

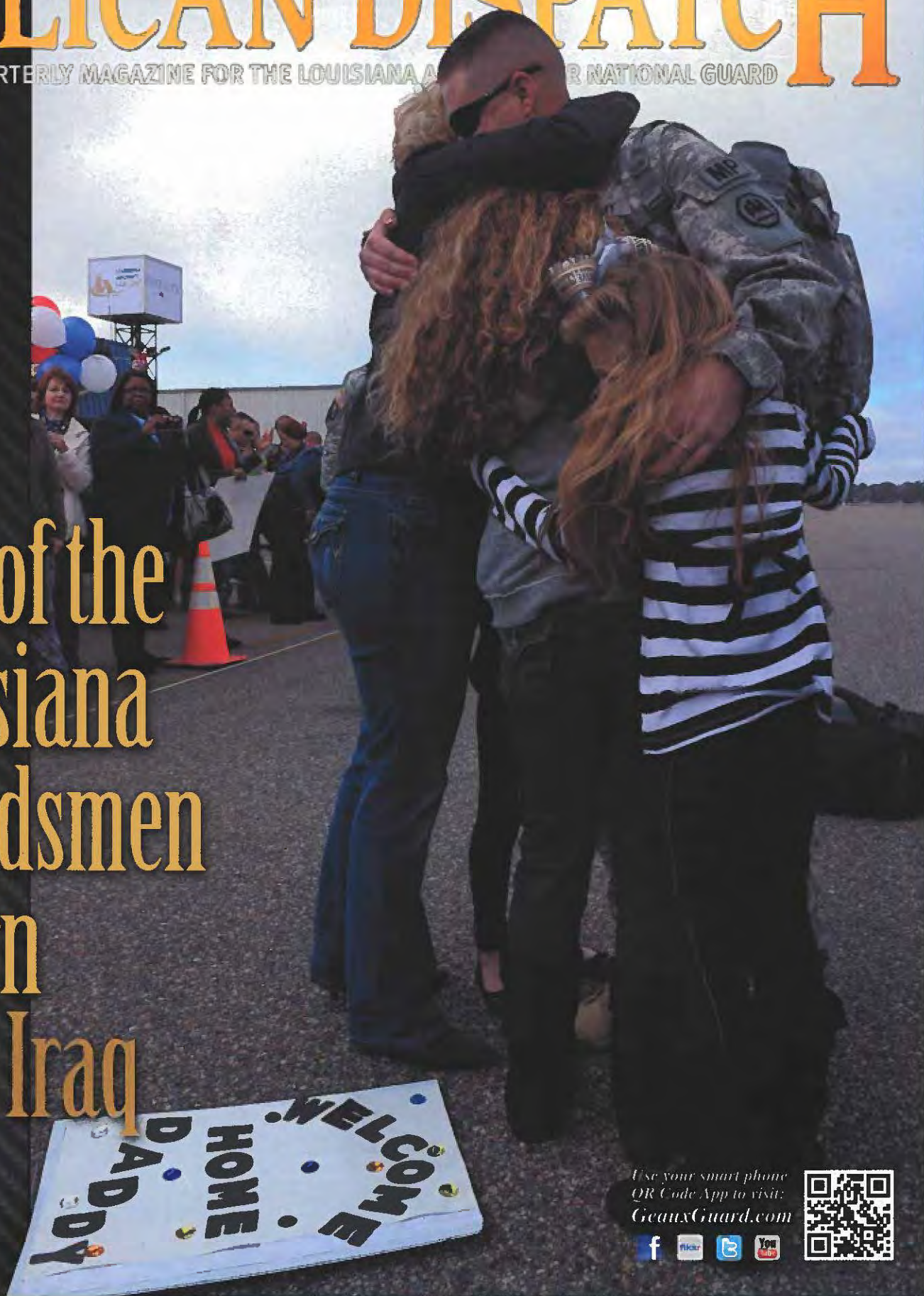
ISSUE 16 2012

PELICAN DISPATCH

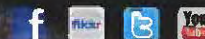
THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

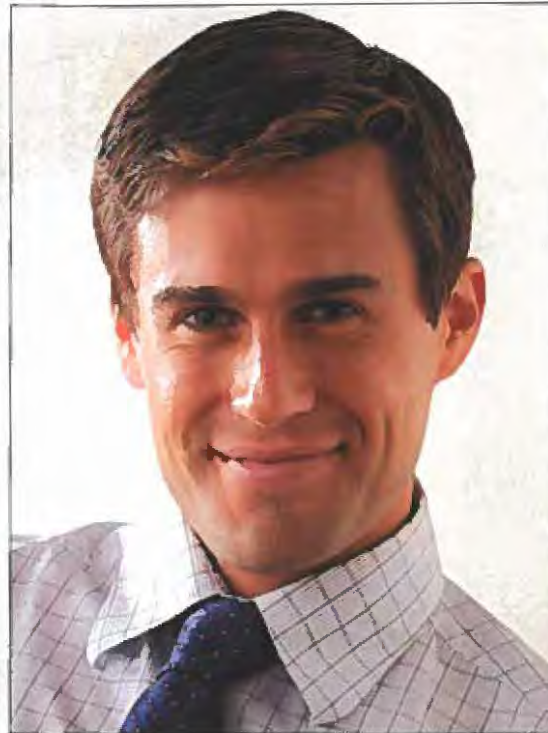


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PELICAN DISPATCH

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Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Martin Dozier, 239th Military Police Company, embraces his family at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Dec. 17, 2011, after returning home from a 355-day deployment. The company was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn to conduct law enforcement operations and police transition training for Iraqi law enforcement officers.

*Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office*

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From the Adjutant General



My fellow Guardsmen,

I am truly honored to serve as your new Adjutant General. I would like to personally thank you all for the accomplishments our organization has achieved in the past, and, with your help, look forward to the continued success of the Louisiana National Guard.

We must remain steadfast and committed to our most valuable asset: our Soldiers, Airmen, and their families. The Soldiers and Airmen of the Louisiana National Guard are the best in the world. To maintain that hard-earned reputation, we must continue to adhere to our core values for each mission we perform and every task that we undertake: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage, and Excellence in all we do.

The Louisiana National Guard has five cornerstone missions that are essential to our continued success and that provide immense value to our communities, state and nation:

- ◆ In support of national military objectives as designated by the president of the United States, we must continue to excel at providing trained and ready Soldiers, Airmen, and units for deployment.
- ◆ For the citizens of Louisiana, we must continue to excel in preserving and protecting life, property, peace, order, and public safety by deploying Soldiers, Airmen, and units as directed by the governor.
- ◆ In support of the North American Air Defense Air Sovereignty mission, the 159th Fighter Wing continues to conduct 24/7 alert operations, with armed F-15 fighter jets prepared to launch in minutes. Recognized as one of the nation's most scrambled alert sites, the 159th Fighter Wing's Airspace Control Alert is strategically located to protect critical infrastructure, including offshore oil production,

nuclear facilities, and over 500 miles of the Gulf coastline.

- ◆ Providing world class instruction and training facilities for military occupational specialties, non-commissioned officer education system courses, and the Officer Candidate School, the 199th Regional Training Institute will continue to be nationally recognized for excellence.
- ◆ Providing high school dropouts the opportunity to become productive and accomplished in their chosen fields, the Louisiana's Youth ChalleNGe program is the nation's largest, with three campuses and a capacity of 1,400 graduates annually. The Youth ChalleNGe Program is led by professionals who emphasize structure, discipline, education and life skills.


The Louisiana National Guard provides a force that is able to mobilize rapidly and deploy in support of state and federal missions, and to assist partners in guaranteeing the well-being of the citizens of our great state. Current economic, political and budgetary factors will drive significant changes in almost every aspect of our manning, equipping and training over the next decade. In spite of operational challenges and external threats, many opportunities exist. We owe it to those we serve not only to remain a relevant and ready force, but to build capacity in order to **Protect What Matters**.

God Bless the Louisiana National Guard and God Bless America!


Brigadier General Glenn H. Curtis
The Adjutant General


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NEW LEADER TAKES COMMAND OF LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD



More than 3,000 Guardsmen,
governor in attendance

By 2nd Lt. Rebekah Malone
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis assumed command as the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard during the largest formal ceremony in 14 years at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Dec. 10.

The ceremony marked the beginning of new leadership for the Guard and commemorated the retirement of Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau after 42 years of military service. It included a 19-gun salute, the headquarters unit colors representing LANG's major commands and their battalions, and flyovers from F-15 fighter jets, UH-60 Black Hawks and LUH-72 Lakotas.

Adjutants general in the National Guard, at the direction of the governor, lead all National Guard operational missions



Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, native of Vidrine, receives the Distinguished Service Medal from Gov. Bobby Jindal for exceptionally meritorious service in positions of great responsibility during the formal change of command ceremony for the Louisiana National Guard at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Dec. 10, 2011. The DSM is the highest non-valorous military and civilian decoration of the United States military.



Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, native of Buckeye, La., receives the colors from Governor Bobby Jindal during a formal ceremony marking the change of the top leader of the Louisiana National Guard at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La., Dec. 10, 2011. The ceremony included a 19-gun salute, the headquarters' unit colors representing LANG's major commands and their battalions, and flyovers by F-15 fighter jets, UH-60 Blackhawks and LUH-72A Lakotas. Photos: Master Sgt. Toby Valade, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office.

and training. In Louisiana, the head of the National Guard is appointed by the governor.

Gov. Bobby Jindal, commander in chief of the LANG, attended the ceremony and told the Guardsmen he had the highest confidence in the ability of their new leader.

"Over the past four years, I've had the opportunity to work closely with Gen. Curtis, as he's been at the center of every disaster response operation. I know he will carry on Gen. Landreneau's legacy of ensuring our Guardsmen always stand ready, but he will also bring his own leadership style to this post," he said.

More than 3,000 Guardsmen stood on the parade field representing LANG's 11,500 troops from all major commands and their battalions in the LANG. Colors from more than 20 units flew — a symbol of the very soul of the military unit under which a Guardsman trains and fights.

"The courage of the National Guard gives me and our entire state confidence that no matter the size of the challenge we face, we as Louisianans will always prevail," said Jindal.

Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, also attended the ceremony and told Curtis he had the utmost belief in his leadership capability.

"I have every confidence in your abilities coming into this extremely important position. It's often said ... that officers are selected for positions of increased responsibility not for what they have done in the past, but rather for their future potential. And I know you have that great potential. I know ... you will make your highest priority, the Soldiers, Airmen, family members and employers of the men and women of the Louisiana National Guard," McKinley said.

Curtis, a native of Buckeye, La., has nearly 30 years of military experience. In 1984, Curtis received his commission from LANG's Officer Candidate School as part of Class 24. His first assignment as platoon leader was for Company B, 527th Engineer Battalion in Marksville. He became commander of the 769th Engineer Battalion in Baton Rouge in 1990 and was named as the 225th Engineer Group commander, headquartered at Camp Beauregard in September 2001.

Curtis, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, thanked Landreneau for shaping him to become the top leader of the LANG.

"Thank you for your steadfast leadership, your tremendous vision and your loyal service. Your mentorship of me and so many like me will keep this organization strong for many years to come," said Curtis.

He told the Guardsmen that as a leader, each area of their life is an important consideration to him: military, employment, moral and spiritual.

"I want you to know that you are the greatest Americans I know. My commitment to you is to provide consistent and fair leadership ... I want to make sure that every facet of your life is a success," he said.

Curtis gave credit to his wife of 26 years, the former Jill Juneau for being the foundation of his success. He is the father to three children: Meagan, 23, Nicholas, 19, and Jacob, 16.

"I know that as a Soldier, being appointed as the adjutant general is a big deal. But I can tell you, it's only a small token



Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, assumed command as the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, during what was the largest formal ceremony in the last 14 years, at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Dec. 10, 2011. More than 3,000 Guardsmen participated in the ceremony. Photo Master Sgt. Toby Valade, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office.

compared to my three greatest accomplishments," he said. "Those are my three kids.

"And for them being fine young people, I have to give most of the credit to their mother and my lovely wife, Jill."

During the ceremony, Landreneau inspected the 3,000-member formation, known as trooping the line. This gave the Guardsmen the opportunity to view their former commander, and it served as his last opportunity to view the troops he led for 14 years. Landreneau retired as the longest, current serving adjutant general in the nation.

"The Louisiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are part of the finest National Guard in America. It is their dedication, professionalism, their commitment and their hard work that has made the Louisiana National Guard the finest National Guard in America," Landreneau said.

"Gen. Curtis is the right leader at the right time to lead the Louisiana National Guard into the future. He is an outstanding leader, and I know that under his leadership the Louisiana National Guard will excel," he said.

Landreneau received the Distinguished Service Medal, for exceptionally meritorious service in positions of great responsibility. This is the highest non-valorous military and civilian decoration of the United States military.

"Today is a bittersweet day for all of us as we bid farewell to a man that has led the National Guard through so many challenges. For more than four decades, Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau has served the state and nation honorably as the leader of the Louisiana National Guard," said Jindal. "I've been proud to call Gen. Landreneau a hero and friend."

Landreneau and his wife, the former Dolores Fontenot, reside in Alexandria and have four children and six grandchildren.

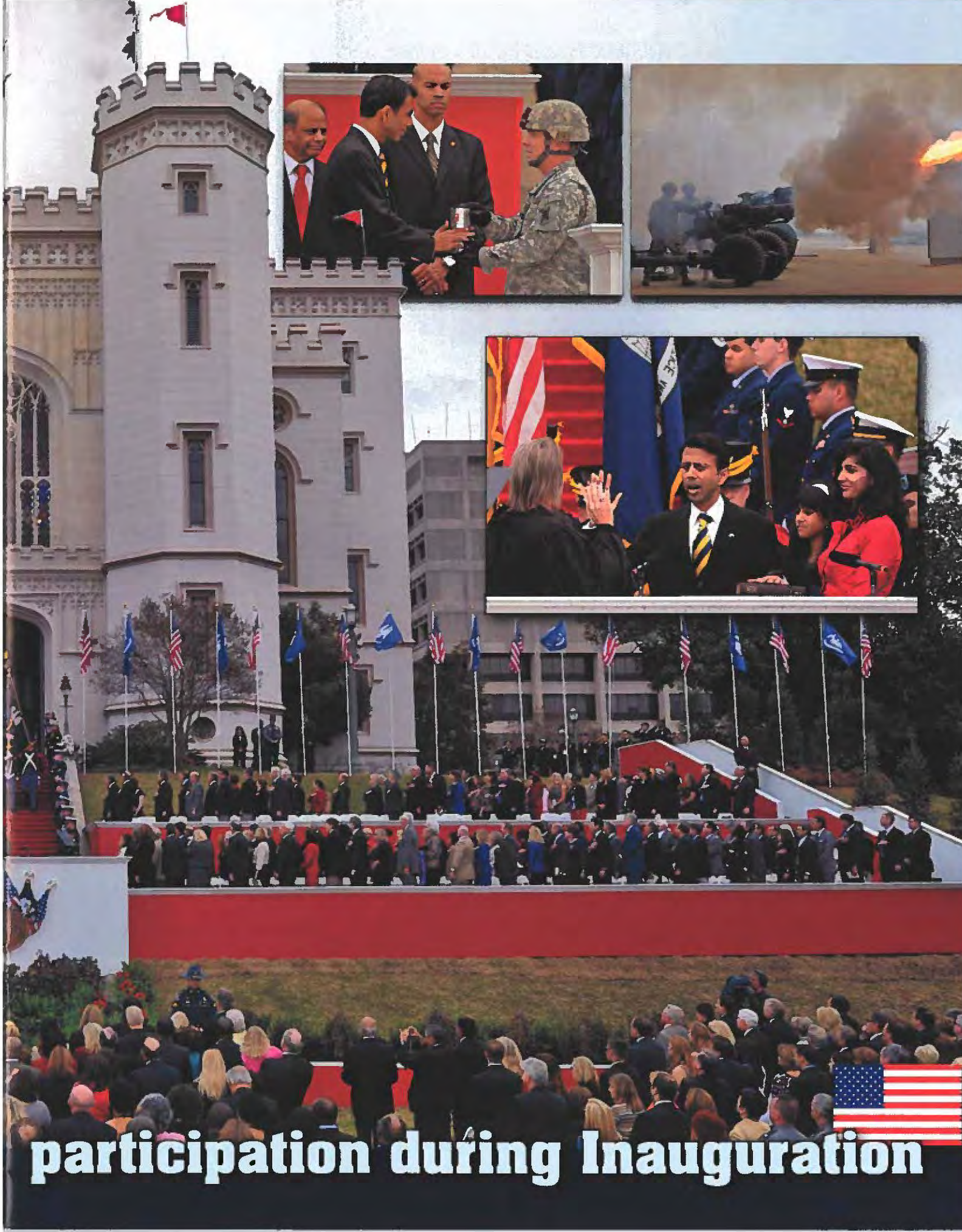
"Bennie, for 42 years you served the citizens of our great nation and the great state of Louisiana with honor, dedication and distinction," said McKinley.

Also in attendance was Lt. Gen. William Ingram, director of the Army National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Dario Tapia, commander of the Belize Defence Force. ■



Gov. Bobby Jindal enlists LANG





participation during Inauguration

Local National Guard Facility places first in nation



by Sgt. Robin Perry
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

The Louisiana National Guard's Combined Support Maintenance Shop was selected as the winner for this year's Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. CSMS representatives will attend the award ceremony in Richmond, Va., on June 5.

In Phase I of the competition, CSMS placed first in its size category at the National Guard Bureau. They were judged on a written presentation which counts for 30 percent of their total score.

Lt. Col. Vincent Tallo, CSMS superintendent, said that planning for even the first phase of competition took months



Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. Ryan Custis uses a grinder to make repairs on an M-870 A1 lowboy trailer at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop in Pineville.

Photo: 2nd Lt. Rebekah Malone, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

of preparation. "Our initial work on the AAME packet began in June 2011. This was my first go at competing for the award, so a lot of time was spent looking at previous winners' packets and reviewing the checklists," he said.



As part of his evaluation of the Louisiana National Guard's Combined Support Maintenance Shop, Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Lyles, far right, discussed the facility's tool shop policies and procedures with Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Lavespere, allied trades supervisor, Lt. Col. Vincent Tallo, superintendent, and Spc. Bobby Jenkins, tools and parts attendant in Pineville, Jan. 31, 2012. The LANG's CSMS is a semifinalist for the annual Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. Photo: Sgt. Robin Perry, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office



Louisiana National Guard Soldiers Spc. Christopher Laborde, foreground, and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brister work on a boat motor in the automotive shop at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop in Pineville.

Photo: 2nd Lt. Rebekah Malone, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

The Phase II on-site evaluation, conducted in January, counted for 70 percent.

"We received notification in December that our visit would be in January, so we focused on facility maintenance and cleanup, updating our maintenance reports, duty appointments, etc.," said Tallo. "During January, we conducted weekly meetings with all supervisors to ensure we were ready for the visit."

The AAME program, established in 1982, is designed to reward excellence in maintenance as a means to improve and sustain readiness, improve efficiency and reduce waste, recognize outstanding maintenance accomplishments and initiatives, and to encourage competition. ■

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Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and Col. Roy Qualls, Louisiana Air National Guard 159th Fighter Wing commander, observe flight line operations.



159th Fighter Wing zooms to **RED FLAG** - LAS VEGAS

Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, visited the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing participating in a Red Flag Exercise at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Jan. 30, 2012. While there, Curtis met with Col. Roy Qualls, 159th FW commander, to observe and discuss flight line operations. The 159th FW is participating in Red Flag to maximize combat readiness by providing a realistic training environment and forum that encourages a free exchange of ideas. During these exercises, combat units from the United States and its allied countries engage in realistic combat training scenarios carefully conducted within the Nellis range complex. ■

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



through as

Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, speaks to members of the Louisiana Air National Guard 159th Fighter Wing participating in a Red Flag Exercise. Curtis spoke to the Airmen about job opportunities in the Louisiana National Guard.



GUARD HELPS PROTECT COAST

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana National Guard crew chiefs hook up slings of Christmas trees to UH-60 Black Hawks of the 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, to drop into Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge to help rebuild the wetlands, March 13, 2012, in New Orleans. The Christmas trees help to rebuild the missing wetlands that have been washed away over time by breaking waves and for collecting silt for new vegetation to take root.



Louisiana National Guard Sgt. Joel Whatley, UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief, helps guide a pilot of the 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, in the placement of Christmas trees into Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. The Christmas trees being placed this year will complete a section that will rebuild approximately 40 acres of missing wetland.

Photos: Master Sgt. Toby W. Valade, Louisiana National Guard State Public Affairs Office



Louisiana National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks of the 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge along with U.S. Fishing and Wildlife Photos: Master Sgt. Toby M. Veladie, Louisiana National Guard State Public Affairs Office

LOUISIANA ARMY GUARD DROPS RECYCLED TREES FOR MARSH EROSION PROJECT

By Spc. David C. Kirtland
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

The Louisiana National Guard once again participated in the annual Christmas-tree drop at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in eastern New Orleans, March 13.

The LANG's State Aviation Command from Hammond partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the city of New Orleans to air drop bundles of recycled Christmas trees in the refuge's wetlands to help fight erosion.

The Guardsmen used two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to lift and place more than 100 bundles totaling approximately 5,000 trees to form barriers against rough waters.

"If this program wasn't here, people would just end up sending the trees to a landfill," said Drew Wirwa, assistant manager of Bayou Sauvage National

Wildlife Refuge. "This provides a great opportunity to recycle the Christmas trees."

During the mission, Guardsmen on the ground placed straps around the cargo hook at the bottom of the aircraft. Once the helicopter reached its destination, the Black Hawk crew-member inside the aircraft released the load.

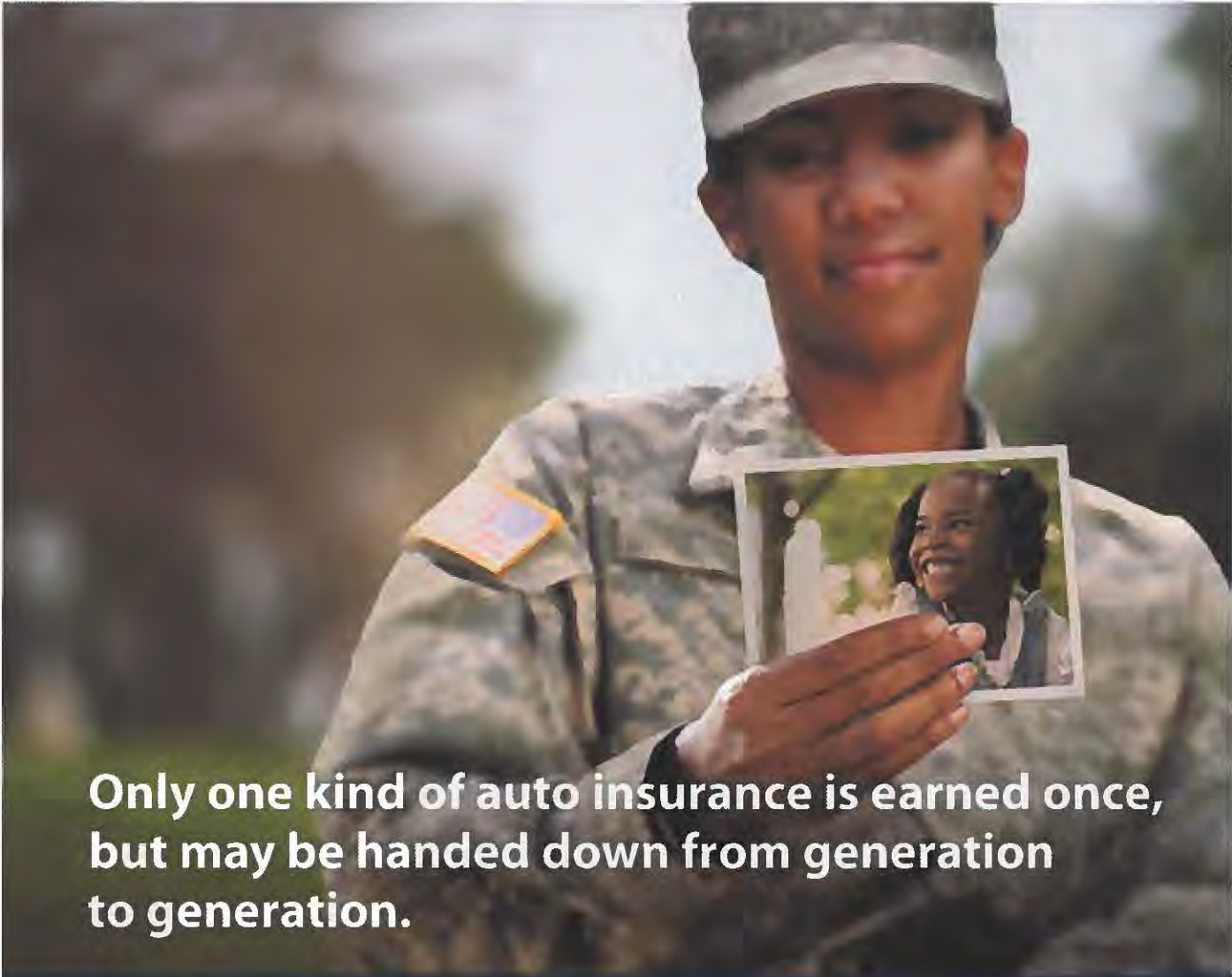
Because the trees are organic, over time they will disappear leaving behind trapped silt so new plants and trees can grow, which helps restore the wetlands.

"The Louisiana National Guard has been tremendous to work with," said Wirwa. "We couldn't do it without them."

Today's mission marks the end of three years working on a section that has helped restore almost 40 acres of marsh land.

The LANG's State Aviation Command has assisted in this effort since it started in 1989. ■

A Louisiana National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk belonging to 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, prepares to drop bundles of Christmas trees to close a gap in Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge to help rebuild the wetlands, March 13, 2012, in New Orleans.



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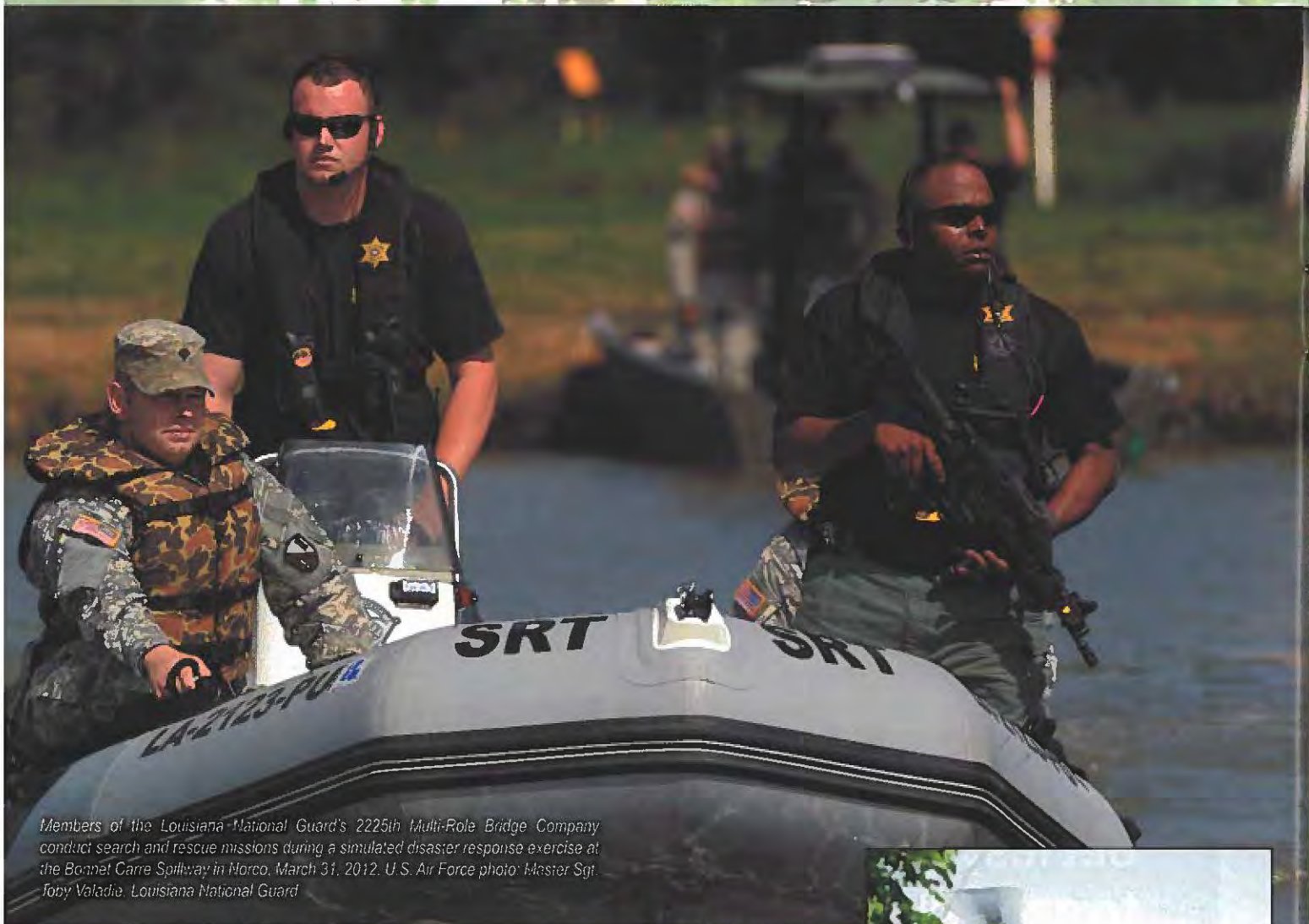


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Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company conduct search and rescue missions during a simulated disaster response exercise at the Bonnet Carré Spillway in Norco, March 31, 2012. U.S. Air Force photo: Master Sgt. Toby Valadie, Louisiana National Guard

Louisiana Guard participates in disaster response exercise

State agencies conduct joint training in New Orleans area, Hackberry

By Spc. Rashawn Price and Spc. Tarell Bilbo
241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Louisiana National Guard participated in two training exercises led by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to test disaster response capabilities of several state, local and federal agencies at the Bonnet Carré Spillway in St. Charles Parish and Hackberry High School in Cameron Parish. As the 2012 hurricane season approaches, these agencies are evaluating their ability to respond and testing their level of preparedness.

The exercise tested the LANG's response plan to identify possible deficiencies and also to evaluate its ability to respond to multiple missions simultaneously.

"This exercise validates not just our hurricane exercise plan, but also an all-hazards approach, to make sure that it is coordinated well with the state's emergency response plan," said Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG. "We want to make sure we instill confidence in our citizens so they know that when a disaster hits, we are prepared to respond to any emergency in order to protect them and their property."



Members of the Louisiana National Guard's State Aviation Command rescue evacuees using a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a simulated disaster response exercise at the Bonnet Carré Spillway in Norco, March 31, 2012. The purpose of the exercise was to test the current LANG response plan, identify deficiencies and evaluate their ability to respond to multiple missions simultaneously prior to the 2012 hurricane season.

Photo: Master Sgt. Toby Valadie, Louisiana National Guard

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

"Being complacent is never an option. Our level of preparedness is constantly being tested whether it's through an actual event or a full-scale exercise," said GOHSEP Director Kevin Davis. "Exercises such as this one keep everyone's skills sharp. But more importantly, it identifies any gaps or deficiencies agencies may have."

Other areas of training tested security, commodities distribution and interoperability of communications.

"The most important component of any all-hazard event is the ability to communicate," said Lt. Col. Dallas Jones, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment. "By having this ability, it gives us the opportunity to leverage our assets by allowing us to send help where it is needed. In addition, our leaders have situational awareness and a common operating picture."

With this enhanced training, Soldiers say that they are more capable of doing their jobs and working together as a team to serve their communities during disasters.

"It was exciting to get more hands-on training and be able to gain more experience," said Pfc. Desirae Skipper, a bridge crew member for the 2225th Multi-Role Bridge Company. "The more knowledgeable you are in your military job, the better leader you will become."

Different tasks were exercised at the two locations to fit the threats that pose a danger to each area.

During the exercise in Hackberry, Guardsmen from multiple units practiced personnel and livestock aerial search and rescue missions and waterborne search and rescue missions from Hackberry Marina.

"It's not often that we get to work side by side like this," said Master Sgt. Orise Cormier, senior operations non-commissioned officer with the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment. "It helps us do our mission and helps train the younger Soldiers."

"It's a great pleasure to watch and observe everyone perform," said Kirk Burlough, Cameron Parish police juror. "It's all about us working together to protect our citizens."

"It gives me a great sense of accomplishment to train alongside different organizations to achieve a similar goal," said Sgt. Matthew Lewallen, a dock master of the 2225th MRBC. "These events build teamwork and confidence in our ability to complete a mission in a real-world scenario."

Participating agencies included the Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Department of Corrections, Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Health & Hospitals, Department of Transportation & Development and other local and federal emergency management agencies. ■

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214TH AIRMEN RETURN HOME BEFORE HOLIDAYS

By Tech. Sgt. Sienna M. Schehr

BELLE CHASSE

Airmen from the Louisiana Air National Guard's 214th Engineering Installation Squadron returned home just in time for the holidays to the Louis Armstrong International Airport, Nov. 17.

The 20 Airmen received a warm welcome from family, friends and other passengers after a six-month deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq.

The 214th EIS was responsible for the mobilization and deployment of resources and supporting assets to accomplish the engineering, installation, reconstruction, and replacement of communication systems, facilities and air traffic control and landing systems.

With wireless internet and smartphone applications, Airmen were able to communicate with loved ones frequently.

In April 2011, the 214th EIS mobilized and deployed approximately 40 Airmen



Airmen from the Louisiana Air National Guard's 214th Engineering Installation Squadron are cheered and greeted by family members and awaiting passengers in a packed airport terminal at Louis Armstrong International Airport, Nov. 17, 2011. The Airmen, headquartered in Belle Chasse, were deployed for more than six months in support of operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn to Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan. Photo: Master Sgt. Dan Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

to Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan. The remaining deployed Airmen returned later in the week. ■

LOUISIANA GUARDSMEN RECEIVE PURPLE HEARTS AT BAGRAM

By LANG Public Affairs Office

BUNKIE

During a formal ceremony, three Louisiana National Guardsmen with the 1086th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, were presented with the Purple Heart at Bagram Airfield's CON-RC in Afghanistan, Feb. 6.

Spc. Russell Nelson Jr. of Larto, Sgt. Brandon Guillot of Jena, and Spc. John Loomis of Vidalia, were injured when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device, Nov. 22, while stationed in Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Kurt Ryan, commander of the 10th Sustainment Brigade, presented the decoration to the Soldiers.

"I hope I never have to give Purple Hearts, but today, I am proud to recognize these Soldiers with such an honor," said Ryan.

The decoration is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war at the hands of the enemy. It is specifically a combat decoration. ■



During a formal ceremony, three Louisiana National Guardsmen with the 1086th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Spc. Russell Nelson Jr. of Larto, Sgt. Brandon Guillot of Jena, and Spc. John Loomis of Vidalia, were presented with the Purple Heart at Bagram Airfield's CON-RC in Afghanistan, Feb. 6. Their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device, Nov. 22, while they were stationed in Afghanistan. Photo: Courtesy U.S. Army



Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. Michael Swilley, of the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, embraces his wife, Lisa, after returning home from a 365-day deployment at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, Nov. 23, 2011. The battalion was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to conduct counterintelligence operations throughout Afghanistan. Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Velez, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

415TH SOLDIERS RETURN HOME IN TIME FOR HOLIDAYS

By Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou

CARVILLE

Approximately 120 Louisiana National Guard Soldiers from the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion returned home from a 365-day deployment to family, friends and fellow Guardsmen at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, Nov. 23.

Headquartered in Carville, the 415th was deployed to conduct analysis and counterintelligence operations throughout Afghanistan that were essential to counter-insurgency operations.

The 415th previously deployed as a battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for the tactical human intelligence mission. Human intelligence teams supported units across the Iraq theater of operations with distinction and earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

The 415th has participated in many emergency/recovery operations for the state of Louisiana, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike and provided support to Task Force Gator and the NOPD. Many members of the 415th participated in the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response effort. ■

LANG WELCOMES HOME SOLDIERS FROM IRAQ

LANG Public Affairs Office

CARVILLE

The Louisiana National Guard, family and friends welcomed home members of the 239th Military Police Company at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Dec. 17.

More than 70 Soldiers from the 239th, based in Carville, returned from their 365-day deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn where they conducted police transition training for Iraqi law enforcement officers. Approximately 40 Soldiers from the unit returned home throughout the state.

Members of the 239th Military Police Company have participated in deployments around the world including Cuba, Kuwait, Haiti, Iraq, Italy, Germany, Belize and Honduras. The 239th has participated in emergency/recovery operations for the state of Louisiana, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ivan and Ike. The 239th also provided support to Task Force Gator as well as the Operation Deepwater Horizon response. ■



Louisiana National Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Martin Dozier, 239th Military Police Company, embraces his family at the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Dec. 17, 2011, after returning home from a 365-day deployment. The company was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn to conduct law enforcement operations and police transition training for Iraqi law enforcement officers.

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



Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and Col. Michael Edmonson, superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, meet with Inspector General Trecile, of the Haitian National Police, to discuss the establishment of the State Partnership Program between the LANG and the country of Haiti, Jan. 18, 2012. Photo: Courtesy U.S. Army

NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED BETWEEN LOUISIANA GUARD, HAITI

By Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou

HAITI

The Louisiana National Guard and the country of Haiti have officially announced the strengthening of ties through the State Partnership Program during a ceremony in Haiti, Jan. 18.

The program between the LANG and Haiti builds on the LANG's work in the Artibonite Department in 2010 and 2011 following the devastating earthquake two years ago. The partnership will work to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian government to prepare for and react to major natural events, to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian National Police and to support the activities of the Haitian Coast Guard.

"Over the past two years, Louisiana has led two New Horizons missions, where our Soldiers and Airmen constructed schools and medical centers, and provided much needed medical and dental aid to Haitian communities," said Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG. "We are truly committed to Haiti, and we know that we will gain as much as we give from this relationship with our Haitian colleagues."

Haitian secretary of state for local communities, Fritz Jean Louis, said, "Louisiana and Haiti have a common understanding of the challenges of our environment. Haiti will bring to bear all of its assets and capabilities to this partnership." ■

The State Partnership Program exists to establish and sustain enduring relationships between the United States and its partner nations. The program currently consists of 66 partnerships between 46 states and territories and 65 nations throughout the world. ■

AIR GUARDSMEN RECEIVE FAREWELL BEFORE DEPLOYING OVERSEAS

By 1st Lt. Alex Juan

HAMMOND

The Louisiana National Guard, family and friends bid an emotional farewell to approximately 30 Airmen of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron during a deployment ceremony held at Southeastern Louisiana University's Student Union Theater in Hammond, Dec. 14.

The squadron comprises 120 Airmen from the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing. Approximately 30 of those Air Guardsmen are deploying with the 236th CBCS in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

While deployed, they will be part of the 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group. They will utilize their expertise and versatility in the tactical communications arena to provide voice and data services to a variety of customers in the Afghanistan Theater of Operations. ■



Louisiana National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Jonathan M. Mallory, from Marrero, and his mother, Julie, stand for the playing of the national anthem during a deployment ceremony for the 236th Combat Communications Squadron at Southeastern Louisiana University's Student Union Theater in Hammond, Dec. 14, 2011. The unit will be deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to provide voice and data services to a variety of customers in the theater of operations.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou, Louisiana National Guard

AROUND THE STATE

continued

LANG SOLDIERS RETURN HOME

204TH THEATER AIRFIELD OPERATIONS GROUP COMPLETES FOURTH DEPLOYMENT

By Sgt. Robin Perry

HAMMOND

After serving for nearly a year in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 20 Soldiers from the Louisiana Army National Guard's 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group returned home, Feb. 10, to ecstatic family and friends at Esler Airfield in Pineville.

The unit's mission was to support Air Traffic Services throughout the theater of operations, while assuming the position of Aviation Brigade Headquarters for Army Central Command in Kuwait. While acting as the overall subject matter experts for all airfield operations in Kuwait, the 204th, headquartered in Hammond, supported the successful withdrawal of all Army aviation forces from Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scherell Carter, 204th assistant personnel officer, was greeted by her mother, three daughters, and her new grandson, born while Carter was deployed.

"This is just surreal!" the Carville resident said. "I can't wait to get home and just hang out with all my girls."

While deployed, the 204th executed over 9,000 accident-free flight hours

and conducted safety and quality evaluations of all Army Air Traffic Services operations in Afghanistan, ensuring the safe movement of over 800,000 aircraft movements.

For Staff Sgt. Chris Lee, a New Orleans resident, the homecoming represents the end of his second deployment.

"This time I was the senior air traffic controller examiner," he said. "That means I travelled around to every Army airfield in theater." Lee's first deployment, also with the Louisiana National Guard, was in 2005-2007.

The 204th has also supported Louisiana state emergencies including hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. The unit was responsible for the New Orleans rescue airlift executed from the Louisiana Superdome in September 2005. ■

NATIONAL GUARD'S 256TH HOLDS BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION WINNERS TO COMPETE NEXT AT STATE LEVEL

By Cadet Leah McPeck

LAFAYETTE

The Louisiana Army National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team held their Best Warrior Competition in Lafayette, March 3, in which 12 Soldiers representing all the battalions from the brigade competed.

The 12 contending Soldiers went through multiple tests of physical fitness and warrior training tasks. The warrior training tasks included knowledge in land navigation, evaluation and performance of first aid, weapon operations, and communication by tactical radio.



Spc. Landon Martin, a native of Prairieville and member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 256th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and Sgt. Connell Galbert, a native of Monroe and member of A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, motivate each other during a physical fitness test in the 256th IBCT's Best Warrior Competition in Lafayette, March 3, 2012. Martin and Galbert, winners of the competition, next represent the 256th IBCT at the state level, competing against top Soldiers from other units of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

In addition to physical fitness and warrior training tasks, the competitors went before a board of evaluators where they were judged on appearance and proper wear of the Army service uniform, the ability to communicate, and intelligence about various Army topics.

This year's top honor was awarded to Spc. Landon Martin, a native of Prairieville and member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 256th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and Sgt. Connell Galbert, a native of Monroe and member of A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment.

When asked about his motivation to compete, Galbert said, "I encourage Soldiers to live life one day at a time, and give everything your all at all times."

Later this month, Martin and Galbert will represent the 256th IBCT at the state level, competing against top Soldiers from other units of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

After being asked about his preparation for the next competition, Martin said, "I will continue to prepare and train, just as I've been doing. I want to show everyone that I won't let anything stop me from achieving what I want to do."

Winners of the state competition will go on to compete at the regional level, and then those winners will continue on to the national competition and compete against Soldiers throughout the National Guard and the Army. ■



Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group gather around a concrete barrier they painted to leave a lasting marker of their most recent deployment overseas, Feb. 2, 2012, at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait. The 204th TAOG's mission was to support Air Traffic Services throughout the theater of operations, while assuming the position of Aviation Brigade Headquarters for Army Central Command in Kuwait. U.S. Army courtesy photo



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Morrow, a resident of Pineville, and Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, unveil a portrait of Morrow that will be included in the Hall of Fame portrait gallery at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans during his induction ceremony, March 16, in Minden. Morrow is the 16th member to be inducted into the LANG Hall of Fame, established to honor former LANG members who distinguished themselves in their military and civilian endeavors.

Photo: Sgt. Robin Perry, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

MORROW INDUCTED INTO LOUISIANA GUARD HALL OF FAME

By Sgt. Robin Perry

MINDEN

Friends, family and fellow Guardsmen gathered in Minden, March 16, to honor retired Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny R. Morrow as he was inducted into the Louisiana National Guard Hall of Fame.

Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the LANG, and Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the recently retired adjutant general under whom Morrow served as state command sergeant major, both praised Morrow's dedication to the LANG and to the non-commissioned officer's corps.

"You are a Soldier's Soldier – always leading from the front," said Curtis.

Along with numerous award presentations, a portrait of Morrow was unveiled, which will join the portraits of the 15 other Hall of Fame members in Fleming Hall at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. The portrait holds special significance because the artist, Capt. Heather Englehart, is the first member of the LANG to be commissioned to paint a Hall of Fame portrait.

"The only reason I'm here is because of all you out there," insisted Morrow in response to the accolades he received.

Morrow was born in Jonesboro and graduated from Jonesboro Hodge High School in May 1964. Morrow now



Soldiers in the Louisiana National Guard's 1-141st Field Artillery Battalion pay tribute to the unit's fallen Soldiers at a wreath-laying ceremony held at Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans, Oct. 15, 2011. The 173 year-old-unit has been active in every conflict since the Civil War. U.S. Army photo: Pfc. Joshua L. Barnett, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

resides in Pineville and is married to the former Mary Jo Stillwell, of Bossier City. They have one daughter, Brandi Morrow of Georgetown, Ky.; three sons, Brian, Sean, and David of Pineville; and nine grandchildren.

The Louisiana National Guard Hall of Fame was established to honor former LANG members who distinguished themselves in their military and civilian endeavors. To be eligible for admission to the Hall of Fame, a nominee must have at least five years of creditable service in the LANG and have served faithfully and honorably as an officer, warrant officer or enlisted member. ■

WASHINGTON ARTILLERY REMEMBERS THEIR FALLEN 1-141ST PAYS TRIBUTE TO UNIT'S 173-YEAR HISTORY

By Pfc. Joshua L. Barnett

NEW ORLEANS

The Louisiana National Guard's 1-141st Field Artillery Battalion (Washington Artillery) paid tribute to its fallen Soldiers during a wreath-laying ceremony near the unit's monument at Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans, Oct. 15, 2011.

"It is a great honor to be here to remember those who have served and gone before us," said Maj. Steven M. Finney, commander of the 173-year-old unit headquartered at Jackson Barracks.

The ceremony, started in 1965 by the Washington Artillery Veterans Association to honor the heritage of the regiment's past, gives the LANG an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the National Guard in general and to

recognize the notable achievements of the Washington Artillery.

The Washington Artillery is the oldest militia unit in Louisiana and the oldest Field Artillery Battalion outside the original thirteen colonies. It has a long and storied history in the state from its involvement in emergency operations such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to its involvement in the Civil War and recent two deployments to Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. ■

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AROUND THE STATE

continued



During a simulated exercise, Soldiers practice evacuating an injured Soldier during the first multi-component Warrior Leader Course at the Camp Beauregard Range Complex hosted by the Louisiana National Guard, Nov. 15, 2011. The LANG provided training for National Guardsmen, Reserve and active-duty Soldiers from Fort Polk, Nov. 4-18, 2011.

Photo: 2nd Lt. Rebekah Malone, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

NATIONAL GUARD TRAINS ACTIVE-DUTY SOLDIERS FIRST MULTI-COMPONENT CLASS GRADUATES

By 2nd Lt. Rebekah Malone

PINEVILLE

The Louisiana National Guard trained active-duty Soldiers from Fort Polk, along with Guardsmen and Reservists from throughout the country during the first multi-component Warrior Leader Course at Camp Cook in Ball, Nov. 4-18.

Held at Louisiana National Guard's Regional Training Institute, 1st Noncommissioned Officer Academy Battalion, at Camp Cook in Ball, the hard-hitting course combines what each component does separately, but in an integrated environment. Hosted by the LANG, the course provided training to active-duty, Reserve and Guard Soldiers.

"Everything went picture perfect. It was very smooth," said Louisiana Guardsman Master Sgt. Mario LeDuc, NCO education system branch chief. "We set high standards for ourselves so we give higher quality training to the Soldiers."

Louisiana Guardsman Sgt. Kasi Miller, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said the training has helped both components understand each other better.

"We fight together overseas, so this training provides a lot more cohesion," she said. "There are a lot of stereotypes with the National Guard. We're able to show them that we're all Soldiers, and we fight for the same team."

"It's been an eye-opening experience looking for the same leadership traits. They [National Guard] don't slack off on the standard," said active-duty Soldier Sgt. Christy Flores with the Joint Readiness Training Center's NCO academy at Fort Polk. "I have learned a lot. All components work together to accomplish one objective."

"The Warrior Leader Course is the first of four formal noncommissioned leadership courses a future NCO will attend throughout his Army career. It sets the basis for leadership at the sergeant and staff sergeant level as the first formal development of tomorrow's leaders," said Command Sgt. Maj. William Miguez, commandant of the Guard's NCO Academy.

"This multi-component course was a success. Our goal was for it to be transparent as to who was active component and reserve component for both instructors and students," he said. ■

2012 NEW ORLEANS MARATHON... AND ROAD MARCH

By 2nd Lt. Nicholas Glatzer, 1084th
Transportation Company

SLIDELL

On March 4 at 7 a.m., Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 1084th and 1087th Transportation Companies, joined by Soldiers from the Texas Army National Guard, lined up to participate in the 3rd annual New Orleans Rock 'n' Roll Marathon and Half Marathon to

benefit the American Cancer Society.

Wearing Army Combat Uniforms and boots, and carrying 40-pound rucksacks, the Soldiers completed the half marathon as a road march. "One of the main reasons for running the race in full uniform was simply to challenge ourselves to see if we had the intestinal fortitude to accomplish the mission", said Capt. Chad Ford, commander of the 1084th. "Our goal was to exceed Army Air Assault school standards of 15-minute miles for the entire 13.1 miles." To meet that challenge the Soldiers set a pace of two and a half minutes of jogging or "Airborne shuffle" and five minutes of fast marching.

Spectators gathered along the route to support the participants, watch the live bands, and cheer the American flag as Ford carried it high above the crowd. One of the most rewarding moments of the day occurred near Jackson Square when every patron enjoying brunch outside Café du Monde gave a standing ovation as the troops ran past.

The Guardsmen started out at a fast clip, but as fatigue set in and blisters grew, each step became more painful than the last. Energy levels dropped when the crowds thinned out along Esplanade Avenue for the home stretch, leaving the Soldiers and other participants to motivate each other with mutual shouts of encouragement. Rounding the final turn into the driveway of the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Soldiers broke into a run for the final dash to the finish. With a time of three hours and seven minutes, they beat their goal by nine minutes.

At the recovery area, tired but happy, they collected finisher medals from the helpful volunteers and went to the medical tent to wrap their abused feet. With sweat dripping down his forehead and a big smile on his face, Sgt. Casey Dotson proclaimed, "Besides the fact my feet are killing me and my legs have turned to jelly, it really was a blast!" ■

Caption Right

Spc. Paul Stonaker, Sgt. Casey Dotson, Capt. Chad Ford, and 2nd Lt. Nicholas Glatzer, moments before the start of the race.

LCA TEAMS WITH FAMILY PROGRAMS TO HELP CHILDREN

By Dr. Cindy Escandell, Director of Psychological Health, LANG

STATEWIDE

Each year Louisiana Counseling Association members participate in a National Guard project and undertake a project to help service members and families of the Louisiana National Guard. For the past several years, LCA members collected teddy bears at their annual conference and donated them to LANG children for Christmas.

In 2011, prior to the annual conference in Baton Rouge, LCA announced that the National Guard Project would be collecting toys for Operation Christmas Angel, a project of the Office of Family Programs Child & Youth Services. LCA members brought toys to the conference and continued to collect toys and money

until the week of Christmas. Several school counselors introduced Operation Christmas Angel at their schools with school children and staff also contributing to the project. Service members from the Child & Youth Program went to these schools and to LCA meetings throughout the state to collect the toys and financial donations. LCA donated approximately \$500 and 400 toys to Operation Christmas Angel.

Family Programs director Capt. William Saint said, "The successful collaboration between both organizations not only generated exposure and education with regard to military children and the issues they are faced with, but also provided the Office of Family Programs networking and resources within LCA."

"Because of the efforts from LCA and its members, the Louisiana National Guard Office of Family Programs was able to provide LANG children with a brighter and merrier Christmas,"



Sgt. Robert Gordon and Sgt. Caleb Guillory help collect donations for Operation Christmas Angel.

reported Angela Ott, director of Child & Youth Services.

Many members of LCA throughout the state provide free or reduced-fee counseling for members of the military and their families. A full listing of counselors can be found at www.lacounseling.org under the National Guard Project. ■



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YLC is designed for dependants of the Louisiana National Guard. Camp will prove to be fun, rewarding and educational to all those who attend. Activities will include rappelling, Leaders Reaction Course, ropes/obstacle courses, team building, swimming and canoeing, self improvement and interpersonal skills, and CPR instruction.

Additionally, youth will be selected from YLC to attend 2012 Kids' AT 12-15 June 2012 as Junior Counselors. Youth who will be considered for Junior Counselor positions must demonstrate, at minimum, leadership skills, positive character traits and ability to get along with others.

**For more information, please contact
LANG Child and Youth Program at 225-761-6750.**

Camp is designed for dependants of the Louisiana National Guard. Campers must be between the ages of 8-13. Camp will prove to be a week of fun and friendship for our Guard Kids. Campers will participate in events such as rocket construction, flight simulation, marching and cadence, ropes and confidence courses, swimming and static displays. Campers will learn first hand what it is like when their Soldier or Airman is away at drill and Annual Training. In addition, campers will be able to live the week with other "military kids" just like themselves and learn they are not alone in their experiences and feelings.

Bus transportation will be available from North and South Louisiana on a first served basis. Space is limited. Please contact Louisiana National Guard Child and Youth Program 225-761-6750.

**Applications are also being
accepted for Adult Volunteers.**



For more information, visit
woundedwarriorproject.org

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