

ISSUE 18 2012

# PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



## ENGAGING ISAAC

Guardsmen respond,  
react and successfully  
support operations

page 8

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The Adjutant General  
Maj. Gen.  
Glenn H. Curtis

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# PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

ISSUE 18 2012

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CHALMETTE – Senior Airman Santiago Mabens, of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 155th Security Forces Squadron, remains vigilant while maintaining security as local residents pass through a commodities distribution site in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac in Chalmette Aug. 31. These distribution sites were set up across the state to assist those in need and have various items available including water, ice and MREs.

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

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My fellow Guardsmen,

For the past three and a half years, I've had the honor and privilege of commanding the 159th Fighter Wing. During that time we've excelled at five major inspections and a myriad of minor ones. We've deployed jets outside of the continental United States on three Air Combat Training exercises, and sent hundreds of Airmen overseas in a variety of specialized missions in support of the Global War on Terror.

I've always been proud of the 159th Fighter Wing and its continued history of mission success. However, I am more proud than ever of our Guardsmen as the Louisiana Air National Guard is fully engaged on three fronts simultaneously.

Since July, more than 250 Airmen have been deployed to the Middle East in support of national security interests in that region. Volunteers all, they are enduring scorching heat (sometimes upward of 140 degrees on the heat index) as they provide a strong air superiority presence in a volatile region.

Since the moment Hurricane Isaac made landfall on the Louisiana mainland Aug. 29, more than 850 Airmen from the 159th Fighter Wing were fully engaged in emergency response operations. Our Airmen performed a variety of missions including security, food distribution, and government support in and around St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes alongside our Army brethren. Our Guardsmen saved lives and protected property — enduring the heat and storm damage — to help the

citizens of Louisiana. In many cases, they received major damage to their own homes, but continued to protect and sustain others.

On Friday afternoon, Aug. 31, at 4:47 p.m. local time, less than 63 hours after Hurricane Isaac's landfall, the 159th Fighter Wing alert sight was back on status. At that point, the Louisiana Air National Guard was simultaneously performing federal, state, and homeland defense missions. To top things off, just 39 minutes after coming onto status, our F-15s were scrambled on a target of interest in the Gulf of Mexico.

Despite the many successes of the past three and a half years, this moment was the high point of my command as more than 1,100 Airmen performed flawlessly and selflessly, responding to the call of duty from their nation and their state.

To the men and women of the Louisiana Air National Guard ... the Bayou Militia ... and to all Louisiana Guardsmen: Your selfless service is an inspiration. Thanks for the opportunity to serve with you. Please pass on my sincere thanks to your families, as I am well aware that your service necessitates many sacrifices on their part as well.

Col. Roy "Deacon" Qualls  
159th Fighter Wing Commander, Louisiana National Guard



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# Bayou Militia

## Airmen welcomed home from overseas

By 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

**BELLE CHASSE** — Airmen of the Louisiana National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing were welcomed home by family and friends at the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans in Belle Chasse, Oct. 11.

More than 230 Airmen from the 159th FW, based in New Orleans,

returned from a deployment to the Middle East in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

While deployed to the United Arab Emirates, they were part of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing and carried out the mission of providing air superiority in support of national military objectives.

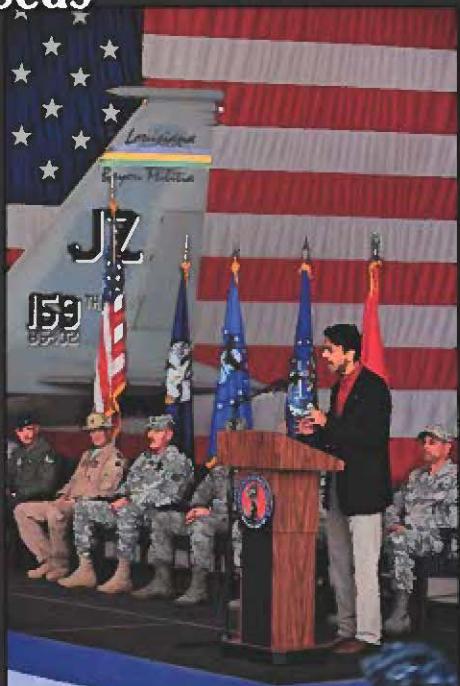
The entire 159th FW is comprised of 1,200 Airmen from the Louisiana Air National Guard who provide worldwide deployable aircraft and combat resources that are operated, maintained and supported by professional Guardsmen dedicated to supporting both federal and state missions. ■



Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, greet more than 230 Airmen from the 159th Fighter Wing as they return home to the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, Belle Chasse, La., Oct. 11, 2012. The 159th FW completed a five-month deployment to the United Arab Emirates in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. Photo taken by Tech. Sgt. Tracy M. Morris, Louisiana Air National Guard Public Affairs Office.

A little girl displays her patriotism as an excited crowd cheers returning Louisiana National Guard Airmen of the 159th Fighter Wing off the plane during a welcome-home event at the Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La., Oct. 11, 2012. More than 230 Airmen from the 159th FW, based in New Orleans, returned from a deployment to the Middle East in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

Photo taken by Davis P. French, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.



Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal addresses Airmen of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing and their families during a deployment ceremony held at Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, in Belle Chasse, June 21.

Photo taken by Davis P. French, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.

# Louisiana Guard's top leadership earns stars

## Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis

By Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, was recently promoted and officially "pinned" with his new rank during a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge, July 20.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, commander in chief of the LANG, attended the ceremony and along with Curtis' wife, Jill, had the honor of placing the two-star rank insignia on Curtis.

"[General Curtis] has nearly three decades of decorated service in the National Guard and with that experience, I'm confident he is the best man in the nation to be leading our Guard no matter what challenges our state may face," said Jindal.

Curtis officially assumed command as the 49th adjutant general of the LANG in a ceremony last December attended by more than 3,000 Guardsmen. Adjutants general in the National Guard serve at the direction of the governor and lead all National Guard operational missions and training. In Louisiana, the head of the National Guard is appointed by the governor.

"The rank I put on today is really humbling," said Curtis. "My commitment to [our Guardsmen] is to do the best job I can to ... make sure they are trained and ready when and if we have to deploy somewhere, whether it is overseas to the war fight or in the state of Louisiana to take care of our citizens."



"It's an honor to represent them on the behalf of the state of Louisiana. This rank is theirs; I'm just the custodian of it for a little while," he 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. ■

## Maj. Gen. Stephen C. Dabadie

By Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou

Maj. Gen. Stephen C. Dabadie, assistant adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, was recently promoted and officially "pinned" with his new rank during a ceremony at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, Aug. 12.

"Today is a humbling day, and I am filled with pride," said Dabadie. "Getting to this point took great family support, a lot of hard work from officers, noncommissioned officers, Soldiers and civilians who mentored and taught me along the way."

Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, attended the ceremony and assisted with the pinning of Dabadie's new rank.

"Steve lives the Army Values, day-in and day-out. The one that really resounds with him is this thing called loyalty. He is loyal through and through," said Curtis.

Dabadie's wife, Sue, and his sons, Bert and Craig, along with Dabadie's father, had the honor of placing the two-star rank insignia on his uniform.

Dabadie continues in a proud family tradition of serving in the military. Dabadie's



father, retired Brig. Gen. J. Levy Dabadie Jr., also served as the assistant adjutant general of the LANG during his own distinguished military career.

The younger Dabadie, a native of New Roads, La., graduated from Catholic High School of Pointe Coupee in New Roads and attended Loyola University in New Orleans, where he earned his bachelor's degree and his commission as a distinguished military graduate through the ROTC Program.

"There are times when great leadership, logic and intuitive thinking come out," said Curtis on Dabadie's work following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Serving as the chief of the joint staff during and immediately after the hurricanes in 2005, Dabadie devised a plan to have teams of Guardsmen directly tied into each of the affected parishes, thereby improving communication, mission success and situational awareness among the different agencies. He then displayed exemplary leadership of Task Force Crescent Guard, later called TF Gator, when the governor called upon the LANG to assist the New Orleans Police Department with their security efforts following the devastation of Katrina.

During Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008, Dabadie made the strategic military recommendations to the adjutant general on when to bring other states' National Guard forces into Louisiana to help with the response.

"This organization gets better every day because of these Soldiers and Airmen," said Dabadie. "They have this incredible spirit that no mission is too tough, this can-do attitude and this drive for being better than you were yesterday." ■

## **Brig. Gen. Joanne F. Sheridan**

*By Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou*

The Louisiana National Guard welcomed its first female general officer during a promotion ceremony at the Jackson Barracks Museum in New Orleans, July 27.

Col. Joanne F. Sheridan, the LANG's assistant adjutant general – Army, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and "pinned" the one-star insignia on her uniform.

"I'm proud of the fact that I've been able to attain this rank. It's truly an honor to be selected as a general officer," said Sheridan.

"As I was coming up through the ranks, there weren't many senior female leaders ahead of me," said Sheridan. "So for fellow Guardsmen now to have someone to identify with ... they know that those doors are open to them and that the goal is attainable for females in the military."

Sheridan, a resident of New Orleans, graduated from Leesville High School in Leesville and attended Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and her commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Sheridan's military education includes the Adjutant General Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Staff Services School, the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College, where she received her master of strategic studies degree.

"Today is a historic day in the National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG. "Joanne has succeeded in all of the leadership roles she has been given ... separating herself from the crowd."



Sheridan began her military career on active duty in February 1984 and was appointed in the Louisiana Army National Guard in October 1988. She has served numerous positions as the assistant S-1, Headquarters Detachment commander, and S-1 in the 61st Troop Command; the education services officer, deputy director of military personnel, deputy director of information management, deputy chief of staff, director of personnel – J1, and vice chief of the joint staff in the Joint Force Headquarters – Louisiana; commander, 415th Military Intelligence Battalion, and commander, 199th Regiment (Regional Training Institute).

Sheridan deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008 where she served as the director of the Project Management Office on the Task Force to improve business and stability operations in Iraq.

Sheridan and her husband, Mark, reside in New Orleans. They have two sons, Patrick, 22, and Daniel. ■

## **Brig. Gen. Barry D. Keeling**

*By Sgt. Robin Perry*

Taking a brief break from Hurricane Isaac response operations, friends, family, and fellow Louisiana National Guardsmen gathered at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Sept. 6, for the promotion of Brig. Gen. Barry D. Keeling.

In addressing the crowd, Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the LANG, noted Keeling's dedication to duty. "In this response effort, he has been rock solid, as always. He is loyal, and he is relentless in getting the job done," said Curtis.

Speaking on the timing of his promotion, Keeling said, "I cannot think of a better time and place to have this ceremony. We set the example for all the other state agencies with the Soldiers and Airmen of the Louisiana National Guard."

Keeling, now serving as the director of the joint staff for the LANG, began his military career in the Marine Corps in 1982 and joined the LANG in 1990. During his military aviation career he has accumulated more than 6,000 accident-free military flight hours. He has mobilized numerous times and deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm / Desert Shield, Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. During Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Keeling served as commander of Task Force Eagle and Air Boss, coordinating aviation rescue and relief efforts.



As the director of the joint staff, Keeling serves as the chief advisor and principal assistant to the Louisiana adjutant general and is responsible for directing, supervising, training, and coordinating the staff and assisting in the deployment and coordination of programs, policies, and plans affecting more than 11,000 members of the LANG. He is also designated as the state's dual status commander, responsible for commanding all military forces conducting emergency and contingency operations in Louisiana.

Keeling resides in New Orleans with his wife, Donna. They have three children – Elysha, Jacob and Creighton. ■



# *Heroes among us* Louisiana National Guard Airmen save lives

Airmen with the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron were recognized for their heroism at Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans in Belle Chasse, Aug. 8. The Airmen pictured include Senior Airman Steven A. Mehtens, Senior Airman Jared M. Vignes, Tech. Sgt. Reese A. Jenkins, Senior Airman Russell C. Gary and Senior Airman Raenell M. Dubroc. They are credited with saving the lives of three civilians during their annual training at Volk Field Combat Readiness Center in Wisconsin in June. Photo: Master Sgt. Daniel P. Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

By 1st Lt. Alex Juan, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

**NEW ORLEANS** – It was supposed to be a relaxing day for members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Security Forces Squadron, training in Volk Field, Wis. But on that day, the Airmen saved three lives and ensured that a bride got to have her dream wedding.

On June 16, several Louisiana Airmen rented a boat intending to cruise around Castle Rock Lake in Wisconsin during their one day off while attending nearby Volk Field's Combat Training Readiness Center. They anchored their boat near an island to fish and relax. After a few hours, a boat with a group of women celebrating a bachelorette party pulled up near them.

As the Airmen were enjoying themselves, one of the women jumped into the shallow water, not realizing it was extremely shallow. She quickly surfaced covered in blood and screaming in pain. Without hesitation, the Airmen rushed to her side.

Senior Airman Raenell M. Dubroc, 159th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, recalls seeing a second woman dive in, head first, from the boat but instead of reacting to the trauma of the fall, she just floated motionless to the top of the water. "My first thought was that this isn't good. I honestly thought she might be dead," said the Mandeville native.

"I knew she was badly hurt and thought she may have broken her neck," said Senior Airman Mark E. Lier, 159th SFS fire team leader, who also rushed to the second victim's side.

In total, seven Airmen rushed to render aid to both women. Tech. Sgt. Edward J. Griffin, a trained medic, was credited with creative, quick thinking by ensuring that the second and more severely injured woman was stabilized and calm throughout the rescue.

Griffin, who resides in Orlando, Fla., is an air space medical technician with the 159th Medical Group assigned to the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive enhanced response force package – CERFP – and was accompanying the security forces members training on that eventful day.

"We used her arms to stabilize her spine, rolled her over and lifted her onto the boat," said Griffin. He used a life vest as a makeshift cervical collar and flotation noodles to stabilize her body.

"I conducted a neurological assessment and knew it was critical to get medical attention [for her] immediately," said Griffin, who, because of his assigned job responsibilities for this training event, was also aware that there was limited medical response in the area. He said the boat ride seemed to take a long time as they were trying to keep the ride slow and steady to not further injure the woman.

Senior Airman Steven Mehtens, 159th SFS fire team leader, from Metairie, spoke highly of the team's ability to

improvise and care for the injuries.

Mehrtens and Lier captained the boat with the women while Griffin talked to the victim with the more severe injuries and kept her calm. Tech. Sgt. Reese Jenkins, 159th SFS squad leader, captained the 159th SFS boat and followed the victims' boat.

While calling for local emergency response and traveling to a safe area where help could be provided, an unidentified male civilian fell off the victims' boat. The man sustained a head injury, and Jenkins had to rescue him as well. Once he stabilized that victim, Jenkins, who resides in Walker and is a Baton Rouge police officer, continued following the other boat.

The more severely injured woman, Katie Wahl Johnson, celebrating her bachelorette party, fractured two vertebrae in her neck, shattered a third and sustained a spinal cord injury. She was airlifted to the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison where she underwent a six-hour surgery. She was then sent to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago for recovery.

Senior Airman Jared M. Vignes, 159th SFS fire team leader, said their security forces training definitely helped their reactions that day. "It's not something that I think about on a daily basis ... how all of this training makes me a better person, but now that this happened, I am glad that I know how to react," said the Mandeville native.

Johnson was paralyzed from the chest down and has only partial use of her hands, but she is incredibly grateful to these heroes who, she says, saved her life, and she is looking forward to speaking to them personally.

"Everyone should have some basic lifesaving skill sets," said Senior Airman Russell C. Gary, 159th SFS fire team leader, when asked what he learned from this experience. "You never know when you will have to keep someone alive," said the New Orleans native.

Katie's father, Bill Wahl, has been adamant in his pursuit to find the people who helped his daughter on that fateful day. He persistently contacted the training center and recently made contact with the 159th Security Forces Squadron commander, Maj. Sean Conroy.



Katie Wahl Johnson, who was rescued by members of the Louisiana Air National Guard after a tragic accident at Castle Rock Lake in Wisconsin, was married to Jeremy Johnson at the Chicago Rehabilitation Institute, July 14, 2012. Johnson says the Airmen saved her life and ensured that she was able to have the wedding of her dreams surrounded by friends and family. U.S. Air Force courtesy photo

"I just want to thank them for saving my daughter's life," said Wahl. "The timing of their response, the way they protected her body ... it maximized her opportunity to recover, and we are just so grateful."

Katie and her fiancé, Jeremy Johnson, were married in a conference room at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, July 14, in what Bill says was the wedding Katie dreamed of having surrounded by friends and family.

"It was a beautiful wedding," said Wahl who says it is still very emotional for him to discuss the events but who is eternally grateful for the quick response of these Airmen.

The Airmen were thrilled when they read the Chicago Tribune story, "In sickness and in health: a reality for Oak Park bride and groom," during the August 4-5 drill weekend. They have kept Katie and her family in their thoughts since the day they rescued her.

"My family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts," says Katie. She wants these Airmen to know that she is getting better every day, thanks to their efforts.

As Conroy aptly said while these Airmen were being recognized for their courage, "I know it's hard to consider yourself a hero when you are trained to do this, but we are proud of your actions and the fact that you helped save lives."

The Airmen did have a final message for Katie. "Just let her (Katie) know that she is in our prayers, and we hope she continues to heal," said Jenkins. ■



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# ENGAGING ISAAC:

## Guardsmen respond, react and successfully support operations



**PORT SULPHUR** — Louisiana Air National Guardsmen, Senior Airman Hunni B. Bolton and Senior Airman Gary Martin, both of the 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron, load commodities into the back of a resident's vehicle, Sept. 5. The LANG has conducted more than 260 emergency response missions since Hurricane Isaac operations began.

Photo: Master Sgt. Daniel P. Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard

As Tropical Storm Isaac approached the Pelican State on Aug. 27, the Louisiana National Guard had already activated 4,126 Soldiers and Airmen to support our citizens, local and state authorities in operations at the direction of Gov. Bobby Jindal. Soldiers and Airmen reported to their units in order to receive and execute missions and began pre-staging in key areas to prepare for possible landfall of the later-named Hurricane Isaac.

By the next day, the LANG had already pre-staged more than 680 troops and assets across the New Orleans metropolitan area in order to better protect the community and its citizens in preparation for landfall.

Not far from Jackson Barracks, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment, were assisting the New Orleans Police Department as they patrolled the city in an effort to deter theft and vandalism.

"We definitely want to keep the businesses and the community safe," said NOPD officer Kevin Rickmon Jr. "By working with the Louisiana National Guard, we're able to have better visibility to ensure that happens."

After Isaac made landfall on Aug. 29, members of the 256th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, continued their search and rescue operations in St. John the Baptist Parish using high-water military vehicles and dedicated manpower day and night.

"My unit has already helped rescue hundreds from the parish of St. John the Baptist," said Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Anderson, a communications security custodian for C Company, 256th BSTB.

The Soldiers of the 256th BSTB, based in Lafayette, worked long hours to accomplish their mission. Search and rescue operations began the night before for many Guard units, once Isaac

moved beyond their operational areas.

"We've been working for about 15 hours straight rescuing citizens of this parish and their pets," said Sgt. Lee Savoy, a cook and supply sergeant for Det. 1, 256th BSTB. "The gratitude of the people of this parish has fueled my passion for serving the community; it makes it easy to take trip after trip to save more lives."

As with many emergency operations in the past, the LANG's Army State Aviation Command was the workhorse during much of the Isaac response. In all, they flew more than 1,400 sorties, 593 flight hours, moved 365 personnel and more than 2,562,579 pounds of cargo.

Along with many search and rescue operations and 12 aerial rescues, the State Aviation Command hauled huge generators, many bales of hay to stranded livestock, dropped super sandbags to shore up water, and distributed commodities throughout affected areas.

While distributing commodities on Sept. 1, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter was diverted to conduct an emergency air medical evacuation in Port Sulphur of a 2-year-old child with a life-threatening fever, and a firefighter suffering from a life-threatening heat injury. The LANG's helicopter first landed at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse, where they picked up medical personnel and then flew to



METAIRIE – Staff Sgt. Kelvin Isaac, 159th Medical Group, takes the Oath of Enlistment Sept. 3 as he re-enlists in the Louisiana Air National Guard while on Hurricane Isaac duty working the Zephyr Field Point-of-Distribution site located in Metairie. Isaac was activated prior to Hurricane Isaac's landfall, Aug. 28. These distribution sites are currently set up across the state in order to assist those in need and have various items available including water, ice and MREs.

Photo: Master Sgt. Daniel P. Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard

Port Sulphur where they picked up and transported the patients back to the Naval Air Station to waiting ambulances.

Embodying the spirit of the Louisiana Guardsman, an Airman sharing the same name as Hurricane Isaac volunteered to re-enlist in order to continue serving the members of his recently impacted community, fellow citizens, state and country.

Staff Sgt. Kelvin Isaac, 159th Medical Group medical administrator, took the Oath of Enlistment in front of fellow Guardsmen while on break from his duties at the Zephyr Field point-of-distribution site in New Orleans, Sept. 3. "It is an honor to serve my country and my community," said Isaac, making this Labor Day a memorable one. "Today I am especially reminded of how important our service is to the state of Louisiana," said Isaac, whose home was also affected by the hurricane.

Every mission matters to Louisiana National Guardsmen, and when tasked with helping to rebuild a small fishing community located in the mouth of the Mississippi River, our Airmen gladly stepped up to the challenge.

For many in the Air Guard, the mission sets were very different from their typical assignments of working directly with aircraft or air operations at the 159th Fighter Wing's headquarters at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans in Belle Chasse.

One challenge was delivering much-needed fuel on Sept. 5 to the water treatment plant in Port Sulphur, a community devastated by Hurricane Isaac. Another challenge was to supply local residents with food, water, ice and tarps.

Staff Sgt. Brandon J. Gallagher, a 159th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics specialist, was tasked with driving 300 gallons of fuel to Port Sulphur. Once there, an Army Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew sling-loaded it and placed it on top of a water treatment facility in order to power a generator that the Army Guard had flown in the day before.

"It was really cool to see this in person," said Senior Airman Leah Crow, 159th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics specialist, who helped deliver the fuel. "This has probably been the highlight of hurricane response for me because we are helping people in a devastated area get clean drinking water."

Air Guardsmen took the lead on two additional missions, opening point-of-distribution sites in Port Sulphur, Sept. 5, and another in Boothville, Sept. 6. Airmen at these sites managed and supplied residents with water, ice, MREs and tarps.

Senior Airman Gary Martin, 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron radar technician, said those coming through the commodities line were incredibly receptive and grateful to the Guard.

"These residents have been so appreciative and considerate," said Martin, explaining that many residents wanted no more than the minimum distribution to make sure their neighbors would have enough when they came through the line.

Gallagher, who had worked at several POD sites prior to delivering the fuel, summed up the sentiments of many of the Air Guardsmen working in Plaquemines Parish by saying it was an "honor" to serve the community regardless of what he was tasked to do.

Battlefield Airmen of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 122nd Air Support Operations Squadron proved to be in high demand at home and around the world especially during this hurricane

response. This elite group has been a huge asset because of their ability to set up rapid satellite communications virtually anywhere at any time, including when Isaac threatened the lives and well-being of Louisiana residents.

"We have the opportunity to do some pretty high-speed stuff, by any means necessary in order to become the sole link in communication between devastated areas and parish EOC's during these natural disasters," said Tech. Sgt. Andrew J. Guidry, 122nd ASOS operations training manager.

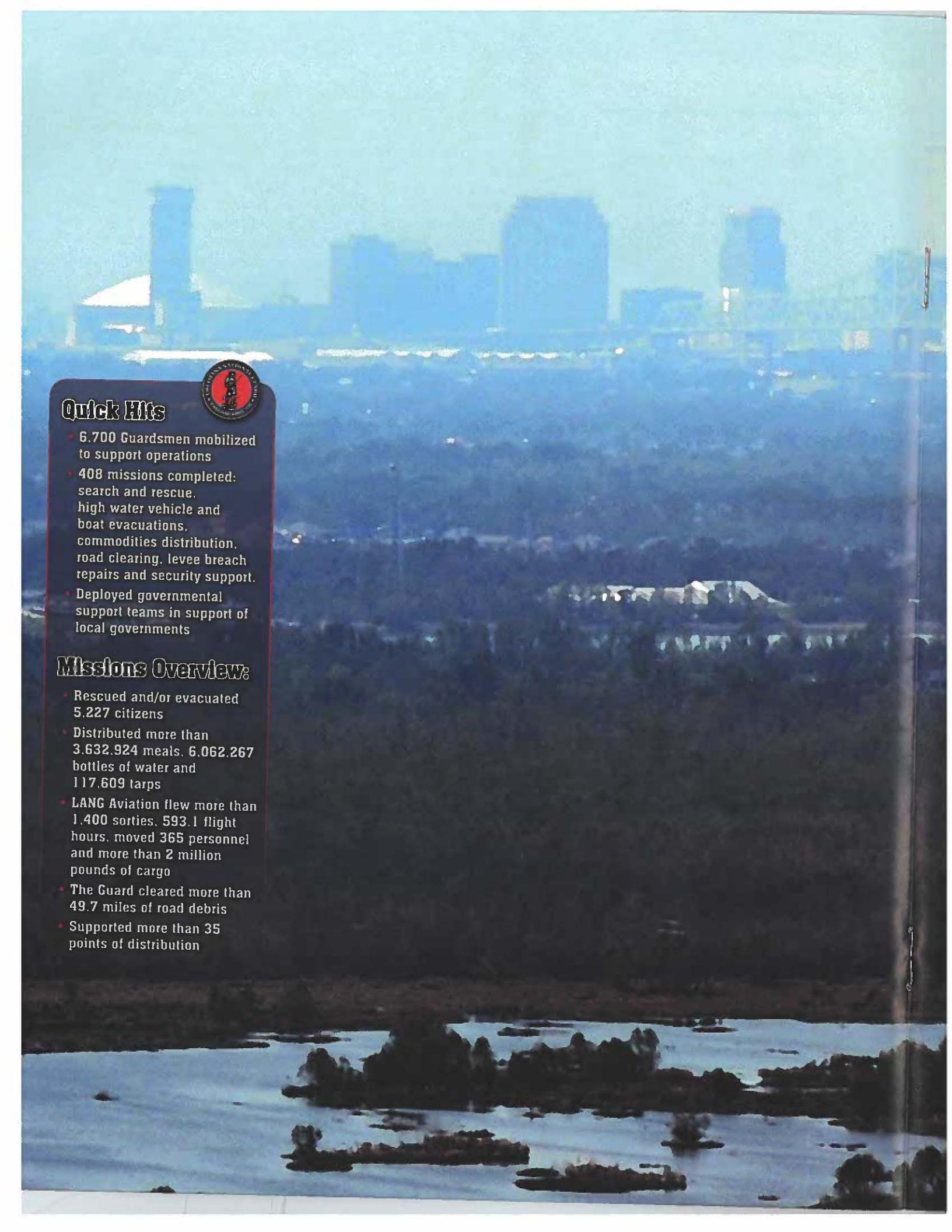
During the Hurricane Isaac response, joint terminal attack controllers, air liaison officers and tactical air control party support personnel from the 122nd ASOS have provided emergency communications for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana National Guard's Adjutant General's Assessment Center, the Joint Operations Center, and more than 10 parish emergency operation centers throughout the state.

In addition to the communications tasks performed by members of the 122nd, the ASOS Airmen were busy with other missions, including coordinating the medical evacuation of injured residents and first responders, coordinating the airlift of commodities for distribution to isolated communities and trucking in commodities to communities where roads were passable.

"I'm extremely proud of the critical, sometimes heroic, life-saving work these Airmen have accomplished, said Lt. Col. William Cusick, commander of the 122nd ASOS.

"When all other lines of communication failed, Louisiana's battlefield Airmen were ready to provide a lifeline of communication for emergency response, even in the most austere conditions."

While the majority of Hurricane Isaac response operations have ceased, there were still Guardsmen on duty in early October. The Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of Louisiana once again were called upon and once again did their jobs to great success ... living up to the important value of selfless service. ■



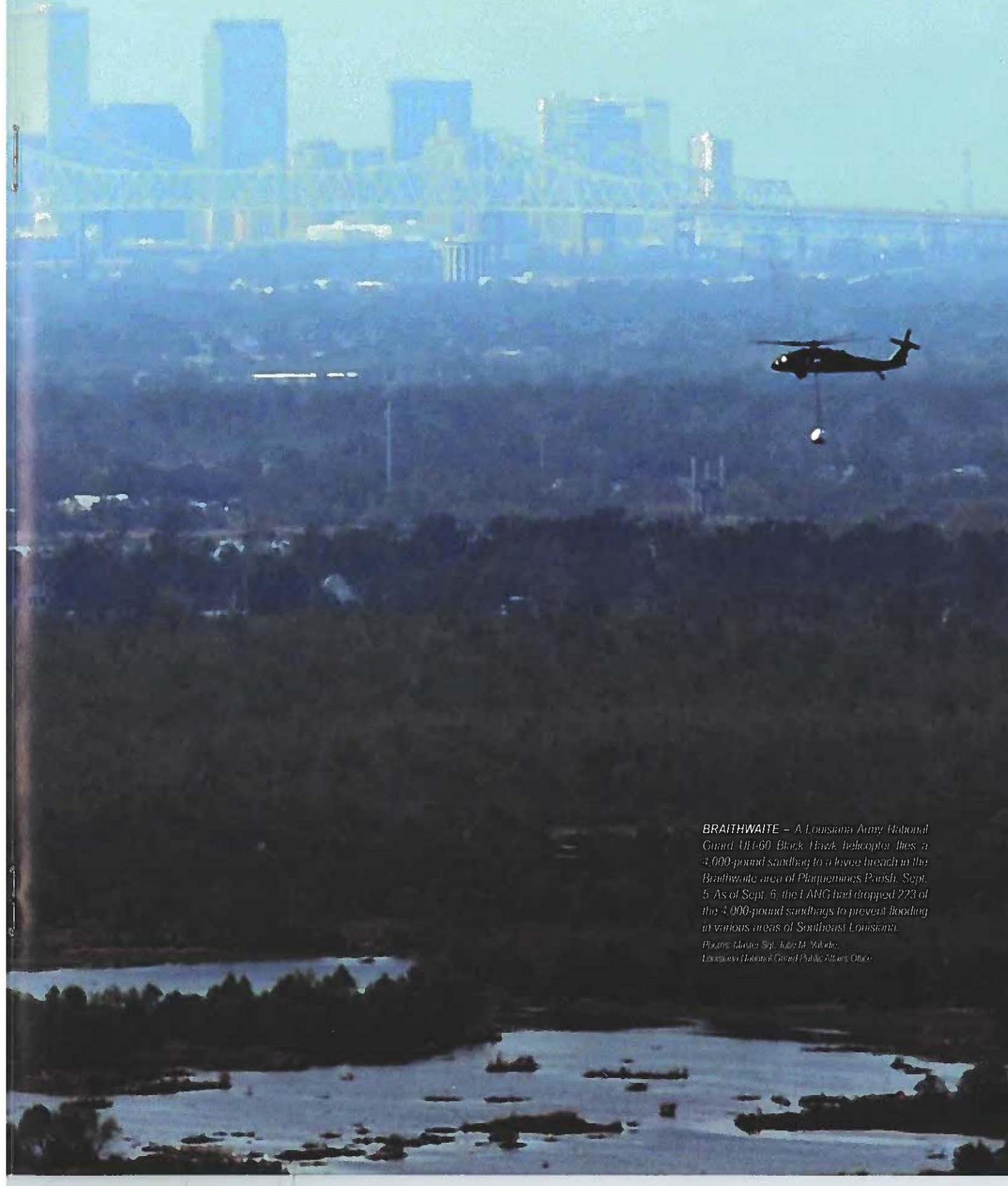
## Quick Hits



- **6,700 Guardsmen mobilized to support operations**
- **408 missions completed: search and rescue, high water vehicle and boat evacuations, commodities distribution, road clearing, levee breach repairs and security support.**
- **Deployed governmental support teams in support of local governments**

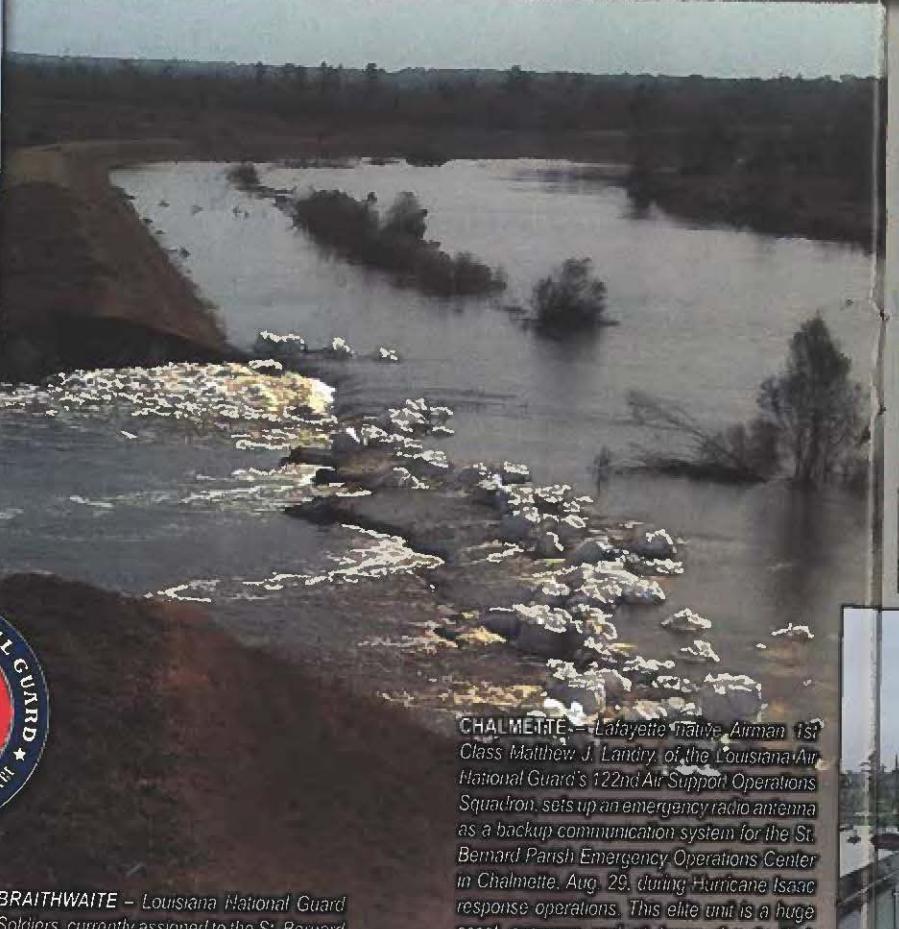
## Missions Overview:

- Rescued and/or evacuated **5,227 citizens**
- Distributed more than **3,632,924 meals, 6,062,267 bottles of water and 117,609 tarps**
- LANG Aviation flew more than **1,400 sorties, 593.1 flight hours, moved 365 personnel and more than 2 million pounds of cargo**
- The Guard cleared more than **49.7 miles of road debris**
- Supported more than **35 points of distribution**



**BRAITHWAITE** - A Louisiana Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flies a 4,000-pound sandbag to a levee breach in the Braithwaite area of Plaquemines Parish, Sept. 5. As of Sept. 6, the LANG had dropped 223 of the 4,000-pound sandbags to prevent flooding in various areas of Southeast Louisiana.

Photo by Master Sgt. Lee M. McRae,  
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office



**BELLE CHASSE** – An F-15 fighter jet takes off at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans in Belle Chasse to conduct the Louisiana Air National Guard's mission of providing air superiority over Louisiana and the Gulf Coast while supporting the North American Aerospace Defense Command. In order to complete their air sovereignty mission, National Guard Airmen are required to fill a critical void in providing air defense alert 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Photo: Master Sgt. Dan Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

## ENGAGING ISAAC:

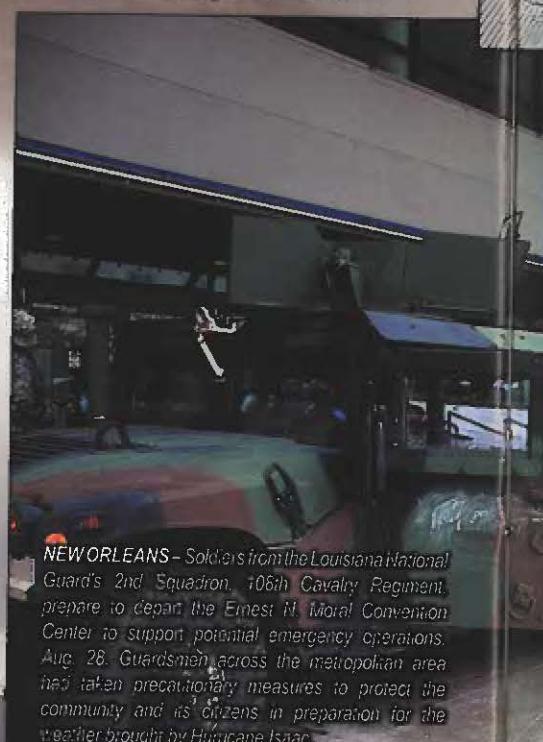


**BRAITHWAITE** – Louisiana National Guard Soldiers, currently assigned to the St. Bernard Task Force, rescue two dogs from a rooftop of a flooded residence during search and rescue operations being conducted in response to Hurricane Isaac in Braithwaite, Aug. 30. More than 8,000 Louisiana Guardsmen were activated in order to assist Louisiana citizens, state and local authorities in support of Hurricane Isaac operations.

Photo: Master Sgt. Dan Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing, LAFWG

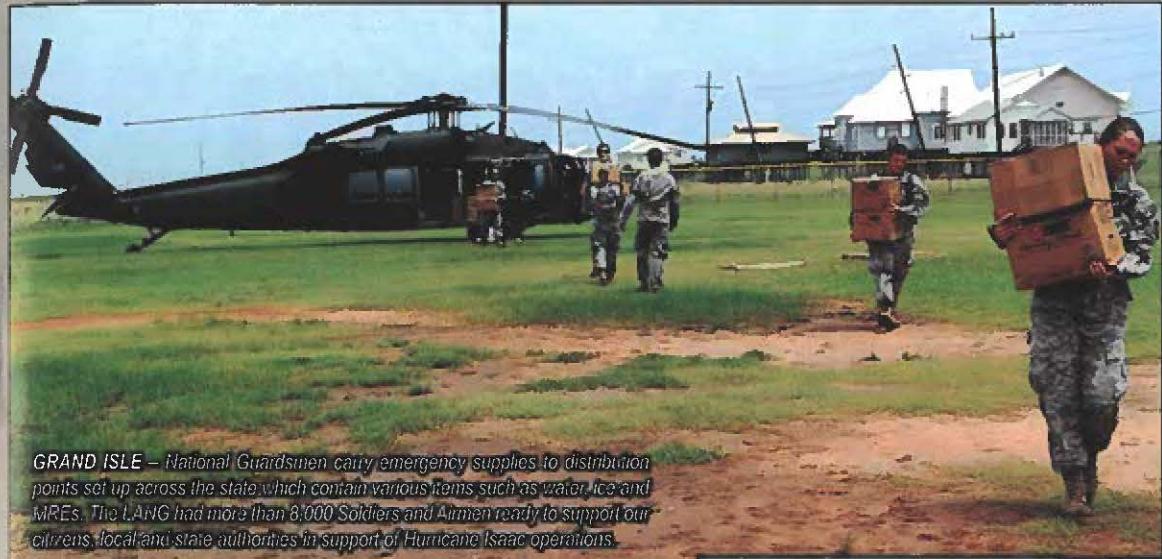


**BRAITHWAITE** – Senior Airman William Killeen of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Civil Engineering Squadron comforts a dog rescued from the rooftop of a flooded home in the town of Braithwaite, Aug. 30. More than 6,000 Louisiana Guardsmen were activated in response to Hurricane Isaac.



**NEW ORLEANS** – Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment, prepare to depart the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to support potential emergency operations. Aug. 28. Guardsmen across the metropolitan area had taken precautionary measures to protect the community and its citizens in preparation for the weather brought by Hurricane Isaac.

Photo: Spc. Taylor J. Bisco, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

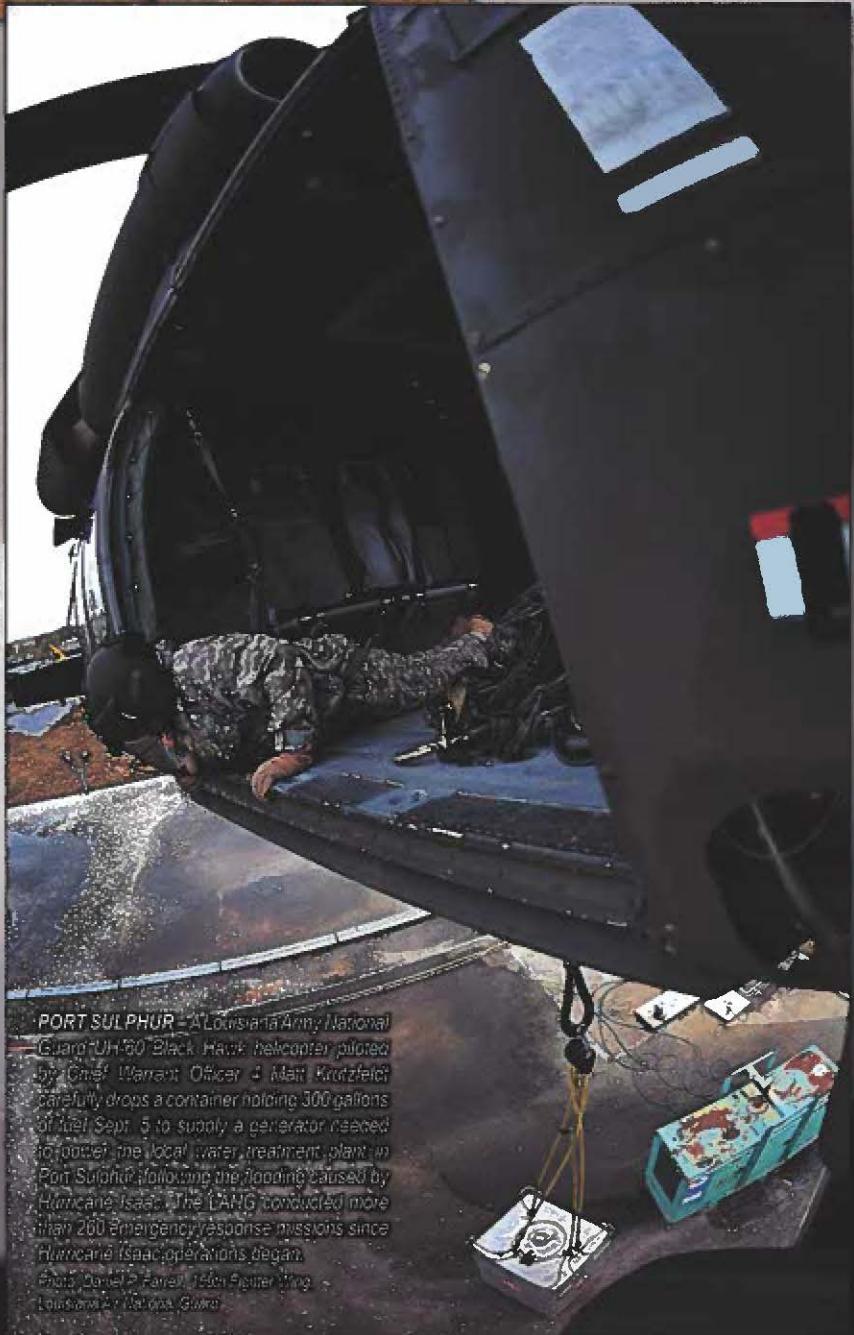


**GRAND ISLE** – National Guardsmen carry emergency supplies to distribution points set up across the state which contain various items such as water, ice and MREs. The LANG had more than 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen ready to support our citizens, local and state authorities in support of Hurricane Isaac operations.



**PORT SULPHUR** – A Louisiana Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter transports a much-needed 5,000-pound generator to a water treatment plant in Plaquemines Parish Sept. 5, after flooding caused by Hurricane Isaac.

Photo: 1st Sgt. Kevin M. Currie,  
1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion



**PORT SULPHUR** – A Louisiana Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matt Krutzfeldt carefully drops a container holding 300 gallons of ice Sept. 5 to supply a generator needed to power the local water treatment plant in Port Sulphur following the flooding caused by Hurricane Isaac. The LANG conducted more than 200 emergency response missions since Hurricane Isaac operations began.

Photo: Daniel P. Farrel, 15th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard

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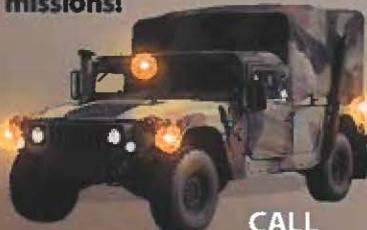
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# Welcome back to Jackson Barracks, STARBASE!

By Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou, Public Affairs Office

The Louisiana National Guard officially welcomed back the youth science program STARBASE during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, Aug. 8.

STARBASE is a Department of Defense-funded program aimed at fifth grade students in the Orleans and St. Bernard parish areas. The five-day interactive program focuses on the STEM curriculum of science, technology, engineering and math, in both a hands-on and classroom environment.

Introduced in Orleans Parish in 1999, the Louisiana program has since served more than 9,300 students. As a result of Hurricane Katrina, it was relocated to Pineville in Rapides Parish, where it continues to grow and thrive.

"Today represents more than a ribbon cutting, it is a symbol of the continued community partnership between the Louisiana National Guard and the Orleans and St. Bernard parishes," said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG. "This program is aimed at trying to excite kids about math and science ... which is what our nation needs."

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

The program covers areas such as physics and nanotechnology and even explores some space and NASA concepts. Another goal of STARBASE is for kids to learn to work as a team and communicate together for a common goal.

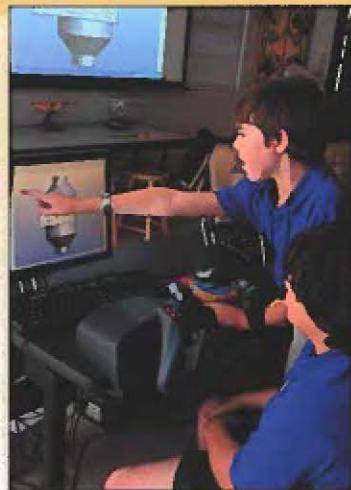
During the curriculum, students conduct an engineering design project that helps them learn about space and lab modules. The aspiring young scientists also learn about and build rockets that are launched at the end of their five-day journey. They then get to use flight simulators in the computer lab.

There are currently 76 STARBASE programs in 48 states which have graduated more than 820,000 students nationwide. ■

(Below) Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, leads the official party in cutting the ceremonial ribbon at a ceremony welcoming back the youth-science program STARBASE to Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, Aug. 8.

(Right) New Orleans resident Jennifer Deblieux, deputy director of STARBASE, demonstrates the flight simulator to Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and St. Bernard Parish Sheriff James Pohlmann following a ribbon-cutting ceremony welcoming back the youth science program.

Photos: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office



Tyler Speir and Casen Smith from J.B. Nachman Elementary School build a lab module during a class at the Louisiana National Guard youth program Pelican State STARBASE at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. Students learn about science, technology, engineering and math concepts during a five-day course curriculum that involves both hands-on and classroom experience.



# AROUND THE STATE



Incoming commander of the Louisiana National Guard's 61st Troop Command, Lt. Col. Johnathon W. Ballard Sr., of Geismar, receives the unit flag from Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG, during an official change of command ceremony.

Photo: Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## 61ST TROOP COMMAND WELCOMES NEW LEADER

By Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo

### NEW ORLEANS

Family, friends and fellow Guardsmen gathered as the Louisiana Army National Guard's 61st Troop Command changed leadership in an official ceremony at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, Aug. 4.

Lt. Col. Johnathon W. Ballard Sr., of Geismar, assumed command from Col. Rodney B. Painting, an Amite native, who has served as the commander since February 2011.

"I'm deeply honored and extremely fortunate to have been selected to command this outstanding organization," said Ballard. "I truly believe that within its ranks are the finest Soldiers and Airmen the Louisiana National Guard has to offer."

In ceremonial fashion, Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG, received the organizational colors from the outgoing commander and passed them to the incoming commander, signifying the transfer of leadership over the unit.

"I want to thank everybody in the

room," said Painting. "I was blessed to come here and serve as this direct reporting unit's commander."

"Ballard has continuously grown throughout his career," said Curtis. "Today he receives the opportunity to command this unit based on his past performance of success."

Headquartered in Carville, the 61st Troop Command consists of a headquarters element and a Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction). The unit uniquely consists of approximately 50 Soldiers and Airmen with an important role in homeland security for the state, conducting operations for numerous events to include Jazz Fest and Mardi Gras, major sporting events and emergency response missions. ■

## LOUISIANA WELCOMES NEWEST GUARDSMEN

By Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo

### NEW ORLEANS

Approximately 14 Soldiers graduated from the Louisiana National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program during a Battle Hand-Off ceremony at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, June 9.

After the ceremony, the Guardsmen were officially welcomed by representatives from the units to which they are assigned and received their respective unit patches and crests.

The RSP is designed to prepare Soldiers for their careers in the Guard, while providing an opportunity for them to become comfortable with Army terminology and protocols before attending basic combat training. ■



Approximately 14 Soldiers stand in formation as they graduate from the Louisiana National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program during a Battle Hand-Off ceremony.

Photo: Sgt. Rashawn D. Price, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Soldiers and Airmen representing the Louisiana National Guard and the National Guard Bureau stand with Jerry Kurz, commissioner of the Arena Football League, after the AFL's Silver Anniversary Gala event at the Sheraton Hotel, Aug. 9, in New Orleans.

Photo: Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## NATIONAL GUARD ATTENDS ARENA BOWL GALA

By Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo

### NEW ORLEANS

Members of the National Guard presented and received awards for outstanding dedication and service to the community during the Arena Football League's Silver Anniversary Gala event at the Sheraton Hotel, Aug. 9.

Soldiers and Airmen from the Louisiana National Guard and the National Guard Bureau were in attendance to participate in the evening's festivities.

"Just like the National Guard, teams and players in the Arena Football League have demonstrated selfless acts of service in their communities," said LANG Capt. Todd D. Hotard, with Recruiting and Retention Command. "I am extremely honored to be presenting these awards."

Utah Blaze's defensive back David Hyland and quarterback Tommy Grady were awarded the National Guard Community Most Valuable Player and the National Guard MVP of the Year awards respectively.

Being a partner with the AFL, the National Guard was also honored for the work they do in the community and around the world.

"I served in the military, so I have an idea of how hard you guys work," said Jerry Kurz, commissioner of the AFL. "You don't get honored enough for what you do, and I want to say thank you."

The partnership between the National Guard and the AFL stemmed from the common commitment to civic duty and community service. ■



Col. Alonso "Lonnie" Luce, of Gonzales, is joined by his wife, Cristine, and his parents, Nathan and Beverly Luce, of Prairieville, during the 199th Leadership Regiment's change of command ceremony held at Camp Cook in Ball, May 5. Photo: Sgt. Scott D. Longstreet, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## SCHOOL BOARD SUPERINTENDENT TAKES COMMAND OF GUARD UNIT

By Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

### CAMP COOK

Army Col. Alonso "Lonnie" Luce of Gonzales, took command of the Louisiana National Guard's 199th Leadership Regiment during a change of command ceremony at Camp Cook in Ball, May 5.

Luce, who serves as the St. James Parish School Board superintendent, received the battalion flag from Brig. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the LANG, while friends and family looked on.

Luce was most recently promoted to the rank of colonel, July 14.

The 199th LR, headquartered in Camp Minden, provides institutional training within assigned career management fields, the Noncommissioned Officer Education System and Officer Candidate School missions based on requirements identified by the National Guard Bureau and the Army. ■

## CAVALRY LEADS THE WAY, CONDUCTS ANNUAL SPUR RIDE

By 1st Lt. Angela K. Fry

### SHREVEPORT

More than 40 Troopers from the 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Shreveport, completed the fifth annual Cavalry Spur Ride at Camp Minden June 14, during their annual two-week training. The spur ride is a 12-mile journey consisting of

various warrior training tasks and battle drills, including land navigation, first aid, weapons familiarization and military communications operations.

"These Soldiers were tasked with the strenuous duty of navigating to various stations along a 12-mile course by foot, backpacking a rucksack that weighed at least 30 pounds, while simultaneously focusing on missions such as assembling the M-2 .50-caliber machine gun and calling in a 9-line medical evacuation," explained Maj. Jonathan Lloyd, squadron commander. "These stations consisted of assigned warrior training tasks and battle drills and were evaluated by current spur holders who have already completed the process."

After the candidates completed the 12-hour "ride," Lloyd and Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Vanzant, squadron senior enlisted advisor, led the formation of proud spur holders into Forward Operating Base Geronimo on the grounds of Camp Minden. As the Troopers marched into the FOB area, they received a roaring welcome from all the troopers in the squadron.

"As I marched into the FOB, I felt proud for making my unit look good," said Pfc. David Morris of Sterlington, D Company, 2-108th. "It is usually expected that an infantryman or a cavalry scout will finish first. But being a member of a unit with the mission of forward support, I got to prove that an FSC can lead the way."

The coveted silver spurs are awarded during the squadron's annual Cavalry Ball in September. ■



A formation of new spur holders and spur cadre from the Louisiana National Guard's 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Shreveport, are led into Forward Operating Base Geronimo on the grounds of Camp Minden by squadron commander Maj. Jonathan Lloyd and squadron Senior Enlisted Advisor Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Vanzant, June 14. Courtesy photo



Louisiana National Guardsman Spc. Amy Johnson, of Shreveport, exchanges tearful hugs with her children, 9-year-old Nikolas and 3-year-old Sydenei, as she returns from a yearlong deployment with the 1022nd Engineer Company to Afghanistan at the Monroe Regional Airport, Aug. 18.

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

## LA. GUARD WELCOMES HOME SOLDIERS FROM AFGHANISTAN

By Sgt. Robin Perry

### MONROE

The Louisiana National Guard welcomed home more than 150 Soldiers of the 1022nd Engineer Company from a 365-day deployment to Afghanistan at the Monroe Regional Airport in Monroe, Aug. 18.

"It's great to have them home," said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG. "They had a tremendous deployment and did a great job in Afghanistan."

Based out of West Monroe, with detachments in Ruston and Bossier City, the 1022nd mobilized to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to aid in the construction efforts of 12 Task Forces within the area of operation as the lead element for construction missions in Paktika Province.

"We brought all of our Soldiers home – that's the most important thing," stressed Capt. Robert J. Rogers, 1022nd company commander.

The 1022nd's efforts provided troops entering Afghanistan with improvements to living conditions, basic security, and overall functionality of the forward operating bases and combat outposts throughout the area. Their building projects included a 60-foot communication tower, a Green Bean Coffee House, 62 barrack huts, 6 Southeast Asia huts, 120 tent decks, a Morale and Welfare Center, a two-stage dining facility, and 30,000 feet of HESCO barrier walls. ■



Maj. Donna C. Jones, civil operations manager with the Louisiana National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force, joins elected city officials with the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition during a press conference at the district attorney's office in New Orleans, May 23.

Photo: Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## LANG, NOLA CITY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

By Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo

### NEW ORLEANS

The Louisiana National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force Civil Operations Program was recognized for its assistance to and cooperation with the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition and assisting with the development of the Drug Control Strategy in a press conference at the district attorney's office in New Orleans, May 23.

Maj. Donna C. Jones, civil operations manager with the CDTF, has worked with the coalition since its inception beginning in October 2011.

"We are privileged to have Maj. Jones' leadership in guiding the coalition through the strategic planning process," said Stephanie Haynes, strategic planning process chairman with the coalition. "Her experience and expertise, her conscientiousness and attention to detail have been invaluable to this process."

The planning process was guided by the principles of drug demand reduction and is focused on the areas of prevention, treatment, enforcement and criminal justice.

The strategy thus provides a framework for citizens, policy-makers and service providers to work together and to bring all resources to bear over the next five years to carry out the plan.

"We have provided assistance with strategic planning, advising and facilitation," said Jones. "We have also assisted with the development of the goals and

objectives for the criminal justice/law enforcement work group."

"It is essential to show our role in the civil support to community coalitions," said Jones. "We need to show how we help the communities as CDTF National Guardsmen and our unique skills in this role."

The CDTF Civil Operations Program utilizes the unique National Guard skills and resources to help foster a strong response to reducing substance abuse in local communities by supporting community-led strategies that are proved to reduce the demand and use of drugs. ■



Spc. Raquel Coleman, a patient administration specialist for the 756th Area Support Medical Company, consoles her daughter Uryah before her unit's deployment departure ceremony, Sept. 2. The 756th will be responsible for planning, executing, and manning six medical operational sites in Afghanistan.

Photo: Sgt. Rashawn D. Price, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

## DEPLOYING 756TH ASMC GUARDSMEN SAY GOODBYE

By 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

### CARVILLE

Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's 756th Area Support Medical Company said farewell to family and friends during a deployment ceremony at the Gillis Long Center, Sept. 2.

More than 65 Soldiers will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to support six sites in the cities of Bagram and Kabul where they will be providing emergency

medical, sick call, dental, ancillary and medevac services.

"Today, these Citizen-Soldiers are stepping up to the plate to serve our state and nation at an important time when we need them the most," said Brig. Gen. Joanne F. Sheridan, assistant adjutant general of the Louisiana Army National Guard. "They will be deploying to protect our freedom and interest at home and abroad."

The 756th ASMC, based at the Gillis Long Center in Carville, is organized into three platoons: treatment, ambulance, and headquarters. It is composed of medical occupation specialties such as surgeons, doctors, physician assistants, nurses, combat medics, radiology technicians, dental technicians, and vehicle and generator mechanics.

"In the past year, I've seen this unit make changes that I've never thought possible," said Maj. Tarren Kingsley, commander of the 756th ASMC. "These men and women have come together to form a military medical team trained and motivated to complete the missions ahead of them." ■

## FAMILIES WELCOME HOME HEROES

By Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

### NEW ORLEANS

Approximately 30 local heroes from the Louisiana National Guard's 236th Combat Communications Squadron were welcomed home by friends and family at Louis Armstrong International Airport, June 30.

Loud cheers and heartfelt embraces were given to the Airmen who all returned home safely after a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"These events are very important to us," said Maj. Harry "Chip" Trosclair Jr., 236th CBCS detachment commander. "There are a lot of happy families here, and happy families mean happy service members."

"It was a huge surprise to see all of my family here," said Senior Airman Steven D. Bordelon. "It just feels so good to receive such a big, warm welcome."



Senior Airman Steven D. Bordelon embraces family members Saturday at Louis Armstrong International Airport. Bordelon is one of about 30 members of the Air National Guard's 236th Combat Communications Squadron who returned home after spending six months in Afghanistan.

*Photo: Spc. Terrell J. Bilbo, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

While deployed, the unit was part of the 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group. They utilized 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.

"We worked with about 50 active duty Airmen, and everyone meshed together seamlessly," said Lt. Col. Timothy Jeandron, deployment commander. "It was an outstanding deployment." ■



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# 2011 Family Readiness Group Leader Awardees



Photos: Staff Sgt. Denis Ricou

The 2011 Louisiana National Guard State Family Program's annual award winners receive their plaques from Maj. Gen. Stephen Dabadié, assistant adjutant general of the LANG, and Mrs. Jill Curtis, wife of the adjutant general, during the 2012 State Family Workshop in Baton Rouge, Aug. 18.

Family Readiness Group of the Year for LAANG



159th Civil Engineer Squadron

Dawn Favre

Family Readiness Group of the Year for LAARNG



926th Engineer Company

Wendy Williams

Family Readiness Volunteer of the Year for LAARNG



926th Engineer Company

Wendy Williams

Newsletter of the Year for LAANG



122nd Air Support Operations Squadron

Master Sgt. Ashley Shelton

Family of the Year for LAANG



Tracey and Master Sgt. Frederick Dietz

Family Readiness Volunteer of the Year for LAARNG



159th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Miriam Gallagher

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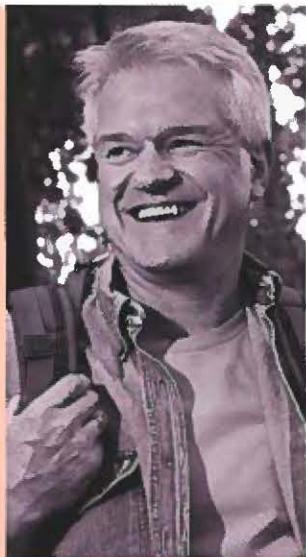
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Jodi Benton



122nd Air Support Operations Squadron

Master Sgt. Ashley Shelton

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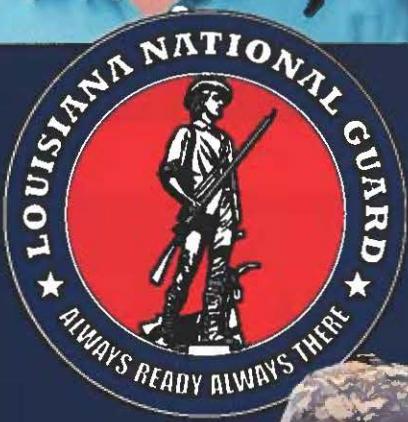
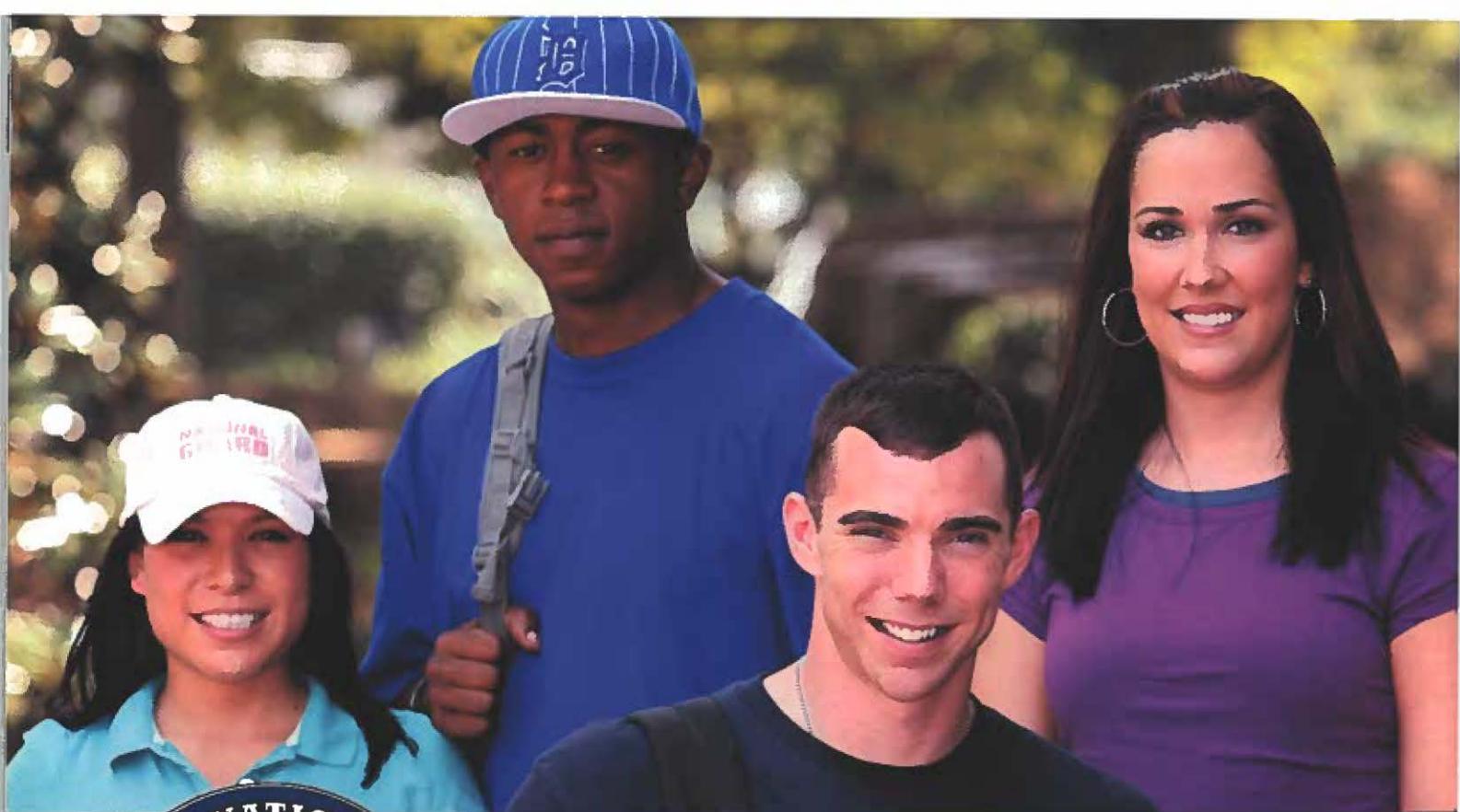
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