the 225th Engineer Brigade. Runner-up for the Overall Team Award went to the Air Guard's 122nd Air Support Operations Squadron. Members included Senior Airman James A. Lam, Staff Sgt. Gabriel Bird, Tech Sgt. Andrew Guidry and Tech Sgt. Christopher Johnson. Third place went to the Special Reaction Team with members Spc. Ryan Russon, Spc. Eric Grimmer, Spc. Daniel Albrecht and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Chapman. ■



Life Changing Service

Air Guardsmen receive hero's welcome after deployment

By 2nd Lt. Alex Juan
159th Fighter Wing
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Deployments often bring major changes. For several members of Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, a deployment to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, brought them new experiences and stronger bonds. And for some, it meant new additions to their families. Their early August homecoming celebrated them as heroes.

Approximately 40 Airmen of the 159th SFS returned home Aug. 6 to cheers, homemade banners, hugs and tears of joy. Friends, family, Guardsmen, volunteers and bystanders joined in the celebration and helped welcome home these heroes at Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans.

"I am very proud to be associated with such outstanding Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Brod Veillon, assistant

Members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, are welcomed home by family and friends at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, Aug. 6, 2010. In support of overseas contingency operations, approximately 40 Airmen deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, as part of the total force security package assigned to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing. Photo: Staff Sgt. Jeffery T. Barone



Master Sgt. Jeffrey Villemarette of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, is welcomed home by family and friends at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, Aug. 6, 2010.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Jeffery T. Barone



Maj. James Bouchie of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, and his son welcome home fellow members of the 159th SFS at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, Aug. 6, 2010. In support of overseas contingency operations, approximately 40 Airmen deployed to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, as part of the total force security package assigned to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing. Photo: Staff Sgt. Jeffery T. Barone

adjutant general, Air, and part of the airport greeting party.

In support of overseas contingency operations, the 159th SFS was part of the total force security package assigned to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing. Their mission was to secure the interior and exterior perimeters of Manas Air Base, in addition to working at the armory and the vehicle search area at the base main gate.

"I think it's very important, from a morale perspective, for these service members to see us here supporting them."

— Al Hamilton, emergency services director with the American Red Cross Southeast Louisiana Chapter

Senior Airman Santiago L. Mabens of New Orleans had been a Guardsman for less than a year when he volunteered for this deployment. While in country he helped bring school supplies, food, clothes and toys to the children of the Tok Mok I and II orphanage.

"I really enjoyed playing with the kids," said Mabens of his humanitarian experiences. He advises other Airmen to deploy with an open mind. "Life is short."

"I'm proud to welcome home these Airmen that volunteered to protect our country," said Col. Roy V. Qualls, 159th Fighter Wing commander. "I also love to watch the emotions during the family reunions."

The emotions were heartwarming as two SFS members

had the opportunity to hold their newborns for the first time.

Senior Airman Eugene J. Cummings of New Orleans was able to hold his 13-week-old son Euwine for the first time. He and his wife Tyra have two daughters, Tammara, 7, and Gabriel, 2. The elated family had smiles from ear to ear during the reunion.

Senior Airman Steven M. Eagles of Belle Chasse was able to see the taped birth of his daughter via e-mail within an hour of her being born. He and his wife Alexandra were able to see each other that same evening through Skype webcam. The couple also has a son, Jude, 21 months.

"The most important thing is for us to let them know that we care about them and that we are here to support them," said Cherie Spooner, 159th Fighter Wing family program coordinator.

The Women Veterans of Louisiana was also there to greet the returnees. These volunteers provide assistance to female service members and have the only all-female Honor Guard in the country. They sent the deployed SFS women care packages with much needed, female-specific supplies every other month.

"I think it's very important, from a morale perspective, for these service members to see us here supporting them," said



Senior Airman Eugene J. Cummings of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, reunites with his family and newborn son at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, Aug. 6, 2010. Photo: Staff Sgt. Jeffery T. Barone

Al Hamilton, emergency services director with the American Red Cross Southeast Louisiana Chapter.

Hamilton brought snacks, drinks and educational pamphlets for family members. The Red Cross is the only agency mandated by Congress to provide service to the Armed Forces, a program designed to provide confidential

Continued on page 26



LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD WELCOMES THREE NEW COMMANDERS

Family and friends of the close-knit Louisiana National Guard welcomed three new commanders in change-of-command ceremonies across the state, Aug. 7-8.

The 527th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, welcomed new commander Lt. Col. Willard B. Conley in an official ceremony on the parade field at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans.

Conley originally enlisted in the Headquarters Support Company, 527th Engineer Battalion. This command change was a very proud moment for Conley, as he was able to return to the battalion where he first served in 1986.

"They say you never get to come home," Conley said. "I've been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to come back to where I first started."



1. Col. Stephen P. Todd receives the unit colors from Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, as he assumes command of the 204th Theater Area Operations Group, Louisiana Army National Guard, Aug. 7, 2010. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Paul C. Meeker

2. Lt. Col. Robert Dallas Jones receives the unit colors as the incoming commander from Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, for the 2nd Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, Airfield Operations Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard, Aug. 8, 2010.

Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone

3. Lt. Col. Willard B. Conley receives the unit colors as the incoming commander from Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, in a change-of-command ceremony for the 527th Engineer Battalion, Louisiana Army National Guard, Aug. 7, 2010. Photo: Spc. Scott Longstreet

The 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group welcomed Col. Stephen P. Todd at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Hammond, La., Aug. 7.

Todd, who hails from Pineville, La., said he was glad to return after a two-year absence to the aviation field, where he spent almost 19 years of his Army career.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of preparing the 204th for upcoming missions, which is what we do, and maintaining that pace," he said.

The final ceremony of the weekend was for the 2nd Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment (Airfield Operations Battalion) which welcomed Lt. Col. Robert Dallas Jones at the Army Aviation Support Facility on Esler Airfield, Aug. 8.

Jones, a native of Natchitoches, La., began his career 23 years ago when he enlisted in Northwestern State University's Reserve Officer Training Corps. He said he has spent his entire career in command positions and is eager to serve at the battalion level.

"I'm ready for command," Jones said. "I have been a commander my whole career – this is just more people at a higher level." ■

(Left) Members of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 527th Engineer Battalion stand in formation in front the newly constructed Adjutant General Building during the change of command ceremony held at Jackson Barracks Aug. 7, 2010. This was the first official ceremony held at Jackson Barracks since the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. Photo: Master Sgt. Toby Valadie



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NEW HORIZONS MISSION IN HAITI BIDS FAREWELL

Louisiana National Guard completes its training mission in Haiti

By Task Force Kout Men Public Affairs Office

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – Task Force Kout Men – Creole for helping hands – led by the Louisiana National Guard, completed its humanitarian assistance training mission as part of New Horizons – Haiti 2010 with a closing ceremony, Sept. 15. The ceremony was attended by Kenneth Merten, the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commander of U.S. Army South, and Col. Michael Borrel, commander of Task Force Kout Men.

New Horizons – Haiti 2010 is a collaborative effort with the government of Haiti to operate ten medical treatment sites and

provide engineering assistance by building three new school buildings and renovating two previously destroyed school buildings in the Artibonite Department in northern Haiti. This area has been repeatedly devastated by tropical storms and has received some of the 1.5 million people displaced by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

"I'm very proud of the work that our Guardsmen, Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors have accomplished here," said Borrel. "We even had the opportunity to work together on projects with the Belize Defence Force, our State Partnership Program nation,



The local Haitian community gathered at the Mandrin school site to celebrate the new school Task Force Kout Men troops built, Aug. 22, 2010. U.S. Army South's New Horizons mission was to build three new schools, renovate two schools, and operate medical assistance sites. Photo: Spc. Jessica M. Lopez

Soldiers with the Louisiana National Guard's 205th Engineer Battalion, assemble a roof trusses for the new school building at U.S. Army South New Horizons-Haiti 2010 Diaquoi Project Site July 19. New Horizons exercises provide persistent U.S. regional support through assessment, construction, and sustainment activities. New Horizons also provides valuable learning experience in a real-world environment for our U.S. Forces. Photo: Spc. Christopher Foster, 1021st Engineer Company Unit Public Affairs Representative

outside of their own country."

Borrel highlighted the accomplishments of the last four months by the LANG, Belize Defence Force, U.S. Navy Seabees, U.S. Army communications units, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Air Force medical personnel and National Guard Soldiers from more than 10 different states and territories.

"I was amazed at how quickly all of these various units and service components were able to bond together as one team," said Borrel. "They were able to jump into any job on the construction sites and medical treatment sites with expertise and familiarity."

U.S. Southern Command asked the LANG to take the lead in the New Horizons mission in Haiti in response to the earthquake. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal approved the recommendation by Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, to immediately commit to the request. Although the mission would occur during hurricane season, and 3,000 Guardsmen were already deployed to Iraq, Jindal and Landreneau knew it was the right thing to do.

"The Louisiana National Guard was excited about leading the New Horizons mission to Haiti," said Landreneau, due to long history of New Horizons missions throughout Central America. "It was a

great opportunity for the Louisiana National Guard to step up to assist the people of Haiti. Hopefully our engineering and medical efforts will have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of the Haitian people."

Engineering projects took place in the small town of Mandrin and the city of Gonaives. Projects included construction of a three-room school for 350 students in Mandrin; building Lycee Louis Diaquoi, a school for girls; and K.

Georges school. In conjunction with the BDF, the Desronvilles School was rehabilitated after it was nearly destroyed in a fire. The Army engineers and Navy Seabees also dug and improved water wells at six sites, made a soccer field and enclosed several schools with fences to make students safer. Three of the engineering sites used NuForm Building Systems, which consist of hurricane-resistant-concrete walls and a steel roof.

"The good works performed by the men and women of New Horizons – Haiti 2010 are part of the U.S. long-term commitment to the people and government of Haiti, and we will continue to work with you in confronting the issues you identify



Brunswick native Spc. Steven Cassidy, a preventive medicine specialist with the 399th Combat Support Hospital, teaches locals to practice proper oral hygiene as preventive medicine. Photos: Spc. Jessica M. Lopez

so that you can realize your vision for a better future," said Merten to the audience of U.S. military personnel and Haitian dignitaries at the closing ceremony.

In coordination with the Haitian Ministry of Health, basic medical, dental and optometry treatment was provided to more than 70,000 Haitian patients during the 10 Medical Readiness Exercises, or MEDRETEs, located throughout the Artibonite Department around the cities of Gonaives, Saint Marc, L'Estere, Poteau and Ennery. During several of the MEDRETEs, veterinary care was provided to livestock.

"The hard work of the service members of Task Force Kout Men provided tangible, life-sustaining help to the Haitian people," said Trombitas. "It has also ensured a lasting legacy and foundation for our enduring partnership with Haiti."

The Louisiana National Guard is again stepping up to take the lead for the next New Horizons – Haiti mission in 2011. The experience gained from this exercise has paved the way for continuing to develop the partnership between the LANG and the people and government of Haiti.

"Louisiana and Haiti have a lot in common, historically and culturally. It was a good fit for us," said Command Sgt. Maj. Homer Stelly, Task Force Kout Men senior enlisted advisor. "Our Soldiers and Airmen are extremely proud of the work we've been able to accomplish over the past four months."

Stelly will again serve as the senior enlisted advisor during the next New Horizons in 2011. New Horizons – Haiti 2010 began in June and concluded Sept. 15. ■



Sgt. Mike Stutz, a licensed practical nurse with 584th Minimal Care Detachment, reviews the patient's chart at the U.S. Army South New Horizons – Haiti 2010 Poteau medical assistance site, July 30, 2010. New Horizons, in partnership with the government of Haiti, is conducting various medical, dental and engineering missions for the locals in Gonaives.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army pins NCOs:

Tiger Brigade Soldiers earn battlefield promotions



*By Sgt. Tresa L. Allemang
199th Garrison Command Public Affairs*

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Three Louisiana National Guard Soldiers currently deployed to Iraq not only earned a battlefield promotion to join the noncommissioned officers corps, but were pinned their sergeant stripes by the Army's top NCO, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, during his recent visit to the Victory Base Complex in Baghdad.

Jessica N. Clements of Dry Prong, Kasi K. Miller of Lafayette and Cody M. Mclean of New Iberia learned they would receive the prestigious promotion the day before and anxiously awaited the arrival of Preston and their new rank, distinguishing them as part of the Army's backbone ... a noncommissioned officer.

All three 256th IBCT members admitted to being nervous when they discovered who would be promoting them but said the anxiety was quickly replaced by pride.

"It's such an honor just to be promoted to an NCO, but to be pinned by the Sergeant Major of the Army was the ultimate privilege and something I will never forget," said Miller, a logistics specialist for the Tiger Brigade.



Deployed Louisiana Army National Guardsman, Kasi K. Miller of Lafayette receives her new rank of sergeant by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Edward D. Daileg, 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Preston, who seemed to be as excited about promoting the Soldiers as they were to be promoted, said he was honored to be part of the ceremony.

(Above) Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston addresses deployed troops at the Joint Visitors Bureau during his recent visit to the Victory Base Complex in Baghdad. Preston spent approximately four days in Iraq to help identify the needs, wants and morale levels of deployed troops. Photo: Sgt. Tresa L. Allemang, 199th Garrison Command Public Affairs



Deployed Louisiana Army National Guardsman, Cody M. McLean, of New Iberia, La., is promoted to sergeant by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston. Photo: Staff Sgt. Edward D. Daileg, 305th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Deployed Louisiana Army National Guardsman, Jessica N. Clements of Dry Prong, La., is promoted to sergeant by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston. Photo: Sgt. Tresa L. Allemang, 199th Garrison Command Public Affairs



booster to the Tiger Brigade Soldiers who have been away from home for almost 10 months, but according to Miller, his guidance was an eye-opener to the new NCOs.

"After listening to him speak, I realized that I wasn't just becoming a sergeant, but I was becoming an NCO, and I started to realize what an important role a noncommissioned officer actually takes on," said Miller.

Clements, who works as a transportation officer for the 199th Garrison Command, said his guidance is something she will not only incorporate in herself as an NCO, but words of wisdom that she will pass on to future NCOs.

"By him taking the time to be a part of our promotions, it was a reminder to me that no matter what your rank is, you always have to make time to take care of your Soldiers," said McLean, who works on the personal security detachment for the Joint Visitors Bureau.

Miller and McLean said they called home immediately, and while everyone in their family was proud, it was both of their fathers, also veterans, who really understood the honor that comes with such an event.

Clements, who deployed with her husband, sister, and brother-in-law, did not have far to go to share the news, having family members with a deep appreciation of what it means to be promoted by the highest rank-

Preston pinned on each Soldier's new rank, then gave them some guidance on their new role.

"What makes a great NCO is one who teaches, and most importantly, one who teaches from experience," he said as he encouraged them to learn everything they could about the Army.

"Talk to your Soldiers, teach your Soldiers and share your knowledge," he told them. "Your primary role now is to develop future NCOs."

He shared his experience as an NCO and reflected on his tour in Iraq when he was the senior enlisted advisor for the V Corps in March 2003 during the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Familiar with the stress that comes from being deployed, not only were his visit and words of encouragement a morale

ing enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army.

"This is one of the best things that has ever happened in my life," McLean said after receiving his new rank. "Being promoted by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Preston, has definitely inspired me to push it to the next level and be the best NCO I can be."

Following the promotion ceremony, Preston met with enlisted Soldiers who were selected by their leaders, including many from the 256th IBCT. After presenting his coin to each of them as an award for being recognized, Preston held a town hall meeting at the Joint Visitors Bureau and discussed the importance of leadership and its impact in the development of Soldiers.

Preston, who has held his position as the Army's top NCO for seven years, spent approximately four days in Iraq to help identify the needs, wants and morale levels of deployed troops. ■

Minutemen Recognitions

LOUISIANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

PROMOTIONS JULY 1 - AUGUST 30, 2010

Chief Master Sergeant
Magri, Edward
Simmons, Vincent

Senior Master Sergeant
Skinner, Michael

Master Sergeant
Cadney, Kimani
Dupre, Michael
Marrero, Abraham
Reed, Tracey

Technical Sergeant
Jones, Jeremiah
Porter, Crystal
Sternhagen, Seth
Tanzey, Travis

Staff Sergeant
Abeyta, Michelle Renae
Anderson, Joseph Lee

Barone, Jeffrey Thomas
Benson, Arnold Wayne III
Bridges, James Taft Jr.
Ducote, Michael Louis
Ducru, Christopher Michael
Franklin, Everett Pierre
Fuller, Amber Rene
Johnnie, Jonas James
Jules, Ashley Nicole
Mai, Andrew Vu
Mcvea, Stephens Young
Miller, Ovide Lacour
Mulvihill, Matthew
Richards, Marcus Thomas
Romero, Felix Raul
Sancho, Jeffery Steven
Sensley, Ashley Marie
Spitelera, Chad Michael
Stahl, Rosie Nguyen
Taylor, Charles Jr.

Thomas, Irving Oscar
Trahan, Aaron Gerard
Trimble, Deborah E.
Verrett, James David
Vujnovich, Timothy John
Walters, Robert Stephen
Weir, Michael Jacob Jr.
Williams, Edmond Boone
Wolfe, Jason Caluar

Senior Airman

Acevedo, Pedro Antonio
Adkins, Joseph Tyner
Anticich, Christopher James
Ard, Terez Jahmal
Bardin, Ryan David
Boudreaux, Brittney Marie
Carroll, Ian
Clinton, John Lankston II
Compton, Maurice Lewis
Comman, Thomas S.

Escalon, Kori Leigh
Fletcher, Steven Jr.
Frazier, Bridget Cagan
Freeman, Tyler D.
Gonzalez, Genaro
Horton, Jarett Edward
Hymel, Michael Jordan
Jones, Jeremy Costa
Killett, William James III
Kovac, Joshua
Lemoine, Adam Joesph
Lockwood, Mandi Rae
Louviere, Michael Thomas
Mabens, Santiago Lamar
Marcomb, Brittany Nicole
Matirne, Joshua Allan
Mayer, Jewel Clayton
Mazariegos, Ruben
Mejia, Mario Roberto
Murray, Eugene Del III

Pearce, William Stephen III
Poole, Cody Matthew
Rachal, Steven Matthew
Reine, Corey Anthony
Riverarosaes, Hector Renieri
Sancho, Tyler Joseph
Starr, Nicholas Brady
Vallee, Colby James
Williams, Alden Lee
Williams, Tracee Alexandria

Airman First Class

Boudreaux, Jana Patrice
Carter, Roosevelt Jr.
Scott, Marco Marcel

Airman

Golson, Travis Jarrod
Kennedy, Tyron Rene
Watson, Devin Roshawn

LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

PROMOTIONS JULY 1 - AUGUST 30, 2010

Major
Lloyd, Katrina Elaine
Morgan, Robert Thomas
Nugent, Wynn George Jr.

Captain
Boone, Tripp Larson
Gatti, Robert Hal Jr.
Guidry, Kenneth Joseph
Herbert, Jody Mire
Huffman, Daniel Brian
Jasper, Chadwick Ellis
Mitchell, Benjamin Ezell
Skipper, Mark Anthony

1st Lieutenant
Dogay, Christopher Nicholas

Chief Warrant Officer 4
Donnelly, Michael Arthur IV

1st Sergeant
Green, Eric Darrell
Smith, Larry Darrell

Master Sergeant
Meadors, Nolan Napoleon
Rodriguez, Christine Ann

Sergeant First Class
Allen, Jason Shawn
Bernard, Ladonna Marie
Bronson, Jackie Shree
Crockett, Corey Jerome
Faircloth, Demetria Rachel
Gendron, Donald Maurice
Harris, Robert Jeffery
Isaac, Christopher Wayne

Milner, David Talmadge
Shannon, Carole Ann
Singson, Gilian Leliza
Smith, Robert Lee
Wilson, Warren George Jr.

Staff Sergeant

Aikens, Daniel Dewayne
Anderson, Harry Tammond
Auzenne, Ainsley Elaine
Bourgeois, Adam Micheel
Chaney, Elias III
Cooper, Jason Ivan
Courtney, James Joseph III
Dickerson, Lalanja Marie
Fellows, Jerry Dean Jr.
Fogleman, Christopher Perry
Hall, Murphy Relius
Harper, Fabian
Key, Terrance Miles
Landry, Derek Michael
Lester, Marilyn Diana
Lique, James B. W.
McCaskill, Will Alston
Mobley, Jamie Lee
Pettiette, Lawrence Wayne II
Roberts, Michael Gerald
Savana, Casey Joe
Simon, Brian Gene
Sylvain, Amina Tiye
Wade, Raymond Paul
Walker, Encil Harlon II
Willett, James Ryan

Sergeant

Agee, Brandon Daniel
Arendt, Michael Keith

Bagwell, Dustin David
Beaumont, Troy Allen
Beck, Jason Christopher
Belamy, Emmanuel
Boyle, Benji Elbert
Breau, Alvis Joseph Jr.
Broadley, Shaun Michael
Brown, Niuu Faaifo
Brown, Terrance Tyrone
Bryson, Justin Micheal
Burke, Frank Marcnicklous
Campbell, Brianna Lee
Cardin, James Michael
Carter, Dermont Demetrius
Carter, Jermias Gabriel
Choate, Richard Zachary
Deaton, Dee Austin
Doubleday, Jason Brent
Dupont, Jerrick Paul
Dutrisac, Sean Eric
Eskind, Barton Joseph
Fachko, Virginia Hutchinson
Fletcher, Gabriel Lee
Fourcade, Joseph Charles
Galloway, Steven Barry
Goetz, Jason William
Good, Leslie Mcelwee
Graham, Benjamin Arsene IV
Gravouilla, Leslie Alicia
Green, Kelvin Oneal
Green, Lonnie Scott
Greene, Frank Anthony
Hailey, Matthew Grant
Halley, Cory Thomas
Harris, Brandon Bourdell
Hennessey, Ernest Ellison

Hickman, Carl Ray
Kennedy, Keegan Christopher
Laborde, Cameron Wyatt
Lamkin, Joy Deguzman
Lane, Bryan Karl
Laneaux, Robbie Lee
Liles, Jerimiah Brendale
Marshall, Crystal Lynn
Martin, Stevan Taylor
Milan, Anita Gail
Mire, Andrew Mauldinmichael
Mitchell, Jerry Charles
Morrison, Kimberly Guidry
Nehls, Jeremy Andrew
Oleary, Alexander Dean
Phillips, Glenn Dale
Pollard, Diamonique Ramona
Quinn, Quentin Nigel
Rhoden, Curtis Chancy II
Richardson, Brandon De Wild
Richardson, Jared Christophe
Rigney, Patrick Mcshane
Robinson, Brian Leroy
Sevin, Cole Williamjude
Simms, Ashlin Jerome
Smith, Christopher Allen Jr.
Taylor, Royce Glenn
Thompson, David Micah
Thomson, Robert Bruce Jr.
Uze, Charles Anthony
Valley, Jasmon Tyesha
Vanlangendonck, David Allen
Vanwick, Joseph Martin
Veal, Ronnie Jr.
Vicento, Jared Heath
Vicknair, Daniel Joseph

Walker, Lance Aubry
Yoruw, Joey Dwayne

Specialist

Albright, Jacob David
Alexander, Mychal Quadale
Alwaqfi, Odai Alaeddin
Atkins, Ian George
Barnett, Dustin Andrew
Bass, Samuel Travis
Berryman, Gregory Layne
Besson, Joshua Joseph
Best, Cody Ray
Blumrich, Troy Scott
Bonilla, Devin Kylon
Brown, Cassandra Lynn
Brown, Justin Alan
Brown, Latia Tenisha
Bryan, Kelley Diane
Bryant, Richland Chandler
Campbell, Andrew James
Chapman, Matthew William
Chisley, Marquise Jamar
Clayton, Charles Warren II
Colburn, Jennifer Leeann
Collins, Shannon Joseph
Conley, Kelly Lynn
Conway, Kendric Dewayne
Craft, Dusti Roxann
Crowell, Cory Michael
Dawson, Brandon Emmanuel
Dixon, Randall Scott
Domingue, Chastity Nichole
Doucet, Tyler Bo
Dunagan, Stefan Jude
Edwards, Brook Joseph
Elam, Raven Symone

Fields, Lanitra Letrice
 Fitzpatrick, Devin Thomas
 Fontenot, Christopher Aaron
 Foster, Kyle Hampton
 Franklin, Tyrius Damell
 Gautreau, Nicholas Paul
 Gray, Lugine Joseph III
 Guzman, Jeffrey Vincent
 Hall, Guybrielle Margaret
 Harrison, Percy Eugene
 Harry, Lajordan Shaquille
 Harvey, Cortney Raphael
 Hatfield, Corey Christopher
 Henry, Paul Bartholomew Jr.
 Hidalgo, Carlos Arturo
 Higgins, Katie Ray
 Hobbs, Tymeka Shakeila
 Houston, Crystal Gayle
 Jennings, Joseph Edward
 Johnson, D. Ondrae Latrell
 Johnson, Joshua Nathaniel
 Johnson, Phillip Damien
 Jones, Chandalier Tiera
 Jones, Demetress Devon
 Keith, Nathaniel Elec Jr.
 Kyle, Jonas Jervell
 Labit, Katherine Klair
 Landry, Tyrone Jr.
 Latiolais, Caleb
 Lavall, Kenneth Cornell
 Leblanc, Corey Alan
 Levert, Brett Patrick Jr.
 Lonidier, Justin Lynn
 Lott, Elizabeth Marie
 Louviere, Nicholas Paul
 Lumar, Quinton Dayshawn
 Magraff, Creishyne Jane
 Manuel, Joseph Allen Jr.
 Martin, Barbara Tynisha
 McCoy, Daniel Louis
 Mccray, Shawnell Antonnett
 Mccarlant, Cidney Ciera
 Mccraw, Jimika Denise
 Mcknight, Teryrell Lemar
 Melancon, Scott Ray
 Mendoza, Ogygyrene Dejesus
 Minnifield, Ladedrick Rashad
 Mitchell, Danyell Michelle
 Nuccio, Darren Joseph Jr.
 Parlow, Yahshikar Tyneeta
 Patrick, Katie Lou
 Payton, Roland James
 Pete, Ashlie Raina
 Petitjean, Casey Jon
 Phipps, Kellen Ray
 Pickney, Justin Larry
 Piear, Warren Jr.
 Plauche, Michael Thomas
 Pollard, Garland Roger
 Powell, Daryl Keith
 Primes, Christopher William
 Purvis, Jeremiah Daniel
 Puryear, Jason Jamar
 Rico, Derek Joseph
 Ridder, Brenton Anthony
 Roberts, Blake Martin
 Robinson, Melony Rene
 Russell, Alex Paul
 Saucier, Justin Patrick

Seal, Ryan Alan
 Shaw, Tramarus Tremell
 Shows, Jamie Lari
 Simon, Christin Lashae
 Singleton, Ryan Leejohnson
 Stansell, Kasey Clark
 Tripp, Todd Eric
 Veronie, Jennifer Nicole
 Waggoner, Robert Gabriel
 Waters, Rasheema Chardey
 Webb, Williams Tyler
 White, Donavon Chad
 Williams, Alexandria Kristin
 Williams, Jessica Farmer
 Williams, Kayla Marie
 Willis, Cory Duane
 Willis, Erica Muree
 Wilson, Tieisha Danelle
 Wiltz, Alexander Joseph
 Wright, Latrice Jowanda

Private First Class

Aghabi, Issa Fidelis
 Albert, Brody John
 Anderson, Colby Allen
 Anderson, David Lee
 Andrews, Terrel Vontae
 Armstrong, Louis Duncen
 Baehr, Jeffrey Tomeny
 Baker, Tyler Anthony
 Barberito, Jason Paul
 Bedey, Robert Alan
 Billiot, Clyde John Jr.
 Blood, Kayla Marie
 Bourgoyne, Aaron Christopher
 Breaud, David Christian
 Britt, Zechariah Quitman
 Broussard, Brady Michael
 Broussard, Brian Curtis
 Brown, Bradley Michael
 Brown, Darrial Wallace Jr.
 Byrnes, Eric Joseph
 Carley, Aaron Kenneth
 Cates, David William
 Chase, Ernest Lavem IV
 Chen, Jun Yao
 Collo, Mart Robin
 Cooper, Kentrell Curtis
 Cowher, Brandon Michael
 Crawford, Jacob Wayne
 Cuti, Dominick Anthony III
 Cutlip, Jacob Wade
 Dalton, Jasmine Ricco
 Dauzat, Dustin Dewayne
 Davis, Jahriel Kadesh
 Davis, Justin Jamal
 Davis, William Charles
 Dean, Jakell Marie
 Degelos, Perry Josephorillio
 Desdunes, Melvin Anthony III
 Diggins, Eric Terrell
 Dodd, David Joseph
 Donaldson, John Allen III
 Draper, Shonasea Danielle
 Duncan, Terry Paul Jr.
 Dyson, Reshard Terres
 Egloff, Billy Joseph
 Eubanks, Adam Jacob
 Fazende, Kara Kristin

Feazell, Cody James
 Fleniken, Nicholas Christoph
 Folse, Hobie John
 Fountain, Shavonna Denae
 Fournet, Dylan Tyler
 Frost, Brandon Eugene
 Fruge, Jake Louis Jr.
 Fuentes, Lance Patrick
 George, Cree Chamele
 George, Kevin Lee
 Gipson, Kentavius Deandre
 Golden, Jadrick Keith
 Gordon, John Allen Jr.
 Greer, Jamie Lee
 Grigsby, Carlton Ray Jr.
 Hall, Darren Ray
 Hammond, Lydia Lynette
 Harlan, Eric Willie
 Harris, Julian Dearius
 Harris, Todd Dewayne
 Henry, Brandon Shamone
 Herrington, Jessica Marie
 Hollins, Ryan Lamar
 Hutton, Michelle Chanell
 Israel, Jordan Kelsey
 Jackson, Brandon Antonio
 Jackson, Dustin Paul
 Jefferson, Catherine Rene
 Jenkins, Blake Karlton
 Johnson, Shane Carlton
 Jones, Darius Vontrale
 Jones, Richard Lavel Jr.
 Keller, Lance Anthony
 Kelly, Shaquiel Andrew
 Kershaw, Zachary Seth
 Lein, Justin Matthew
 Lelly, Christopher Lloyd
 Lamb, James Adams
 Lee, Jobe Taylor
 Lewis, Donnell Paul
 Brown, Etienne Zamfir
 Lirette, Chance Michael
 Lorio, Renaldy Alejandro
 Loupe, Justin Jacob
 Luginbill, John Daniel
 Magee, Sammy Joe Jr.
 Malone, Janeroe Lee
 Marengo, Joshua Charles
 Marshall, Prentiss Germal
 Martinez, Nicholas Keith
 Mayfield, Jerard Allen
 Mccallister, Jerrod Keith Jr.
 Mccarty, James Kyle
 Mcclain, Jeremy Lee
 Mcleod, Ashli Danielle
 Mcmillan, Jacqueline Renae
 Melton, Terren Dupriest
 Messer, Samantha Leigh
 Mills, Justin Lyle
 Montgomery, Morris Joseph Jr.
 Montoya, Portillo Angel A
 Morris, Justin Anthwyne
 Nash, Dylan Warren
 Perque, Kurt Joseph Jr.
 Philyaw, Brenton Everette
 Pinder, David Michael
 Polk, Henry Leon
 Ponthier, Brittany Rae
 Posthumus, Christopher James

Prowse, John Zachary
 Pruitt, Alatrae Shana
 Rangel, Jessie Lee Broussard
 Reed, Jonathan Wendell
 Reine, Cecil Francis Jr.
 Reine, Cody Austin
 Rougeau, Steven Nicholas
 Roussel, Brandi Marie
 Ruiz, Justin Paul
 Ryals, Michael Quanton
 Ryder, Josh James
 Sanders, Antonio Markeys
 Schroeder, Crit Landon
 Scott, Brian William
 Seidule, Jacob Anthony
 Shelly, Kent Joshua
 Simmons, Danielle Latrice
 Slaven, Edward Arthur III
 Smalley, John Preston
 Smith, Cordieus Doniel
 Smith, Dylan Jordon
 Smith, Ethancord Matthew
 Smith, Randy Joseph
 Stewart, Antoine Jermaine
 Stewart, Tyler Jerome
 Thomas, Lance Dwight
 Tilton, Edward Lee V
 Titus, Jakarta Akem
 Torres, Dustin Paul
 Tremble, Xavier Dandre
 Ulm, Eric Michael
 Victor, Clifton III
 Volz, Scott Palmer
 Walker, Cody Steven
 Walsh, Charles William
 Watson, Paul Archie
 Wimby, Diante Devon
 Wingate, William Christopher
 Witherwax, Samuel James
 Wooley, Jessica Lee
 Zachary, Kerry Shannon

Private E-2

Alexander, Javeon Jacarte
 Allen, Amario Armez
 Allen, Caezara Lynette
 Arnold, Raina Jenae
 Authement, Ray Joseph
 Barras, Melvin Joseph III
 Barrow, Andrew Joseph
 Beasley, Jonathan Kyle
 Belsito, Emile Joseph
 Bernard, Forrest James
 Blackmon, Grant Wayne
 Booty, Samuel Dwayne
 Brewer, Chad Michael
 Brown, Frank McClain
 Brown, Lee Michael
 Burkholder, Kyle Raymond
 Burleson, Justin Allen
 Byrom, Joshua Wayne
 Clark, Charles Jacob
 Clause, Garrett Adam
 Colten, Melanie Joah
 Cormier, Elie Robert
 Crowell, Dustin Wayne
 Cupples, Mason Lee
 Daigrepont, Thomas Anthony
 Diamond, Shantelle Michelle

Denton, Marcus Paul
 Derouen, Devan Andrew
 Edwards, Blake Alen
 Eubanks, Kurtis Wayne
 Ferez, Marlon Alcides Jr.
 Gaspard, Michael Thomas
 Gennuso, Krysten Leilani
 George, Milan Timothy
 Gilbert, Justin Mccall
 Goudeau, Travis Lavergerne
 Gremillion, Donavan Tyler
 Gros, Steven Andrew
 Guidroz, Bobby James
 Hamadeh, Yuseff Glenn
 Harson, Ian Paul
 Heable, Daren Eugene Jr.
 Heinen, Joseph Edward
 Hernandez, Williams
 Hill, Christana Ruth
 Horton, Devan Deshaun
 Jackson, Jamal Lee
 Jeansonne, Jason Stephen
 Johnson, Kenneth Damell Jr.
 Johnson, Malcom Damionquasea
 Jourmet, Harold James Jr.
 Kessler, Jerrek Mark
 Knight, Aaron Wade
 Laraway, Joshua Ryan
 Latham, Brandon Dale
 Lawrence, Hunter Blant
 Lebato, Ashley Nicole
 Lebert, Nicholas Ray
 Littleton, John Leighton
 Lloyd, Timothy David
 Magda, Stephen Louis
 Maness, Brock Spencer
 Martin, Alonzo Jamar
 Mccartney, Michael Calvin Da
 Mcculloch, Levestor Anton
 Mccglory, Phillip Obrien
 Mccmillan, Seth David
 Michiels, Justin Keith
 Miller, Lance Eric
 Miller, Mary Consuella
 Mitchell, Juan Joseph
 Modicue, DLeontrelle Maurice
 Nugent, Tyler Ethan
 Parker, Mary Frances
 Poirier, Trey Anthony
 Polanski, Joseph Edward
 Pospisil, Jarred Allen
 Sanchez, Casey Michael
 Seal, William Steven
 Simon, David Michael
 Slaven, Edward Arthur IV
 Smith, Brittany Lynn
 Sonnier, Wilfred Joseph
 Stout, Amber Nichole
 Strickland, Reatha Rose
 Temple, Ashley Parker
 Thomas, Henry Aloysius
 Tortorich, Donald Matthew
 Townsend, Tyler Ray
 Trichel, Alexander Keith
 Tulino, Kevin Christopher
 Walters, Brenden Reuben
 Watts, Brandon Lee
 Wilkerson, Stephen Anson
 Wise, Zachary Edwin

Life Changing Service

Continued from page 17

communication to service members anywhere in the world.

Manas Air Base serves as a major transport hub for personnel and equipment en route to Afghanistan. While deployed, the SFS members dealt with civil unrest and political instability in the Central Asian region.

"I'm glad he went and did his job, but I am so glad that he is home," said Pat Durel of Abita Springs, La. mother-in-law of Master Sgt. Timothy L. Mitchell, troop commander for the deployment.

Mitchell's wife Robin had a brand new truck waiting for him in the airport parking lot wrapped in a huge ribbon and homemade signs.

"I can't believe it!" said Mitchell, surprised with his new truck.

Tech. Sgt. Reece Jenkins' wife Renee helped collect donations for a local elementary school that the SFS adopted. She sent out a message on Facebook asking for donations of much needed school supplies and coordinated the shipments of several packages.

"I'm very proud of my wife and how she helped us," said Jenkins of Denham Springs, La.

Also attending the welcome home were members of the group Soldier's Angels. They support deployed military members year round by attending both departure ceremonies and homecomings.

Member Cherry Blackwell understands the need for emotional support after coming home from a long deployment. Her daughter was a Marine in the Combat Camera Unit.

"I can't wait!" said Blackwell about the return of the SFS members.

The last flight returning with Airmen arrived after 9:00, but the enthusiasm welcoming the last of the 159th SFS members never wavered.

"We're proud of him," said Ovide Miller Sr. of New Orleans as he awaited the return of his son, Staff Sgt. Ovide L. Miller Jr. "I missed him a lot, especially not having him around for our annual hunting and fishing trips, but I think it's great that he went." ■

Surprise!.....



1st Lt. Obie Ward of Pineville, greets his wife of 12 years, Stacey, after the bus ride from Camp Shelby, Miss. More than 250 Louisiana National Guardsmen from the 3,000-member 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived home a few months early, Aug. 12, 2010. Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone



Staff Sgt. Stephen Dufrene of Pineville, holds out his arms as his son Calob, 2, runs to greet him. Dufrene's wife, Amy, said, "I was so happy and surprised when I found out he was coming home early!"

Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone

Staff Sgt. Stephen Dufrene of Pineville, reads a welcome home sign held by his son Calob, 2. More than 250 Louisiana National Guardsmen from the 3,000-member 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived home Aug. 12, a few months early. The remaining Soldiers will return home later this year.

Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone

Guardsmen return home early from Iraq

*By Sgt. Michael L. Owens
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office*

After an eight-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, an element of the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team returned to the states, Aug. 7, at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center near the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport in Mississippi.

More than 250 Guardsmen were greeted by Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier, the state's senior enlisted advisor, as the returnees stepped off the plane. The advance group of 250 from the 3,000-member 256th IBCBT arrived home a few months early. The remaining Soldiers will return home later this year.

"These Soldiers are truly great Americans," said Landreneau. "These heroes stepped up to our nation's call to protect our freedoms, and it is great to welcome them home."

"We just got off the plane, and it really has not hit me that I'm actually home, but I am really happy to be here," said Sgt. Robin C. Carpenter of the 156th Army Band.

Throughout their deployment, these Soldiers provided force protection on their bases and conducted convoy security missions throughout Iraq. ■



More than 250 Guardsmen of an advanced element of the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are greeted at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., by Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Caillier, the state's senior enlisted advisor, as they return home, Aug. 7, from an eight-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo: Sgt. Michael L. Owens



ENGINEERS COMPLETE FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Hescos provide flood defense for Franklin residents


Story and photos by Sgt. Rebekah Malone
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

For nearly 400 residents in Franklin, La., the more than half mile of Hesco baskets placed by Louisiana National Guardsmen in August are adding peace of mind against future storms.


In 2008, Hurricane Ike caused flooding along evacuation route Highway 90 that affected numerous homes. Strategically placed four-foot Hesco baskets filled with sand have added a much needed layer of protection from possible storm-surges.

The excitement was evident for the supervisor of Drainage District No. 1, Robert Robinson, as he watched the Guardsmen work.

"The Guard has helped tremendously," he said. "We couldn't have done it without the help of the Troops. We appreciate what they are doing here in our community, state and all over the world."



Spc. Skyler Moncrieffe from Baton Rouge, La., shovels sand along the Hesco basket line of defense near Charenton Navigation Canal outside Franklin, La.



Guardsmen spent nearly two weeks working on the engineer training project at four sites around Franklin. The Hesco defense was added at Yellow Bayou Pump Station, Charenton Navigation Canal, Franklin Canal and Hanson Canal; some areas required double stacked rows of the baskets. Eventually, grass will grow out of the baskets and roots will add stability to make the baskets part of the levee. ■

(Above) Staff Sgt. Clency Kirk from Raceland, La., (right) holds the Hesco basket as a fellow Guardsman from the 769th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, puts the basket together near Charenton Navigation Canal outside Franklin, La., Aug. 25.

(Inset) Robert Robinson, supervisor for the Drainage District No. 1, shows photographs of the flooding Hurricane Ike caused in 2008 of the road near Hanson Canal outside Franklin, La. The Louisiana National Guardsmen from the 769th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, built more than a half of a mile of flood protection in St. Mary's Parish to as a line of defense from possible flooding from future storms.



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www.militarybenefit.org

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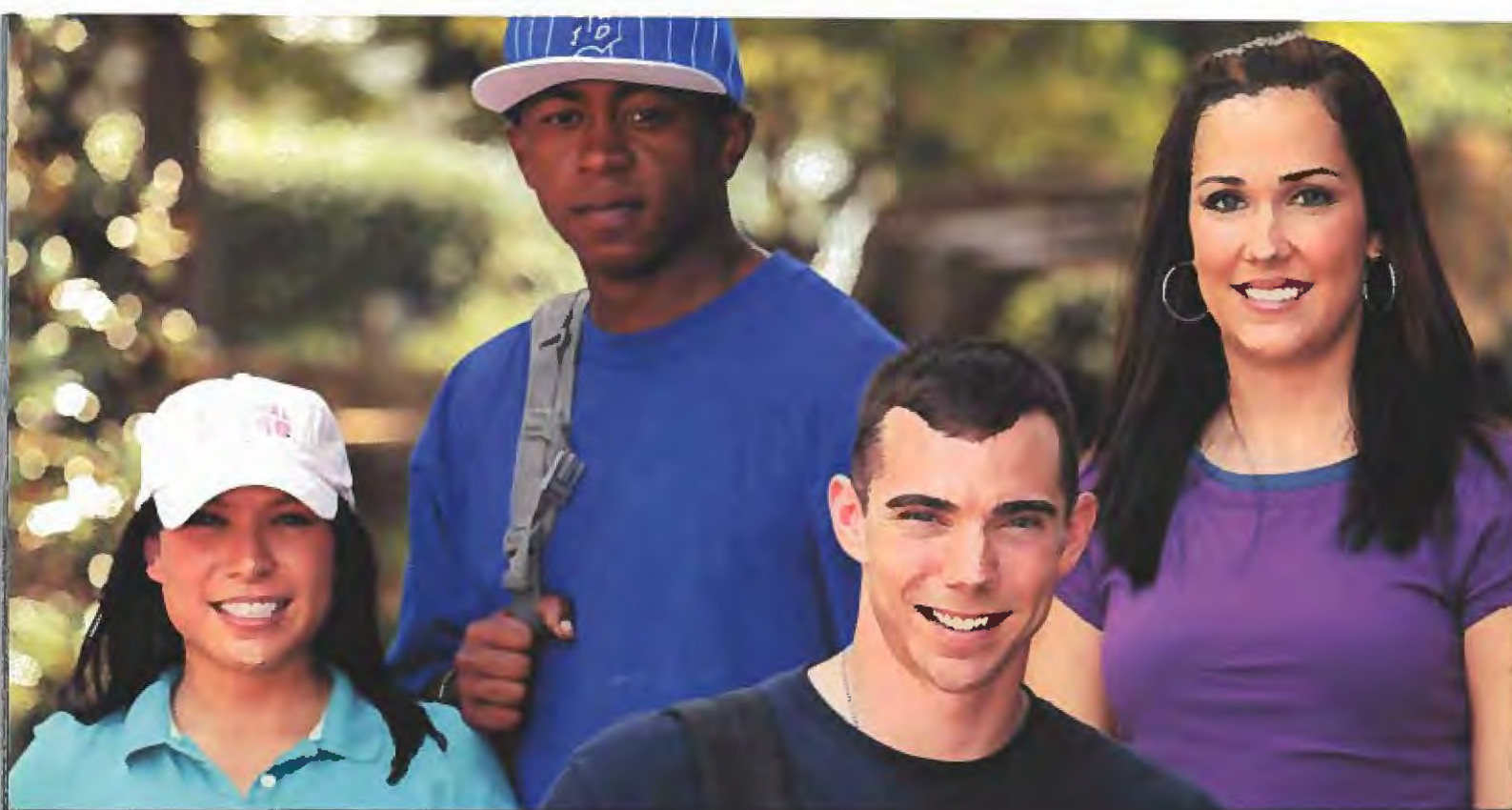
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