



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

January 2003

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

Number 1

Interstates used as drug trafficking pipeline

Drug runners may think the interstate system is the path of least resistance when it comes to illegal trafficking. That is, until they enter the Louisiana interstate system. In the past few weeks alone, Troopers and deputies have seized impressive amounts of narcotics and made numerous arrests. Here are a few of recent interdictions:

St. Martin Parish, 61 pounds marijuana, 1 arrest

- On January 5, a Louisiana State Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a rental vehicle eastbound on Interstate 10, near Breaux Bridge. The driver of the vehicle, a resident of Edinburg, Texas claimed to be en route to Pascagoula, Mississippi from Edinburg. A consensual search of the vehicle disclosed 61 pounds of marijuana, wrapped in duct tape, packed inside luggage in the trunk. The driver was arrested; the marijuana seized and the vehicle impounded.

East Baton Rouge Parish, 80 pounds marijuana, 1 tractor/trailer, 1 arrest

On January 7, 2003, an East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Deputy stopped a 1996 Freightliner truck at mile marker 7 eastbound on Interstate 12, near Baton Rouge, for a traffic violation. The driver and registered owner of the tractor, a residents of Harlingen and Combes, Texas claimed to be en route to Homestead, Florida from Pharr, Texas with a load of limes. A consensual search of the tractor/trailer disclosed 80 pounds of marijuana commingled with the cargo of limes. The marijuana and tractor trailer were seized.

East Baton Rouge Parish, 20 grams marijuana, 8 marijuana plants, 2 arrests

- On January 16, 2003, an East Baton Rouge Parish, a Louisiana Sheriff's Deputy stopped a 2001 Dodge pickup truck at milepost 9 eastbound on Highway 190, near Baton Rouge, for a traffic violation. The driver and registered owner of the truck, a

resident of Denham Springs, Louisiana and the passenger, a resident of Kilgore, Texas claimed to be returning to Denham Springs from Lake Charles, Louisiana. The driver refused a consensual search. A narcotics detector canine alerted on the vehicle and a subsequent search revealed 20 grams of marijuana hidden inside a back pack belonging to the driver. The search also revealed a large box outfitted with growing material including a light. The box contained eight live marijuana plants. NCIC queries of the subjects indicated that the driver was a fugitive for sexual assault, from Texas, on a child. The subjects were arrested; the marijuana was seized and the vehicle impounded.

St. Martin Parish, 33 pounds marijuana, 1 vehicle, 1 arrest

- On January 22, 2003, a Louisiana State Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 1996 Eagle Vision, Oklahoma registration at mile marker 117 eastbound on interstate 10, near Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. The driver and registered owner of the vehicle, a resident of Brownsville, Texas, would not disclose his travel itinerary. A consensual search of the vehicle disclosed 33 pounds of marijuana hidden in the gas tank. He was arrested; the marijuana and vehicle were seized.

St. Martin Parish, 225.4 pounds marijuana, 1 vehicle, 2 arrests

- On January 22, 2003, a Louisiana State Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 1994 Jeep Cherokee, Georgia registration eastbound on Inter-

state 10, near Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. The occupants of the vehicle, the driver and registered owner, documented as a known drug violator and the passenger, both residents of LaGrange, Georgia, claimed to be returning to Georgia from Houston. A consensual search of the vehicle disclosed 225.4 pounds of marijuana, wrapped in cellophane, packed in five duffel bags in the hatchback area. The subjects were arrested; the marijuana and vehicle were seized

East Baton Rouge Parish, 20 pounds marijuana, 1 vehicle, 1 arrest

- On January 27, 2003, a Louisiana State Trooper stopped a rental vehicle eastbound on Interstate 12, near Baton Rouge, for a traffic violation. The driver of the vehicle, documented as a known drug violator and resident of Houston, Texas claimed to be traveling to Mississippi from Houston. A narcotics detector canine alerted on the vehicle and a subsequent search disclosed 20 pounds of marijuana, wrapped in cellophane and duct tape, packed inside a clothing bag in the trunk. The man was arrested; the marijuana and vehicle were seized.

Staff Sgt. Leo Davis, Co. C 415th BN, supports LSP West District Narcotics, **Sgt. Anna Baca**, HHD 165th QMPOL Bn, supports LSP North District Narcotics, **Staff Sgt. Robert Bradstreet**, 159th FW, supports East Baton Rouge S/O

Member of Counter Drug Task Force awarded National Guard Family of the Year.

For the third time in as many years, a family associated with the Louisiana Air National Guard, 159th Civil Engineer Squadron, has been named the National Guard, Family of the Year for the State of Louisiana.

Tech Sgt. John Fos, his wife Wanda, their children, Shane, 8, and Blaire, 7, were nominated for their devotion and dedication to the Family Readiness Program and the Louisiana National Guard.

Wanda Fos is instrumental in the development of various programs for the guard. She was the founder and editor of "Family Matters" the squadron newsletter of five years. She has provided support in a multitude of ways to include initiation of an annual cook off, planning family day and training days, send off and homecoming functions, fund-raisers and children activities. Recently they have taken on a much larger role in giving to the guard as they volunteer to serve as Cadre at the National Guard's Kids AT.

Tech. Sgt. John Fos has been an active member of the La. Air National Guard for 17 years and also serves a dual assignment in the Guard's Counter Drug Task Force for close to ten years. His commander, Maj. Bill Aldridge, described him as a team player who provides excellent training to the younger members of his section by accomplishing duties in the area of operating heavy equipment. The fruits of his training and teamwork paid huge dividends on a recent deployment to the Silver Flag training site where his section repaired several bomb craters in less than four hours. He also has the role of family assistant officer, a position created for John in support of Wanda, s role in family readiness. Through their example as parents, they are raising service oriented children as well.

Tech. Sgt. Fos supports the Terrebonne Narcotics Task Force

Guard Matters

God speed and protection to all deployed members of the CDTF and the US Military

As Terrebonne Sheriff's Office Narcotics Task Force agents were conducting street jumps in the area known as Mechanicville, they observed a male slouch down in a the passenger side of a pick up truck. The also observed several other males in a vehicle parked in the street next to the driveway the truck was in. When these males noticed the agents, they began to make suspicious movements causing the agents to stop and investigate. Upon doing so, they found a total of 77 grams of crack cocaine, one marijuana cigar and approximately \$1,434, in currency. Three subjects were arrested and charged accordingly. **Tech. Sgt. Fos**, 159th FW, supports the Terrebonne Narcotics Task Force.

Slidell Police arrest 16 in drug sweep

Slidell Police say an undercover operation conducted primarily in the neighborhoods of Slidell Village North and Lincoln Park netted 16 arrests eight on drug charges on January 24. The Police Chief ordered the operation after a narcotics hotline was flooded with tips regarding illegal drug sales in the neighborhoods. Police confiscated drugs, cash and weapons - including several AK-47s in the roundup. The Slidell Police joined forces with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana State Probation and Parole and the Bogalusa Police Department in the operation. Police say that law enforcement personnel made numerous buys of illegal substances, which allowed them to build cases against the

suspects. Those arrested included suspected drug dealers taken in the roundup and others who ran into makeshift insurance checkpoints set up in conjunction with the roundup. **Sgt. 1st Class Tony Icamina**, HQ 199th Reg TNG BDE, supports Slidell PD, **Sgt 1st Class Paul Tullier**, Co B 415th MI BN supports St. Tammany Parish S/O. **Sgt. 1st Class Laverne Cook**, Det 1, HSC 205 Engr Bn supports Washington Parish S/O

Don't Meth with Task Force

Agents with the Natchitoches Drug Task Force arrested a Robeline couple after discovering a clandestine methamphetamine lab. According to a task force official, these arrests stemmed from a two-month investigation into illicit meth production by the two. This led to the midday execution of a search warrant at the couple's residence. Agents discovered the lab in a storage building beside the residence, and stated it was the most hazardous lab they had ever encountered. **Sgt. Chad McNeal**, Co. C 769th Engr Bn, supports the Natchitoches Drug Task Force.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced that the president has nominated Army National Guard **Maj.Gen. Steven Blum** for appointment to the rank of Lieutenant General with assignment as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Staff Sgt. Lance Robeaux and his wife, welcome a new baby girl born one and one half hour before midnight on New Year's Eve. She weighed six pounds twelve ounces.

CONGRATULATIONS