

LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

MAY 2004

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

Number 5

Going through the ropes, instructor style

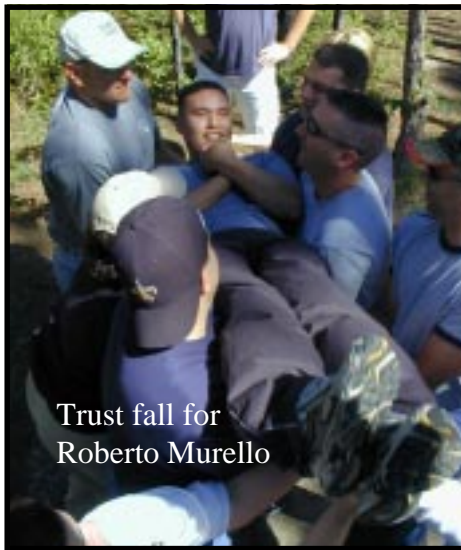
Some say there is no better way to learn than to do.

When it comes to activities like the Louisiana National Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Ropes Challenge course, the best way to teach the "ropes" is by going through them yourself.

The La. National Guard maintains and runs four rope's courses in the state. The volume of requests from non-profit groups to utilize these courses puts a heavy demand on the handful of trained ropes course facilitators. So the practical answer was, train more facilitators.

And that is exactly what Lt.Col. Pete Schneider, Counter Drug Coordinator did. He sent a message out to every member of the Louisiana National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force to take advantage of a special hands-on training session conducted by Tech Sgt. Craig Juan and Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Vosburg at a course located at Camp Villerie in Slidell.

"We are use to working with eight facilitators," Juan said from the training site. "We have 31 people completing the facilitator training. We will definitely need them; the summer ropes course schedule is filling up fast."



Trust fall for Roberto Murello

The course consists of a one-day event with challenges, setbacks, failures, and successes, much like life itself. The course elements resemble a hodge-podge of poles and cables that at first appear puzzling, until a facilitator explains a scenario and assembles the players to carry out a plan or accomplish a task.

It takes on a whole new meaning when you are the one falling backward into the arms of your comrades, or depending on someone else to get you to the other side of an obstacle. It's the skills of leadership, compromise and trust that facilitators needed to experience in order to highlight these areas to their students

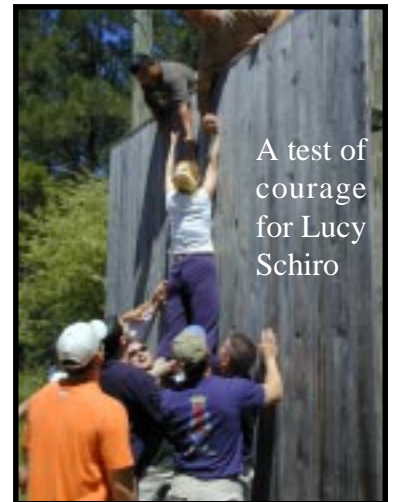
So as participants are placed in difficult scenarios with perceived danger and challenged to complete a group task to overcome obstacles, it is then that facilitators highlight aspects of the experience to emphasize important lessons.

"It is necessary for us to know what it feels like," said Staff Sgt. Russell Graham, after he completed the training. "The experience also gives us and idea of what can go wrong as well."

The ropes challenge course continues to be one of the key tools the La. National Guard uses to help develop strong and confident young people, helping reduce the demand for drugs in the process.

Over 550 young people participated in Rope Courses events in October and November of last year.

The course is offered to groups such as middle and high schools, the boy and girl scouts, mentorship programs, and non profit organizations.



A test of courage for Lucy Schiro



OUCH!

*Story and photos by
Tech Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot*

Movin on up

The rank of Lt. Col. was pinned on Pete Schneider, May 25. Congratulations to our Counter Drug Coordinator!

Sgt. John Carter has been recently assigned to the NOVA academy in St. Bernard to assist in developing a leadership program. *Go John GO*



State health officials say Louisiana has received a "green" rating from the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its preparations for a bioterrorism attack.

Green is the highest rating.

Wanna see dates for the Ropes Challenge course?

www.geocities.com/ropescourse2003

VOLUNTEER NOW

Keep our CDTF deployed members in your thoughts and prayers along with all service personnel in the middle east:

Mike Plaisicia, Kenneth Carrigee, Mike Laplace, Lonny Deslatte, Roger Sanders, Joan Dawson, Jason Escoyone, Richard Landreaneau, Peter Leger, Cory McClinton, Tommy McGee, Mike Flentge, Nintendo Do and Christine Jarreau.

Trucker charged in drug seizure

A Washington state man could face a life sentence if convicted of hauling more than 600 pounds of cocaine through St. Tammany Parish, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Louisiana State Police stopped a Tractor Trailer on Interstate 12 for a traffic violation. The registered owner of the rig was not present.

The driver claimed to be on his way to Atlanta from McAllen, Texas.

After a narcotic detector canine

alerted, a consensual search revealed 605 pounds of cocaine, eight ounces of heroin and five pounds of methamphetamine, hidden inside the reefer unit on the trailer.

Some of the cocaine was wrapped in cellophane and smeared with grease, and some were inside vacuumed sealed bundles.

Sgt. Shelby Thomas supports the La. State Police Southern District.

537 pounds of marijuana found in 18-wheeler



Over 500 pounds of marijuana was taken off of the I-10 corridor.

La. State Police stopped a tractor-trailer in Jeff Davis Parish to conduct a motor carrier safety inspection. According to troopers, dur-

ing a search of the rig, they found 537 pounds of marijuana.

Sgt 1st Class Leo Davis and Sgt. Nintendo Do support the La. State Police West District.

NAACP chief arrested on drug, weapons charges

The Rapides Parish NAACP president was arrested on drug and weapons charges.

The 57-year-old man was arrested by Rapides Parish sheriffs deputies. He was charged with three counts of firearm possession by a felon, one count of conspiring to produce/manufacture cocaine, two counts of at-

tempted manufacture of CDS II, one count of possession of CDS II, and one count of possession drug paraphernalia.

Sgt 1st Class Yolanda Neal, Spec William Griffin and Spec. Joan Dawson support Rapides Parish Metro Narcotic Task Force.

Marijuana discovered in speaker box

A Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Deputy stopped a 1992 Chevrolet Cavalier, eastbound on Interstate 20, for a traffic violation.

The driver claimed to be traveling to Jackson Miss., from Dallas.

A consensual search of the vehicle

revealed more than 22 pounds of marijuana packed in 23 one-gallon size storage bags concealed inside an audio speaker box in the trunk.

Sgt. Reggie Nolan supports the Ouachita Metro Narcotics Task Force.