



# LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

Number 5

## Traffic stop hits the jackpot

### *Close to half million hidden in rear panels*

Some could say it was the luck of the stop. When La. State Trooper, Troy Dupuis, stopped a Honda Accord for a traffic violation, the passengers got more than a ticket when the minor violation turned into a major felony.

After a brief roadside investigation, the driver and passenger couldn't agree on their stories. In fact, the owner of the vehicle was not even present. So Trooper Dupuis requested a K-9 to work the vehicle, and once the dog's detective nose alerted on the rear panel, the search was on.

A member of the Drug Enforcement Administration

Lafayette Post of Duty, Task Force Agent Harold JeanBatiste, was called in to assist in the investigation, along with narcotic officers from the LSP Bureau of Investigation, West District Narcotics.

What was discovered in the rear panels was \$455,566 in U.S. Currency. The currency was hidden in compartments and only accessed with electrical connections inside the vehicle. Both occupants of the vehicle denied possession of the money.

Sgt. Nintendo Do, a member of the Louisiana National Guard Task Force, arranged for an Ion Scan to be performed on the vehicle to determine if drugs had ever been transported in the car's secret compartment. The scan turned up positive for cocaine.

Both occupants of the vehicle were arrested and booked after three grams of methamphetamine were also discovered in the vehicle.



Close to half a million in seized currency

The currency stop was the icing on the cake of a busy month for the LSP. Here is a run-down of stops for the month: Marijuana seized 11.32 lbs estimated street value \$11,3202 - Cocaine seized 7.08 lbs estimated street value \$106,200.00 - Marijuana plants seized with estimated street value \$3,000 - Marijuana seized 240.82 lbs estimated street value \$240,820 - Marijuana seized 1.98 lbs estimated street value \$1,980 - Marijuana seized 24.50 lbs estimated street value \$24,500 - Marijuana seized 10.02 lbs estimated street value \$10,020 - Cash seized for this month = \$10,448 plus the above mentioned - Cash value seized for regular buys - \$16,300 from the Agents

Sgt. Nintendo Do, HHC 2/156th INF, supports LSP narcotics, Tech.Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot, 159th Fighter Wing, supports DEA Task Force, Lafayette.

## Checking up on your "deer" ones

Guard and Reserve sponsors need to verify that DEERS information for themselves and their family members is accurate and up-to-date. They are encouraged to contact DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552. Sponsors and family members may also update their addresses in DEERS on the Tricare Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>. Future updates regarding benefits for members of the Guard and Reserve and their family members will be posted on the Tricare Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve>.

## Delta Drug Task Force book 13 on drug counts

**ZACHARY** — Zachary police and other officers with the Delta Drug Task Force arrested and booked 13 people on drug distribution counts stemming from an undercover investigation in the city.

Dixon Correctional Institute security officers also participated in the roundup of suspects.

The suspects were named in a total of 54 arrest warrants stemming

from the investigation, which spanned several months, Zachary Police Department spokesman said.

The Delta Drug Task Force consists of the Zachary and Baker police departments and sheriff's offices in East Feliciana, West Feliciana and Pointe Coupee parishes.

**Staff Sgt. Christine Jarreau**, 199th Leadership Reg, supports the Pointe Coupee SO.



Master Sgt. Mike Miller has assumed responsibilities of Chief of Operations for the Counter Drug Task Force. He oversees all operations concerning issues and concerns for the task force members. Miller has been with the task force since 1991. He worked as the budget analyst prior to his present position. To reach him, you must first go through your team leader.

## Special delivery ends with arrests

**GONZALES** — Drug investigators' random visit to a mail-distribution center led to the arrests of five people and confiscation of an interstate shipment of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and weapons, Ascension Parish Sheriff Jeff Wiley said Thursday.

Members of the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force routinely checking a mail-distribution center in the Baton Rouge area became suspicious when they noticed an ammunition box that had arrived at the center from Arizona en route to an address in Ascension Parish, Wiley said.

An Ascension sheriff's deputy who is a member of the task force was notified. He and other narcotics detectives from the Sheriff's Office took the package to the addressee.

The addressee gave permission for the detectives to open the package. It

contained 91/2 ounces of methamphetamine, smoking devices, stun guns and drug paraphernalia.

The man told detectives his cousin went to Arizona to buy the drugs and he had agreed to receive the shipment in exchange for a small amount of the crystal meth.

Detectives then spotted the cousin driving to the residence to pick up the package. A search of his vehicle turned up more methamphetamine and other illegal drugs.

Louisiana has become a major outlet for methamphetamine illegally manufactured in other parts of the nation, Wiley said.

**Staff Sgt. Barbara Pelham**, 415th MI Battalion, supports the DEA Task Force, Baton Rouge.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Leonard, Safety NCOIC, offers the following factors to consider when planning summer travel:

- Wear seatbelts.
- Remain alert while at the wheel. Plan rest breaks at frequent intervals.
- Don't speed in an effort to arrive early – it's better to arrive late than not arrive at all.
- Don't drink alcohol and drive.
- Anticipate the unexpected and be ready to react.

The Gillis Long Center ROPES course is still available during the summer and I would love to schedule kids or grown-ups. Call me for more information. StaffSgt. Judith Merritt (225) 925-7500, Governor's Drug Policy Board/LA Partners in Prevention

The La. Drug Guard is brought to you by Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot, DEA Lafayette, 337-262-6744 or Shyobro@aol.com