

FALL 2011

PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



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CADDO PARISH - Louisiana National Guard's 1st Stryker Brigade, 159th Airborne Division, guides the USFV Black Hawk pilots to collect water from Caddo Lake in 500-gallon waterbuckets Sept. 5, 2011. The LANG pilots worked in a search-and-rescue pattern to flame water on the hot spots in the vicinity of Highway 1 and 528 using waterbuckets - large buckets carrying water suspended by cable to assist the Department of Agriculture and Forestry with the suppression of the wild fires.

Photo Sgt. Patrick Gibson

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159TH SECURITY FORCES BRING OUT THE BIG GUNS



Members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, conduct weapons qualification on the M-240 machine gun at Camp Beauregard. The M-240 has been used by the U.S. military since the mid-1980s, and despite being a heavier model machine gun, is highly regarded for its reliability during extreme conditions.

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

More than 50 members of the 159th Security Forces Squadron participated in a weeklong, action-packed annual training exercise at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, July 11-15, allowing the Airmen to practice their primary expeditionary duties.

"My goal was to complete primary requirements without any distractions," said Maj. Sean F. Conroy, commander of the 159th SFS, 159th Fighter Wing. "It was great to come up here and utilize the range for heavy and small arms training and land navigation—just some of the things we are unable to do back in New Orleans."

Training included weapons training, battle drills, dismounted combat patrols,



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Jeandron of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, instructs Maj. Sean Conroy, 159th SFS commander, on the M-203 grenade launcher during heavy weapons qualifications at Camp Beauregard, in Pineville, July 13, 2011. The M-203 grenade launcher was intended to be used as close fire support for point and group area targets. Photos: Master Sgt. Daniel P. Ferrell, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

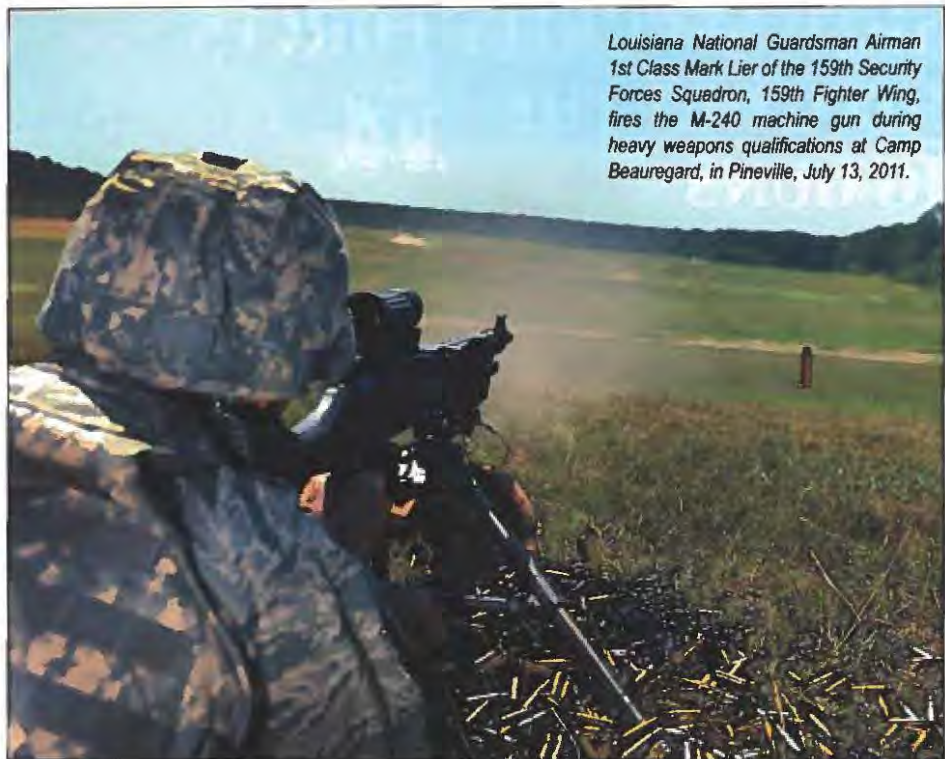
land navigation skills and other small unit tactics. The Airmen also qualified on several weapons, including the M-4 carbine, M-9 Beretta 92FS, M-240B automatic machine gun, M-249 squad automatic weapon and the M-203 grenade launcher.

"This is my first annual training, and it was a great experience overall," said Airman 1st Class Mark Lier, a Metairie native. "The instructors were very knowledgeable and thorough; they not only knew their specialty but every aspect of Security Forces as a whole."

The 159th SFS mission is to provide base security and airbase ground defense beyond the limits of the base perimeter. They must be prepared for any internal or external threats that may arise.

"The training couldn't get any better than this," said Staff Sgt. Jonas J. Johnnie, 159th SFS fire team leader from Lafayette.

The week ended with a field training exercise—a combat patrol in the summer heat to a simulated enemy compound—which required the use of their week's tactical training.



Louisiana National Guardsman Airman 1st Class Mark Lier of the 159th Security Forces Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, fires the M-240 machine gun during heavy weapons qualifications at Camp Beauregard, in Pineville, July 13, 2011.

"Our Airmen performed flawlessly and demonstrated a high degree of motivation, enthusiasm, and unit esprit de corps which had a profound impact on making this

annual training a resounding success!" said Master Sgt. Milton N. Ramirez of Kenner, operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the 159th SFS. ■

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259th ATSC flips the switch on new radar



Louisiana Air National Guardsman Senior Airman William Pearce of Bunkie, operates the airport surveillance radar at Alexandria International Airport, Aug. 11, 2011.

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

Members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron flipped the switch on the new ground control approach system at the Alexandria International Airport in Alexandria, Aug. 10.

In 1997 the LANG's 259th ATCS took over operations of the airport's control tower, but Fort Polk retained overall control of the air space and radar capability.

With the addition of the GCA system, the 259th has now been given more responsibility over military air traffic to provide radar and airport surveillance services. The GCA allows radar controllers to transmit elevation to pilots and whether they are left or right of the intended course. This essentially allows the pilots to land without looking out the window.

With the radar now transmitting, the 259th can monitor air traffic 60 miles around the Alexandria International Airport. On average, 35 percent of the air traffic at AEX is from military operations – roughly 22,000 operations yearly.

"Hopefully, this system will increase those numbers," said Pat Thompson, air traffic manager at AEX. "This capability of the radar correlates with the needs of the flying community; we hope they will come here to fly those approaches. The feedback we got from the flying community is upbeat. They are looking forward to using our services."

The precision and airport surveillance radar approaches give real-time training to the 259th's controllers, something that could only be obtained by traveling out of state for up to 18 months worth



Louisiana Air National Guardsman Senior Master Sgt. Nathan Louque from Pineville, radar maintenance supervisor, retired in September after 40 years of service. Louque said seeing the ground control approach facility finally operational means he retired a happy man.

of schooling. The National Guard Bureau will give the final certification to train new air traffic controllers this fall.

"We had to send all of our radar controllers to other places," said Master Sgt. Trent Taylor, radar controller from Chalmette.

When England Air Force Base closed in 1992, Fort Polk assumed control of radar for central Louisiana. Now with the radar up and running, Thompson said the Airmen are able to train on live tracking and provide a service to military air traffic.

"Basically [radar] is half the squadron's ATC ability. Now we are able to train half our controllers with live tracking. It creates a better Airman," said Thompson. "[The radar capability] provides a location for military pilots to accomplish their training without needing to go elsewhere."

Jon Grafton, executive director of England Airpark, said it was a little more than 14 years ago that the Louisiana Air National Guard and the England Authority partnered to bring the 259th to AEX.

"The precision approach radar becoming active at AEX is a major milestone in the redevelopment of England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport," he said via email.

"The relationship has been a resounding success. We have been honored to play a small part in the success of the 259th," continued Grafton. "... This operational capability at AEX continues to broaden the airport's training and operational role with the military aviation community. The pilots and controllers of the 259th can now exercise and train on a vital piece of equipment that has real-world impact."

In addition to the controllers, a group of seven highly skilled Airmen are needed to keep the radar operating at its peak. Preventive maintenance takes an average of 60 hours a week – but the radar began in the experienced hands of Senior Master Sgt. Nathan Louque of Pineville.

Louque retired from the Air Guard in September with 40 years of service, as he hit his 60th birthday.

"It was one of my goals to see this happen. Now I can go out a happy man," said Louque.

Louque is the current radar maintenance supervisor and, according to the 259th chief of maintenance, has been

instrumental in accomplishing the years-long process of getting the radar installed and transmitting.

"When you are in the middle of something very big, some people show themselves to be indispensable," said Senior Master Sgt. Randal Marino of Pineville. "Senior Master Sgt. Louque was one of them ... he's the special guy on the team."

In the early morning hours of Aug. 10, as the radar was turned on for business for the first time, the entire squadron breathed a collective sigh of relief.

"We kept fighting toward the end. We had so many obstacles that popped up that were out of our control," said Thompson. "Nine months ago things started falling into place. It raised the entire feeling of the squadron." ■



Louisiana Air National Guardsman Master Sgt. Trent Taylor, foreground, of Chalmette, operates the precision approach radar while Senior Airman William Pearce of Bunkie, operates the airport surveillance radar at Alexandria International Airport.



LANG MARKSMANSHIP TEAM STORMS NEBRASKA

Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. Chris Clark of Alexandria, assigned to the 528th Engineer Battalion in Monroe, fires his M-4 rifle downrange at the annual MAC V Regional Marksmanship Competition in Hastings, Neb., Aug. 19-21, 2011. The novice shooter exploded onto the marksmanship scene in the individual competition by taking first place honors in the novice close quarter combat and 500-yard feedback matches.

Guardsmen take MAC V Regional Championship

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Angela K. Fry, Louisiana Marksmanship Team Public Affairs Representative

The Louisiana National Guard marksmanship team 'gunned down' the competition at the annual MAC V Regional Marksmanship Championship in Hastings, Neb., taking the overall team championship and various team and individual honors, Aug. 19-21.

The competition, precursor to the Winston P. Wilson National Marksmanship Championship in Little Rock, Ark., featured 23 teams and 110 shooters from nine states, including marksmanship powerhouses Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa.

State marksmanship team coordinator, 1st Sgt. Tommy McGee, expressed his pride in the marksmanship program's showing at the competition in both individual and team accomplishments.

"Half of the troops in this program were deployed to Iraq with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2010 and have been unable to compete in more than a year and a half," McGee said, a distinguished marksman and a member of the All Guard team. "That includes three of the four members of Team Cajun."

Named Team Cajun, Team A took the overall team pistol, rifle and combined arms championship with team members McGee of Bastrop, Staff Sgt. Steve Moore of Bastrop, Staff Sgt. Nathan LaCombe of Alexandria and Staff Sgt. Joseph Noe of Little Rock,

Ark. McGee, LaCombe and Noe are all members of the 199th Brigade Support Battalion, and Moore is a member of Joint Forces Headquarters.

Along with top team honors, Noe won the overall individual marksmanship competition, also finishing first in the excellence-



The Louisiana National Guard's Team Cajun poses with their numerous trophies and medals after the awards ceremony for the annual MAC V Regional Marksmanship Competition in Hastings, Neb., Aug. 19-21, 2011. From left, Staff Sgt. Joseph Noe of Little Rock, Ark., Staff Sgt. Nathan LaCombe of Alexandria, Staff Sgt. Steve Moore of Bastrop, and 1st Sgt. Tommy McGee of Bastrop.



The Louisiana National Guard's Team Choo-lem, races to their next point of fire during the combat arms three-gun match. The team finished third overall in the combat arms rundown match. Team B members are Staff Sgt. Joseph David of Port Barre, with the 199th Brigade Support Battalion; Staff Sgt. Jamie Eppinette of Bastrop, with the 528th Engineer Battalion; Sgt. Michael Minstead of Bastrop, with the 528th; Staff Sgt. Mark Hutcheson of Bossier City, with the 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment.

in-combat pistol and overall individual pistol championships. McGee finished second in the overall individual championship and first in the overall rifle competition.

LaCombe finished first in the overall individual novice championship, also finishing first in the novice combat pistol barricade match. Novice shooter Sgt. Chris Clark of Alexandria, member of the 528th Engineer Battalion, exploded onto the marksmanship scene as an individual shooter by taking first place honors in the novice close quarter combat and 500-yard feedback matches.

Noe, McGee and Staff Sgt. Jamie Eppinette of Bastrop, a member of the 528th, represent Louisiana on the 2011 All Guard Team. The shooters from Team Cajun will also represent the National Guard in the All Army competition in April 2012. ■

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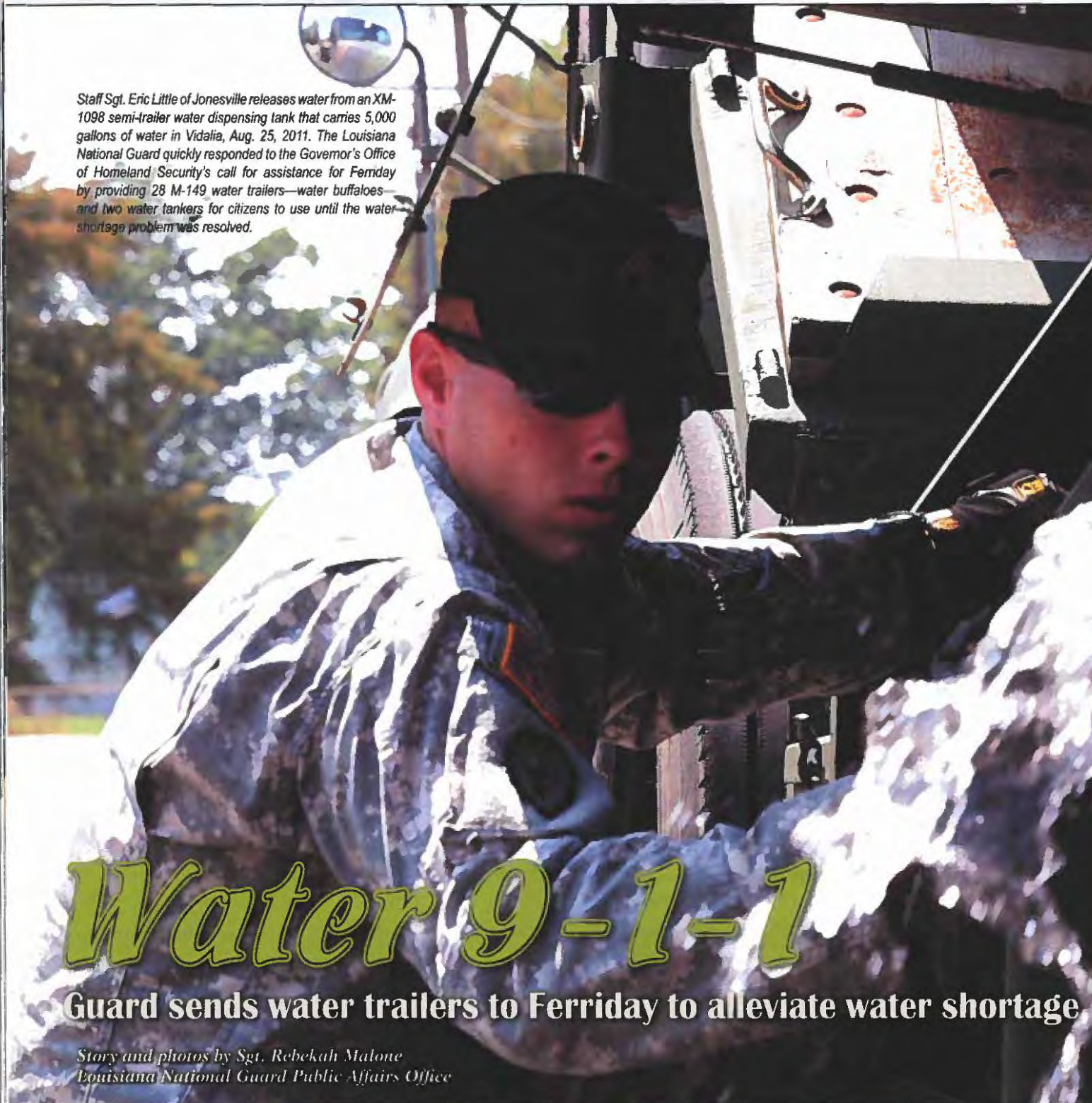
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Staff Sgt. Eric Little of Jonesville releases water from an XM-1098 semi-trailer water dispensing tank that carries 5,000 gallons of water in Vidalia, Aug. 25, 2011. The Louisiana National Guard quickly responded to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security's call for assistance for Ferriday by providing 28 M-149 water trailers—water buffaloes—and two water tankers for citizens to use until the water shortage problem was resolved.

Water 9-1-1

Guard sends water trailers to Ferriday to alleviate water shortage

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

The Louisiana National Guard sent 28 M-149 water trailers—"water buffaloes"—and two 5,000-gallon XM-1098 semi-trailer water dispensing tanks to Ferriday in August to alleviate water shortages the city experienced.

"When you run out of water, you run out of patience," said Morris White, Concordia Parish Emergency Operations Center director. "I'm just glad to see you."

White has seen numerous water shortages during the more than 30 years he has been on the job. He said the partnership

between the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Louisiana National Guard allows for a quick response during those times of need.

"I've been here 30 years with emergency planning. It comes down to the Office of Homeland Security and the military, and they always work well together," said White. "The state of Louisiana is very fortunate ... one washes the other's hands."

Col. Jonathan T. Ball, officer in charge of the mission, said he enjoys helping his state.



Sgt. Stuart Sanders of West Monroe ground guides Pfc. Kyle Arceneaux of Bastrop as he backs up an M-809 series 5-ton pulling an M-149 water trailer (water buffalo). Aug. 25, 2011.

"Anytime we can support our local community ... that is what the Louisiana National Guard is all about—neighbors helping neighbors," said Ball who served as the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander during the recent deployment to Iraq. "Being able to help our neighbors gives me a great sense of personal and professional pride."

The water buffaloes came from units from the 225th Engineer Brigade, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 1084th Transportation Company. ■

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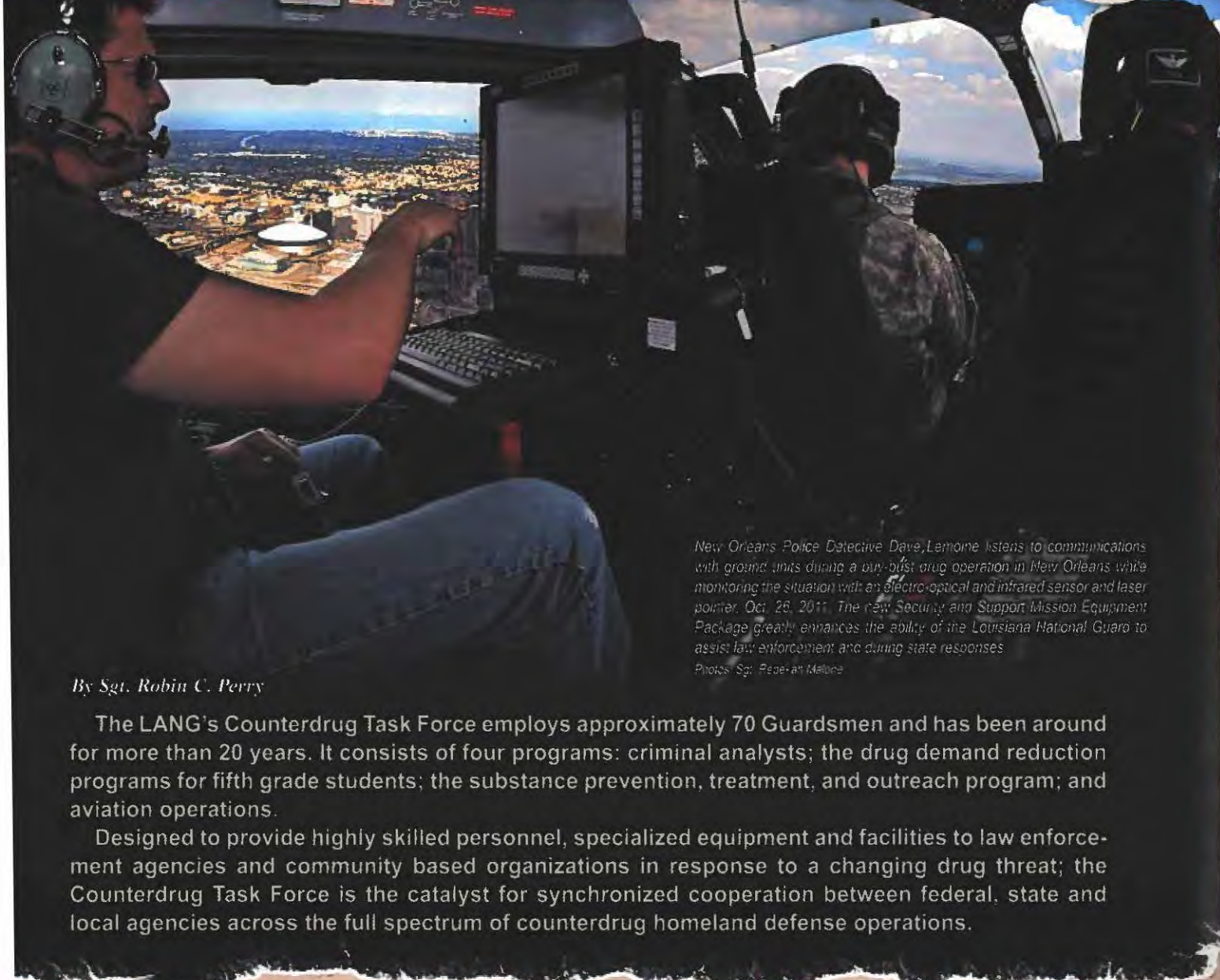
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Counterdrug



New Orleans Police Detective Dave Lamoine listens to communications with ground units during a buy-bust drug operation in New Orleans while monitoring the situation with an electro-optical and infrared sensor and laser pointer, Oct. 26, 2011. The new Security and Support Mission Equipment Package greatly enhances the ability of the Louisiana National Guard to assist law enforcement and during state responses.

Photos: Sgt. Roger Ann Mallone

By Sgt. Robin C. Perry

The LANG's Counterdrug Task Force employs approximately 70 Guardsmen and has been around for more than 20 years. It consists of four programs: criminal analysts; the drug demand reduction programs for fifth grade students; the substance prevention, treatment, and outreach program; and aviation operations.

Designed to provide highly skilled personnel, specialized equipment and facilities to law enforcement agencies and community based organizations in response to a changing drug threat; the Counterdrug Task Force is the catalyst for synchronized cooperation between federal, state and local agencies across the full spectrum of counterdrug homeland defense operations.

Drug Demand Reduction program reaches students, communities

The Drug Demand Reduction program, which is part of the Counterdrug Task Force, received the prestigious Bronze Key award from the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for Greater New Orleans at Harrah's Hotel in New Orleans, April 15.

"We work in coordination with many different agencies, and on our own, to both reduce the supply of illegal drugs and to educate people to reduce the demand for them," said Lt. Col. Michael C. Schindler II, director of the LANG Counterdrug Task Force, who accepted the award, the highest recognition presented by local agencies.

The Bronze Key is a national recognition award bestowed by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and its local affiliates to honor individuals or organizations for their outstanding contributions to the field.

The award is an example of the work DDR is doing in Louisiana's communities. Recently, DDR started work on a new coalition in Greater New Orleans.

DDR coalitions leverage unique military capabilities to increase awareness, to inspire motivation and to provide leadership and guidance in calling for and supporting the

Task Force

Prevention, Treatment and Outreach

The Prevention, Treatment, and Outreach or PTO program was launched in 2007 with 12 pilot states, Louisiana being one of them. Since then, the program has grown to 28 states.

The mission is to provide prevention training, outreach to military families and treatment resources to LANG service members in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance and combat readiness.

Tech Sgt. Larissa Lambert, state coordinator for the LANG, said more than 100 Soldiers and Airmen dealing with either UA positives or self-referrals for substance abuse issues have received help.

"The PTO program provides an opportunity for Guardsmen to seek help for issues dealing with substance abuse, mental health and any other stressor while increasing safety, morale, quality of life and overall unit readiness," said Lambert. ■

Criminal Analysts

In FY11, the LANG CDTF helped law enforcement agencies confiscate more than 7,000 pounds of drugs, \$1.7 million in currency and more than 5,856 marijuana plants. As a byproduct of assisting with confiscation of the drugs and money, more than 1,160 weapons were removed from the street. In all, the seizure of drugs, currency, weapons, vehicles and property during fiscal year 2011 was valued at nearly \$10 million. ■

The LANG's CDTF supported 31 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies at 35 locations. ■



Members of Brame Middle School navigate an obstacle run by the Louisiana National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force at the ropes course at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Oct. 7, 2011.

Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone

The Louisiana National Guard's Sgt. Logan Kennedy, crew chief for the Counterdrug Task Force, observes law enforcement agents on the ground in Houma, during a roundup executing search and arrest warrants, July 27, 2011.

Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone



Aviation Ops, Law Enforcement's EYES IN THE SKY

commitment of America's youth to be drug-free.

The coalition acts as a force multiplier for existing community prevention efforts by facilitating collaborative partnerships with community-based substance abuse prevention/treatment agencies and military families.

"The role of the National Drug Counter Drug Force has been indispensable in assisting the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition in its community-driven, strategic response to the escalating substance abuse and illicit drug problem that is threatening the safety and welfare

of our citizens," said E. Seton Jenkins, the member of the steering committee for the Greater New Orleans DDR.

Drug Demand Reduction Administrator Maj. Donna Jones has worked closely with the coalition to provide a framework to provide evidence based interventions using the pillars of prevention, treatment and enforcement.

"Major Jones has played a tremendous role in assisting us in realizing community wellness and safety from an outcome-based perspective that is sustainable, culturally responsive and adaptable to change," said Jenkins. ■



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LANG helicopters receive high-tech upgrades

Nearly every day, LANG helicopters fly the Louisiana skies supporting local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Over the last fiscal year, nearly 700 flight hours were flown in support of the LEAs for vehicle observation, photo reconnaissance, indoor grows and search warrants.

This fall the LANG received two upgraded UH-72 Lakota helicopters with the Security and Support Mission Equipment Package designed to better support law enforcement and assist during state responses.

Louisiana is one of the first of four states to receive this package.

"These capabilities can be used for search and rescues, state emergencies, hurricanes and as a tool to execute the homeland defense mission in concurrence with the counterdrug mission," said Lt. Col. Dallas Jones, deputy commander of the CDTF.

The package includes an L3-Wescam MX-15i electro-optical and infrared sensor and laser pointer; Luminator LS-16 searchlight; LCX MG-100 moving map; two 10.4-inch cockpit and one 15-inch cabin Skyquest screens; recording capabilities; SNC Tacitlink-Eagle Downlink; dual Wulfsberg Digital RT-5000 and hoist and rear operator station.

During a buy-bust drug operation run by the New Orleans Police Department, Oct. 26-27, the Louisiana National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force aided law enforcement with top cover in a newly outfitted helicopter.

"The improved optics means the pilots can be up to five miles away from what they are looking at. They can't hear me or see me," Jones added.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Feazell, of Pineville, was one of eight pilots on the panel that gave the National Guard Bureau recommendations for the upgraded equipment three years ago.

- The tactical video downlink system is a handheld receiver that may be used by agents or Guardsmen on the ground to see what the helicopter's camera is viewing. It has a range of 25 to 30 miles and can read a license plate up to a mile away.
- The spotlight boosts 13 million candlepower more than the current spotlight used on other helicopters, and it can work in tandem with the camera.
- The moving map with touch screen capability is a first in a military helicopter.
- The ability to record up to 16 hours of video to an easily removable card that law enforcement may use as evidence or for intelligence gathering.



Louisiana National Guardsmen Chief Warrant Officer 4 Eric Feazell, right, of Pineville, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cody Davis of Tioga, fly a UH-72 Lakota helicopter during a buy-bust drug operation run by the New Orleans Police Department, Oct. 26-27, 2011.

Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone

He said the combination of air time, speed, camera zoom, ability to identify people and vehicles, and displays with moving maps of the street the pilots and agents are looking at in real time are all significant improvements.

During the second day of the operation, the pilots used the helicopter's camera to video the suspect hiding drugs behind a house. They were then able to relay the information to the ground agents, who then found the evidence.

"If it wasn't for the aircraft keeping eyes on the target, the ground team would have never known where the stash was," said Feazell. ■

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AERIAL

LANG battles fires in New Orleans, Caddo Parish

Photos: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie



At the direction of the governor, the LANG assisted the city of New Orleans and Caddo Parish with aerial firefighting in September. The LANG worked in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, that coordinated efforts with other state agencies to ensure the safety of citizens.

The LANG used up to nine helicopters to carry helibuckets, large buckets suspended by a cable used to carry water for aerial firefighting. More than 1.5 million gallons of water was dropped on the fires in north and south Louisiana.



FIREFIGHT



Louisiana's Citizen Soldiers

By Rhett Breerwood, Historian

During the historic Battle of New Orleans, the final battle of the War of 1812, Louisiana's citizens came together from all walks of life to defend the state from the invading British force. The winter of 1814-1815 was the last time that a foreign power attempted to occupy American soil, and the Louisiana militia, the forebear of today's Louisiana National Guard, played a significant role in repelling that invasion.

Initially caused by British violation of American maritime rights, the conflict remained unresolved by the fall of 1814, with no clear advantage on either side. The British decided to make a move for control of the Mississippi River by capturing New Orleans. President Madison asked Gov. Claiborne to ready the Louisiana militia to support Gen. Andrew Jackson and his regular Army troops in the fight for the vital waterway.

Claiborne had recently reorganized the Louisiana militia after he acquired the territory north of Lake Ponchartrain

just before achieving statehood—the two divisions consisted of troops from very different backgrounds. French-speaking Creoles from New Orleans and Acadians from the swamps of South Louisiana prepared to fight alongside Germans from St. Charles and St. John parishes, as well as Spanish-speaking Islenos from their scattered settlements and Americans from the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain. Regiments from the central and northern parishes were also at the ready.

Down river from the city, the British occupied the home of Maj. Gen. Jacques Villere, commander of the 1st Division of the Louisiana Militia, and made it their headquarters. Villere himself evaded capture. The Americans set up their position along the Rodriguez Canal, next to the Chalmette Plantation. Various Louisiana units were positioned along the front of Jackson's defense, on the west bank of the river and to the rear as a reserve force. Two battalions



Battle of New Orleans

From Library of Congress
Kurz and Allison, 1890

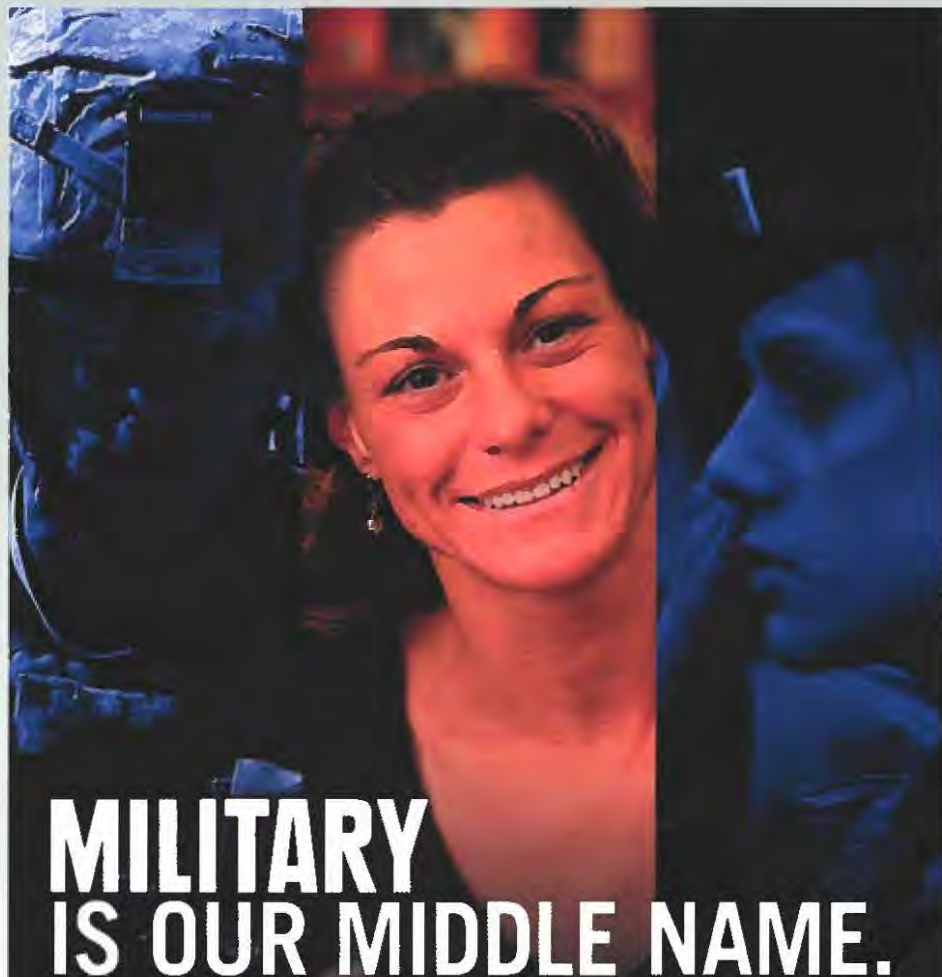
defend New Orleans

consisting of free men of color, Daquin's battalion and Lacoste's battalion, were positioned on Jackson's main line. They shared the battlefield with American regulars, Choctaw Indians, Jean Lafitte's Baratarian privateers, and volunteers from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi.

On Jan. 8, 1815, this gumbo of fighting men faced battle-tested British troops, seasoned by the Napoleonic wars. The British confidence did not last. The Orleans Rifle Company, led by Capt. Thomas Beale, played a major role in turning back a nearly successful push by enemy forces on the river side of the battlefield. The American defenders routed the British at Chalmette within a short time. British casualties numbered over 2,000, including the death of their commander, Gen. Packenham. American casualties that day were fewer than 100.

The British soon left the Gulf of Mexico, and the war was over. Despite the fact that a peace treaty was signed in Europe before the battle even took place, Jackson and his diverse assembly of

American troops and Louisiana Citizen-Soldiers left no doubt of the young republic's intent to protect and control the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River. ■



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AROUND THE STATE



1086TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DEPLOYS, MARKS 9/11 ANNIVERSARY

By LANG Public Affairs Office

PINEVILLE

Marking the tenth anniversary of 9/11, the Louisiana National Guard, families and friends bid farewell to approximately 170 Soldiers of the 1086th Transportation Company during a deployment ceremony at Louisiana College in Pineville, Sept. 11.

Gov. Bobby Jindal said, "Today, we send the 1086th Company off to Afghanistan. We send you off because you make up the most formidable weapon on the face of the earth – the will of a free people devoted to protecting and defending freedom at any cost. That is why we are here to honor and send off a willing and free group of people who have willingly become the frontline defenders of freedom."

The unit, based out of Bunkie with detachments in Vidalia and Ville Platte, will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Its combat mission is to provide transportation and combat support to units within its assigned area of operations through maneuver and mobility, and perform other missions as assigned.

"Since 9/11, the Louisiana National Guard has continuously had Soldiers deployed around this state and across the globe," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the LANG. "This deployment is an important reminder to us all, of our nation's fight against global terrorism on this 10-year anniversary of the attacks against our country."

Over the years, the 1086th has provided support during Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and disaster relief for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. Additionally, Soldiers from the 1086th supported state efforts for the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill, Task Force Bon Voisen in Haiti and again recently for Operation River Guardian.

"It is my honor to lead these Soldiers on the mission and to represent the state of Louisiana," said Capt. Michael Stevens, 1086th commander. "However, we could not do this without the unfailing love and support from the families and friends that remain here."

The 1086th departed for Fort Hood, Texas, for two months of pre-mobilization training following the ceremony. ■



Louisiana National Guardsman Officer Candidate Tawney Tallo, executive director of Operation Homefront Louisiana, walks with her husband, Lt. Col. Vincent Tallo, during the Louisiana Freedom Walk at Audubon Park.

Photo: Pfc. Joshua L. Barnett, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SOLDIERS, COMMUNITY COMMEMORATE 9/11 WITH FREEDOM WALK

By Pfc. Joshua L. Barnett

241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS

Soldiers with the Louisiana Army National Guard participated in the Louisiana Freedom Walk, Sept. 11, at Audubon Park in New Orleans to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

The 1.9-mile trek around Audubon Park, sponsored by Operation Homefront Louisiana, raised awareness of the organization's efforts to support veterans and service members.

Participating in the event were Soldiers from 1-141st Field Artillery Battalion as well as officer candidates from Officer Candidate School, Class 52.

"The whole gist behind the event is for the memory of 9/11 – to support our first responders, military and veterans. It's almost like another Memorial Day," said 1st Lt. Anthony La Nasa of Bravo Battery, 1-141st FA.

Each of the approximately 20 candidates carried a 30-pound rucksack and took a second lap around the park after everyone else was done. The candidates are slated to graduate as second lieutenants in August 2012.

The event was organized by Tawney Tallo, executive director of Operation Homefront Louisiana. Operation Homefront provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors. Examples of the services they offer include donations of food, furniture and household goods; transitional housing for wounded warriors; and help with emergencies such as unexpected car and home repairs.

Tallo is also an officer candidate in OCS.



The Louisiana National Guard, families and friends bid farewell to approximately 170 Soldiers of the 1086th Transportation Company during a deployment ceremony at Louisiana College in Pineville, Sept. 11, 2011. Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone

She was motivated to join the National Guard through a sense of personal duty.

"My dad raised us to not ever take our freedom for granted, and I just felt like I was never doing enough," said Tallo. ■

LANG GENERAL OFFICER RETIRES

By Sgt. Robin C. Perry,
LANG Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS

Army Maj. Gen. John P. Basilica Jr. of Baton Rouge said farewell to the Louisiana National Guard and 33 years of military service during a retirement ceremony, Sept. 9, at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans.

"John is a great American, a true patriot, a warrior and a friend," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the LANG. "Throughout his career, he accomplished the mission at hand while always putting the needs of Soldiers and Airmen at the forefront. His motivating factor was to improve readiness and the quality of life for those under his command."

Commissioned in 1978, Basilica has served in numerous commands in the active Army, Reserve and National Guard, most recently as the commander of Operational Command Post #1 at U.S. Army North (5th U.S. Army), Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. In 2004, Basilica commanded the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team while mobilized for 18 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I am grateful especially for my family's unqualified support for my career," Basilica said during his address, noting that the day's emotions were that of gratitude and pride.

At the ceremony, Basilica was awarded the Louisiana Distinguished Service Medal, the Certificate of Retirement from Armed Forces, the Certificate of Appreciation from the president of the United States, the Minuteman Plaque and the ceremonial knife. ■



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, presents the Minuteman Award to Army Maj. Gen. John P. Basilica Jr. for his 33 years of outstanding service to the Army and the Guard.

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

LA GUARD RESPONDS TO HURRICANE IRENE

By Louisiana National Guard
Public Affairs Office

PINEVILLE

Under the authority of Gov. Bobby Jindal, the Louisiana National Guard forward deployed eight Guardsmen and two UH-60 Black Hawks with hoist capability as part of a National Guard force package, to respond to Hurricane Irene.

Staged in South Carolina, the LANG Guardsmen were prepared to respond as part of an emergency response package assisting civil authorities in any storm impacted areas along the East Coast, with priority missions being search and rescue.

The Black Hawks departed from Louisiana and arrived at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, S.C., Aug. 26. The Black Hawks were from the 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment out of Hammond, La., and from F Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation in Pineville. ■

LA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HONORS LOCAL CHEF

By 159th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS



Chef John Besh, 122nd Fighter Squadron honorary commander, and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Samuel, 122nd FS commander, stand in front of a Louisiana Air National Guard F-15 Eagle before a familiarization flight, Sept. 10, 2011, at Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base New Orleans.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Jeffrey T. Barone, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The Louisiana National Guard's 122nd Fighter Squadron, 159th Fighter Wing, recognized Chef John Besh as their honorary commander by demonstrating the capabilities of the Louisiana Air National Guard and specifically the F-15 aircraft.

Besh is a nationally renowned chef, an active community leader and, as a former United States Marine, a dedicated

advocate of emergency responders and veterans. He was named 122nd FS honorary commander because of his contributions to the city and its culture, as well as his strong support of the 159th Fighter Wing and the Louisiana National Guard.

The Honorary Commander program is designed to increase the understanding of the 159th Fighter Wing and Louisiana Air National Guard missions by pairing community leaders with the wing's leaders to forge new relationships in order to positively promote the organization. ■

LA GUARD GRADUATES NEW CLASS OF OFFICERS

By LANG Public Affairs Office

BALL

The Louisiana National Guard's 199th Leadership Regiment held a graduation ceremony to commission 33 new officers Aug. 27 at Tioga High School in Ball.

Louisiana's officer candidate school is designed to commission the future leaders of the Army National Guard.

On Aug. 3, the 199th Leadership Regiment was awarded the highest accreditation level possible by the Training and Doctrine Command. This honor exemplifies the school's achievement of exceeding the standards of strong doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and education, personnel and facilities.

The 199th Leadership Regiment has conducted an OCS program since July 1960. Since graduating the first class in August 1961, 1,523 second lieutenants had been commissioned as of March 2011.

Officer candidates may either attend the "traditional" officer candidate school one weekend a month and two annual training sessions over a period of 18 months, or attend the full-time, eight-week "accelerated" course. ■



Gold second lieutenant bars are pinned on the shoulders of Simon Tresch by his fiancée, Amanda Zapata, and his brother, Capt. Andrew Tresch, at Tioga High School in Ball, Aug. 27, 2011. Photo: Sgt. Rebekah Malone, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

AROUND THE STATE

continued



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the Louisiana National Guard's adjutant general, leads the ground-breaking ceremony, Sept. 7, for the new Armed Forces Reserve Center being built at Camp Minden. Photo: Sgt. Robin Perry, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

CAMP MINDEN BREAKS GROUND ON AFRC

By Sgt. Robin Perry, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

MINDEN

Louisiana National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and local community leaders gathered at a ground-breaking ceremony for Camp Minden's new \$19 million Armed Forces Reserve Center, Sept. 7, which is the first LANG AFRC in north Louisiana.

"Today is about partnership ... partnership and a testament to the great things that can happen when people and organizations work together," said Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general for the LANG. "The success of the National Guard hinges on the strength of its relationship with the community and with other armed services as well."

The 90,000-square-foot center will serve as consolidated headquarters for units already located at Camp Minden, totaling more than 430 Soldiers and Airmen, including the 1083rd Transportation Company, the 39th Military Police Company and the 122nd Air Support Operations Squadron.

As Minden Mayor Bill Robertson pointed out, Camp Minden and its leadership have been recognized by the Minden-South Webster Parish Chamber of Commerce numerous times for their community involvement and economic

impact on the surrounding towns.

"It's great to get this new facility," Robertson said. "It adds to the area's economy by bringing more people in. The continued growth of Camp Minden promises even more economic expansion in the future for our community."

"This facility will allow our two sister services to work together in very much the same manner as we do during emergency operations and the overseas warfight," Landreneau said, pointing out the importance of the close working environment the new center will foster among the LANG's two branches—Army Guard and Air Guard.

Taking 18 months to complete, the facility is designed to comply with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—LEED—Silver rating system, using energy management systems with automated HVAC controls and efficient on-demand water use systems. ■



Members of the 1084th Transportation Company stand in formation with other first responders from the local community, Sept. 11, 2011, to honor all heroes throughout the U.S. Photo: Courtesy of the St. John Parish Sheriff's Office Young Marines

1084TH SOLDIERS TAKE PART IN 9/11 CEREMONY

By Sgt. 1st Class Scott Robinson, 1084th Transportation Company

LAPLACE

On Sept. 11, Soldiers from the 1084th Transportation Company participated in a 9/11 remembrance ceremony in LaPlace honoring first responders across the nation. The event was sponsored by Riverland Ford and the St. John Parish Sheriff's Office Young Marines program in conjunction with the parish government.

"It is an honor to stand next to future generations of warriors in the form of young Marines," said Staff Sgt. Raymond Stewart, a 1084th squad leader. "Knowing that I will be retired in a few years, it gives me a great feeling that there will

be another generation that stands up and volunteers to continue a great tradition of serving this great nation."

Sgt. Derrick Taylor recalled that a former Soldier walked up after the ceremony to thank him for his service. "This event was not only for us," commented the Vietnam veteran. "It honored those that were never honored after enduring great sacrifices."

"To some, this is a temporary job; to others, a career. But no matter which path we take, the relationships we build amongst each other and the community continues to grow as the years go by," Taylor said. ■

489TH SOLDIERS HONOR 9/11

By Sgt. Genevieve Tolar, Det. 1, B Co., 489th Combat Support Company

SHREVEPORT/BOSSIER CITY

Soldiers of Det. 1, B Company, 489th Combat Support Company from Camp Minden, joined together to remember and honor the tragedies of 9/11 by participating in the Soldiers' Angels Sept. 11 Run for Remembrance held at Shreveport's Memorial Park. The local Soldiers' Angels chapter sponsored the run "to honor the men and women who died in the attacks on our country and to support those who fight to preserve our freedom."

"It's important to remember why we serve," said Sgt. Glenn Phillips, who recently re-enlisted in the Guard and quickly deployed to Iraq in 2009.

Unfortunately, many service men and women do not return home to their families. "I wanted to participate today to remember Lt. Cmdr. Jonas B. Kelsall from Shreveport who recently was KIA in Afghanistan," said Staff Sgt. Todd Krebsbach.

The 489th Soldiers drove two armored Humvees to the event. Those who did not participate in the run stood proudly by to answer questions and allow attendees to take photos of the vehicles. "We need to show the public our capabilities. So often we aren't seen and therefore forgotten," said Sgt. Matt Hailey.

Commanded by 1st Lt. Terry Lee Bacon, the 489th is one of six maintenance and transportation companies in the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. ■



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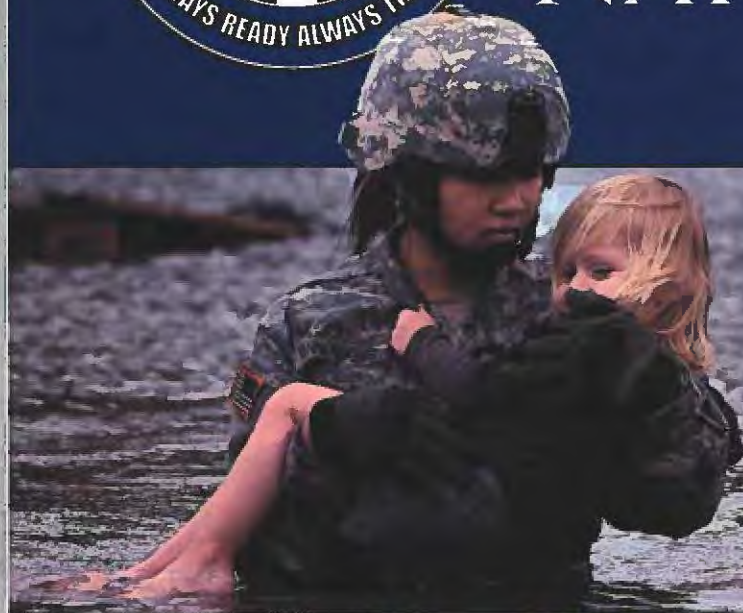
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