



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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Guardsmen put LAV into action

NEW ORLEANS---It was January 26, when Sgt. 1st Class Michael Plaiscia received an urgent call to help the New Orleans Police Department.

They needed the La. National Guard's light armored vehicle (LAV) to rescue a police captain who was in danger of being shot by a 21-year-old man.

The suspect was pointing a semi-automatic handgun at the captain and at his own head and chest.

Two members of the National

Guard Counter Drug Task Force operated and provided the armored protection of the LAV to N.O.P.D. to attempt to rescue their captain and end the volatile stand off.

Plaiscia, along with Senior Amn David Schehar, headed toward the location on Lakeshore Blvd in New Orleans.

Along with the guardsmen, two negotiators, a police lieutenant and one SWAT member boarded the LAV. Their mission was to rescue the captain and setup so that the negotiators could talk the subject into surrendering.

With hatches locked the crew moved the LAV up and over the levee and headed toward the stranded captain.

The officer was able to climb into the vehicle through the back door without incident.

The LAV was then positioned so that the two negotiators could reach a peaceful settlement with the armed subject. After two hours of negotiating the subject threw the handgun into the lake and surrendered to members of the SWAT team. *Plaiscia and Schehar support the N.O.P.D.*



Maj. Pete Schneider Counter Drug coordinator accepts a plaque of appreciation from Kathy Schulte, U.S. Customs SAIC, and Doug Evans ASAIC, for the continued support the La. National Guard Counter Drug Task Force provides to the U.S. Customs Office of Investigations. All guardsmen attached to the River Interdiction Team were also presented certificates of achievement. Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Landry

Trailer houses large meth lab

ST. TAMMANY --- Law enforcement officials say they've shut down one of the largest drug labs in the South with a bust made in an Abita Springs trailer home.

Four people were arrested on charges of manufacturing and possession with intent to distribute the drug methamphetamine after the raid.

Most of the items confiscated were things used to make the drug. They included bags of over-the-counter allergy drugs, chemical flasks, burners, scales, chemistry books and "how to"

guides on producing the drug.

Also taken were two ounces of the homemade drug, a police scanner and a bomb that police say was powerful enough to destroy the drug lab.

Officials said the bombs are occasionally used by people who operate the illegal labs so that evidence can be destroyed if the police scanner alerts them to a possible raid.

Police say all of those arrested had prior drug convictions in California.

Staff Sgt. Paul Tullier supports St. Tammany PSO

Jefferson Parish Teen Institute participates in drug prevention day

Lt. Donna Jones led 25 high school students through a two-part drug education/prevention initiative at Camp Villere in January.

The first initiative was a fatal vision obstacle course. The participants had to throw a basketball in garbage can, drive a tricycle on the white line and catch car keys

Fatal vision goggles simulate impaired motor and cognitive skills as a

person would encounter under the influence.

The second initiative involved having the participants go through the low element ropes course. They learned the importance of teamwork, leadership and communication skills.

The high school students also learned techniques to redirect negative peer pressure and enhance positive peer pressure.

Love family turns hugs into drugs

ALEXANDRIA, La. (AP) _ A family with the surname, Love, turned out to be a major player in the Rapides Parish drug world. Now eight members of the family have been indicted and six of them arrested, prosecutors say.

A two-year investigation alleges that between October 1995 and October 2000, Love family members made, possessed, and distributed cocaine; and possessed and conspired to distribute marijuana and four prescription painkillers: oxycodone, dihydrocodeinone, alprazolam,

and codeine.

It also alleges that the family laundered money from drug sales. The arrests and search warrants netted \$173,000 in cash, drugs with an estimated street value of \$150,000, jewelry, firearms, and other items.

The investigation was conducted by the Metro Narcotics Task Force, which includes five police departments, the National Guard and parish deputies and prosecutors. *Sgt. 1st Class Yolanda Neal, Staff Sgt. Joe Price and Spec. William Dill support Rapides MNTF*

DEFY visits state capitol

A mid-winter field trip to the Louisiana State Capitol for graduated of D.E.F.Y. took place by members of the Drug Demand Reduction program of the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug task Force.

The kids were given a tour of the capitol and a presentation on the process of policy and law making. They were also given a history lesson on the development of Louisiana and its influential leaders. The D.E.F.Y. kids ended their day by eating at a popular restaurant and discussing their visit to the capitol.

Staff Sgt. Debra Williams did an excellent job organizing the outing and continues to ensure the mentoring phase offers quality field trips. She was assisted by Staff Sgt Steven Haynes and Staff Sgt Lonnie Cokerham from the 1084th Transportation Company. Thanks goes to Capt. Dallas Jones for his participation. Submitted by Lt. Donna Jones

Warrants Mentioning

Agents with the St. John Sheriff's Office arrested a woman on 12 counts of filling illegal prescriptions. She was accused of taking her son's script and adding illegal scripts for herself. **Spec. Darryl F. Vizzini, Jr. supports St. John Sheriff's Office**

Kenner Narcotics Division executed a search warrant that resulted in the arrests of two men for possession with intent to distribute 356 grams of marijuana. **Senior Ann. Lanitra Reed supports Kenner Police**

Agents with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office swept through their parish with warrants that netted 16 arrests. Earlier in the month, two other warrants turned up 3 1/2 ounces of crack cocaine at one location and 1/2 ounce of crack cocaine at another. A major string of burglaries (approximately 12-15) were solved utilizing confidential informants that gave information to narcotics detectives that was later transferred to criminal investigation agents. Four people were arrested and three truckloads of evidence were recovered. **Staff Sgt. Peter Leger supports Acadia PSO**

This monthly newsletter is published by the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. Send all submissions to Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot at Shyobro@aol.com or fax 337-262-6647

Have a Happy Mardi Gras



Staff Sgt. Belinda Medina accepts a token of appreciation from Kathy Schulte, U.S. Customs SAIC. Medina leaves the drug program to accept a direct commission with her unit. For several years, she led the River Interdiction Task Team. The photograph of the New Orleans skyline includes a personalized inscription. This award is only given on a very select basis by the US Customs Service and she was honored to receive it. She will also be presented with an Army Commendation Medal at her unit from the CDP Program. Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Landry