



# PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

WINTER 2011

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**Tiger Brigade  
roars through  
another** 

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**Master of Fitness**  
Guardsman scores  
401 on Army fitness test

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Louisiana Air National Guardsman Airman 1st Class Steven B. Swickin of Laplace, a communications technical controller with the 225th Tactical Communications Squadron, is the first Louisiana National Guard member to make the All-Air Force Soccer Team and is also the manager and team's starting player.

Cover illustration by Steve Ser. 3/11/11/11

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## From the Adjutant General



My fellow Guardsmen,

2010 was another great year for the Louisiana National Guard. As your Adjutant General, I continue to be inspired and in awe of the many accomplishments of our Guardsmen. I want to extend a personal 'thank you' to all of our Guardsmen and their families for the hard work and tireless efforts in playing a part in the success of our organization.

"Protect what matters" rang loud once again and proved true that our vigilance and preparedness for disasters were right on target. The year 2010 will be remembered not only for the tragic Deepwater Horizon oil spill off our coast, but also for the commendable actions of our Soldiers and Airmen to protect our state's precious shoreline, it's wildlife and our citizens' way of life. Our quick and professional response proved once again that the Louisiana National Guard is always ready, no matter the emergency. We have raised the bar yet again and will continue to be prepared for the worst, while training at our best.

Many of our units have deployed and returned during the past year, serving as a constant reminder of our federal mission to protect our Nation and our freedoms. Our largest deployment since 2005 was the mobilization of the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team with more than 3,000 Soldiers. During a successful rotation to Iraq, the 256th helped set the conditions for the responsible withdrawal of U.S. forces and the transition to Operation New Dawn. Thankfully, they were able to return just in time for Christmas.

2010 also witnessed another unexpected mission for our troops. Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the Louisiana National Guard took command of the New Horizons - Haiti 2010 exercise. The humanitarian assistance training mission allowed our Louisiana Task Force to work with the government of Haiti by providing medical treatment sites and building schools in response to the dislocated civilians. Due to our overwhelming accomplishments, we will again step up to take the lead for the next Haiti mission in 2011. This is a testament to the expertise and professionalism of our Guardsmen, and has helped pave the way for a new partnership between the United States and the government of Haiti and its people.

As I look back at our accomplishments of 2010, I am reminded of why I am so proud to lead this organization. And as always, we must remain steadfast and committed to our most valuable assets: our Soldiers, Airmen and families. It is because of their continued support that we are able to succeed in our mission.

Sincerely,  
Major General Bennett C. Landreneau  
The Adjutant General

# 139TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER



By *Spec. Tarell J. Bilbo,*  
241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Louisiana National Guard's 139th Regional Support Group held a change of command ceremony at the Jackson Barracks parade field in New Orleans, Jan. 8. The incoming commander, Lt. Col. Damian K. Waddell, was presented the unit colors by Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the LANG.

"I have no doubt that [Waddell] will step-up to the challenge of command and the success of leading the 139th," Landreneau said.

Waddell, a native of Lake Charles, joined the LANG in 1995 and previously deployed with and served as commander of the 769th Engineer Battalion. He currently works full-time as a high school teacher and coach at Sam Houston High School in Lake Charles.

"As commander, I will do my best to help the 139th to live up to the legacy it has set," Waddell said. "My command philosophy centers on the Soldier. Today, and in the future, we will all stand together to keep the 139th strong."

The unit's outgoing commander, Col. Douglas J. Mouton, has commanded the 139th since January 2009 and has served in the LANG for 27 years.

Mouton addressed Waddell in regard to his new responsibilities.

"You're going to do a great job as a commander," Mouton said. "Congratulations on the much deserved accomplishment."

Officially recognized as a major command in 2005, the 139th is a multi-functional organization consisting of transportation, maintenance, communications, medical, the Military Band, military police and intelligence units.

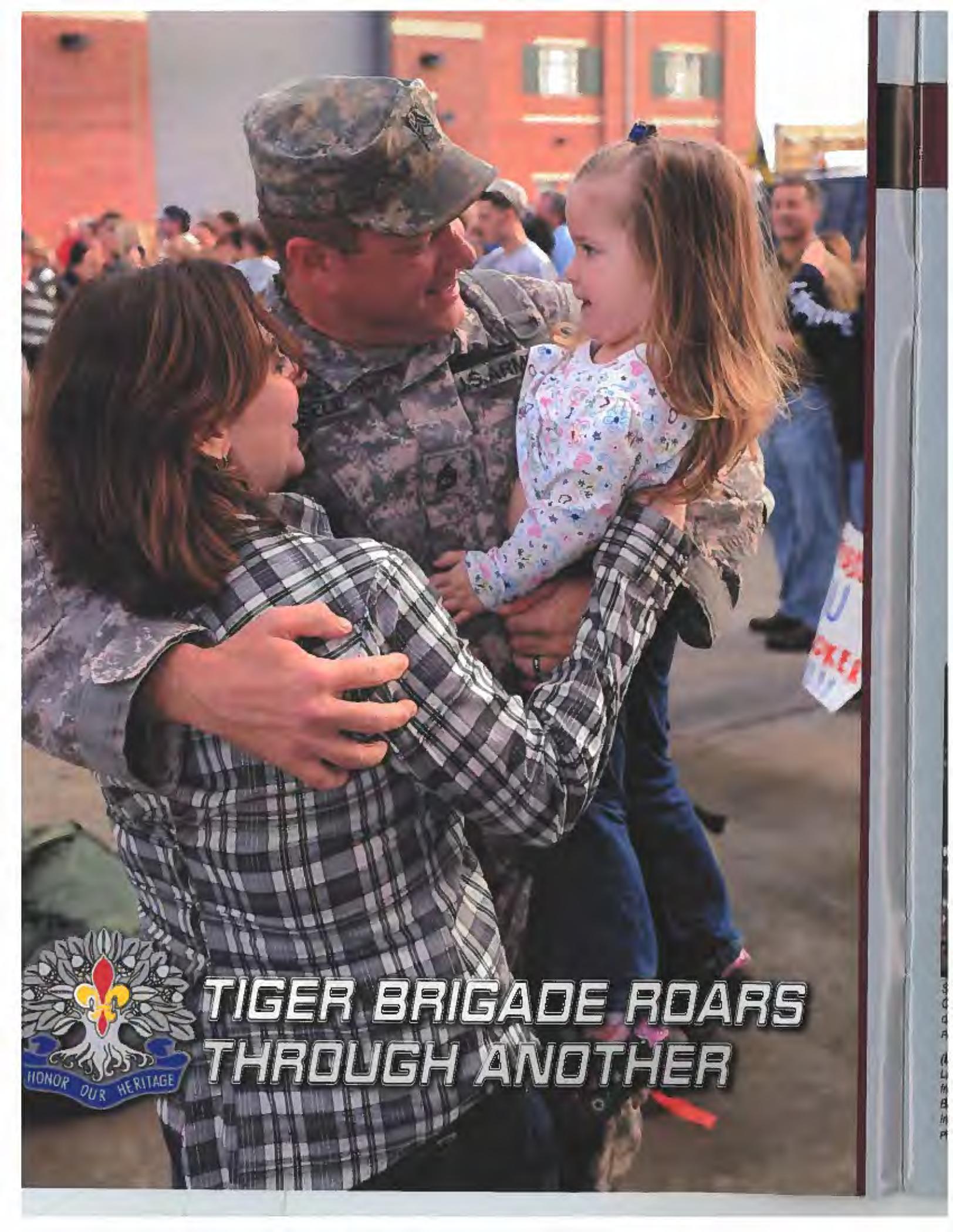
"Both of these officers sitting here today are proven leaders," Landreneau said. "I look forward to seeing the continued success of the 139th. It is said that good commanders look after their troops and good troops look after their commanders. I ask you, Soldiers of the 139th, to do the same for your new commander." ■



Lt. Col. Damian K. Waddell, incoming commander of the Louisiana National Guard's 139th Regional Support Group, receives the unit guidon to Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general, during a change of command ceremony at the Jackson Barracks Parade Field in New Orleans, Jan. 8, 2011. Photo by Sgt. Michael L. Owens



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, awards Col. Douglas J. Mouton, outgoing commander of the 139th Regional Support Group, the Legion of Merit medal during a change of command ceremony at the Jackson Barracks Parade Field in New Orleans, Jan. 8, 2011. Mouton assumed command of the 139th in 2009 and has served in the LANG for 27 years. Photo by Spec. Tarell J. Bilbo



**TIGER BRIGADE ROARS  
THROUGH ANOTHER**

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## 256th IBCT returns home after yearlong deployment

Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

All members of the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are finally home after serving a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, returning during the first three weeks of December.

"These Soldiers are truly great Americans," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the LANG. "These heroes stepped up to our nation's call to protect our freedoms, and it is great to welcome them home."

Approximately 3,000 Guardsmen, assigned to different units within the 256th, received smiles, hugs and cheers as they unloaded buses at their unit armories across Louisiana.

"It really feels great to be home," said Spc. Dex F. Legendre of Thibodeaux, La. "The timing of our return will make this a very special holiday season."

In January, the 256th IBCT deployed to Iraq to begin their second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Before returning to Louisiana, the Soldiers completed demobilization training in Camp Shelby, Miss.

"We had a multitude of missions, and the Soldiers did an outstanding job," said Col. Jonathan Ball, 256th commander. "I have a lot of pride in their performance."

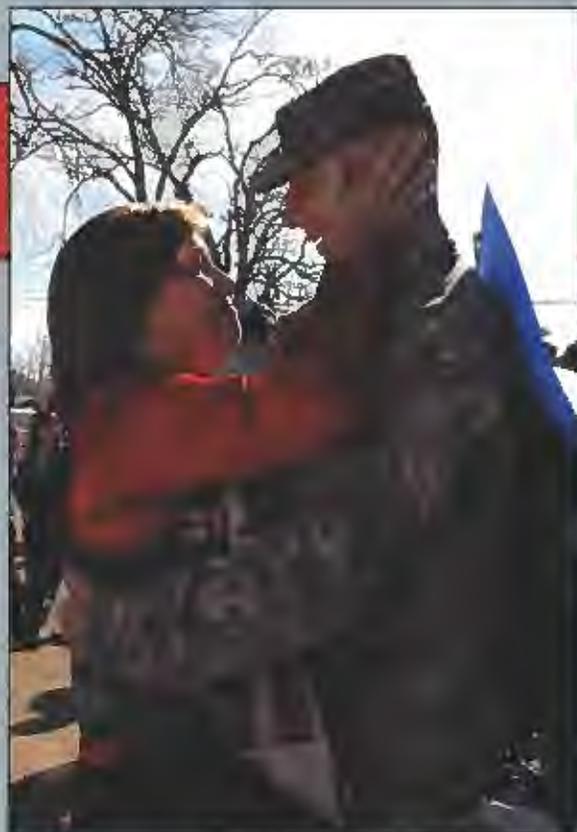
The 256th's Soldiers were spread throughout Iraq conducting various missions including base defense and entry control point operations, convoy security, personal security, garrison command, special operation missions and unmanned aerial flight operations.

Louisiana Guardsmen routinely interacted with personnel from the local Iraqimilitary, U.S. embassy and United Nations within the International Zone, formerly known as the Green Zone.

"Morale stayed high the

whole time, and they did an outstanding job," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Wagner, 256th senior enlisted advisor. "I was never more proud to be their sergeant major."

The Tiger Brigade helped set the conditions for the responsible withdrawal of U.S. Armed Forces and equipment as they transitioned to Operation New Dawn in September 2010. ■



Commander of the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Col. Jonathan I. Ball of Pineville, greets his wife, Karen, after stepping off the bus with the rest of the returning Soldiers, Dec. 23, 2010.

Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Mabine



Sisters Chelsea and Andrea welcome home their brother, Spc. Andrew Roberts, at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La., Dec. 21. Roberts, a Winnfield, La., resident, is a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Photo by Sgt. Robin Carpenter

(LEFT) Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Richard Cassell of Bridge City, La., hugs his 2-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, and wife, Shawna, as he returns home from Iraq to Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Dec. 22, 2010. The 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team completed a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

Photo by Master Sgt. Toby M. Valade



Louisiana National Guardsman Spc. Crystal Houston of New Orleans looks at a colorful sign for her 6-year-old son, Micah, created for her as she returns home from Iraq to Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Dec. 22, 2010.

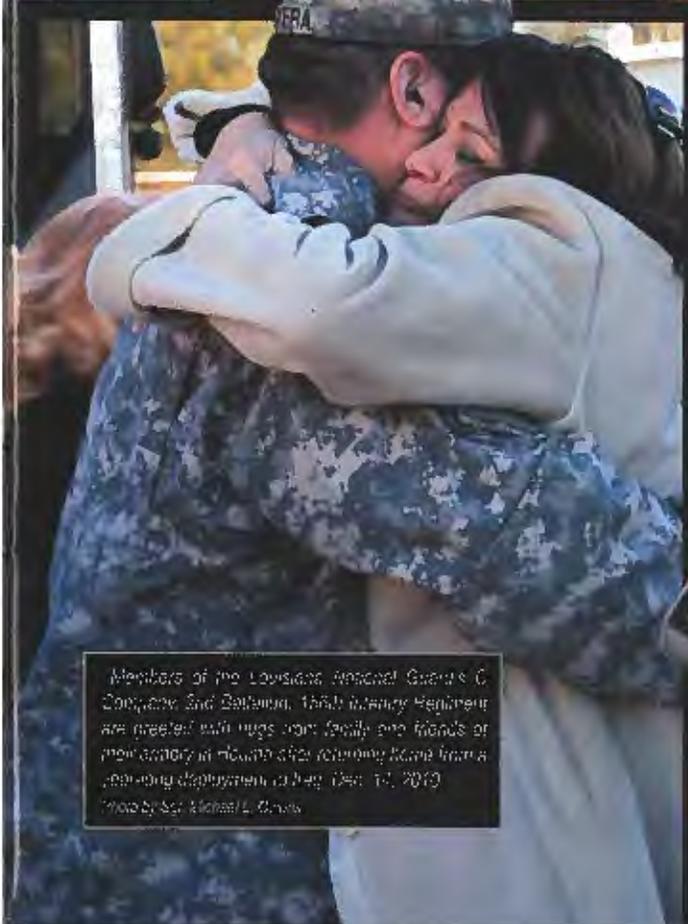
Photo by Master Sgt. Toby M. Valade



Lawson's Army Medical Guardsmen return home from Iraq to family and friends in Lake Charles, Dec. 18, 2010. The 255th Infantry Brigade Combat Team completed a 288-day deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Zarke



August 20 family members of Staff Sgt Cynthia Jones cheer as the bus arrives at the headquarters of the 25th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Alayala, Dec. 23, 2010. Photo by Sgt. Robert Wilson.



Members of the Louisiana National Guard's C Company, 3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment are greeted with hugs from family and friends at home after returning home from a long deployment on Dec. 14, 2010. Photo by Sgt. Michael L. Grew.



Sgt. Josh Bridges celebrates his homecoming with his son Sawyer at Bremerport Dec. 19, 2010. Bridges is a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 25th Infantry Brigade Combat Team which deploys to Iraq in January 2010 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Photo by Sgt. Robert Gresham.

# Guard's STARBASE

## Program amazes Rapides Parish youth

By Spc. Scott D. Longstreet

Photos courtesy of STARBASE

Science has come to life for CENLA fifth graders through the Louisiana National Guard youth program Pelican State STARBASE, at Camp Beauregard in Pineville.

STARBASE is a Department of Defense funded youth program aimed at 5th grade students in the Rapides Parish area. The five-day interactive program focuses on the STEM curriculum of science, technology, engineering and math in both hands-on and classroom environments.

"It began in 1999 in Orleans Parish," said Cheryl Arbour, STARBASE director. "When Katrina hit in 2005, we relocated here to Camp Beauregard where it has continued to grow and thrive. We are completely self-sufficient, and this year we will have 32 academies come through our program with each academy averaging 20 to 35 students."

STARBASE covers topics such as physics and nanotechnology, and even explores some space and NASA concepts.

"We use the core components as required by the DoD, but we also individualize our curriculum a little bit as well," Arbour continued. "We have a 20-hour curriculum that we balance between classroom, computer labs and hands-on activities."

The students conduct an engineering design project that helps them learn about space and lab modules. The aspiring young scientists also learn about and build rockets that are launched at the end of their five-day journey; they even get to try a flight simulator in the computer lab.

"During this decade, employment in science and engineering is expected to increase for all occupations," Arbour said. "Because less than 1 percent of current elementary school students will seek advanced education in the science, math and engineering fields . . . we need to increase the interest."



Montessori Educational Center student Reginald Porter learns about the different STEM careers as Capt. Jackie Manton, Youth Challenge Program's deputy director, assists him during a Pelican State STARBASE class at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. Fifth grade students from across the parish come to STARBASE to learn about science, technology, engineering and math concepts during a five-day course curriculum that involves both hands-on and classroom teaching. STARBASE is a National Guard youth program funded by the Department of Defense. Photo: Courtesy of the U.S. Army



(ABOVE) Meniah Greenwood and Paris Alexander from J.B. Nachman Elementary School conduct a sand investigation experiment of nanotechnology during a Pelican State STARBASE class at Camp Beauregard in Pineville.

Tyler Speir and Casen Smith from J.B. Nachman Elementary School build a lab module during a Pelican State STARBASE class at Camp Beauregard.

Photos: Courtesy of the U.S. Army



# continues to **grow:**



*Alicie Cormeaux, STARBASE instructor, conducts the finale of the engineering design process "Eggbert" activity as students from J.B. Nachman Elementary School watch.*

Another goal of STARBASE is for kids to learn to work as a team. Students are placed into engineer groups once they arrive and learn to work and communicate together toward a common goal.

"The staff at STARBASE is teaching teamwork through positive reinforcement," said Cherie Jurgenson, teacher for the J. B. Nachman Elementary School's gifted program. "They learn the value of working as a team."

The staff also works closely with the teachers of the visiting schools to give them new ideas for educating the students once they return to their regular school environment.

"It is an excellent program that offers great teaching techniques," said Robin Bennett, a 5th grade J. B. Nachman Elementary School English teacher. "The use of the CPS (classroom performance system) and the handheld clickers made the kids more excited about learning and more involved in the lessons."

Bennett has been bringing her classes to STARBASE for a few years and can see how much both the parents and the students enjoy this program.

"When the school year begins, my kids ask me when we are going to STARBASE," she said. "This program introduces the students to more than what we as a school could ever expose them to."

STARBASE looks to grow in the future by reopening a second program

in New Orleans.

"We have requested to start a second STARBASE site back at Jackson Barracks for the fall of 2011," Arbour added. "We want to begin reaching the kids of both Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes."

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*Alejandro Zuniga of Metairie, member of Detachment 2, 1st Engineer Company, 205th Engineer Battalion performs push-ups as part of the Army Physical Fitness test. Zuniga posted an amazing 112 push-ups, 35 more than he had to score a perfect 100 on the test in two minutes. He performed 117 sit-ups and ran the two-mile run in 10:07 for 401 points.*

# MASTER OF FITNESS

Louisiana Guardsman scores 401 on Army fitness test

*Sgt. Rebekah Malone*

Louisiana National Guardsman Spc. Alejandro Zuniga, a member of Detachment 2, 1021st Engineer Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, overcame tremendous odds recently when he earned an incredible 401 points on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

"I want people to be inspired," said Zuniga, a resident of Metairie.

The Guardsman found himself in despair after gaining more than 100 pounds while battling depression 18 months ago.

One day, he had enough.

"When I was bigger, I was on the edge of depression. I felt helpless," Zuniga said. "Just one day something someone said struck me." So large to run, Zuniga started by walking. In a couple of months, he was able to run three miles without walking.

Today, he runs four miles a day, six days a

week, does 100 push-ups a day and works out with weights for at least an hour. This strict program allowed Zuniga to achieve the remarkable feat few Guardsmen have ever heard of.

"I almost passed out when I heard," said Zuniga. His first sergeant had a similar reaction.

"I said, 'Are you serious?'" said 1st Sgt. Jack Toney when he heard Zuniga's score. A perfect score is 100 points in each of three categories on the test, for a total combined score of 300. "I have never seen a score like this one in 24 years of service."

Zuniga completed 112 push-ups, 117 sit-ups and ran the two-mile run in 10:07. An unofficial extended scale is used once the Soldier passes the total event requirement for a perfect score. He was awarded one additional point for each push-up, sit-up and six seconds off his time for the run.



*Spc. Alejandro Zuniga of Metairie runs four miles a day, six days a week. His workout allowed him to beat the perfect score on the Army Physical Fitness Test by more than three minutes.*

*Photos by Spc. Scott M. Muzzi, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Det.*



*Spc. Alejandro Zuniga of Metairie, works out with weights for at least an hour six days a week as part of his intense physical fitness regimen that resulted in a score of 401 on his recent Army Physical Fitness Test.*

*Are you serious? I have never seen a score like this one in 24 years of service.*

— 1st Sgt. Jack Toney

Toney saw first-hand Zuniga's work ethic when they served together on Task Force Kout Men in Haiti last summer. Even after an exhausting day of construction work, the devoted Soldier still made time for a work out.

"Zuniga would work, and I mean work, all day on his project site and come back to the base camp and run and do PT on his own," explained Toney.

"It was incredible. I wouldn't have believed it if I didn't see it myself," said Sgt. Patrick Mahoney of Gonzalez, who graded Zuniga's PT test. Mahoney said his main concern was being able to count fast enough.

"I am so much more confident now," said Zuniga, a radiology major at Delgado University.

Not content with just his own success, Zuniga has started helping others achieve their goals as well.

"I want to be a trainer for the National Guard," he said. "I want to be that person to go to get help. If I was 265 pounds and lost 100 pounds, I know everyone else can too." ■



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2011 Special Operations Operations Air Mission  
Caption: 2011 Special Operations Operations Air Mission  
Army Photo: 2011 Special Operations Operations Air Mission  
Special Operations Operations Air Mission



# Rededication of Jackson Barracks Return of LANG Headquarters



by *Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo*  
*41st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

The Louisiana National Guard celebrated the official rededication of Jackson Barracks in New Orleans during a ceremony, Nov. 5. The event marked the return of the headquarters to the post since the damage it received in 2005.

Hurricane Katrina brought severe flooding and wind damage throughout the city of New Orleans, St. Bernard Parish and the Lower Ninth Ward, including Jackson Barracks, were hit particularly hard. All the buildings at Jackson Barracks were destroyed or damaged by flooding with water depths ranging from three feet at the levee to almost 18 feet at the northernmost part of the barracks.

After the devastation, the headquarters of the LANG and much of its operations relocated to Camp Beauregard in Pineville and to Gillis W. Long Center in Carville.



*Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard and Gov. Bobby Jindal unveil the new historic marker during the rededication ceremony of Jackson Barracks. The ceremony marked the official return of the LANG's headquarters to Jackson Barracks.*  
*Photo by Master Sgt. Toby M. Velde*

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Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and members of the Louisiana National Guard salute as a 19-gun salute is performed by the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment, at the rededication ceremony for Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Nov. 5, 2010. Jackson Barracks is the historic home of the LANG headquarters ravaged during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.  
Photo by Sgt. Michael L. Owens



The ceremony, which included a 19-gun salute, the display of the Headquarters Direct Reporting Units' colors, and a flyover by F-15 fighter jets, celebrated the official return of the LANG's headquarters to Jackson Barracks.

"The rebuilding efforts for Jackson Barracks began in early 2006," said 1st Lt. Heather S. Englehart, a project officer in the construction facilities management office. "We were presented with many great challenges, but we achieved our goals."

The construction that is completed, the current construction projects and the pending construction projects will total approximately \$300 million.

"A project of this enormity does not just happen by itself," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general

of the LANG. "Today would not be possible without the hard working men and women of the National Guard."

At the ceremony, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Landreneau and the official party unveiled the new historic marker that will be placed outside of Jackson Barracks. Around the city of New Orleans, in front of historic buildings and areas, these markers are placed to give information of the landmark it represents.

"Today we celebrate so much more than just renovated buildings," Jindal said. "We're on our way to the greatest comeback yet!"

Not only did Katrina affect the buildings and homes of Jackson Barracks, it also affected the people who live and work on post.

"I grew up here when my father was in the military and remained after I joined the Guard," said Capt. Will J. Santos, LANG officer strength manager. "I wanted my son to enjoy an upbringing like I did ... Katrina interrupted that."

Jackson Barracks was built during the administration of President Andrew Jackson to house the federal military garrison defending the city of New Orleans and the Lower Mississippi Valley.

The Barracks was originally named the New Orleans Barracks or simply the United States Barracks; however, the name was changed to Jackson Barracks in 1866 in honor of then Gen. Andrew Jackson, hero of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans and seventh U.S. president. ■

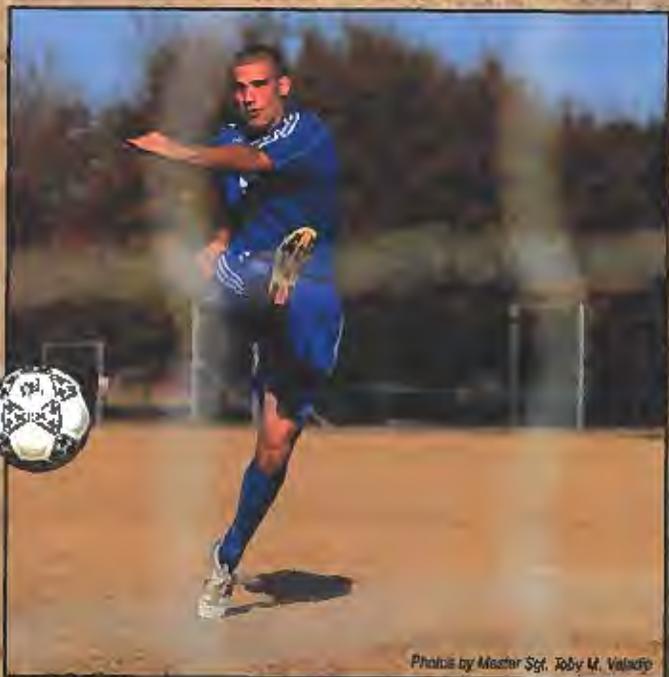
Soldiers with the Louisiana National Guard's 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment fire off a 19-gun salute at the rededication ceremony. The 19-gun salute symbolizes the presence of Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal at the ceremony.  
Photo by Spc. Jessica M. Lopez



# Achieving the

## Airman earns spot on Air Force Soccer Team

By Tech. Sgt. Sienna M. Schehr  
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office



Photos by Master Sgt. Toby M. Velazco

A Louisiana National Guardsman from the 236th Combat Communication Squadron earned a position on the 2010 All-Air Force Soccer Team after a trial and training camp in Hurlburt Field, Oct. 16.

Airman 1st Class Steven D. Bordelon of LaPlace, La., a communications technical controller stationed in Hammond, La., is the youngest and lowest-ranking Airman on the team. Bordelon is also the first Louisiana Guardsman to receive this honor.

He joins only one other Guardsman, Capt. Jason Park, a pilot with the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin ANG.

"It's great that Steve's commanders are supportive by allowing him to participate," said Park. "This really is a best kept secret, and it's unfortunate that more National Guardsmen don't make it out here and get this opportunity."

Lt. Col. Timothy M. Jeandron, commander of the 236th, watched Bordelon play soccer in high school and helped in his joining the LAANG.

"It's an honor to have one of my Airmen representing our unit and the Air National Guard in basically an all active duty team," said Jeandron, also from LaPlace.

# Goal!



The head coach of the AF Soccer Team, retired Maj. Roy A. Dietzman, spotted Bordelon playing in the Defender Cup, a two-day tournament held in San Antonio, Texas, where USAF soccer teams from all over the country came to compete in early September.

"I noticed Steve's physical ability and speed – his work ethic on the field was extremely high," said Dietzman of Sedalia, Mo. "That's when I invited him to participate in the trial and training camp here at Hurlburt Field."

Bordelon described himself an aggressive defender who can also play mid-field. He said that his strong points are his speed and the mental ability to know where to be on the field at all times.

"I never thought I would join the military and get paid to play soccer," Bordelon said. "It's an honor and an accomplishment to have made this team. I have the opportunity to become a better player and learn a lot from the rest of these guys."

Bordelon's father and former coach, David, said that his son started playing soccer when he was four years old.

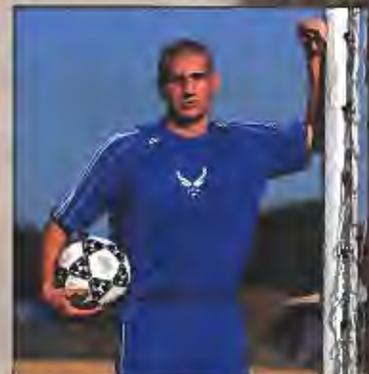
"Steve has a lot of natural talent," he said. "He didn't

need much coaching, just direction. My wife and I are extremely proud of our son."

Bordelon represented the Louisiana Air National Guard Oct. 19-24 when he and his teammates played in the All-Armed Forces Soccer Tournament, also held at Hurlburt Field. He said the level of competition was the highest he had ever played at.

"Being able to play with people from all over the country and all over the world was the most memorable," said Bordelon. "I was the youngest person there, but it was great playing with all the people. I encourage other Guardsmen to try out."

Bordelon helped the Air Force to a record of two wins, two losses and one tie, for a fourth-place finish. The Armed Forces Championships are conducted by the Armed Forces Sports Council for the purpose of promoting understanding, goodwill and competition among the Armed Services. ■



## 122nd Air Support Operations Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard



**"As a JTAC, when you make a decision... you can't take it back."**



**Mission:** Tactical Air Control Party (TACPs) advise and assist ground combat commanders by serving as subject matter experts to lead, plan and manage command-and-control terminal execution of Air operations in

direct support of land component forces. TACPs operate and maintain communications, targeting and surveillance equipment and various special purpose tactical vehicles. TACPs advise Army ground commanders on the capabilities and limitations of Air assets.

TACP is a very physically, mentally and technically demanding job where all of the male-only members wear the black beret. These Airmen are highly sought after throughout the world for the overwhelming combat power and lethality they bring to the battlefield.

Members develop valuable combat related skills such as map reading, land navigation, enemy target location, survival, escape and evasion techniques, small unit tactics, camouflage techniques, hostile environment operations by attending various schools, to include: U.S. Air Force Combat Survival School, Airborne, Air Assault, Pathfinder, Ranger, HALO (Military Free Fall), and Sniper.

TACPs also receive training from multi-service representatives on a wide variety of weapons. ■

### 122nd ASOS Specs:

#### Number of authorized members

- 42 TACP Operators
- 16 TACP Air Liaison Officers
- Intel Officer
- 22 Support Personnel

#### Specialty schools that 122nd members attend

- U.S. Army Basic Parachutist Course
- U.S. Army Air Assault Course
- U.S. Army Pathfinder Course
- U.S. Navy Military Free Fall Parachutist Course
- Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape School
- Joint Terminal Attack Controller Qualification Course
- Full Spectrum Operator Course
- Tactical Firearms Instructor Course
- Foreign Weapons Familiarization Course
- Army Combatives Training
- Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course

#### Previous Deployments

The 122nd has supported 11 deployments to OEF and OIF with 2-to-12 man deployments. The unit hasn't deployed as one entire element to date. Deployed in support of combat operations with the following units:

- 1st Cavalry Division
- 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment
- 25th Infantry Division
- 82nd Airborne Infantry Division
- 3rd Infantry Division
- 4th Infantry Division
- 101st Airborne Infantry Division (Air Assault)
- 1st Marine Division
- 2nd Marine Division
- 3rd Special Forces Group
- 7th Special Forces Group
- 20th Special Forces Group
- 3rd Brigade National Georgian Army (Coalition Force)



#### Awards

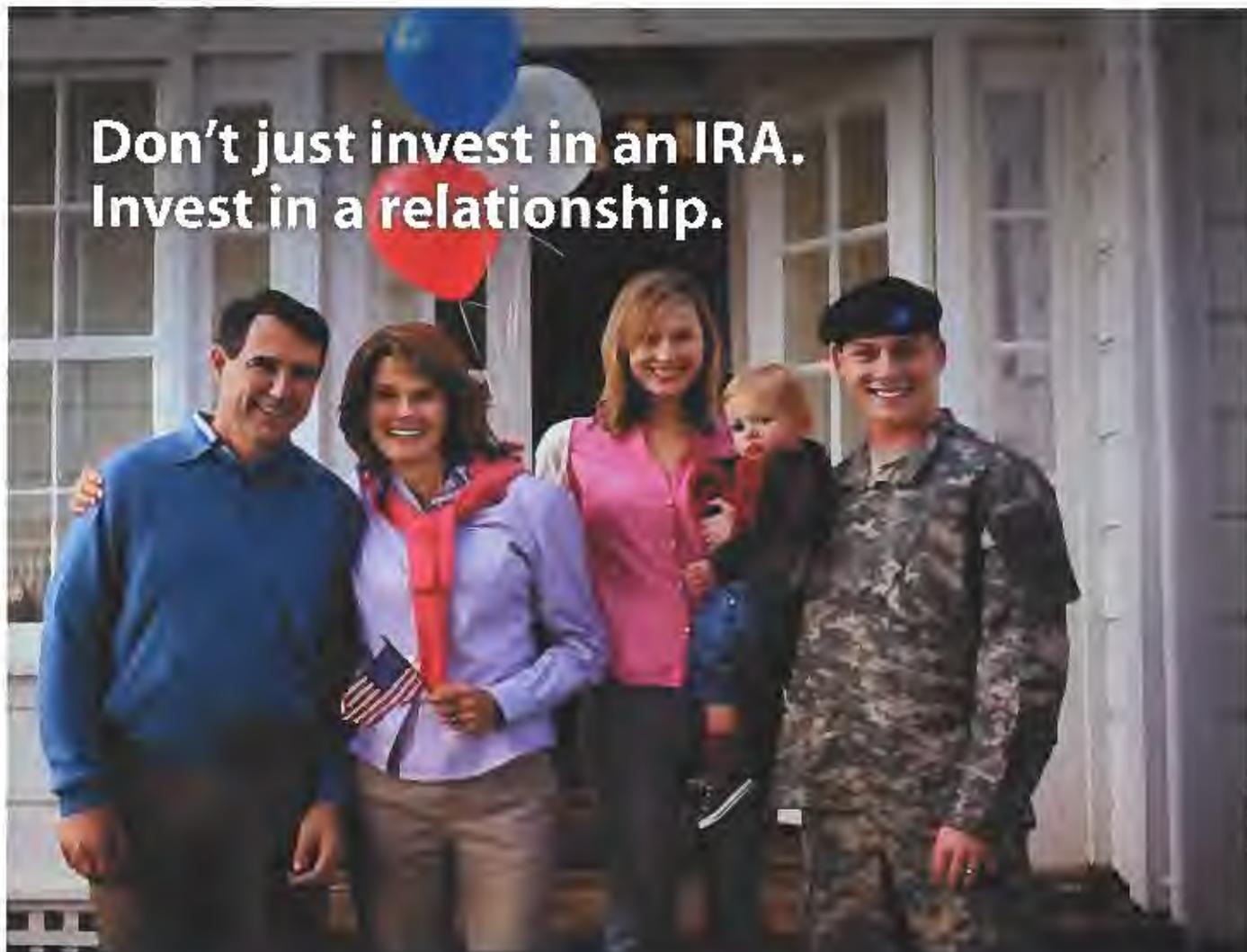
Over 11 supported deployments, the 122nd ASOS members have been awarded approximately eight Bronze Star Medals and four Army Commendations with V devices for Valor, along with numerous other accommodations and achievement awards to include Combat Action Badges and Air Force Combat Action Medals.

#### Motto

*"The Strong Shall Stand,  
The Weak Shall Fall By The Wayside."*



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Photo by Master Sgt. Toby M. Visherle

# Passing mile 20, never looking back: FIRST AIR GUARDSMAN COMPLETES RSLC AT BENNING

First-hand account by Staff Sgt. Gabriel Bird

I will never forget the butterflies I felt as I pulled into Camp Rogers in Fort Benning, Ga., for the first time. Moments earlier I was Staff Sgt. Gabriel Bird from the Louisiana Air National Guard's 122nd Air Support Operations Squadron, confident and ready for a challenge, but as I looked out across Malvesti Field and 4th Ranger Training Battalion, my confidence was replaced with nervousness.

Here I was at the U.S. Army's Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader's Course, more commonly known as RSLC.

I fell into formation with my gear and sized up the class; others were doing the same. Among the 40 students, I was the only Airman.

"This is a leadership course ... if you are not an expert in map reading or land

navigation, you will go home. If you can't keep up during PT or road marches, you will go home. If you fail to keep pace with the material, you will go home," said the senior instructor as we stood in formation. "I assure you, a large number of you will."

The first phase of the course consisted of strenuous PT or a road march every morning, followed by 10-to-12 hours of classroom instruction on reconnaissance tactics and long range surveillance (LRS) team composition, methods of surveillance, zoom photography, long range high frequency (HF) communications and digital data transfer, patrolling, camouflage principles and counter-tracking and surveillance site construction. Other classes included enemy

vehicle and weapons identification, survival evasion resistance and escape (SERE) training, airborne and fast-rope insertions and SPIES extractions.

But first, a day and night land navigation exercise.

After a very intense PT session at Malvesti Field and eight hours of classroom instruction on HF communications, I grabbed my gear for our land navigation exercise. Our task was to complete a five-point star navigation course in seven hours.

I felt confident as I stepped out in search of my first waypoint, but I was also aware that it was common for more than half the class to be sent home from RSLC for failing to pass. The course consisted of seven to 10 miles of navigation



Courtesy photos



my hands and knees but after covering roughly 400 meters, I realized I had gone too far; I had overshot my final waypoint.

I grabbed my compass and attempted to shoot a back azimuth, but it had broken during one of my falls. With zero illumination, I couldn't use terrain association and despite my

objective, perform reconnaissance and surveillance and then stealthily moving to our extraction site.

After jumping from a UH-60 Blackhawk into Arkman Drop Zone and a day of fast-roping at Todd Field, we moved into Phase 2. It began with a two-day survival FTX where we learned skills such as trapping and catching game, water collection, fire building and shelter construction. I learned how to avoid enemy tracking teams and dogs, maneuver through enemy territories and signal for friendly forces. After hours of instruction and 24 hours without food, we put our skills to the test in an FTX in which we simulated a compromised LRS team avoiding enemy capture. Once we reached our pickup point, we cooked our chicken and rabbit stew with our field gear to give us an idea of how we might eat if we ever found ourselves isolated behind enemy lines.

After three days of 16-hour classroom sessions, I was begging for our 7-day FTX. We loaded our rucksacks with equipment, seven days of food and 6-8 quarts of water, surveillance site construction materials, radios and optics. Once fully loaded, my rucksack and load carrying vest packed with a full combat load weighed 125 pounds

through swamps of chest-high muddy water, elevation changes of almost 500 feet, thick brush and vines, all while carrying a 35-pound load.

After five hours, I had traversed nearly eight miles and found four points. I was exhausted, covered in marsh mud from my chest down and suffering from severe cramps. Even though I was fatigued, I felt very confident I would pass.

With more than an hour remaining and 250 meters from my final point, my luck ran out. I shot my final azimuth and reset my pace count as I tried to fight through the brutal cramping and exhaustion. Every 20 or 30 steps I would fall from spasms shooting through my legs. To keep moving, I sometimes crawled on

efforts to walk in 100 meter squares in an effort to identify the terrain I was on, time ran out. My only solace was that I was so close to completion, and 27 others never made it past their third waypoint.

Three days later, following a full day of classes, I took the land navigation retest at 0200 in the morning, and then rolled into several more hours of classes. I had been awake for 36 hours and crossed a total of 20 miles of Fort Benning terrain. My thighs were bloody from chaffing and my feet were blistered, but I had passed.

The second phase of RSLC consisted of field training exercises of full mission scenarios. We had to complete an airborne insertion, tactically moving to the

above my body weight. It began to hit me how difficult the next seven days in the field would be. It was one thing to cover miles of the treacherous terrain with a 35-pound pack during land navigation. Doing it with an extra 95 pounds would be a much greater challenge.

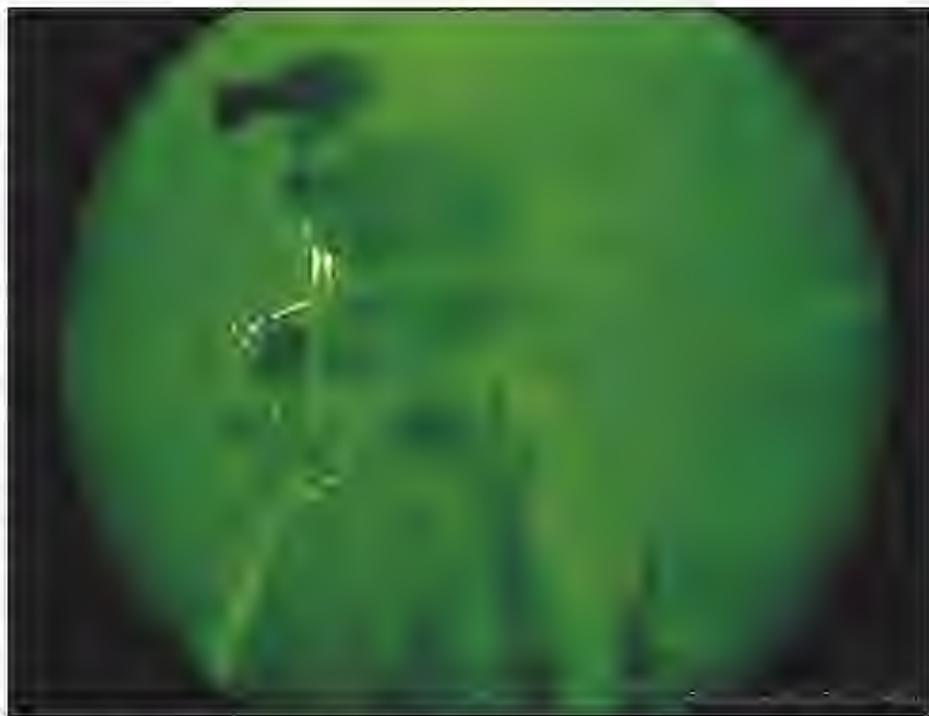
With artillery simulators going off all around us, we fast-roped into the insertion point. Every few steps, a team member would fall and the rest of us had to help him up before sprinting to the next position. After four or five artillery barrages, we were all thoroughly exhausted and frantically trying to adjust our gear and catch our breath. We were only 30 minutes into our FTX; we had more than 167 hours to go.

The nights were not spent sleeping but moving to new objective areas utilizing darkness as our cover from the enemy opposition forces in search of us. The goal was to be in our sites and performing surveillance on the objective undetected at sunrise, where we would remain throughout the day. At the end of the day it was off to a new objective to repeat the task.

Each day the members of our LRS team were assigned new positions, including leadership roles. It was the leader's job to keep the patrol organized and operating tactically and efficiently. After a few days in the field with only an hour of sleep, that task became daunting. If a team member was caught napping instead of paying attention to his sector of fire, or the claymore detonator not in hand and ready to fire in case of an ambush, the leader would fail that portion of his patrol.

The evening of the fourth day was the most miserable field conditions I had experienced in my life up to that point. Despite countless trips to the field in freezing conditions or having operated at high-altitude in the snowy Hindu Kush Mountains of Afghanistan, Fort Benning moved to the top of the list.

It began with a torrential downpour at dusk as the temperature dropped to the mid-40s. We had moved several miles through the terrain unable to see out of our night vision goggles or more than two feet in front of us, tripping over every stump and sliding down steep



hillsides; we finally reached our objective rally point as a pack of shivering, muddy Soldiers. It was my job as assistant team leader to set up security at our patrol base and ensure that all sectors of fire were covered. The rain continued to pour down and the temperature continued to drop. Not only did I have to keep the team motivated, I also had to keep an eye out for cold weather injuries. We would have to fight through the conditions, keep our focus on the mission and ensure that our buddies remained coherent.

After three hours at the rally point, we moved out and began our surveillance site construction. We dug, chopped trees and camouflaged our areas until just before daybreak, with the rain still pouring down. No one was recognizable through our night vision goggles covered in Georgia red clay and mud. Despite not having slept in four days and eating on the go, our team was still functioning, but the fatigue was settling in. Our movements were slower and decisions were harder to make. What was a simple task on the first day seemed to be a quantum physics problem on the morning of fifth day.

Day seven arrived and everyone on our team passed their graded patrols. As we boarded the UH-60 on the final morning and departed for Todd Field,

I looked out the window at the training area below. I thought of the nervousness I felt when I first saw the Ranger Tab hanging high above the road at Camp Rogers and I had questioned if I had prepared enough, if I was ready to meet the challenge that 4th RTB had in store for me. I looked around at my fellow teammates, the lieutenant that just got selected as a platoon leader for 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and the staff sergeant that would be departing for his fifth tour overseas in just a few months.

Once we landed, it was time for our missions debrief and after action review. We had not slept in seven days, but the energy and excitement of reaching the end kept us awake as we recounted stories of our shared ordeal.

The next morning, 26 of our original 40 students gathered into the classroom for our formal graduation. I felt an enormous sense of pride when I was recognized as the lone Airman in the class and the first Air National Guardsman to complete the rigorous course.

I am the first, but I will not be the last. I took home excellent training to prepare future 122nd Air Support Operations Squadron Guardsmen to successfully complete the U.S. Army's Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader's Course. ■

# Minutemen Recognitions

## LOUISIANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

PROMOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2010 - DECEMBER 2010

**Colonel**  
Doran III, William

**Major**  
Keyser, Gary

**First Lieutenant**  
Clark, Michael  
Juan, Elizabeth  
Stuart, Robert

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Buchler Jr., James  
Wigglesworth, Anthony

**Master Sergeant**  
Glovingo, Michael  
Hawkins, Annette  
Markey, Scott  
Meche, Scott  
Scalia, Scott  
Youngblood, Marco

**Technical Sergeant**  
Biggie, Charles  
Bouysou, David  
Campbell, Jacquelyn  
Cortez, Chadd  
Gilly, Thomas  
Hernandez, Brandon  
Huff, Kevin  
Laurent, Lucas  
Lyons, Gary  
McCann, Devonne

Nesladek, Michael  
West, Brian

**Staff Sergeant**  
Lewis, Chad Cornelius  
Miller, Randy Jourdan

**Senior Airman**  
Acoys, Mariska Young  
Fraser, Jennifer  
Garrett, Arlandea  
Johnson, Bryson

Johnson, Terran  
Mayes, James  
Rivera, Richard  
Sylvester, Ariel

**Airman First Class**  
Watson, Devon

**Airman**  
Sancho, Daniel

### RETIREMENTS 2010

**Brigadier General**  
John Bennett Solleau Jr.

**Colonel**  
Arthur William Hyatt Jr.  
Michael Joseph Lopinto

**Lieutenant Colonel**  
Lisa Babin  
Oscar Evans  
Bradley Johnny Hunter

**Major**  
Raymond Anthony Conigliaro  
Kirk J. Garber  
Gregory Guerra

**First Lieutenant**  
David H. Hagstad

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Stephen Eugene Acosta

Ronald Gray Clegg  
John Michael Harris  
Norris Clark Owens  
Thomas A. Pellegrin  
Frank Edward Plascik

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
John J. Fos  
Kyra Nichelle Jones  
Michael Sean Miller  
Arnold L. Rachal Sr.

**Master Sergeant**  
Danny Anders  
Donald Eugene Armstrong  
Portray M. Black  
Vincent Thomas Bobzin  
Anthony Caldwell  
Suzanne Marie Challiot  
John August Childs  
Robert Hamilton Gluck

Glenn David Jordan  
David Lemolina  
Anthony Jay Miles  
Michael Terrence Turner Sr.  
William Wells  
John David Williams

**Staff Sergeant**  
John J. Cleland

**Tech Sergeant**  
Daniel L. Bersuder  
Brent Edward Cloggett  
Robert Donald Gordon  
Tommy L. Jackson  
Chester David Laffey  
Ronnie Sanders  
Todd Edmond Schexnayder  
Roy L. Simmons  
David Wayne Stives



Maj. Gen. Bennett G. Landruneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, presents Brig. Gen. John B. Solleau Jr., chief of staff of the Louisiana Air National Guard, with the certificate of retirement during Solleau's retirement ceremony at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Oct. 16, 2010. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey T. Barone

## LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

PROMOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2010 - DECEMBER 2010

**Colonel**  
Aldridge, William Roy  
Bercagey, Linden Joseph III

**Lieutenant Colonel**  
Bourque, Charles Clarence Jr.  
Farquhar, Joseph Alexander J.  
Green, Randy Shepherd  
Haygood, William Ellis  
Punkelt, John Patrick  
Zdravil, Charles Joseph

**Major**  
Benedict, Michael Joseph III  
Jensen, Lydia Clare  
Kay, Stephen Glenn  
Maurray, Aaron  
Piper, Thelma Rochelle

**Captain**  
Aronneaux, Louis Graham  
Fernandez, Joachim J. III

Francois, Nicholas James  
Gueydan, Christopher Dere  
Hess, James Wallace  
Jenkins, Nathaniel Fletcher  
Pace, Christopher Glen  
Smith, Philip Anthony  
Thompson, Scott Edwin  
White, Antonio Terrell  
White, Brian Christopher

**First Lieutenant**  
Amerinto, Kevin Anthony  
Bacon, Terry Lee II  
Belles, Noel Stephen  
Church, Craig Alexander  
Clameré, Timothy Tyler  
Cowan, Carson Rene  
Hernandez, David Michael  
Johnson, Troy Lynn  
Johnson, Willis John  
Novak, James Patrick  
O'Brien, Gregory Girard

Pattler, Darryl Wayne  
Pickering, Kevin Michael  
Ray, Anthony Brian  
Rob, Manuel Carlos  
Sauls, Quentin  
Simoneaux, Jeremy Douglas  
Stanglieretta, Jared Mario

**Chief Warrant Officer 4**  
Sumbler, Gregory Pamela

**Chief Warrant Officer 2**  
Grafton, Ronald Dale Jr.  
Le Andrew, Tung Thanh  
Roberts, John Bradley

**Command Sergeant Major**  
Ivy John Michael  
Leonard Robert

**Sergeant Major**  
Alexander, Joseph  
Lankier, Dale Wayne

**First Sergeant**  
Hughes, Leland Lamar  
Morters, Erik

**Master Sergeant**  
Carfano, Cynthia Ann  
Griffin, Carl Dalbert  
Watson, Richard Thomas

**Sergeant First Class**  
Dunn, Craigery Wayne  
Festaven, Donald Edward  
Habum, James Mark  
Martin, Robert David  
Panthier, Mark Joseph  
Price, Markel Roman Sr.  
Primeaux, Chadwick Lee  
Purley, Dionne Marie  
Stocum, David Reynolds  
Smith, James Allan Jr.  
Trahan, Steven Dwayne  
Veel, Jimmy Louis

**Staff Sergeant**  
Alexander, Kecha Lashay  
Beeson, Dannielle Michalee  
Benoit, Wendy Nicole  
Bond, Richard Blake  
Cager, Reneau Corin  
Chandler, Dalshia Nichole  
Coakley, Reginald Reynard  
Corder, Frederick Allen  
Devalle, Michael  
Davis, Anthony John  
Droddy, Johnny Delle  
Duncan, Johnathan Elmar  
Fontaine, Kyle Thomas  
Genies, Daniel Scott  
Harper, Kenneth Wayne  
Hopkins, Richard Lane  
Hutchinson, John Robert  
Kiely, Russell Gregory  
Naquin, Barrett James  
Oakes, Ryan Lock  
Picou, Denis Brewster

# LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

PROMOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2010 - DECEMBER 2010

Rivera, David Jr.  
Roy, Daret Eugena  
Royer, Todd Michael  
Sporer, Adam Glen  
Walker, Robert Stanley  
Wells, Frederick Wayne  
Williams, Alvin Henry  
Williams, Steven Wayne  
Wilson, Geneva Renée  
Wilson, Vernon Lee Jr.  
Wyatt, Christopher Shan

## Sergeant

Albrecht, Daniel Eugene  
Anzar, William Adaine Jr.  
Barber, Chad Michael  
Bookham, John David Jr.  
Black, Davin Earl  
Bourke, Christopher Charveti  
Buster, Joshua Allen  
Brooks, Jessica Darcel  
Brussard, Jajuan Tyrone Jr.  
Brown, Dan Calvin Jr.  
Bryant, Shawn Dakota  
Burke, Ryan Paul  
Burns, Brandon Keith  
Canada, Christopher Terrell  
Cannon, Daniel Michael  
Cinstaw, Tiffany Renee  
Clemente, Jessica Nicole  
Coffey, Thomas Michael  
Coleman, Stephen Ray  
Cooley, Nicholas Patrick  
Covington, Brandi Kaye  
Cowan, Luke David  
Costis, Ryan Alphonsa  
Dalrymple, Brandon Michael  
Davis, Jabari Ayinde  
Dove, Brandon Shea  
Dover, Brandon Lee  
Drewry, Stephen Bradley Sunr  
Ducote, Brett Michael  
Finley, Tykeem Jemarr  
Fontenot, David Troy  
Ford, Christa Unik  
Freeman, Robert Lee  
Gaston, Christopher Wayne  
Gontz, Stephen Paul  
Guichy, Ricky Joseph Jr.  
Hall, William Jeffery II  
Hawkins, Chester James  
Haydel, Gabriel Anthony Jr.  
Hayes, Harry Walter  
Hayes, Samuel Beles  
Herkander, Kyle Edward  
Holmes, Jennifer Anne  
Jaeger, Michael Barry Jr.  
Jenkins, Darayon Akioa  
Johnson, John Albert  
Kocsis, Jason Alan  
Krause, Robert Phillip III  
Lambos, Jeremy Michael  
Long, Louis Lee  
Maunring, William David  
Marsh, Harry Bradley  
May, Jacob Walter  
McLean, Cody Michael  
Meriwaze, Fernando

Mercer, Julia Leigh Ann  
Miller, Carla Nicole  
Miller, Kasi Kathleen  
Morgan, Brandon Paul  
Pedro, Anthony Fred  
Pirle, James Alexander II  
Pruitt, Jonathan Scott  
Schiro, Joseph Patrick  
Sojorro, Carlos Francisco  
Soignier, Jason Scott  
Spears, Elton Carroll  
Strahan, Jonathan Darby  
Strong, Denrick Joseph  
Thomas, Christopher Michael  
Tidwell, Tommy Lee Jr.  
Tupper, Christopher Daniel  
Webb, Thomas Grant  
Williams, Maquiesia Diana  
Willis, Anthony Francis  
Winand, Grant Charles  
Woods, Daynet Flai  
Woodward, Christopher Willie  
Zorngue, Christopher Alan

## Specialist

Aldridge, Joshua Curtis  
Allen, Jacob Heath  
Anderson, David Lee  
Angelle, Ryan Michael  
Anthony, Leon Jr.  
Aronaux, Blake Anthony  
Aronaux, Paul Jr.  
August, Dustin Larry  
Authement, Ryan Joseph  
Babin, Roberto Leonard Jr.  
Babineaux, Brooks Damien  
Baehi, Jeffrey Tomany  
Baehr, Philip John III  
Bailey, Britney Nichole  
Belenite, Brandon Allen  
Barbaro, Jason Paul  
Bass, Allan Michael  
Bass, Kaiser Ray  
Bautista, Alfredo Murphy  
Beaver, James Ray  
Begauf, Benjamin John  
Berold, Chance Dwayne  
Biegans, Chesley Kemoita  
Bilrot, Sherry Marie  
Bivens, Christopher Columbus  
Blake, Roy Pee  
Bordelon, Heather Marie  
Bourgoyne, Aaron Christopher  
Bourque, Justin Edward  
Bouvier, Trevor Paul  
Briley, Jasmine Alexis  
Brower, Zachary Michael  
Brown, Shenell  
Brown, Vincent Lewis Jr.  
Buck, Joshua Walker  
Burton, Alyssa Enka  
Camey, Corneille Dwight I  
Carter, Jeremy Jarrion  
Case, Russell Charles  
Causey, Jared Ray  
Celestine, Marquis Antoine  
Coburn, Kristen Alstina  
Cochran, John Richard Jr.

Colteaux, Alicia Brooke  
Cooper, Joshua Tyler  
Costa, Jimmy Paul  
Cowher, Brandon Michael  
Crawford, Cory Brent  
Curry, Maria Monae  
Davis, Antonio Daweng  
DePhillips, Matthew Albert A.  
Deryock, Lance Wilford  
Descent, Jameson Scott  
Desoto, Matthew  
Dobbins, Dewenna Joy  
Donaldson, John Allen III  
Donnelly, Kenneth Paul Jr.  
Dubroc, Brandon Lee  
Duke, Brandon Lee  
Duplantis, Corey James  
Dupuis, Jesse James Jr.  
Duverney, Joshua Scott  
Eaglin, Chase Anthony  
Edwards, Chad Jamir  
Elliott, Marquis Anthony  
Evans, Troy Matthew  
Farris, Wendt Michelle  
Fatchell, Phillip Wayne  
Fontenot, Elmer Joseph Jr.  
Foster, Lindsay Kay  
Fritz, Dustin Wayne  
Fulrell, Tommy Monroe  
George, Greg Chermala  
Grivas, Brad Michael  
Glendon, Paul Alexander  
Gray, Timothy Charles  
Grumbert, Kenneth William  
Gwiry, Kalara Charis  
Guilford, Larry Donald III  
Hafemann, Mark Alan  
Haltzman, William Joseph  
Hargrett, Deandra Rainora  
Harris, Christopher Justin  
Haynes, Harvey Jamal  
Haynes, Jeffery David Jr.  
Heard, Scott Edward Jr.  
Hebert, Robert Allen Jr.  
Heims, Eddie Jordan Jr.  
Hester, James Scott Jr.  
Hickey, Scott Mitchell  
Hicks, Andrew Elton  
Higgins, Jordan Taylor  
Hill, Earl Joseph  
Hodges, Chadwick Ryan  
Howatt, Breanna Rhaa  
Hudson, Brandon James  
Hutchinson, Tyler Arthur  
Ingram, Bobby Ray III  
Ingram, Shane Stewart  
Isaac, Mason Andrew  
Jackson, Deandre Lamorne  
Jacobs, Terry Paige  
Johnson, Jonathan Scott  
Johnson, Raven Nicole  
Johnston, Alaina Denise  
Joiner, Jeanette Dolynn  
Jones, Joshua Chad  
Jordan, Nathaniel Chadwick  
Joseph, Chandler Lanouit  
Lachney, Loran Lewis  
Lafayette, Brandon Scott

Lagrange, Chezmon Develton  
Lambert, Donald Laetie II  
Landon, James Stephen  
Langford, Dierious Lavelle  
Lapoint, Brittany Rae  
Letusa, Bernard Joseph III  
Legendre, Des Franck  
Legier, Ashton Mitchell  
Lajoune, Joshua Joseph  
Lhertsa, Xavier Alexander A.  
Liablong, Lornie Preston  
Lindte, Chance Michael  
Little, Chelsea Brooke  
Litty, Randall Gotthard  
Lovell, Nicholas Adam  
Mahar, Sean Michael  
Malvo, Indya Shifera  
Manausa, Jacob Day  
Marshall, Lynnell Marie  
Martin, Cami Jr.  
Matherne, Christopher Ernest  
Mathema, Sloan Avery  
McCoy, Kenneth Charles  
McHane, Michael John  
McMichael, Ethan Royal  
McMillen, Jacqueline Renee  
Messier, Samantha Leigh  
Mittal, Johnathan Paul  
Michel, Timothy Paul II  
Miller, Andrew Michael  
Miller, Christopher Dwayne  
Miller, Jennifer Briana  
Miller, Scyler Nathaniel  
Morris, Kalen Alexander  
Muscotti, Kyle Moa  
Nemata, Jerry Winston Jr.  
Newcomb, Luke Anthony  
Newsome, Preston Clinton  
Newton, Jacob Bixler  
Pak, Sally Ann  
Palmer, Kaleb Eli  
Palmer, William Seth  
Parlier, Bradley Maxwell  
Patty, Paul Wayne  
Perez, Michael Anthony  
Pensutti, Claudio Gabriel  
Pete, Jeremy Wayne  
Pickens, Chiquita Lafayette  
Pickens, Miche Lee  
Plumber, Karison Jude  
Pool, Nathaniel David  
Poon, Michael Ashton  
Prier, Lawrence Anthony  
Prowse, Dallas William  
Rugas, Corey Joseph  
Rangal, Jessie Leebroussard  
Richardson, Kyle James  
Robinson, Brian Keith  
Robinson, Matthew David  
Roe, Adam James  
Ruzic, Justin Paul  
Saxon, Shannon Marie  
Scott, Chelsea Nicole  
Seruatine, Renee Lyne  
Shelden, Matthew Charles  
Shelmin, Adrian Maurice  
Simmons, Daniel Jeffery  
Smith, Anthony Lachuan

Smith, Dustin Michael  
Smith, Justin Wayne  
Smith, Ronnie Leotis  
Smith, Samuel Joseph  
Smith, Trace Loren  
Sonnier, Christopher Paul  
Spector, Justin Wayne  
Springins, McKenzie Royshaw  
Stamm, Cody Alan  
Stally, Byron Deane  
Sudds, James Lachuan  
Summers, David Alan Jr.  
Suzko, Matthew John  
Tabous, Mauricio Jr.  
Tassin, Justin James  
Taylor, Phillip M.  
Thomas, Damien Dewayne  
Thompson, Lareca Lamont  
Torres, Ricardo Armando  
Toussand, Robert Earl  
Tuzner, Aaron Wayne  
Upkin, David James  
Vandor, Christopher Michael  
Viola, John Steven  
Walker, Misti Marie  
Wallace, Jamichael Alexander  
Wallace, Michael Anthony II  
Ware, Amy Elizabeth  
Washington, Armin Joseph  
Washington, Cassandra  
Washington, Sara Monique  
Wassik, Jonathan Mallory  
Wehr, Emily Elizabeth  
Wheat, William Zachary  
Wilkinson, Kurtis Aaron  
Williams, Carl Anthony  
Williams, Delcus Ray Jr.  
Williams, Shedene Monique  
Williamson, Brian Christopher  
Wilson, Ethan Daryl  
Wink, Marvin Charles  
Wiverton, Devin Paul  
Young, Brandon Lee  
Zmuda, Daniel Michael

## Private First Class

Alexander, Jaydon Jarick  
Alexander, Oriana Juanae  
Alfson, Jhy Michael  
Alston, Kandice Dontae  
Argueles, Jordan Louis  
Arnold, Raina Jenae  
Auguster, Wendell Troy Jr.  
Banks, Rondrell Toriano  
Barras, Melvin Joseph III  
Barnow, Andrew Joseph  
Bilfamy, Antwaive D.  
Bellard, Chester Burton Jr.  
Benabonilla, Israh Zoe  
Blaylock, Gary Alan  
Bohon, Willie Anfondomasa  
Boyer, Steven Cody  
Bradshaw, Giorgio Antwan  
Brown, Jeremy Lee  
Brown, Randall Peyton  
Burkholder, Kyle Raymond  
Berleson, Justin Alan  
Calogero, Christopher Stephen

# LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

PROMOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2010 - DECEMBER 2010

Charles, Kendrick Higgins  
 Clause, Gerritt Adam  
 Collins, Micah Garin  
 Cook, Alinea Deanna  
 Crawford, Brittany Ember  
 Dockett, Tyche Lachelle  
 Cropley, Morgan Leigh  
 Cupples, Mason Lea  
 Dauphin, Alexander Joel  
 Davis, Mathew Thomas  
 Denton, Marcus Paul  
 Dixon, Kamaron Edward  
 Drinker, Desmin Trantaine  
 Dunn, Donovan Terrell  
 Durham, Erica Lynn  
 Espadasantiago, Pedro Antoni  
 Eubanks, Kurtis Wayne  
 Farkas, Trevor Mitchell  
 Franklin, Tamika Nicole  
 Gawthrop, Jayce Andrew  
 George, Samuel David Jr.  
 Giglio, Clinton Paul  
 Gilbert, Justin McCall  
 Gilly, Andrew Brock  
 Gomez, Andrew Patrick  
 Gotschalk, Matthew Charles  
 Goudeau, Curtis Sheldon  
 Goudeau, Travis Lavergene  
 Goudelock, Cody Lewis  
 Green, Courtney Larrin  
 Gros, Steven Andrew  
 Guidry, Constance Dominique  
 Hamadah, Yuself Glenn  
 Hamzontree, Dustin Lynn  
 Hardy, Valerie Renee  
 Harris, Charles Gene  
 Harson, Ian Paul  
 Haard, Christopher Ross  
 Hebert, Jude Anthony  
 Hainen, Joseph Edward  
 Hicks, Remy Joseph  
 Hodges, Sean Broderick  
 Hooter, Michael Anthony  
 Hubler, Jason Robert  
 Hukins, Lance Christopher  
 Jenkins, Jazman Deafo  
 Jenkins, Thomas Charles  
 Jennings, Chad Veroma  
 Jones, Damion Anthony  
 Jounel, Harold James Jr.  
 Kendrick, Joseph Kenzie  
 Kessner, James Parrish  
 Knotts, Cody James  
 Koethe, Christopher Michael  
 Kratzer, Lucas Dakota  
 Lamartiniere, Taylor Josh  
 Larkin, Justin Kent  
 Larsway, Joshua Ryan  
 Latham, Brandon Dale  
 Leontyeva, Irina Sergeyevna  
 Lewis, David Alexander  
 Littleton, John Leighton  
 Lloyd, Timothy David  
 Locke, Ryan Wayne  
 Long, Dominic Jeffrey  
 Medison, Derrick Michael  
 Magee, Megan Louise  
 Meness, Brock Spencer

Martin, Alonzo Jamar  
 Martin, Sadie Jemila  
 McGlory, Phillip Obrian  
 Meche, Jeremy James  
 Miller, Lance Eric  
 Molina, Sergio Alberto  
 Morrin, Joel Thomas Jr.  
 Moore, Joshua Clyde  
 Moran, Lane Michael  
 Najarin, Dustin Allan  
 Nelson, Roderick Rodriguez  
 Neville, Johnathan Lane  
 Ngoltran, Tuanhuy  
 Nolan, Natalia Nicole  
 Owens, Joshua Andrew Carl  
 Parker, Mary Frances  
 Payne, Jonathan Michael  
 Peterson, Jesse Gage  
 Pleasanceschneider, Taylor J.  
 Polanski, Joseph Edward  
 Powell, Aaron Douglas  
 Prickett, William Cody Allen  
 Ramsey, David Dwight  
 Rhodes, Duncan Alan  
 Robinson, Steven Wayne Jr.  
 Rodrigue, Gary Joseph  
 Roge, Dylon Scott  
 Rogers, Nathan Andrew  
 Romero, Christopher Wayne  
 Rowland, Nicholas Ryan  
 Scobey, Travis Lee  
 Scroggs, Joshua James  
 Self, Tyler Daron  
 Shelvin, Bodecious Joshann  
 Siebens, Jessica Lynn  
 Simon, David Michael  
 Simpkins, Charlandrs Dymel  
 Singleton, Christopher Lamar  
 Slaughter, Mills Hollen  
 Soltau, David Ryan  
 Sommer, Dallas III  
 Tatum, Melvin III  
 Temple, Ashley Parker  
 Thibodaux, Jean Paul  
 Tidwell, Benjamin Orion  
 Valdespinorcedia, Francisco  
 Van, Samuel Anthony Jr.  
 Veknaik, Kent Paul  
 Walters, Shawntasha Monique  
 Welsh, William Kyle  
 Wilkerson, Stephen Anson  
 Wilson, Joshua Keith  
 Young, Johnathan Eric

## Private E-2

Allen, Robin Teonka  
 Anderson, Marcellas Deweyne  
 Bell, Aaron Julian  
 Banier, Eddie Lee Ollie Jr.  
 Boudreaux, Joshua Paul  
 Bowers, Joshua Wayne  
 Boyd, Calvinita Danielle  
 Breland, Zakary Jace  
 Bridges, Damon Carmell  
 Brocato, Jesse Lee  
 Broussard, David Paul Jr.  
 Broussau, John Patrick Jr.

Brown, Courtney Rose  
 Brown, Orlandra Elena  
 Callahan, Tyrone Jr.  
 Cannon, Brandon Matthew  
 Carter, Louvonia Nashay  
 Christophe, Jordan Cardell  
 Coco, Anthony Paul  
 Corwin, Christopher Michael  
 Courtney, Deonta Joaquel  
 Cox, Christopher Paul  
 Cox, Jamie Franciasmyrta  
 Cruz, Julio Enrique Jr.  
 Cryer, Justin Deportes  
 Darnet, Jessica Renee  
 Discoteil, Gary Alan Jr.  
 Dixon, Joshua Denis  
 Dugas, Kalie Allison  
 Duplechin, Corey Jacob  
 Duplechin, Justin Mathew Eln  
 Ely, Matthew John  
 England, Daidre Michelle  
 Farrell, Kimberly Marie  
 Fast, Chelsea Nicole  
 Faulk, Trent Warren  
 Favors, Drasha Kyosha  
 Fonseca, Allan Federico  
 Fonseca, David Paul Jr.  
 Frye, Hayden Wesley  
 Geer, Christian Taylor  
 Galloway, Marcus Lee  
 Granen, Shawn Michael  
 Green, Shelaquea Kyerriche  
 Greene, Shanteericka Riquel  
 Grubb, Jason Carl  
 Guillory, Joseph Brandon  
 Harper, Devin Anthonyshae  
 Hebert, Evan Michael  
 Hebert, Jean Jacques  
 Henry, David Leroy  
 Hester, Daleb Dylon  
 Holiday, Freddie III  
 Holmes, Timothy Rasbe  
 Howard, Jacob Deteney  
 James, Ralston Sliander  
 Jenkins, George Wendell  
 Jezewski, James Robert  
 Jones, Bertha Ella  
 Jones, Bruce Aaron Jr.  
 Jordan, Anthony Hans  
 King, Millicent Anne  
 King, Seth Mykel  
 Larre, Dominic Michael  
 Larue, Tyler Wayne  
 Lassiter, Jared Paul  
 Lavergne, Shanteeka Marie  
 Lawrence, Donovan Christian  
 Leblanc, Shanae Tara  
 Liggins, Deborah Jean  
 Lofton, Christine Rene  
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 Martin, Seth Mykel  
 Martineau, William Fred  
 Messay, Nicholas Boyer  
 Matthews, Tyler Efran  
 McCray, Anthony Juan  
 McDaniel, Johnny Michael  
 Meadors, Kayla Marie

Meneses, Molley Marie  
 Miles, Lakierra Shanle  
 Mileto, Anthony Joseph Jr.  
 Miller, Michael Adam  
 Miller, Paul Brent Jr.  
 Milican, Ebornee Jneita  
 Mitchell, Eric Lynn Jr.  
 Molden, Brandon Jermaine  
 Montgomery, Anthony Shawn  
 Morris, Michael James  
 Moses, Christopher Matthew  
 Mulvey, Jason Bradley  
 New, Randall Kelley  
 Newton, Jamar Keon  
 Nixon, Paul Dexter Jr.  
 North, Benjamin Eric  
 Nutt, James Martin  
 Orebo, Shante Denise  
 Parker, Cory Michael  
 Rawls, Gene Allen  
 Ray, Cobie Glenn  
 Reeves, Richard Michael  
 Reutrier, Aaron Joseph  
 Richard, Brad Matthew  
 Richard, Jbenetic  
 Richey, John Coogan III  
 Robinson, Derrick Lamor  
 Robinson, Jereha Miquel  
 Robinson, Zachary Allen  
 Rodriguez, Anitra Marie  
 Rossylon, James Kellan

Rowton, Codiya Shane  
 Roy, Cheryl Nicole  
 Sanderson, Nicholas John  
 Schwartz, Dustin Edward  
 Scott, Chadrick Johnell  
 Shepard, William Andrew  
 Shoulder, Ronterance Rishad  
 Smith, Avianca Shanlei  
 Smith, Trevor Christian  
 Stevens, Braylon Shaki  
 Strickling, Jeremy Christoph  
 Sullivan, Michael Murphy  
 Sylvester, Anastasia Marie  
 Thomas, Timothy Joseph  
 Touchat, Sara Ashlee  
 Tran, Hay Minh  
 Trosclair, Javon Keyonte  
 Truman, Melissa Dawn  
 Venbustikirk, Taylor Brock  
 Venshle, Garrett Paul  
 Vial, Derek Allen  
 Walkwright, Matthew Dexter  
 Webb, Jasmine Renee  
 White, Darnedra Devon  
 Williams, Brad Laval  
 Williams, Joshua Matthew  
 Williams, Kristian Tyler  
 Williams, Robert James Jr.  
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# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Jordan Noble

First volunteering for military service at age 11, Jordan Noble became famous as the "Drummer Boy of Chalmette" serving alongside troops under General Andrew Jackson repulsing the British Army at the Battle of New Orleans. He also served as a drummer with the Louisiana troops during the Mexican War from 1846-1848. At the beginning of the American Civil War, Noble raised free men of color to form militia companies on the behalf of the Confederacy. The street through Area D of Jackson Barracks is named in Jordan Noble's honor.



P.B.S. Pinchback, 24th Governor of Louisiana

## Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback

A captain in the Union Army's 2nd Regiment of Louisiana Native Guards, Pinchback was stationed at Fort Pike, La. He resigned in late 1863 after being twice passed over for promotion and returned to civilian life in New Orleans. In 1868, he was elected into the state senate and became speaker pro tempore. Pinchback was appointed as lieutenant governor after the death of Lt. Gov. Oscar J. Dunn. When Gov. Henry Clay Warmoth was brought up on impeachment charges in late 1872, Lt. Governor Pinchback ascended to the office of governor of Louisiana to finish out Warmoth's term. Serving for 35 days, Pinchback remains the only black governor in Louisiana history.



Willie "Woozie" Davenport

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"Becoming the first black General in the Louisiana National Guard is an honor of a life time. The privilege of serving in the military as a general officer is a humbling experience. Military service is very rewarding because of the outstanding professional officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers who make the Louisiana National Guard a proud, value-based organization."

—Brig. Gen. Owen Moncondut  
225th Eng. Brig. Commander

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"Just like my parents and teachers taught me about African-American history, my biggest goal is to make sure I pass the knowledge on to my kids so they can do the same for the future generation."

—Tech Sgt. Glenka A. Doherty  
159th Fighter Wing

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Operational Sgt. Stryker, Training Center

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### William D. "Willie" Davenport

Nicknamed "Breeze," Davenport enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard while attending Southern University. Davenport was a hurdler who participated in four Olympics, winning a gold medal in 1968 and a bronze in 1976. He is also one of only four people to participate in both the Summer Olympics and Winter Olympics when he was on the United States luge/sledge team in 1980. Davenport rose to the rank of colonel while working for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. before his untimely death in 2002.

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### Brig. Gen. Owen Moncondut

Promoted to general officer on Feb. 17, 2009, Moncondut became the first black general in the Louisiana National Guard. He was promoted while deployed to Iraq as commander of the 225th Engineer Brigade. Moncondut joined the Guard in October 1980. He has served as platoon leader, company commander and battalion commander where he led the 528th Engineer Battalion in Afghanistan. He was named commander of the 225th in May 2007.

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### Senior Enlisted Advisor CSM Tommy Caillier

Tommy Caillier joined the Guard in 1979. He has served in many positions, including command sergeant major for the Recruiting and Retention Command and 773d Military Police Battalion. He was later reassigned to the position of deputy provost marshal and command sergeant major of the 61st Troop Command. During that period, Caillier accepted a tour to Southwest Asia where he served as the senior enlisted advisor, Third United States Army. On July 13, 2008, Caillier was appointed as the senior enlisted advisor for the Louisiana National Guard, becoming the first black Guardsman to go so. ■

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"We can always learn from the past. Black History Month gives us the opportunity to recognize and reflect on the contributions of black Americans to our nation. Personally, their actions and accomplishments continue to inspire and motivate me today."

—Col. Michael D. ...  
Camp Director, Fort ...

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"I remember the times in elementary school when we would act out different roles in black historical plays. Even though we thought it was just for fun, I didn't realize that this knowledge would actually stick with me throughout adulthood."

—Staff Sgt. Michael J. Williams  
159th Fighter Wing

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"When I think about black history month, I like to reflect on the things my ancestors did to make sure the quality of life for my generation is better than theirs."

—Staff Sgt. Priscal E. Rollman  
Louisiana Medical Command

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Brig. Gen. Owen Moncondut, the commander of the 225th Engineer Brigade

# AROUND THE STATE



## GUARDSMEN BIKE 150 MILES TO FIGHT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

By Spc. Jessica M. Lopez

### HAMMOND

Louisiana National Guardsmen from the 1022nd Vertical Engineer Company, 527th Engineer Battalion, rode in the 2010 Bike MS: Louisiana Ride to raise money for multiple sclerosis programs, Oct. 2-3.

The 150-mile ride is a fundraising event supported by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for family support programs and research on multiple sclerosis.



Louisiana National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Bryan Lowery, a supply sergeant for the 1022nd Vertical Engineer Company, 527th Engineer Battalion, rides in the 150-mile 2010 Bike Multiple Sclerosis, Louisiana Ride.

Photo by Spc. Jessica Lopez

Three of the participating Guardsmen rode in 2009 as well.

"Last year we were looking to do a biking event," said 1st Sgt. Alan Knight. "I found out about Bike MS, and it seemed like a great idea."

Knight said he talked three other Soldiers into participating in the fundraiser this year.

"I get to do something I enjoy while raising money for a great cause," he said. "We had no idea how huge this ride is. There were a couple thousand people riding."

Each biker rides 75 miles a day and must raise a minimum of \$250. The donations go toward running free and nominal-fee MS programs such as counseling, self-help groups,

help with medical equipment, information about MS and referral to professionals specializing in MS. The donations are also a large part of research funding toward finding a cure.

"This year we have a team of six National Guard riders," said Staff Sgt. Bryan Lowery, a veteran participant. "Between all of us, we raised about \$2,000."

Approximately 400,000 Americans have MS, and nearly 2.1 million people are afflicted worldwide.

"Our hope is to do this every year," said Knight.

"This time next year we will be deployed overseas. I know we have other Guardsmen that will

step up and continue this new tradition." ■

## GUARD HELPS ROTC PREPARE FOR RANGER CHALLENGE

By Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo

### LACOMBE

Louisiana National Guardsmen from the 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, taught Army ROTC cadets from Tulane University how to operate Zodiac boats and work as a team in Lacombe, Oct. 2.

The cadets will represent the Orleans Battalion at the Army ROTC Ranger Challenge competition at Fort Benning, Ga., Oct. 16-17.

The Ranger Challenge is an opportunity for schools to compete against each other through military tasks such as a written examination testing their Army knowledge, a ten kilometer road march and other physical fitness drills and field exercises.

This will be the first year that Zodiacs are included in the competition, so the 2225th was asked to help train the cadets. Normally the rafts are powered by a motor but the cadets will have to manually row as a team for the competition.



Louisiana National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Darren E. Toups of the 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, teaches proper commands and techniques of operating Zodiac inflatable rafts to Army ROTC cadets. Photo by Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo, Recruiting and Retention Command Public Affairs Representative

"One of the most important things we wanted to help show them was how to work together," said Staff Sgt. Darren E. Toups of the 2225th. "The process of getting the commands and working as a

unit is what will help them the most."

Tulane's team for the Ranger Challenge has 11 cadets, including two females.

"I think they did really well today. This was very good for their team building skills," said Master Sgt. Thomas Lewis Jr., senior military instructor for the Orleans Battalion. "Having freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors all on the [same] team ... it's good for them to work with each other extensively."

The Tulane Army ROTC achieved third overall scoring in the Ranger Challenge in 2009 and won first place in 2007 when the competition was held at Camp Shelby, Miss. ■

## LOUISIANA AIR GUARDSMEN WALK FOR BREAST CANCER CURE

By Staff Sgt. Desirea R. Johnson

### NEW ORLEANS



Louisiana Air National Guardsmen from the 159th Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron keep their spirits high with music as they participate in the American Cancer Society's 12th Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K walk/run in New Orleans.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Simone M. Schmitt, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

An enormous sense of accomplishment was felt by participants of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing crossing the finish line at both the American Cancer Society's 12th Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5K held in October.

"It is surprising what your mind and body can go through when it's for a common goal," said New Orleans native Master Sgt. Chantel Theodore, 159th Fighter Wing first sergeant.

Members of the Air Guard and their families walked or ran more than 105 miles and contributed to the raising of more than \$278,624 to support the fight against breast cancer during both events.

"This is a great way for all of us to get together and help support a cause," said Metalrie native Master Sgt. Laraine Calcagno, 159th Force Support Squadron career development noncommissioned officer in charge.

Both events were held at Roosevelt Mall outside Tad Gormley Stadium in City Park. The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk had more than 7,000 participants and the Susan G. Komen walk had more than 12,000 participants.

"I was inspired to walk for breast cancer walk by my mother," said Kenner native Master Sgt. Tracy Reed, 159 FW administrative assistant, whose mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

"My love for her, and what I have learned throughout my life from strong women who seek to live life to the fullest, inspired me to help find a cure," said Reed.

## GUARDSMEN SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER AT FOOD DRIVE

By Spc. Scott D. Longstreet

### PINEVILLE

Several Louisiana Guardsmen from the 1020th Vertical Engineer Company, 527th Engineer Battalion assisted with the annual Christmas Cheer Canned Food Drive sponsored by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and KALB News Channel 5, Dec. 9.

Students from area Avoyelles Parish schools donated the canned goods and other non-perishable items.

"We have ten schools who are participating in Avoyelles Parish this year," said Jayne Wright-Velez, executive director of the food bank. "They began bringing canned goods to the schools at the beginning of November, and we also had help from the employees of Paragon Casino."

The food drive benefits the Food Bank of Central Louisiana and has been an annual tradition in Avoyelles Parish for the last decade.

"We began 20 years ago in Rapides Parish," said Lea Tyler, warehouse manager of the food bank. "We have been in Avoyelles Parish the last ten years, and the National Guard has been assisting us every year."

"The National Guard's role is to go to the schools in the parish and pick up the canned goods," said Sgt. Brandon P. Barr of the 1020th. "We gather the items and bring them to the Paragon to be checked in and weighed by the food bank."

"Working in the community is one of the roles these Citizen-Soldiers play here in Marksville.

"I have helped out before with this food drive and I think it is a great thing," Barr continued. "My son goes to LaFargue Elementary and it is nice to see the students so willing to donate and give back to the community."

## NORTH POLE SENDS CAMOUFLAGED HELPERS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

### LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN GIVE DOZENS OF GIFTS TO KIDS

By Sgt. Michael L. Owens

### NEW ORLEANS

During the busy holiday season, members of the Louisiana National Guard took time to spread cheer to local children in need as Santa's camouflaged helpers, Dec. 9.

Approximately 20 volunteers assigned to the 159th Fighter Wing in Belle Chasse purchased more than 200 gifts for patients at Children's Hospital in New Orleans.

"The kids are so excited whenever they get special visitors like the Guardsmen," said Nicole Marinello, a special events coordinator for the hospital. "It means a lot to our patients, and it brings them joy to get presents from the (troops)."

For the second year in a row, the Guardsmen brought gifts for the kids who spend a lot of their time in and out of the hospital receiving treatment for various illnesses.

"We do it because we want to be a blessing to these kids," said Capt. Lalasha Goines of New Orleans, who spearheaded this event. "We want them to have the same Christmas joy as healthy kids."

The sound of laughter echoed through the hallways as the Airmen knocked on each door to present the children with special gifts



Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing bring toys to each patient at Children's Hospital in New Orleans during their annual toy giveaway.

Photo by Sgt. Michael L. Owens

ranging from coloring books to footballs.

"Wow, I am so excited!" said 10-year-old Aliyah, who is suffering from a skin condition. With a huge smile she added, "I've been here for a while and never received anything like this."

The staff members said it is important to have volunteers during these tough times because the gifts help lift the burden parents carry during this time of the year.

"It not only helps to spread cheer to the patients but to the parents as well," said Marinello. "It is nice to have the Guard bring Christmas to kids who are unable to experience the holidays outside of the hospital."

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# FIGHTING FOR AIR DOMINANCE

## Guard pilots conduct combat training with F-22 Raptors

Photo by Major Sgt. Tony Estelle, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

A two-week total force integration training mission combined F-22 Raptors provided by the U.S. Air Force's 43rd Fighter Squadron from Tyndal Air Force Base, Fla., with pilots from the Florida Air National Guard and Louisiana Air National Guard F-15C Eagle pilots with the 122nd Fighter Squadron, Nov. 4, 2010. The joint mission, facilitated by the 43rd Fighter Squadron and hosted by the 159th Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, allowed the pilots to practice combat techniques with the more advanced Raptors and expedited the graduation time of new Raptor pilots from training by one month.

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