



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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Teen use of Ecstasy encouraged by club owner

There appears to be more than dancing going on at Mako's Afterhours Club in Alexandria.

Agents with the Metro Narcotics Task Force arrested the club's owner, and during the past few weeks have arrested patrons, allegedly for possession of Ecstasy.

The owner now faces charges including contributing to the delinquency of juveniles.

Capt. Mike Villard, commander of the parish-wide drug task force, said the arrests were the result of an undercover operation at the club for

more than a month.

He said there had been 30 incidents reported at the club since January.

Those reported include batteries, vehicle burglaries, narcotics and illegal carrying of a weapon.

A number of parents and community residents have complained to the task force of suspected activities at the club.

An undercover officer, working inside the club, made drug buys and was in the company of visitors who had Ecstasy in their possession, investigators said.

The club attracts teens because it does not serve alcohol.

Inside the club, the officer observed bottled waters, sports drinks, glow sticks, inhalers and pacifiers being sold. On the surface the items

seemed harmless, but they are all known to be associated with Ecstasy use.

This designer drug is often used in raves or high energy clubs. It gives the user energy and a heightened sense of enjoyment.

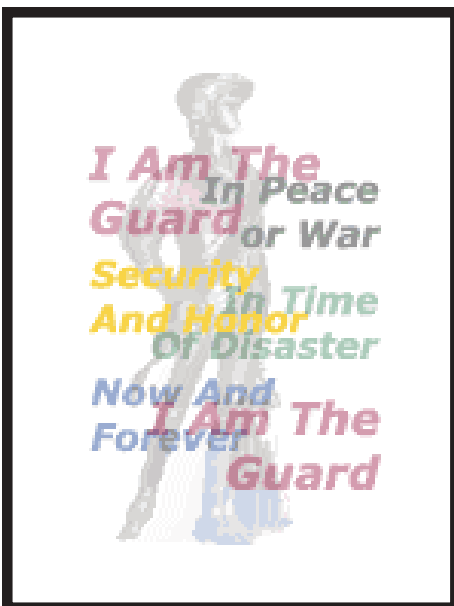
Symptoms of Ecstasy use include blurred vision, increased heart rate, confusion, depression, anxiety, paranoia and continuous clenching of the teeth. Pacifiers are used to hide this continuous clenching. A number of deaths across the country have been linked to Ecstasy use in recent years.

The pills sell for \$25 to \$30 each and typically have a cartoon character or other designs of them.

Sgt. 1st Class Yolanda Neal supports the Rapides Parish Metro Narcotic Task Force in Alexandria.

“As threats to America change... the National Guard and reservists will be more involved in homeland security, confronting acts of terror that our enemies may try to create.”

President George W. Bush



Guard Matters

An annual “**Salute to the Military**” game sponsored by the Saints during the regular season. This year’s game is scheduled for November 24th, 2002 against the Cleveland Browns. (make plans to come out and share the camaraderie with other military families). An “On Field Reenlistment Program” was developed to assist members of the military with an opportunity to make their reenlistment occasion a memorable one. The Saints have set aside game day opportunities for military members to reenlist on the field the morning of a Saints home game. These games are November 24th, 2002 (Cleveland Browns), and on December 29th (Carolina Panthers). The New Orleans Saints will continue to offer military discounts to all Active Duty, Reserve, Retired, Civil Service, DOD Federal employees, and dependents. These prices are subject to availability and can be acquired through the MWR or ITT offices located at major participating installations. All order of 20 or more can be placed directly through the office of the Military Programs Coordinator (Murphy J. Dore’ at (228) 863-9555).

For additional information, e-mail Murphy Dore’ at dorem@saints.nfl.com.

Marooned marijuana rescued by narcotic agents

In mid-October, the Terrebonne Parish Narcotics Task Force received a call from a subject about possible marijuana being found on Last Island.

Agents, along with the Sheriff’s Office Water Patrol, arrived at the location and the subject who called,

directed the agents to three packages of marijuana.

The total weight was 36.40 pounds (the estimated value is \$50,960). **Tech Sgt. John Fos**, 159th Fighter Wing, supports Terrebonne Parish Narcotics.

Mentors celebrate good time with DEFY graduates

On Saturday, October 26th, three Counterdrug Personnel participated in a DEFY outing to Celebration Station. **Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Vosburg** headed up the event, **Staff Sgt. Jerry Young** drove the bus, provided by the Air National Guard and **Staff Sgt. Alex Griffith** assisted Young.

One seaman from the Navy participated in the mentoring efforts alongside the above mentioned Counterdrug personnel.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office funded the entire event. Although it rained and plans had to change a bit, the entire day was spent at Celebration Station eating pizza and playing games. Vosburg, with the help of Griffith, gave a class on introducing oneself to others.

The planning stages of the Christmas Party is in full swing. A request is out for a Santa, any and all volunteers are welcome.

Agents track down cocaine dealers and users

Three Hammond men are in jail today after being caught with cocaine in two separate incidents.

Police executed a search warrant in the local area and seized 17 pieces of crack cocaine. One suspect was arrested on a charge of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

The next day, police arrested two men on charges of possession of cocaine during a traffic stop at a local intersection. The police found several pieces of cocaine in a 1979 blue Ford Ranger. The two passengers were arrested.

Staff Sgt. Ron Mays, 236th Combat Communications Squadron supports Hammond PD

Counter Drug personnel get pedals a pumping for good cause

It was no leisurely bike ride for three members of the Counter Drug Task Force when they went the distance for a good cause. They decided what better reason to don their bike shorts and ride 150 miles for the Tour for Cure ride. **Master**

Sgt. Mike Miller, Staff Sgt. Mike Plaiscia and Sgt. 1st Class Toney Icamina rode from Hammond La. to McComb Miss to raise money for the multiple sclerosis society. Now that’s community service if ever there was any.