



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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Going to Xtremes -DDR style

*By Staff Sgt. John Salas
B Co. 528th Eng. Battalion
Drug Demand Reduction
U.S. Attorneys Office, Shreveport*

"All forward!! Left back!! Paddle hard guys!!"

These commands still rang in my ears as I looked up at the shy, humble, insecure, unathletic girl from a small town in Northwest Louisiana. She was maneuvering her way up a 200-foot rock face in the Rockies of Colorado.

Today was different than the previous three days. We had spent those days white water rafting, which took team effort to force the raft where it needed to go. That was clearly a team sport.

No, today was all about individual accomplishments. Pushing your personal limits, today was the ultimate measuring stick of intestinal fortitude.

It was her third attempt at the climb. Most of the "cooler-more confident" girls quit at 20 feet.

She had even watched as a male adult volunteer quit on the same climb.

Now she is three fourths to the top and looked down just in time to see her once encouraging peers leaving the climbing area.

Now all alone and 150 feet up, she rested her head on her arm and began to weep. She told herself, "I am not going down. I will not quit!"

She didn't see me at the water jug when

she heard me yell, "OK Elizabeth...no more distractions. They've all gone to rappel. Now harness all that emotion and channel it into determination. It's yours if you want it!"

She was the perfect candidate to carry out the family tradition of falling far short of success. Fresh out of the trailer park where she and her sister live with her mother and her mother's boyfriend, Elizabeth was not in the "ideal" family situation. She often found herself surrounded by broken dreams and failure. She knew not only did she want to finish the climb, she knew she needed to!

And that she did.

This was just one of the countless opportunities I experienced this summer with a group called "One Great River."

OGR is an adventure based experiential learning prevention program that promotes healthy living designed to prevent the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs among 14 to 17-year-olds from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Based on a risk and protective factor prevention model, the program collaborates with urban and rural youth organizations to train youth, their parents, and key volunteer role models.

The peer leaders conduct retreats and other special activities such as mountain biking, hiking, camping, rafting, SCUBA diving, and rock climbing. These activities are proven to build trust, team spirit, and a sense of belonging.

My fellow Task Force members, we're talking about tough duty! They also lead wilderness experiences (like this one that I assisted with to Howard, Colorado) to provide young people with healthy alternatives

for risk-seeking behaviors.

I was able to engage and facilitate situations where timing was everything. For instance, this trip involved three days of white water rafting in class four rapids, one day of rock climbing, and two days of hiking up to secluded lakes atop the snow capped Rocky Mountains.

On the cutting edge of prevention, this program is extremely impressive and is the ultimate in Drug Demand Reduction.

OGR hasn't gone unnoticed. They recently won the "Exemplary Substance Abuse Prevention Program" award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services & Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

What does all that mean? It means that this is exactly the type of program that our outstanding program needs to be teaming up with. A solid approach with good evaluation!

I know that some of you are tired of seeing young people throw away their lives to some drug-related behavior. But I encourage you not to become "crass" and "cynical about the situation."

Do something about it! Get involved in the life of a young person and mentor them. You can find kids in need of mentors in programs like OGR, Youth Challenge, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, etc.

Not only will you be fulfilling your requirement to Mission 6 you will be doing something about the drug plague that affects so many young people today.

*Story submitted by Maj. John
Michael Wells, DDR
Administrator*

Warrants Mentioning

Two arrested, more than a half-ton of marijuana seized MONROE, La. (AP) _ Greased in 64 packages of plastic and sealed with duct tape, more than a half-ton of marijuana was seized during a routine weekend traffic stop, state police said. Two Texas men also were arrested. State police arrested two truck drivers after troopers unloaded carrots, mangoes and the marijuana from their tractor-trailer. Sgt. Jackie D. Coleman said the seized 1,284 pounds of marijuana had a street value of about \$1.28 million. Probably the third largest drug seizure in the 12-parish northeast Louisiana jurisdiction of State Police Troop F. Trooper J.P. Peters stopped the eastbound tractor-trailer for several traffic violations on Interstate 20 in Monroe. After a normal conversation with the suspects and after checking their logbook, which showed peculiarities, Peters said he became suspicious. **Sgt. Tara McLemore**, HSC 527 th Eng. Battalion, supports LSP Bureau of Narcotics in Monroe.

Search warrant results in arrest KENNER... On July 30, 2001, Kenner Police Narcotics agents obtained a voluntary consent to search form at a residence in Kenner. A search resulted in the seizure of 678 grams of marijuana, residual amounts of cocaine, a loaded handgun and the arrest of an adult male. **Senior Ann Lanitra Reed**, 159th Fighter Wing, supports the Kenner Police Narcotics Section.

The Army Commendation Medal was awarded to Staff Sgt. Leo Davis, Co. C 415 MI, for preventing a potentially hazardous fuel spill from igniting during annual training. Davis supports LSP West District Narcotics

Another one rides the bust

LAKE CHARLES__From July 28 through August 2nd, members of the Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana Counter Drug Task Force conducted a passenger-bus, drug-interdiction detail in Lake Charles, La.

With the assistance of a drug dog, stored and carried luggages were inspected for possible illegal narcotic transportation.

The results of the detail are as follows: nine arrests, 48 pounds of marijuana, four

pounds of crack cocaine, and 42,000 dosage units of ecstasy.

Sgt. Marco DeLeon, B Co 3/156 INF, supports LSP West District Narcotics, Lake Charles, and **Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Torres**, 3673D Maint Co., works with the Contraband/Export Enforcement Team with U.S. Customs in New Orleans. Together they assisted the state police with Spanish language translation and other duties during the detail.

Roundup of drug suspects culminates two-year probe

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) _ A roundup of 16 drug suspects accused of selling cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy in a Bossier City neighborhood was announced Tuesday by U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan.

Each was charged with conspiracy to distribute more than five kilos of powder cocaine, more than 50 grams of crack cocaine as well as marijuana and Ecstasy.

"Due to the quantity of the drugs alleged, the conspiracy charge carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment," Flanagan said.

Flanagan said the arrests involved drug distribution in the Jacks Quarters

neighborhood. The arrests resulted from a two-year investigation by the Northwest Louisiana Violent Crimes Task Force which includes the FBI; the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; the U.S. Marshal's Service, state police, Caddo and Bossier parish sheriffs' offices and the police departments of Shreveport and Bossier City.

Sgt. Thomas Rainbolt supports U.S. Marshals Bossier, **Sgts Regina Strong**, Attach 527th Eng. Battalion, and **Nicole Wilkinson**, HHD, 165th QM POL Battalion, support Shreveport PD, **Sgt. Anna Keifer**, HHD, 165th QM POL Battalion supports LSP Bureau of Narcotics.

Two will get ya 502

HOUMA__An undercover agent with the Terrebonne Parish narcotics task Force set out to purchase 2 Ecstasy tablets from a well known drug dealer.

What he got was 502 tablets after a deal was set up to buy more. The buy-bust operation yielded 502 Ecstasy tablets, 7 grams of marijuana, 2 grams of hash, half a gram of crystal meth, more than 2 thousand in cash and a 2000 BMW 328 automobile that was used to deliver drugs. Two individuals were ar-

rested in the operation. **Tech. Sgt. John Fos**, 159th Fighter Wing, supports Terrebonne NTF.

Sgt. Joe Thomas would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all members of the Counter Drug Task Force for the cards and flowers sent to his family for the passing of his father CW3 Shelby Thomas.