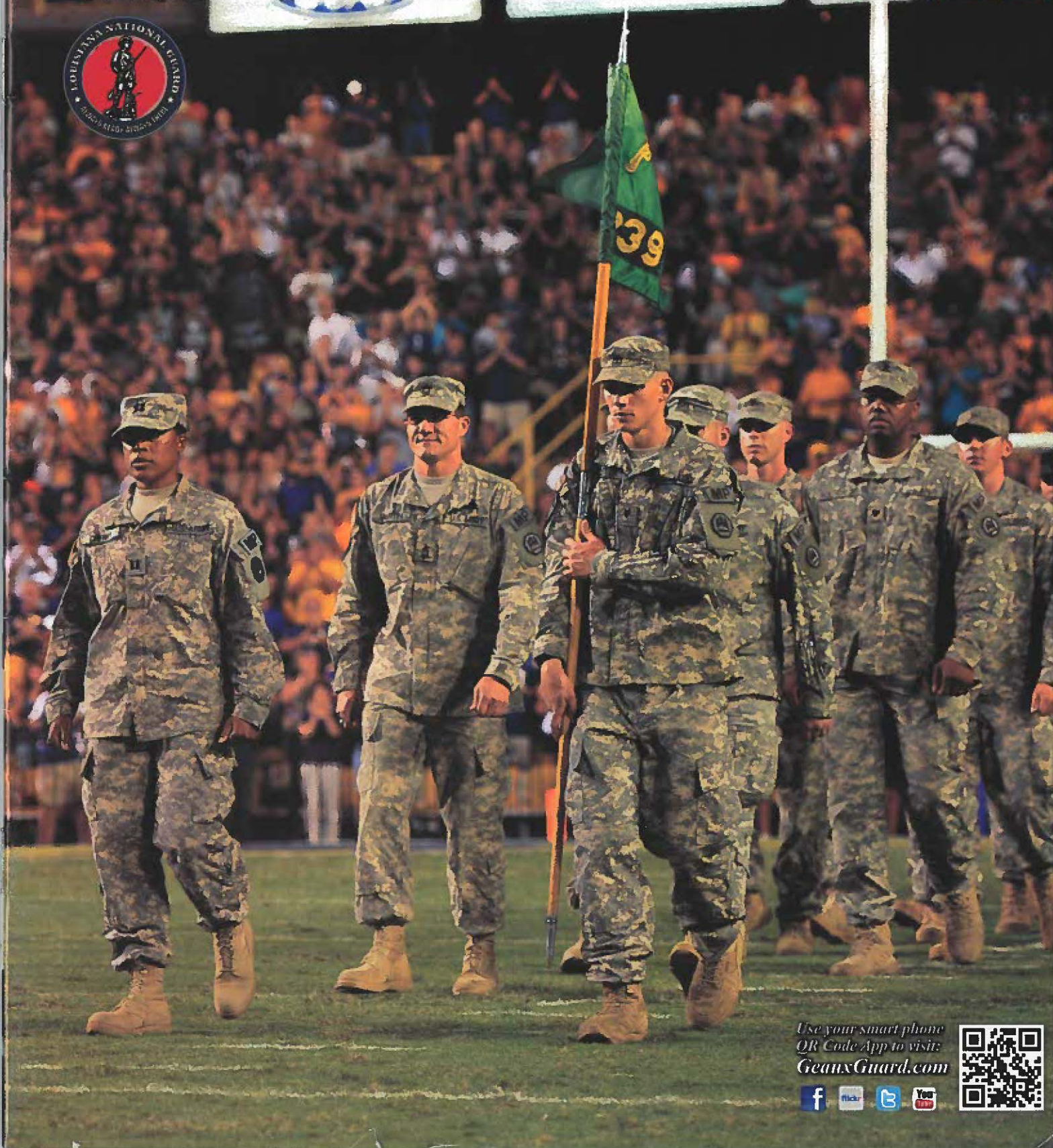


ISSUE 19 2013

PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



Use your smart phone
QR Code App to visit:
GearxGuard.com





UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

Established in 1857®

YOU HAVE THE POWER to Advance Your Career

- Accredited, affordable, flexible degree plans
- Open enrollment, 8-week terms
- Generous acceptance of transfer credits, military training
- Approved for TAVA education benefits



APPLY TODAY!
www.uiu.edu

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

Alexandria Center: 318-484-2184 x121 • www.uiu.edu/alexandria

Baton Rouge Center: 225-923-2331 • www.uiu.edu/batonrouge

Fort Polk Center: 337-537-4465 • www.uiu.edu/fortpolk

New Orleans Center: 504-682-6792 • www.uiu.edu/neworleans

On Campus • Online • Independent Study • U.S. & International Centers



Governor
Bobby Jindal



The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen.
Glenn H. Curtis

Pelican Dispatch Staff

State Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Michael J. Kazmierzak

Photo Manager
Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie

Production/Copy Editors
2nd Lt. Rebekah Malone
Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou

Contributing Journalists

LANG PAO
Staff Journalists / UPARS
159th FW PAO
241st MPAD
256th PAO

For comments or suggestions please call:

(866) 275-8176

Articles and photos for consideration
may be e-mailed to:
denis.b.ricou.mil@mail.mil



Matt Benedict, President, CEO
Marie Lundstrom, Editor
Justin Ritter, Graphic Designer
Darrell George, Advertising Sales



Toll Free: 866-562-9300
www.MyBaseGuide.com
www.AQPPublishing.com

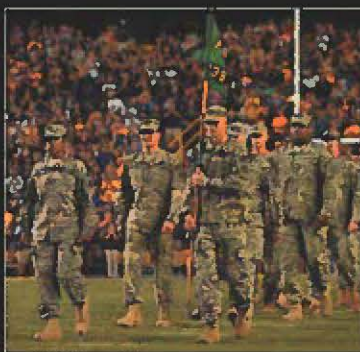
NationalGuardSales@AQPPublishing.com

PELICAN DISPATCH

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR THE LOUISIANA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

ISSUE 19 2013

- 3** FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
- 4** 159TH FIGHTER WING CHANGES COMMAND
- 5** LOUISIANA AIRMEN RECOGNIZED AMONG ELITE
- 6** LOUISIANA GUARD AND PARTNER AGENCIES PREPARE FOR ALL-HAZARDS EVENTS
- 8** LOUISIANA'S RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM HOSTS WARRIOR CHALLENGE
- 10** LANG RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN AT ENLISTED ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
- 12** 204TH TAOG DEPLOYS SOLDIERS OVERSEAS
- 14** LOUISIANA GUARDSMEN SAY FAREWELL, DEPLOY TO KUWAIT
- 15** JOIN OUR TEAM
- 16** WOMEN'S FORUM TACKLES UNIQUE ISSUES
- 18** AIR GUARD MAKES LIFE-SAVING CONTRIBUTION
- 20** AROUND THE STATE
- 24** LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD UNIT DEPLOYS TO AFGHANISTAN



Capt. Katasha Cherry, company commander of the 239th Military Police Company, marches her company onto the field of Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium to be honored at the LSU vs. Iowa football game, Sept. 15, 2012, in Baton Rouge. LSU honored the Louisiana National Guardsmen for their sacrifice and service to the state and country.

Photo: Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie

The Pelican Dispatch is published by AQP Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Louisiana National Guard, under written contract with the Louisiana National Guard. This Louisiana National Guard magazine is an authorized publication for employees and military members of the Louisiana National Guard. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the state of Louisiana, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Louisiana National Guard.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the state of Louisiana, DoD, the

Louisiana National Guard, or AQP Publishing, Inc. of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Office of Public Affairs, Joint Forces Headquarters - LANG. All photographs and graphic devices are copyrighted to the Louisiana National Guard unless otherwise indicated.

Mine was earned in Vietnam. By my dad.

Barbara Q., USAA member



USAA Auto Insurance. Earned once. Cherished from generation to generation.

At USAA, our commitment to serve the financial needs of our military members, veterans who have honorably served and their families is without equal. In fact, families regard USAA Auto Insurance so highly, 95% of USAA members plan to remain with USAA for life.¹

Begin your legacy. Get a quote.

usaa.com/insurance | 800-531-3550



Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice

We know what it means to serve.®

¹Based on 2011 Member Communications Trend Survey.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or in the National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2013 USAA. 139265-0113

My Fellow Guardsmen,

As your 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 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, noncommissioned 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 field, 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 rapidly mobilize 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 to not only remain a relevant and ready force, but to build capacity in order to **Protect What Matters**.

Sincerely,

Major General Glenn H. Curtis

The Adjutant General



SERVING THE MILITARY. SUPPORTING THE FAMILIES.

We serve the military and their families. It's what we do. It's who we are. So we're prepared to support you and your family with the quality products and superior member service you deserve. With thousands of free ATMs,* 24/7 phone support, and convenient online and Mobile Banking,** we have the benefits of membership you deserve.



**NAVY
FEDERAL**
Credit Union

ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
DoD

SIGN UP TODAY!

Visit one of our four Louisiana branches.

navyfederal.org 1.888.842.6328

Federally insured by NCUA. *There are no fees for members who use their Navy Federal Visa® Check Card at CO-OP and MoneyPass® networks, in addition to California Walgreens. **Message and data rates may apply. App Store® is a service mark of Apple, Inc. Android™ is a trademark of Google, Inc. © 2012 Navy Federal NFCU 12328 (12-12)



159th Fighter Wing changes command



By 159th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs Office

BELLE CHASSE – Col. Thomas P. Sostarics assumed command of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing during a ceremony at the VR 54 Hangar, Bldg. 439, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, March 6.

Col. Roy V. Qualls passed the mantle of leadership of the 159th FW to Sostarics who became the wing's 21st commander.

"Thank you for what you've done," Qualls said to the Airmen, as he reflected on his past four years as 159th FW commander. "Never underestimate the power of a pat on the back," said the Corpus Christi, Texas, native.

In a time-honored tradition, the organizational colors were passed during a pivotal moment in the ceremony between the outgoing and incoming commanders.

Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, received the 159th Fighter Wing colors from Qualls, the outgoing commander, and passed them to Sostarics, the incoming commander, signifying the transfer of leadership over the wing.



Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, presents the 159th Fighter Wing colors to Col. Thomas P. Sostarics, the incoming commander of the wing.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Yolande C. Addison, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The very soul of a military unit is symbolized by the colors under which it trains and fights. The colors precede each unit in formation and remind

Airmen of the glories of the past, stand guard over the present and provide inspiration for the future.



Col. Roy V. Qualls, outgoing commander of the 159th Fighter Wing, addresses Airmen, friends and family during a change of command ceremony held at the VR 54 Hangar at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Belle Chasse on March 6. The 159th FW provides worldwide deployable aircraft and combat resources that are operated, maintained and supported by professional Louisiana Airmen dedicated to supporting both federal and state missions.

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



Airmen with the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing stand in military formation on March 6 during a change of command ceremony at the VR 54 Hangar, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Belle Chasse. The 159th FW provides worldwide deployable aircraft and combat resources.
Photo: Staff Sgt. Yolanda C. Addison, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Of special note was the passing of authority from the outgoing 159th Fighter Wing command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Randall Volpi to the incoming command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Schehr.

"You are amazing," said Sostarics to the 159th Airmen. "I appreciate your devotion, treasure your friendship and acknowledge your sacrifice. I look forward to both supporting and leading you as the 159th Fighter Wing commander," said the Chicago native who has been the 159th FW vice wing commander since January 2011.

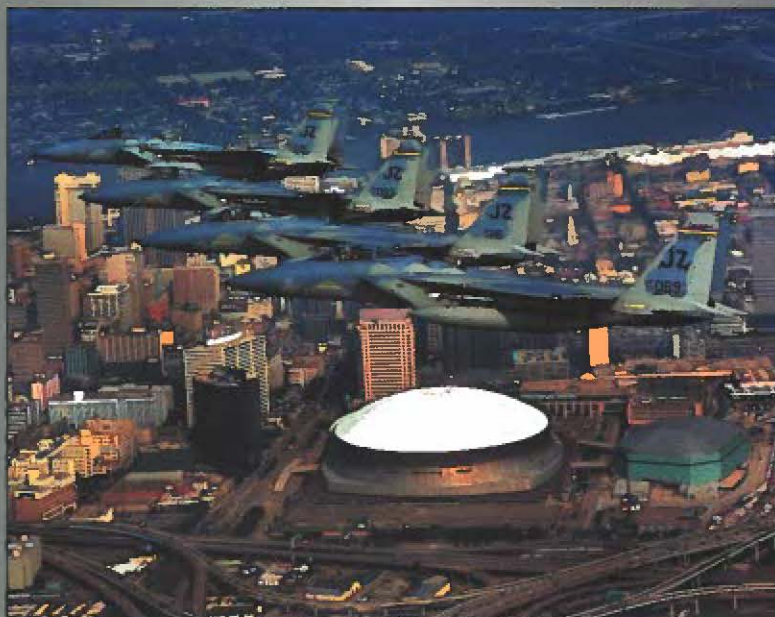
The 159th FW provides worldwide deployable aircraft and combat resources that are operated, maintained and supported by professional Louisiana Airmen dedicated to supporting both federal and state missions. ■



Airmen of the 159th Fighter Wing congratulate Col. Thomas P. Sostarics, new commander of the 159th Fighter Wing, on March 6.
Photo: Master Sgt. Daniel P. Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Louisiana Airmen recognized among elite

Air Force names 159th Fighter Wing "Outstanding"



By 159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

BELLE CHASSE – Members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing are being applauded for their most recent and extraordinary accomplishment – winning the coveted Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period of Oct. 1, 2010 - Sept. 30, 2012.

The recipients of the 2012 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award were announced by Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard, on Jan. 16. Among the recipients were the New Orleans-based 159th Fighter Wing.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, the award is granted annually by the secretary of the Air Force to units that have gained distinction through exceptionally meritorious service or "outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units."

"The 159th is one of only two fighter wings in the country to have been recognized with this award twice, covering the entire four-year period from Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2012," said Col. Roy V. Qualls, 159th Fighter Wing commander. "This is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our Airmen."

Authorized in 1954, the AFOUA recognizes the top 10 percent of Air Force units that stand out due to their exceptional service or outstanding achievement.

"Thanks to you and your families for the sacrifices you make to keep our country safe and for making the 159th a premier Fighter Wing in the Air National Guard," said Qualls.

The 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard, located at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, provides worldwide deployable aircraft and combat resources operated, maintained and supported by professional Louisiana Airmen dedicated to supporting both federal and state missions. ■

LOUISIANA GUARD AND PARTNER AGENCIES PREPARE FOR ALL-HAZARDS EVENTS

Federal, state & local agencies conduct joint training in St. Tammany and St. Landry parishes

By 1st Sgt. Paul Meeker
241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana National Guard joined federal, state and local partner agencies in the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness disaster training exercise at Fontainebleau State Park in St. Tammany Parish and the Grand Prairie Rest Area in St. Landry Parish on March 23.

The training exercise provided all partner agencies with the opportunity to conduct joint all-hazards disaster response operations in a controlled environment in advance of the 2013 hurricane season.

"The National Guard is ready for this coming hurricane season. The exercise this week tests our [LANG's] readiness to respond to any emergency. By working closely with all of our partner agencies at the state, federal and local levels, we've been able to stress our response plans to ensure that our systems, personnel and equipment are ready for hurricane season," said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG. "Our citizens place great faith in all of us to do what we train to do ... for our Guardsmen along with the other state and local emergency responders to be ready to protect them and their property in times of emergency."



Louisiana National Guardsman Lt. Col. Brian P. Champagne, along with members of the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, briefs observers on the communications interoperability that links partner agencies during a disaster response exercise.

Members of the Louisiana National Guard's 225th Engineer Brigade conduct a search and rescue exercise in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, during a disaster response exercise at Fontainebleau State Park, in Mandeville, March 23.

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





Louisiana National Guardsman 2nd Lt. Michael B. Switzer, platoon leader with the 225th Engineer Brigade, directs rescued "civilians" to a registration point during a disaster response exercise at Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville, March 23.

The featured training lanes included land and water search and rescue, helicopter medical evacuation, interoperability of communications systems, site security and commodities distribution.

Dexter Accardo, director of St. Tammany Parish's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, described the value of joint emergency training exercises in multiple locations in the state.

"What you see here is a joint operation that shows the multi-levels of resources

available to a community like St. Tammany Parish," he said. "You get to know what everybody's capabilities are and how you share resources as a team. For example, the Guard has a footprint on just about everything going on in every parish and throughout the state – you have people affiliated with all the state's ESFs [Emergency Support Functions]."

Perhaps the most visible and vital of the response training that occurred in

Continued on page 22



Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 225th Engineer transport a rescued "civilian" to receive medical attention during a disaster response exercise. The training exercise provided all Louisiana partner agencies with the opportunity to conduct joint all-hazards disaster response operations in a controlled environment in advance of the 2013 hurricane season.

Rite in the Rain
ALL-WEATHER WRITING PAPER

Field Books • Notebooks • Loose Leaf • Field Planners
Targets • Index Cards • Covers • All-Weather Pens

GSA MADE IN THE USA RITE

FEDSTRIP, MILESTRIP, ARIES, Base Supply Stores & Tactical Supply Outlets

RiteintheRain.com

**ARE YOU Driven to Discover
What Will Change Your Life?**

DISCOVER NMMI!

We'll Prepare You to Discover the Rest!

- 1-year college prep high school
- 2-year university parallel junior college
- Service Academy Prep Program
- 2-Year Early Commissioning Program
- High School & College Athletics
- Physical Fitness Program

New Mexico Military Institute
MG Jerry W. Grizzle, USARNG Ret.
Superintendent

101 West College Boulevard
Roswell, New Mexico 88201
1.800.421.1876 www.newmexnmml.com
www.nmmi.edu

Louisiana's Recruit Sustainment Program hosts Warrior Challenge

By Spc. Joshua Barnett, 241st MPAD

Louisiana Army National Guard trainees from across the state vied for top honors in the Recruit Sustainment Program Warrior Challenge competition at Camp Villere in Slidell in early February.

RSP is a program for new recruits to help prepare them for initial training, said 1st Sgt. John S. Mattison, Louisiana RSP noncommissioned officer in charge. "It gets them mentally prepared because they're used to being around the military environment, and it gets them administratively correct as well as physically more prepared."

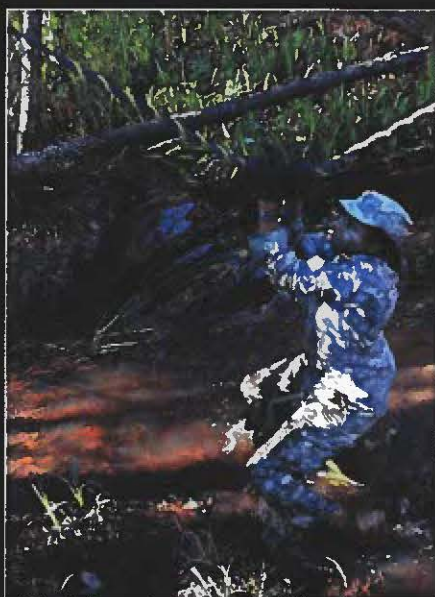
Pvt. 1st Class Braxton Henry and Pvt. 1st Class Trenton Miguez from RSP Detachment 5 in Lafayette won the competition, which consisted of a physical fitness test, road march, obstacle course, weapon qualification, land navigation, and an oral board. Each of eight RSP detachments throughout the state sent a team of two competitors and an alternate.

"The obstacle course was definitely hard, especially because it was wet," said Pvt. 1st Class Cristina Edwards from Det. 1 in Shreveport. "At first I was nervous, and then I thought I wouldn't be able to do it, but it's coming along well."

The competitors were all "split-option" trainees, meaning they were high school seniors or college students who had completed basic combat training during summer break, then returned to school. They will attend advanced individual training when the school year ends, completing their initial-entry training.

Before shipping to basic training, all new Army National Guard Soldiers are assigned to an RSP detachment, where they are on active, paid drilling status. The program reduces training pipeline losses by introducing newly enlisted ARNG Soldiers to the military environment and improves Soldier adjustment.

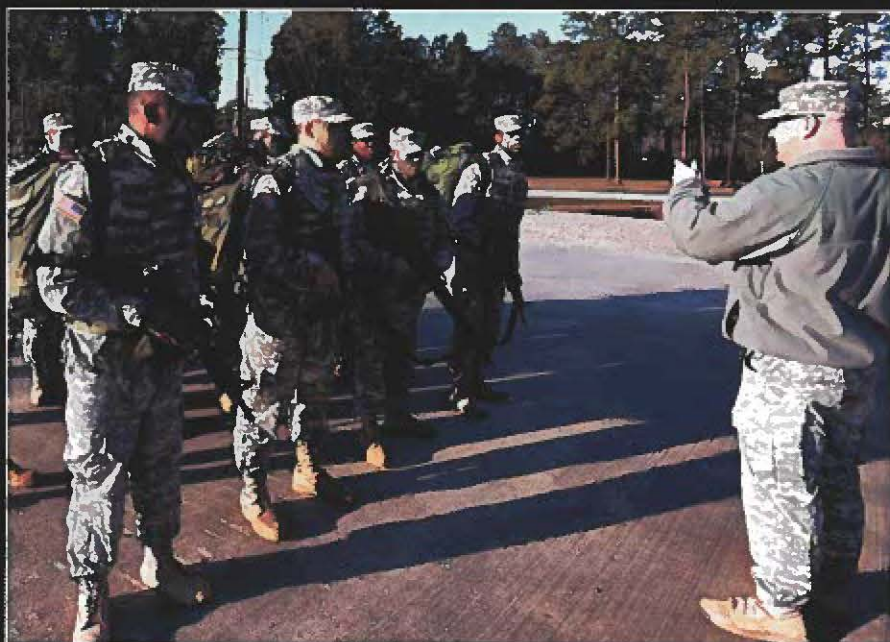
"(RSP) is great, because when I went to basic, a lot of people who were regular Army were not prepared. They didn't know anything and had a rough time. RSP definitely helped — mentally and physically," said Miguez. ■



Pvt. 1st Class Braxton Henry and Pvt. 1st Class Enrique Riano cross the finish line during the Army Physical Fitness test part of the Louisiana Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program Warrior Challenge competition at Camp Villere in Slidell, Feb. 2. Henry's team won the event, which consisted of a physical fitness test, road march, obstacle course, weapon qualification, land navigation and an oral board.

(Left) Pvt. 1st Class Cristina Edwards pulls herself and a water jug up a rope during the Louisiana Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program Warrior Challenge competition at Camp Villere in Slidell, Feb. 2.

(Below) Competitors receive instruction during the Louisiana Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program Warrior Challenge competition at Camp Villere in Slidell, Feb. 2. Photos: Spc. Joshua Barnett, 241st MPAD





We were there when you landed on the northern coast of France.

We were there when you returned to the Philippine shore.

We were there when you fought in Korea and Vietnam.

We were there when you rolled across the deserts of Iraq.

We were there then. We will always be there.

Proudly serving the Military since 1936.

GEICO
geico.com

1-800-MILITARY (1-800-645-4827)

AUTO • HOME • RENTERS • MOTORCYCLE • BOAT

Homeowners, renters, and boat coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency Inc. Motorcycle coverage is underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO, Washington, DC 20076. © 2010 GEICO

Sgt. Maj. James Pullyan is named
2012 Sergeant Major of the Year.

LANG recognizes outstanding Soldiers and Airmen at enlisted association conference

Story and photos by Spc. Joshua Barnett,
241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers and Airmen from the Louisiana National Guard were recognized for excellence during the annual Senior Enlisted Leaders Awards Banquet in Marksville, March 8. The event recognizes the most outstanding enlisted Guardsmen for their accomplishments during the past year.

"The awards banquet was to showcase some of the Soldiers and Airmen who have done a lot of good things throughout the year and to award them for that," said Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Stuckey, command sergeant major for the 61st Troop Command.

Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, Louisiana National Guard adjutant general, recognized the following awardees for their exemplary achievements in 2012 and 2013.



Spc. Jordan Demaris (third from the left) is named 2012 Soldier of the Year.



- 2013 Soldier of the Year, Spc. Jordan Demers
- 2013 NCO of the Year, Sgt. Jarryd Crowell
- Youth ChalleNGe Program Best Cadre Member, 1st Sgt. Jerome Neal
- 2012 Airman of the Year, Senior Airman James Lam
- 2012 Soldier of the Year, Spc. Jevon Daubigny
- 2012 NCO of the Year for the Air National Guard, Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Husser
- 2012 NCO of the Year for the Army National Guard, Staff Sgt. Thomas Dubose
- 2012 Combat Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Christopher Powell
- 2012 Combat Leader of the Year, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Ponthier
- First Sergeant of the Year for the Air National Guard, Master Sgt. Eric Traylor
- First Sergeant of the Year for the Army National Guard, 1st Sgt. Reggie Nolan
- 2012 Air National Guard Senior NCO of the Year, Master Sgt. Douglas Schmitt
- 2012 Sergeant Major of the Year, Sgt. Maj. James Philyaw
- 2012 Chief Master Sergeant of the Year for the Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Gerald G. Raynal, Jr.
- 2012 Command Sergeant Major of the Year, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Sapp

The banquet was held as part of the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association's 41st annual conference. LANGEA is a membership-based organization that represents the interests of enlisted Guardsmen and their families.

The conference was a two-day event that also included a golf tournament, bowling tournament and a motorcycle poker run.

"This weekend is about getting people together for some good fellowship with everyone in a non-business environment,

as well as hosting the banquet to recognize people who have done outstanding work," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Everett, outgoing LANGEA president.

Approximately 1,000 people attended the awards banquet which made Everett and Stuckey, LANGEA's incoming president, as well as the rest of the executive board members, very proud.

"We had more people attend the conference and the banquet this year than in recent years," said Sgt. Nicole Bonney, LANGEA executive board member. ■



COLOR
DIMMING



BRIGHT
MODE



COVERT
FUNCTIONALITY



EASY TO SOURCE
AA POWER



4 FLASH PATTERNS
IN 3 COLORS



Covert. Tactical. Durable.

Personal, Vehicular, Equipment,
Movement and Specialty Lighting

American made in Rockledge, Florida

PH: 888-533-4968

www.phantomlights.com

careers@phantomlights.com

©2013 Phantom Products, Inc.

204th TAOG deploys

A large crowd of people, including soldiers and civilians, is gathered in a hangar. In the background, a Black Hawk helicopter is visible, and another one is partially visible to the right. The hangar has a high ceiling with structural beams and lights.

BATON ROUGE – Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's 204th Theater Airfield Operations Group and the 2-244th Airfield Operations Battalion said farewell to family and friends during a deployment ceremony at Esler Field in Pineville, Jan. 6.

The 204th, based in Hammond, along with the 2-244th, based in Pineville, deployed more than 85 Soldiers to Kuwait and Afghanistan to utilize their expertise in providing command and control, staff planning, supervision and standardization of all airfields

and air traffic services within the theater of operations.

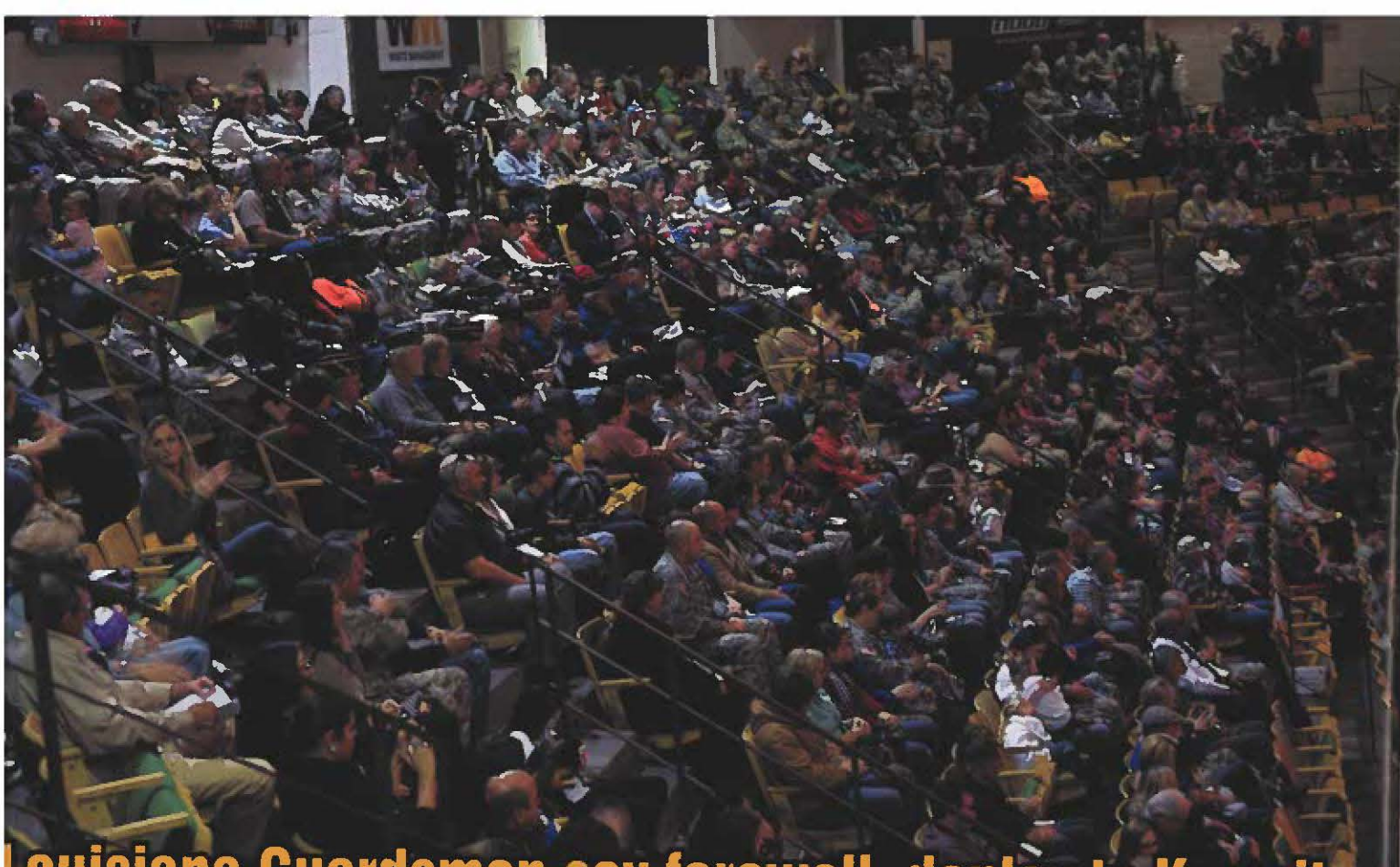
The units conducted mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas, before deploying overseas for the 365-day deployment.

These units have participated in the state response and recovery operations of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac, as well as the Deepwater oil spill and flood operations in 2011. They have also deployed overseas on multiple occasions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. ■

Soldiers overseas



Photos: Staff Sgt. Denis B. Ricou,
Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office



Louisiana Guardsmen say farewell, deploy to Kuwait



HAMMOND – Friends and family members say farewell to Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 205th Engineer Battalion during a deployment ceremony held at the university center of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Jan. 31. More than 150 Soldiers with the 205th, based out of Bogalusa and Hammond, will conduct a 365-day deployment to Kuwait to provide command and control of engineer construction operations in the Kuwait Theater of Operations. National Guard photo: Capt. Lance Cagnolatti, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS – Friends and family members gathered to say farewell to Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 922nd Horizontal Engineer Company and the 205th Engineer Battalion during deployment ceremonies Jan. 31 at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales and the university center of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

More than 150 Soldiers with the 205th, based out of Bogalusa and Hammond, and an additional 150 Soldiers from the 922nd, based out of Gonzales, will conduct a 365-day deployment to Kuwait to provide command and control of engineer construction operations in the Kuwait Theater of Operations.

The 205th and 922nd will conduct mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying overseas together.

These units have participated in numerous response and recovery operations in this state, as well as deployments overseas. ■

GONZALES – Friends and family members gather to say farewell to Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 922nd Horizontal Engineer Company during a deployment ceremony held at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, Jan. 31. More than 150 Soldiers from the 922nd, based out of Gonzales, will conduct a 365-day deployment to Kuwait to provide command and control of engineer construction operations in the Kuwait Theater of Operations. National Guard photo: Sgt. Ramon Madrid, Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office



Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

For Those Who Serve and Those Who Support™

5th Anniversary 2008-2013



Join Our TEAM!



COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER & FAMILY FITNESS

BUILDING RESILIENCE ★ ENHANCING PERFORMANCE

Master Resiliency Trainers help develop critical thinking, knowledge, and skills to overcome challenges, mature, and bounce back from adversity. They teach that:

- Challenges are temporary – not permanent
- Challenges are local – not global
- Challenges can be changed by your own efforts – you're not a helpless victim
- Lives the skills they have been taught
- Uses the skills during formal and informal counseling
- Teaches the skills
- With periodic structured courses on unit training calendars
- Teaches Deployment Modules based on rotation schedules
- Serves as Commander's advisor regarding total fitness and resilience training related issues

- Knows when to refer Soldiers for professional counseling to Behavioral Health providers, Chaplains or other appropriate resources
- E-6 or above; WO1 to CW2; O-1 to O-4
- Attend a two week MRT course – contact your unit for dates and class seats available

Resiliency Trainer Assistant

RTAs are force multipliers that once trained, assist the unit MRT

- E-5 or above
- Two scheduled training events will be held at Camp Beauregard
 - 25-27 June
 - 17-19 September
- Requests must be submitted to SFC Robert Gates, State Master Resilience Trainer, to reserve seats

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

- Increase suicide intervention skills and build community networks
- Recommend E-5 or above, however it must be someone who is mature enough to handle a crisis situation
- ASIST Training event will be held on Camp Beauregard from 29-30 MAY
- Request must be submitted to SSG Paul Fleming to reserve seats



ASIST

Applied Suicide Intervention
Skills Training

A two-day suicide first aid interactive workshop for service members





Women's Forum tackles unique issues

Louisiana Air Guard hosts first of its kind to address female topics

Brig. Gen. Joanne F. Sheridan, Assistant Adjutant General, speaks with Senior Master Sgt. Tiffany Beckham, 159th CS, concerning the Forum of Female Airmen at Jackson Barracks, Jan. 13. Photos: Staff Sgt. Yolanda Addison, 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard

By Capt. Alex Juan
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS – Female Airmen with the Louisiana Air National Guard participated in the first-of-its-kind Women's Forum in which females had the opportunity to hear from mentors and to speak openly about the unique challenges faced by women in the military during an event held at the historic Jackson Barracks Museum, Jan. 13.

"This forum is for you," said Chief Master Sgt. Nicole Roper, 214th Engineer Installation Squadron, who spearheaded the effort. The idea came to her after an invaluable Yellow Ribbon Training class where she was able to share unique experiences with a fellow female Airman.

"I am not special," said guest speaker Brig. Gen. Joanne Sheridan, who is the first female to ascend to the rank of general in the Louisiana National Guard. "I may wear a star, but I am just like the rest of you."

Sheridan shared personal experiences with the attentive crowd of more than 100 female Airmen about her career progression and gave advice on ways to be successful.

"The biggest challenge any of us face is learning to balance our careers and families," said Sheridan. "The military lays out a great path for you to be successful – you just need to find



Chief Master Sgt. Nicole Roper, 214 EIS, gives an introduction at the Forum of Female Airmen at Jackson Barracks, Jan. 13. The Forum of Female Airmen was held to discuss issues that affect women.

balance and follow that path."

Sheridan encouraged the women to follow military regulations, get a trusted battle buddy, to always act in a professional manner, to treat all Soldiers and Airmen the same, to not



Col. Romie Galloway, 159th MSG CC, speaks with Master Sgt. Tracy McDonald and Staff Sgt. Kori Escalon from the 259th ATSC concerning the Forum of Female Airmen at Jackson Barracks, Jan. 13.

procrastinate, to accept tough assignments and to exude self confidence.

"Do all of these things and you may or may not become a general, but you will end up being the best possible version of yourself," she said.

"I am so proud of all of you," said Col. Romie Galloway, 159th Support Group commander and currently the only female colonel in the Air National Guard. "The more I talk to you, the more amazed I am by you and honestly the more humble I am to be serving with you."

"The military lays out a great path for you to be successful – you just need to find balance and follow that path."

Galloway advised the Airmen that as females they are always under a spotlight. "You want to be judged by how you perform your job. You don't want to be judged by what you did while on TDY or what you wore to the wing social."

The Airmen were allowed to ask questions of the panel of guest speakers and to voice their unique concerns. Several issues were brought to light, and Airmen left feeling confident that their concerns would be addressed and resolved in the near future.

"I loved this forum," said Senior Airman Erinne M. Smith, 159th Maintenance Squadron structural maintainer. "It's great to see and hear from so many women in leadership positions. I am looking forward to developing more personal relationships with some of the women who spoke here today and to just see how it is that they got to those positions." ■

GUARD & RESERVE ACTIVE DUTY TOURS



PFI matches Service Members with DoD Agencies

- Log on to View Current Jobs • Apply Online for Positions
- Active Duty Pay and Benefits • 1 to 3 Year Tours Available

<http://pfi.dod.mil>



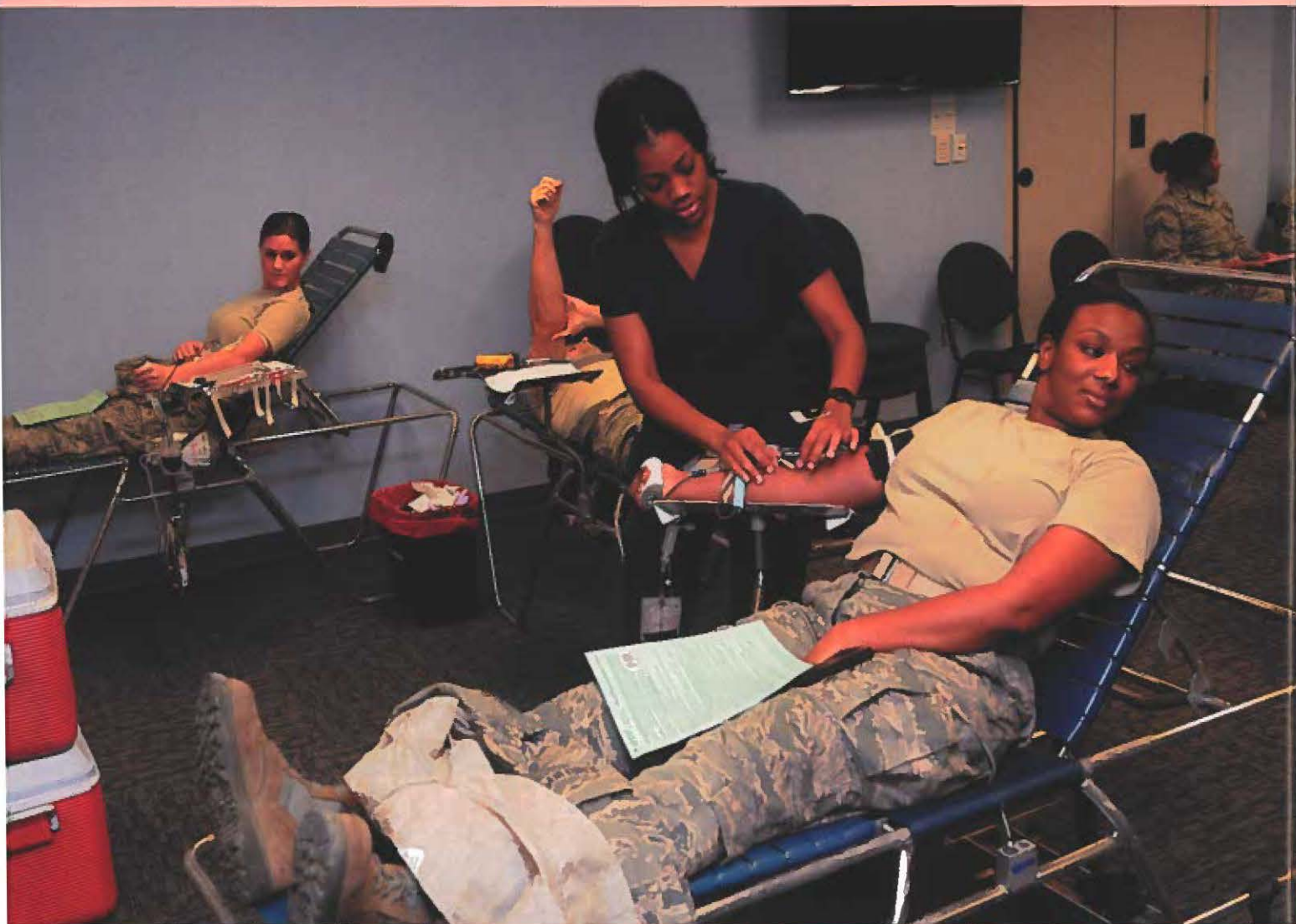
Protect your 
and save \$ 

with the TRICARE® Dental Program (TDP)
administered by MetLife



Visit www.metlife.com/tricare
or call 1-855-638-8371

10113206326 (exp01/15)
"TRICARE" is a registered trademark of the TRICARE Management Activity. All rights reserved.
© 2013 METLIFE, INC. PEANUTS © 2013 Peanuts Worldwide



Senior Airman Cydney J. Young, 159th MXS Structural Repair journeyman, gives blood at NASJRB New Orleans, Jan. 12. The blood drive was a benefit for Darrel Lanus II, the son of Master Sgt. Darrell Lanus, 159th MXS, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. Photos: Daniel P. Farrell, 159th Fighter Wing, Louisiana Air National Guard

Air Guard makes life-saving contribution

Louisiana Airmen donate blood to help fellow wingman's son battling leukemia

By Capt. Alex Juan
159th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

BELLE CHASSE – Airmen with the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Wing heeded a call to action by donating much-needed blood to be used during multiple blood transfusions for a young boy's battle with leukemia. The blood was donated during a drill weekend blood drive held at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, Jan. 12.

The day's mission: to collect at least 50 units of blood for 4-year-old Darrell "DJ" Lanus II, son of Master Sgt. Darrell Lanus, 159th Maintenance Group, and his wife Sandra. DJ is currently being treated for leukemia at Children's Hospital, New Orleans.

According to the Blood Center's Westbank Donor Center, there are currently 1,100 kids in various cancer treatment stages at Children's Hospital. In 2011, the Blood Center provided over 14,000 blood components for those kids.

Airmen responded in swarms to the call to action for this young member of the 159th FW family. Some had donated blood on a regular basis. Others had never donated but felt compelled to do so under these circumstances. By the end of the day, the Airmen had exceeded their donation goal by totaling 59 units of donated blood.

"I don't personally know this family, but he (DJ) is a baby, and I just wanted to help out somehow," said Senior Airman Cydney J. Young, 159th Maintenance Squadron structural repair journeyman. The New Orleans native said that the blood donation stick hurt a little, but she would do it again in a heartbeat.

DJ was diagnosed with leukemia, or AML, a blood cancer, on Nov. 7, 2012. AML starts in the bone marrow, but in most cases it quickly moves into the blood. It can sometimes spread



A 159th Fighter Wing Guardsman gives blood at NASJRB New Orleans, Jan. 12. The blood drive was a benefit for Darrel Lanus II, the son of Master Sgt. Darrell Lanus, 159th MXS, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia.



Lt. Col. Timothy Neustifter, 159th Fighter Wing chaplain, gives blood at NASJRB New Orleans, Jan. 12

to other parts of the body including the lymph nodes, liver, spleen, central nervous system and testicles (in males). DJ's treatment will be ongoing at Children's Hospital over the next six to eight months. Besides chemotherapy, blood transfusions will be an ongoing vital part of his treatment.

"This is definitely a worthwhile cause," said Master Sgt. Michael Vaurigaud, 159th Command Post controller. "DJ is

the family member of one of our own. We always talk about the importance of family... this is the time we need to step up and help our Guard family."

You can donate on behalf of DJ by

going to any blood center and stating "Replacement donation for Darrell Lanus II" at the time of donation.

To locate the nearest donor center, please visit: www.thebloodcenter.org ■



Highlighted Features

- **iBudget Financial Management**
Track and categorize income, expenses, and cash flow with iBudget.
- **Account Aggregation**
Consolidate a range of accounts, bills, credit cards, and other financial information in NetTeller Online Banking!
- **Online Loan Application**
Applying for a new loan is easy and fast with NetTeller Online Banking! Submitting your application online is safe and secure.



For a complete list of features and enrollment instructions, visit www.eaglefederal.org

Baton Rouge Area
2271 College Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 637-1990

504 North Edg St. Suite D
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225) 627-1500 e+330

Crowley
1502 R. Porterson
Crowley, LA 70526
(337) 789-0075

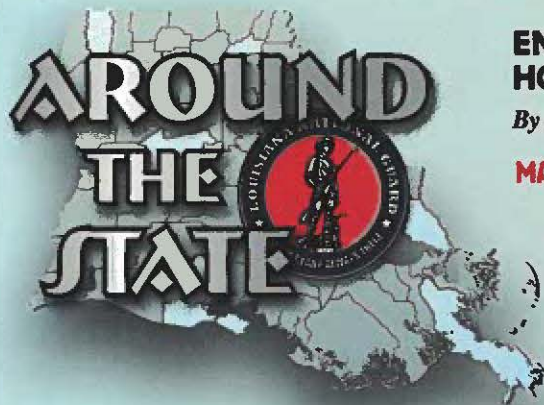
New Orleans
6430 St. Claude Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70117
(504) 682-6636

Parville
Bldg 225, Camp Bonaparte
Parville, LA 71350
(318) 641-3017

Zachary
5711 Main Street
Zachary, LA 70791
(225) 664-1227



1 (888) 281-8485
www.eaglefederal.org



ENGINEERS HELP WITH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

By Sgt. Jessica M. Lopez

MARKSVILLE

The 527th Engineer Battalion and Recruiting and Retention Command partnered with the Food Bank of Central Louisiana for the Avoyelles Parish Christmas Cheer Food Drive in Marksville, Dec. 5.

At 7 a.m., a team of 12 Soldiers from three different units started making their rounds to 10 local schools: Avoyelles High School, Bunkie High School, Cottonport Elementary School, Lafargue Elementary School, Louisiana School for the Agricultural Sciences, Marksville Elementary School, Marksville High School, Plaucheville Elementary School, Riverside Elementary School, and Avoyelles Charter School-Elementary.



The 527th Engineer Battalion and Recruiting and Retention Command partnered with the Food Bank of Central Louisiana for the Avoyelles Parish Christmas Cheer Food Drive, Dec. 5. A total of 15,378 pounds of canned food was collected from 10 local schools.

"We used five cargo vehicles to go to each school to collect the boxes of canned food that were donated by the school kids and their families," said Staff Sgt. Bruce Dubois, supply sergeant for the 844th Vertical Engineer Company.

Each truckload of food was brought to the Paragon Casino to be palletized and weighed.

"We collected a total of 15,378 pounds of canned food," said Dubois.

"A couple of us got up a little earlier than usual because we live far out," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dekle, training noncommissioned officer for the 1020th Vertical Engineer Company. "It was worth it, though. It's nice to know the community wants to include us in events like these." ■

OCS SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER

PINEVILLE

The Louisiana Army National Guard OCS Class 53 handed out Christmas cheer on Dec. 1 by singing Christmas carols to the veterans at the VA hospital in Pineville.

The Soldiers' performance was a surprise for the veterans.

"Having the opportunity to sing for the local veterans was very heartwarming for our class," Officer Candidate David Milton said, "and it was nice to fill them with cheer since they have sacrificed so much for us."

The class sang Christmas carols such as We Wish You a Merry Christmas, Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells and other classic caroling songs.

The Soldiers continued to spread Christmas cheer the following morning as they dropped off 350 pounds of food to the local food bank.

"Understanding that there are so many people in need this holiday season, we felt it was a perfect opportunity for our class to show how thankful we are for our blessings while helping others," Officer Candidate Cecil Ivy said. ■



Louisiana Army National Guard OCS Class 53 outside the VA hospital in Pineville, Dec. 1. Courtesy Photo



Capt. Ladarrell T. Willis receives the Army Commendation Medal Award. Photo: Sgt. Jessica M. Lopez, 527th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs

LA. NATIONAL GUARDSMAN AWARDED FOR LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE

By Sgt. Jessica M. Lopez

RUSTON

Capt. Ladarrell T. Willis, assigned to the 527th Engineer Battalion in Ruston, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Jan. 13, for assisting civilians to safety after a car accident in Ruston, June 9, 2012. Willis helped save the driver's life by applying a pressure dressing to stop bleeding and tilting the driver's head back to maintain his breathing. Willis also assisted a small child and adult passenger by moving them from the vehicle to safety. ■



Photo: Cadet Leah McPeck

ULL MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME

By Cadet Leah McPeck

LAFAYETTE

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment out of Abbeville, run out of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's tunnel alongside the cheerleaders and football players at the start of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Military Appreciation football game, Nov. 17, 2012. ■

LANG SPONSORS HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

By Spc. Tarell Bilbo

BATON ROUGE

The Louisiana National Guard sponsored the 2012 Deep South Bayou Duals high school wrestling tournament at the Baton Rouge River Center in downtown Baton Rouge, Dec. 28-29.

The annual tournament, in its fifth year, had 48 teams from across the nation travel to Louisiana to compete.

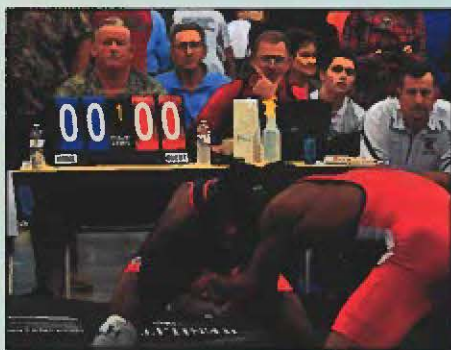
"We started this tournament as a way to bring out-of-state competition to local teams who may not have the means to travel," said Barret Wilson, tournament director and assistant head coach at Brusly High School in Baton Rouge.

While planning for the tournament and choosing sponsors, Wilson decided that selecting the LANG was the right choice.

"We thought it would be a perfect fit," Wilson said. "These athletes are disciplined and have a strong work ethic, much like the National Guard."

Noncommissioned officers from the LANG's Recruiting and Retention Command were on hand to assist the tournament officials as well as cheer on the schools where they recruit.

"This is an excellent community event for us," said 1st Sgt. Paul Bordelon, area supervisor with the RRC. "It's an opportunity for us to get involved, not in a recruiting aspect, but in support of our schools." ■



Staff Sgt. Mark Leger, recruiting noncommissioned officer with the Louisiana National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command, mans the scoreboard during a wrestling match at the 2012 Deep South Bayou Duals high school wrestling tournament. Photo: Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo



The place for R&R in Louisiana.

Paragon salutes the military. Enjoy a little R&R at Paragon with 24-hour casino action, live entertainment, world-famous Louisiana cooking, championship golf, an indoor tropical pool, a bayou-themed Atrium with live alligators, and more — all on Highway 1 in nearby Marksville, Louisiana.

RECEIVE \$10 IN FREE PLAY ON MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS, THE FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH!*

*Military discounts valid for active military only. Use code MILAPP. Based on availability. Restrictions apply. Expires December 31, 2012. **On the first and third Saturday of the month, veterans or active military Preferred Players Club Members who earn 70 points or 7 hours of rated table play at a \$5 average bet between 3am and 3pm receive an additional \$10 in free play.

The way Louisiana plays | **Paragon**
1-800-WIN-1-WIN • MARKSVILLE, LA
PARAGONCASINORESORT.COM CASINO | RESORT

YOU'VE EARNED IT

IT'S NOT THE PRICE YOU PAY TO BE A MEMBER...

IT'S THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE.

EVERY YEAR THE VFW HELPS THOUSANDS OF VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP, WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU, AND HOW TO JOIN.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.VFW.ORG/JOIN/ OR CALL 1-888-JOIN-VFW



Airmen from the Louisiana National Guard assist state and local officials as they in-process rescued "civilians" during a disaster response exercise at Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville, March 23.

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



TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

Available for Retired Guard/Reserve members — regardless of age!

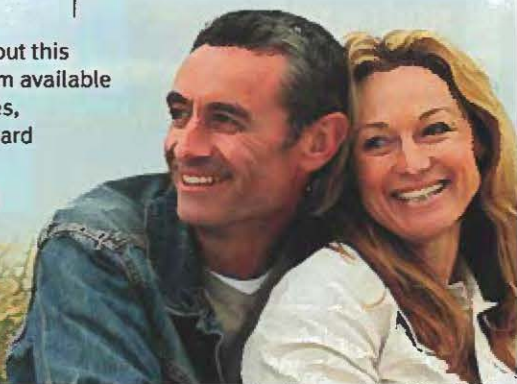
The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program offers retired members of the National Guard and Reserve great benefits and features, such as:

- An expansive nationwide network of dentists for maximum cost savings and program value
- An opportunity to skip the waiting period by enrolling within four months after transferring to Retired Reserve status!*
- Affordable rates, low deductibles and generous maximums
- Convenient self-service tools and paperless options to help you manage your TRDP enrollment more effectively

Visit us online to learn more about this valuable dental benefits program available to all Uniformed Services retirees, including "gray-area" retired Guard & Reserve members!

*Proof of Retired Reserve status required

trdp.org
866-471-8949



both St. Tammany and St. Landry parishes were the land and water search and rescue simulations performed by the LANG and the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, the state's lead agency for all search and rescue operations.

Lt. Col. Dallas Jones, Search and Rescue coordinator for LANG's State Aviation Command, described how the La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries uses the Guard's aviation assets to exponentially enhance its critical mission.

"In the event of an emergency, we'll assist Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries to initiate search and rescue operations using their boat crews and our UH-72 assets," Jones said. "We bring a helicopter that is basically a communications package with eight different radios that talks to all the agencies that are doing search and rescue, in addition to providing real-time video footage to agents with hand-held receivers on the ground."

This type of interagency cooperation requires hands-on training and rehearsal. According to St. Tammany Parish's Accardo, the development of the kinds of relationships that build trust and reliability such as he's experienced working with the LANG is crucial.

"Our relationship with the Guard is excellent because we work as one team. I believe I heard the TAG [Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general, LANG] say in an earlier planning meeting that this is what it's all about — showing how we all have the capabilities to work as one team in a crisis situation," said Accardo.

An official observer from "big" Army, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gales, Alabama Guardsman and commander, Contingency Command Post (Task Force 51), U.S. Army North at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was impressed by the level of preparedness he observed in the LANG and its partner agencies.

"You all are the heavy lifters for your state, very skilled, very well resourced agency that can move in and take on almost any task that a state needs to serve their people," said Gales. "Louisiana's got it ... the ability of the National Guard to integrate with its partners both at the local level, the parish level here and at the state level. Everybody understands what the requirements are, what the capabilities are, and that everybody's main concern, number one main priority — it's not about money, it's not about who does what — is serving our citizens.

Participating agencies included The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, La. State Police, La. Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, La. Dept. of Child and Family Services, La. Dept. of Health and Hospitals, La. Dept. of Transportation and Development, La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, La. Sheriff's Association, Federal Emergency Management Administration, St. Landry Sheriff's and Fire Departments, LSU Agriculture Center, St. Tammany Parish Animal Services, American Red Cross, St. Tammany and St. Landry Emergency Operation Centers and St. Tammany and St. Landry Parish Emergency Operations Centers. ■

THE TOP CHOICE OF SERVICEMEMBERS.

People talk. And right now, they're talking about AMU. Built upon student referrals, AMU is the global leader in education for the U.S. military. Offering more than 87 online degrees, from Business to Transportation Logistics, you can do anything you set your mind to — whether in the military or transitioning out.

WITH 65,000 MILITARY STUDENTS, THE WORD IS OUT — BUT WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.AMUONLINE.COM/NG

 American Military University

*As reported by Military Times/Edge Magazine

When it's time to make an informed decision about the university that's right for you. For more about the graduation rate and median debt of students who completed each program, as well as other important information—visit www.AMUS.edu/disclosure.

Image Courtesy of the DoD

Over 200,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer this year



©2010 The Breast Cancer Research Foundation®

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR BREAST HEALTH

www.bcrfcur.org

MFA

MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE
FUND

**Louisiana Citizens
Taking Care of
Louisiana Soldiers**



**MFA can pay up to \$10,000
for one claim per active-duty
order in a 12-month period.**

The Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA) helps members of Louisiana National Guard and Louisiana Military Reserves and their families cope with financial hardships they may encounter when they are placed on active-duty status.

**MFA is funded by private
donations from individuals
and corporations. All donations
are tax-deductible.**

**For more information
about applying for funds
or donating to the MFA
call 1-877-GEAUX-VA
or go to www.vetaffairs.la.gov**

LDVA
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Louisiana National Guard unit deploys to Afghanistan -

1084th Transportation Company bids farewell

By Sgt. Michael Farrar, 241st Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS – Preparation and experience were among the highlighted themes as the Louisiana National Guard, family, and friends bid farewell to the 1084th Transportation Company during a deployment ceremony at the St. John Center in LaPlace, Feb. 24.

Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general for the LANG, spoke to the 1084th Troops preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, as well as the gathered community.

Curtis noted that a number of 1084th Soldiers have deployment experience due to their overseas service in other transportation units in the LANG.

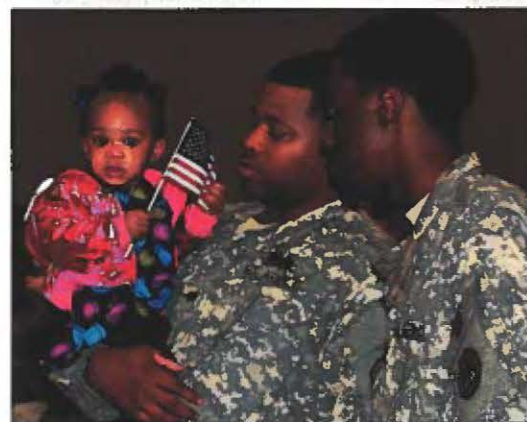
Curtis said, "We have a lot of veterans in here, and if you're a young Soldier or a family member of a young Soldier who has not deployed yet, those Soldiers will take care of you."

Capt. Anthony Garrison, commander of the deploying 1084th, addressed his Troops at the deployment ceremony with comments that praised the Soldiers before him.

"With over 20 years of military service, I can honestly say, standing here in front of you, that you are the finest group of Soldiers I have had the privilege to serve with," Garrison said.

Based out of Reserve, with a detachment in Slidell, the 1084th will deploy more than 155 Soldiers during a 365-day deployment to Afghanistan to utilize their expertise and versatility by providing convoy escort of host-nation vehicles and provide transportation support to friendly forces operating within the assigned area.

"We're well prepared. We are with the best fighting force in the world, and I'm more than confident that we will



Soldiers of the Louisiana National Guard's 1084th Transportation Company bid farewell to family and friends during a deployment ceremony at The St. John Center in LaPlace, Feb. 24. The 1084th will deploy more than 155 Soldiers during a 365-day deployment to Afghanistan to utilize their expertise and versatility by providing convoy escort of host-nation vehicles and provide transportation support to friendly forces operating within the assigned area.

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

return home safely," said Master Sgt. Scott Robinson as he held Danielle, his infant daughter.

His wife, Valerie Robinson, cared for their two sons, Alex and Zachary, during Robinson's two previous deployments to Iraq.

"I find that when you learn about what's going on and you stay knowledgeable about it, you do a lot better with coping," said Valerie on dealing with long absences.

Before deploying overseas, the 1084th will conduct mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas.

Over the years the 1084th has provided support during Operation Noble Eagle and disaster relief for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, and most recently, Isaac. Additionally, Soldiers from the 1084th supported state efforts for the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill, Task Force Bon Voizen in Haiti and again for Operation River Guardian. ■

AMERICA'S VA HOME LOAN EXPERTS



Why NASB?

NASB offers great rates on safe and affordable loan products, including FHA and VA home loans. We want to provide those who protect our country with the financial tools to help them build their own American dream.

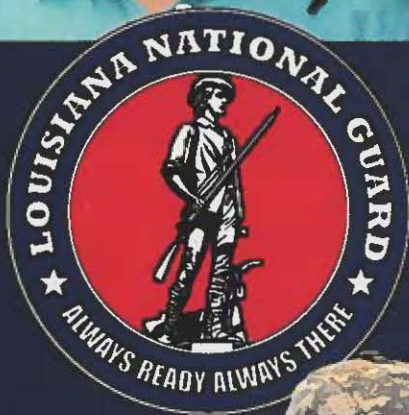
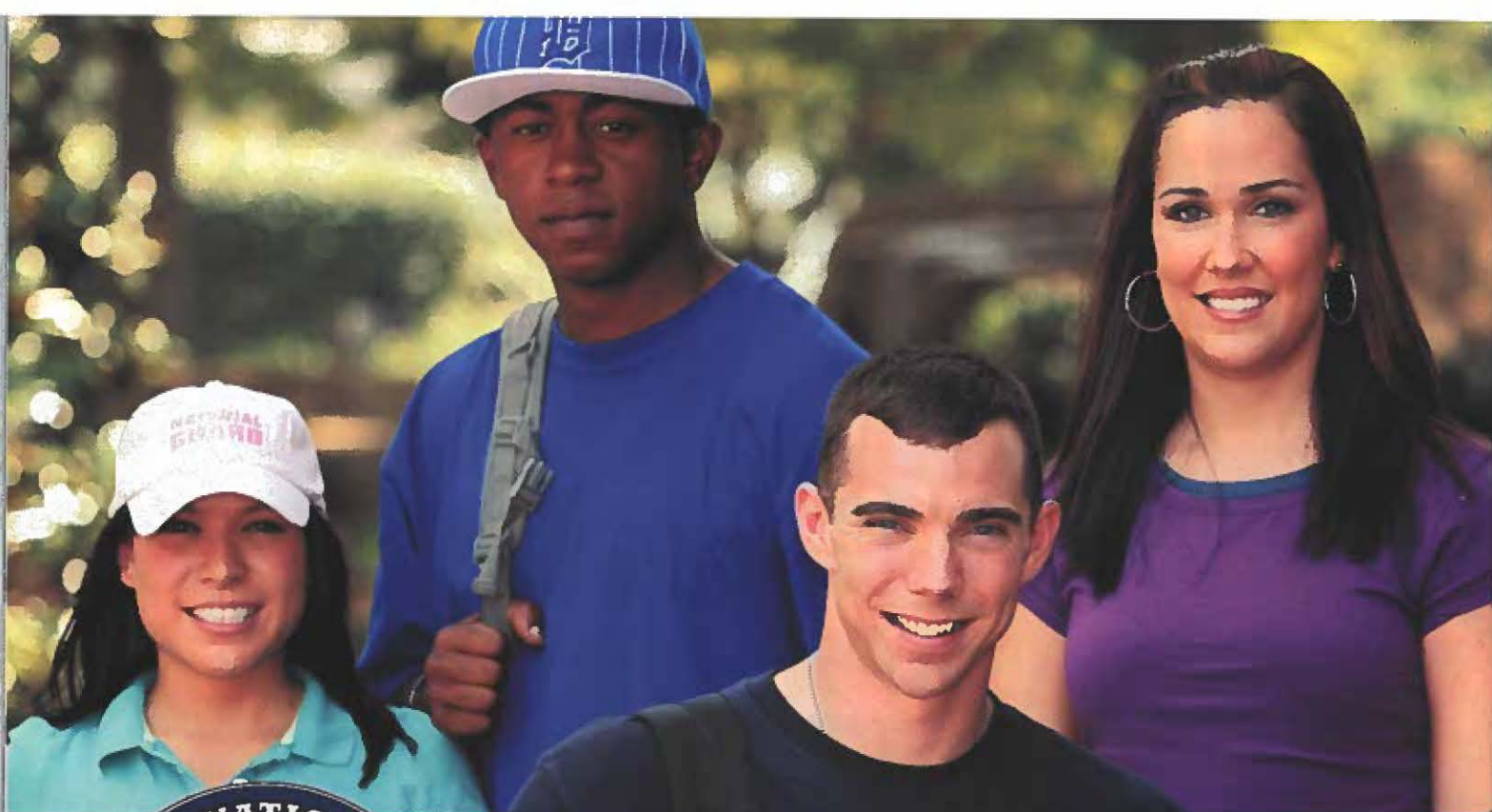
- **Finance up to 100%**
of your home with no monthly mortgage insurance payments.
- **\$0 Lender Fees**
for active-duty military or veterans.
- **Direct VA Lender**
We approve and fund all of our loans in-house.
- **Experienced & Responsible**
NASB is an 85 year old, federally chartered savings bank, and one of the largest VA mortgage lenders in the United States. Our Loan Consultants are thoroughly trained and recertified annually in all aspects of mortgage finance, including regulatory compliance with all consumer protection laws and the security of your personal financial information. NASB has earned an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

For more information and to apply:
nasb.com/David_Burroughs
866.627.2758



Equal Housing Lender.

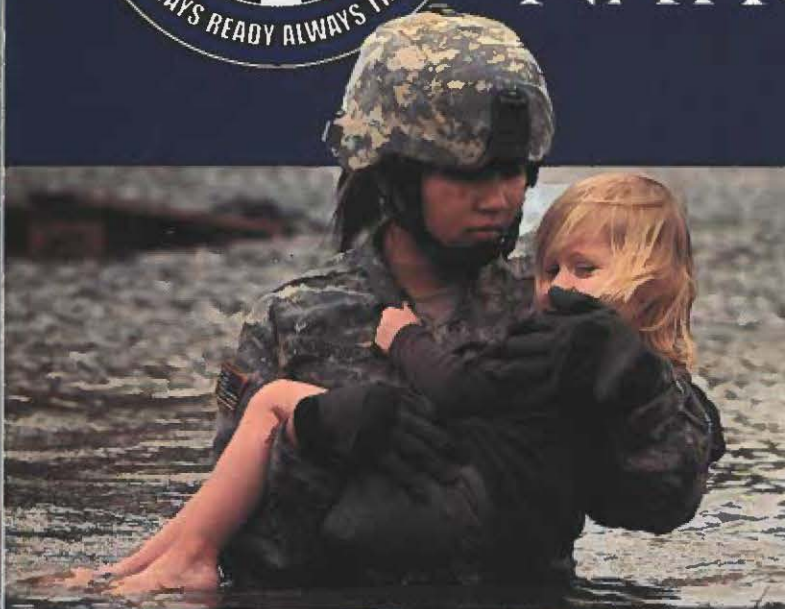
nasb.com



LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

PROTECT WHAT MATTERSSM

VISIT NATIONALGUARD.COM



WE ALL HAVE OUR MOMENTS ... SOME GREATER THAN OTHERS

Our greatest moments come when we make Louisiana a better, safer place. Now is your chance to be a part of that team, achieve your goals, and dramatically affect everything around you. For the better. For the State. For yourself. Join the Army National Guard.

