



# LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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## CDTF conference highlights accomplishments

This past year many members of the Counter Drug Task Force, have seen a war on two fronts, the war on drugs, and the war on terror.

With several just returning from overseas duty on the War on Terrorism and several about to depart, the mood of this meeting was one of respect and admiration for the sacrifices and professionalism shown by these brave soldiers and airmen.

Chief master Sgt. John Harris, Chief of Operations for the CDTF created a moving and stunning slide presentation of his duty in Afghanistan along with Master Sgt. Perry Jackson and other airmen with the 122nd ASOS during the annual conference of the Counter Drug Task Force.

Major Pete Schneider, Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Coordinator recognized each member of the task force by having them stand up and state their deployed location since being in the military, along with the law enforcement agency they support in the War on Drugs. Since the War on Terror was declared, close to fifty

percent of the program has seen duty, in and out of the United States.

"This just shows how dedicated and professional you people are", Schneider told the attendees. I can't tell you enough how proud I am of you.

A conference is held on a yearly basis to bring members together and discuss changes, trends and accomplishments. A representative with the National Guard Bureau gave an overall view of the budget and projec-



Sgt. Nintendo Do accepts his Counter Drug Task Force ribbon from Col. Ron Stuckey

tions for the coming fiscal years.

"A reorganization process is always expected when dealing with changes of command and leadership," said Senior Master Sgt. J.R. Cochran, Southeast Coordinator for Counterdrug. "We have to make sure these changes don't adversely affect the program."

Explained the appropriation process, complicated, but the bot-

tom line is the dollar and good word is readiness, Counter Drug Personnel proved they make better soldiers and airmen

A restructure of command and control now places Counterdrug under a J-3 category. The operations supported by the joint director of military support are Emergency Operation Center, homeland defense, civil defense, counterdrug and athletic youth support activities.

In relation to how counter drug fits in the homeland defense mission, Col. David Aycock, the Director of the Joint Office of Military Support highlighted the program and the personnel who make up the task force. "Counter Drug is unique, you have established ties with law enforcement agencies, you understand interagency dynamics, guard intelligence analysts are in place, you all have LEA clearances." He explained how this makes M-day activation less traumatic for the soldier or airman in the event of an emergency situation.

The Louisiana National Guard approved a ribbon to acknowledge outstanding support by members of the CDTF. Col. Ron Stuckey, J-3 Director handed out counterdrug ribbons to numerous personnel who has been on the program 90 days or longer.

The Drug Enforcement Administration Assistant Special Agent in Charge for the New Orleans Field Division, Bob Baggs, was present to hand something out as well. On behalf of the DEA, Master Sgt. Wayne Herrin, Team Leader for all personnel assigned to the DEA, was presented a plaque of appreciation for his support and service to the DEA. "The DEA Task Forces in our division have more task force agents than they do DEA agents," said Baggs. "We depend heavily on the National Guard and their expertise." The New Orleans Field Division encompasses Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas.



Master Sgt. Wayne Herrin proudly displays his DEA appreciation plaque

Story and photos by Tech Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot



*Chief Master Sgt. John Harris, Master Sgt. Perry Jackson, Staff Sgt. Todd Strelau and Senior Amn Scott Corales paid a visit to A.A. Songy Elementary School in Luling, La., in April. They performed a Color Guard Ceremony for the children and assisted with events and activities for the school's Military Day .*

## **Members of 256th join ranks in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom**

The 256th Brigade is currently deploying to Fort Hood as their first stop prior to going overseas. Pray for their safety and the well being of their families while they are deployed.

Members of the Counter Drug Task Force who are deployed are:

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Plaiscia  
 Staff Sgt. Christine Jarreau  
 Staff Sgt. Tommy Magee  
 Staff Sgt. Peter Leger  
 Sgt. Cory McClinton  
 Sgt. Jason Escoyne  
 Sgt. Joan Dawson  
 Sgt. Michael Flintge  
 Sgt. David Landreneau  
 Sgt. Reggie Nolan  
 Sgt. Nintendo Do  
 Sgt. Lonnie Deslatte

## **I-10 stops net \$112,000, kilo of cocaine, arrests**

ACADIA---A pair of separate traffic stops netted \$112,000 in U.S. currency along with one kilo of powder cocaine over two days in April. The stops were made by officers with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office Criminal Interdiction Unit.

According to Acadia Parish Sheriff Ken Goss, the first stop took place at milepost 86 in the eastbound lane of Interstate 10. The 12:55 p.m. stop of a 1997 Ford Taurus had a Houston man charged with following too close and improper lane usage. A further search of the car yielded a black computer case that contained a plastic bag with a white brick substance wrapped in grey tape. The driver was then charged with an additional count of possession with the intent to distribute cocaine.

At the same time Acadia Parish authorities alerted officials of another vehicle that was traveling in the same vicinity at the same time. Officials with Louisiana State Police then stopped the second vehicle near Port Allen. Another Houston man was apprehended and transported back to Acadia Parish where he was charged with possession with the intent to distribute cocaine.

In an unrelated incident, the Criminal Interdiction Unit stopped a 1999 Volkswagon Jetta at 6:20 a.m. Wednesday. The driver, a resident of Georgia was stopped for speeding at milepost 84 on I-10.

The driver gave authorities permission to search his vehicle where \$112,000 in U.S. currency was found in a hidden compartment of the rear bumper. The man was an illegal alien and officials at INS put an immediate hold on him. ***Staff Sgt. Peter Leger supports the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office***

## **Exercise your writes**

The monthly newsletter of the Louisiana Drug Guard is a forum to highlight the achievements of members of the Louisiana Counter Drug Task Force. Send in your stories, comments, drug reduction activities, births, promotions and anything to share with the members of the task force. Contact Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot at [Chaills@gchidta.org](mailto:Chaills@gchidta.org), or phone 337-262-6774, fax 337-262-6770