



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard Number 2

Traffic stop nabs large heroin bust

BATONROUGE ---What could be the largest heroin bust in Baton Rouge history began with a swerving car.

A 1992 Ford Taurus heading east on Interstate 12 caught the eye of a sheriff's deputy as it veered from lane to lane while driving just a bit too slowly.

An officer of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office pulled the car over near the Millerville exit, about two miles west of Livingston Parish.

After learning on his police radio that the driver has a string of drug arrests, the officer asked to search the vehicle. The driver consented, then stared straight ahead at the highway.

Assisted by a drug-sniffing dog and two city police officers, the officer turned up 15 pounds of un-processed "brown" heroin, which officials said might have fetched as much as \$7 million on the street.

During a sweep around the perimeter of the car, Laika, a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, crawled under, an uncommon reaction if no drugs are present.

Behind the back seat, authorities found a built-in sealed compartment. They couldn't

figure out how to open it, so they broke in, finding seven bricks of heroin wrapped in plastic, grease and tape.

No sheriff's officials at a Friday morning press conference could remember a heroin bust as large in or around Baton Rouge.

A 46-year-old man, with an address from Queens, N.Y., was booked into the parish prison on one count of distribution of heroin, one count of distribution of cocaine and two counts of improper lane usage.

The U.S. Attorney's Office released a statement that the Colombian national will be transferred to federal custody, most likely next week. The heroin count carries from 10 years to life in prison.

Staff Sgt. Robert Bradstreet, 159th Fighter Wing, CE, supports the East Baton Rouge S/O

Counter Drug Task Force member, **Chief Master Sgt. John Harris**, sends a message and a photo from his deployed location. As of yet, close to 20 percent of members with the CDTF have received activation orders in support of President Bush's war on terror and the U.N. resolution enforcement toward Iraq.



I am growing hair below the ears, and losing hair above 'em. Things are going well, and I do my part to show the locals that we are the good guys. They all know the word "chocolate" over here.

Guard Matters

The river team from US Customs would like to congratulate **Staff Sgt Tim Suberveille** who was hired by the U.S. Customs Service as its newest Special Agent. He will be returning to the New Orleans area after graduation and we all are very proud. Congratulations Tim!

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Plaiscia, wife Kelli and son, Brock, are expecting their second child, a baby girl (they will name the baby Brynn if it's definitely a girl) in early April.

Agents of the Lafayette Metro Narcotics Task Force, conducted an investigation, which required surveillance for twenty-four hours at a location in downtown Lafayette. This resulted in the seizure of approximately 44 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$105,000.00. Warrants for distribution of marijuana are being sought for two local residents involved in the incident. **Sgt. Jason P Escoyne**, Co. C 199th Support Batalion supports Lafayette Metro Narcotics Task Force

Police remove children from home after drug bust

GRAY — A couple from Gray landed behind bars Monday night after police said they found nearly 300 grams of marijuana and several thousand dollars in the home they shared with their young children.

The six children, all present when agents raided the mobile home in Al's Trailer Park, were removed from the couple's care, authorities said.

The two adults were jailed on the following charges: possession with intent to distribute marijuana in excess of 200 grams, failure to possess a drug tax stamp, illegal possession of drug paraphernalia and use of marijuana in the presence of a juvenile.

Operation Mardi Gras, take em down mister

HOUMA — Eight additional fugitives were arrested by local authorities, bringing the total arrested during a daylong raid to 30, authorities said.

The arrests were part of an initiative called Operation Mardi Gras, a multi-agency parishwide sweep designed to get fugitives off the streets before the Carnival season began.

The number represents half of those authorities had hoped to snag during

the operation, said Houma Police Sgt. Bobbie O'Bryan.

Authorities also learned another 25 percent of those they hoped to lock up have moved from Terrebonne Parish. All of those wanted had outstanding warrants for alleged crimes that range from issuing worthless checks to drug possession. **Tech. Sgt. John Fos**, 159th Fighter Wing, supports the Terrebonne Parish S/O

Their children, who range in age from 1 to 14, were turned over to family members. Authorities said they also notified the state Office of Child Services about the children's exposure to the illegal activities. Their search, prompted by information that surfaced during a narcotics investigation, turned up 271.6 grams of suspected marijuana along with a scale and other items indicating the pair was selling the illegal drug, the sheriff said. **Tech. Sgt. John Fos**, 159th Fighter Wing, supports the Terrebonne Parish S/O

Highway interdiction continues to intercept drug trafficking

*East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Deputy examined luggage and interviewed passengers on incoming buses at the Greyhound Bus Terminal in Baton Rouge. A narcotics detector canine alerted on an item of luggage in the baggage compartment of a bus en route to Baltimore, Maryland from Houston, Texas. The luggage contained 30 pounds of marijuana and belonged to a female passenger from Houston. **Staff Sgt. Robert Bradstreet**, 159th Fighter Wing, CE, supports the East Baton Rouge S/O.

*A Louisiana State Trooper conducted a traffic stop eastbound on Interstate 20 in Richland Parish. The registered owner of the vehicle was not present. The driver, a documented drug violator, and resident of Jamaica, New York, claimed to be traveling to North Carolina from Dallas, Texas. A consensual search of the vehicle revealed an electrically operated false compartment in the floor of the van between

the rear seat and rear hatch door. The compartment contained 20 pounds of cocaine and a 40 caliber pistol. The individual was arrested, the cocaine and pistol were seized and the vehicle impounded. **Sgt. Anna Baca**, HHD 165th QMPOL Bn, supports State Police North District Narcotics.

*Acadia Parish Sheriff's Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a rental motor home on Interstate 10 near Rayne, La. The occupants of the vehicle and the passenger claimed to be residents of Orlando, Florida. A consensual search of the motor home revealed 150 pounds of marijuana packed in two bundles hidden inside the shower stall. The subjects were arrested, the marijuana seized and the vehicle impounded. **Staff Sgt. Peter Leger**, HHC 2 - 156 Inf Bn, supports Acadia Parish S/O