



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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Maj. Pete Schneider, La. Counter Drug Task Force coordinator presents a token of appreciation to Maj. Mike Nicholas, CDTF Southeast regional coordinator, for his attendance to the state conference. photo by Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot

Gathering the force

The La. National Guard Counter Drug Task Force held its annual conference in Lafayette in early May. Everything from yearly requirements, updates and outlooks were covered during the meetings. Special guests were **Maj. Mike Nicholas**, Southeast regional coordinator, **Col. Cliff Oliver**, La. National Guard director of plans, training, and operations and **Lt. Col. Pat Santos**, La. National Guard director of military support.

Marijuana supply hit hard by narcotics agents

LAFAYETTE, La.—The recent confiscation of 115 pounds of marijuana worth \$276,104 by Lafayette Parish Metro Narcotics Task Force, is the largest amount of pot for distribution in Lafayette ever seized, an experienced narcotics investigator said.

A St. Martinville man was arrested and charged with possession with in-

tent to distribute marijuana, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute Schedule III narcotics.

Reserve deputies working a security detail at a local housing development responded to a 9-1-1 hang up call in the complex. When deputies arrived, they determined

the circumstances surrounding the call were suspicious. After further investigation, the deputies found the marijuana, over 2.2 pounds of cocaine and 600 pills of Lortab in the house. **Sgt. Jason Escoyne**, Co. C, 199th Support Battalion, supports Lafayette Metro Narcotics.

Guard Matters

No Mething Around

Sgt. Leah Didier, assigned to State Police, Investigative Support Section, is putting a book together of all meth labs that have been discovered, taken down, and the subjects associated with them. She is requesting all CDTF members to send any information to her on meth lab cases their agencies have worked. She will, in turn, create a work-up on the subjects and send a copy to the agency that provided the information. This book will be state-wide and available for all law enforcement agencies. The more information she acquires, the more money will be directed to the methamphetamine problem in our state. Contact her at 225-925-6238.

Early Money

We have an opportunity to reduce the retirement age from 60 to 55 for the men and women of the National Guard. As of this date 73 cosponsors are on this bill from 31 states. Ask your representative if he supports this bill. If so, are they signed on as cosponsors?

12 face drug charges in Ascension arrests

PRAIRIEVILLE, La. - Deputies arrested 12 people Thursday following a month long investigation of illegal drug trafficking in areas of Ascension Parish.

The arrests grew out of a joint investigation by the Ascension and West Baton Rouge sheriff's offices and included people accused of drug dealing as well as individuals spotted buying drugs or what they thought were illegal drugs, deputies said.

Ascension Sheriff Jeff Wiley said the target area, in particular, had become a roosting place for drug dealers that his agents had to revisit from time to time during the past several years.

"There's a periodic problem there. The people who live there

have to be able to walk down the street without worrying about drug dealers," Wiley said Friday.

Deputies videotaped many of the drug buys two or three weeks before arrest warrants were served Thursday. Wiley said West Baton Rouge deputies went undercover to sell drugs as part of the investigation.

Several of those arrested were booked with the crime of attempt and conspiracy, which means they are accused of buying fake crack cocaine from an undercover officer, the sheriff said.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Laplace, Battery B, 1/141 FA supports Ascension Parish S/O

Gallons of GHB seized by authorities

NEW ORLEANS, La.- After a two-day surveillance of three individuals by members of the New Orleans Police Department and Jefferson Parish Sheriffs Office, the suspects were arrested with more than seven gallons of GHB, steroids and \$3,000.

The investigation was assisted by **Capt. Dallas Jones and CW4 Steve Hoskins** as La. National Guard RAID pilots. **Sgt 1st Class. Mike Plaisia**, Battery B, 1/141 FA supports New Orleans Police Department.

Two large loads stopped by Acadia

CROWLEY, La.- The Acadia Parish Criminal Interdiction Unit stopped two separate vehicles and discovered illegal drugs in both. During the first stop, approximately 1,014 pounds of marijuana were discovered. The second stop recovered approximately 13 kilos of cocaine hidden inside a unique compartment in the vehicle. The estimated street value of the drugs was approximately 1.5 million dollars. **Staff Sgt. Peter J. Leger**, HHC 2/156 Infantry Brigade supports Acadia Parish S/O

TOP THIS

If anyone has a spouse or child in college or going next year who does not have TOPS or any other scholarship. **Sgt. 1st Class John Salas** may know of an availability for one year to an LSU system school. Please email him at salasj@rpis.org