



# LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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## Make the new fiscal year the best yet

by Maj. Pete Schneider  
Counterdrug Coordinator

As we enter the 12<sup>th</sup> fiscal year of the Louisiana National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force, together we have built one of the strongest programs in the country.

The National Guard Bureau looks upon us as an example for other states trying to strengthen their own Counter Drug program.

With this knowledge we must be aware of the consequences that comes with this responsibility.

Even though we are supposed to be in a low profile position, we are, in fact, high profile because of who we

are. We wear the uniform of the armed forces but in some instances expected to act as civilians.

We must be aware of our actions at all times, on and off the job. It takes one incident to scar a reputation that has taken years to establish.

As in any working environment, there are office politics. We must remain neutral in these politics because, in all reality; we are a separate entity. You work in an environment with little or no supervision. I expect you to conduct yourself professionally at all times.

You represent the this task force and the Louisiana National Guard. Do not abuse the privileges you have.

This job is a highly sought after position with the Louisiana National Guard and everyone must realize it is a privilege not a right.

It is imperative that you relate any requested information to your team leader when it is due. I will not tolerate late 525r's for no valid reason. Headquarters requires little, but what we require is essential to our operations.

Together, we lead the nation in superb performance and dedication to duty. Keep up the great job and continue to represent the Louisiana National Guard as the outstanding professionals we are.

## Wells awarded top honor of Crime Prevention Specialist of the Year

by Maj. Pete Schneider  
Counterdrug Coordinator

Syndistar, Inc., a national company based in New Orleans has elected Capt. John-Michael Wells as their Drug and Crime Prevention Specialist of the Year. This award is given each year to an individual that has demonstrated great efforts in drug and crime prevention.

Syndistar produces and sells educational literature, videos and other educational materials in the areas of crime prevention, violence prevention, conflict resolution, fire safety, substance

abuse, character education and many more areas.

Capt. Wells began the relationship with Syndistar during our High School Drug Awareness program. He and Syndistar teamed up to design, layout and print the High School Drug Awareness workbooks at minimal costs.

Together they also designed the new FY 2000 Red Ribbons for the Louisiana National Guard. Syndistar now uses Louisiana designs on ribbons that are sold nationally.

Capt. Wells has developed an out-

standing association with this local company. Through his continuing efforts, he is building relationships that are having a direct impact in our efforts to support our customers.

Capt. Wells and his wife will attend a reception on Nov. 3, 2000. The award also includes a room at the Windsor Court the night of the reception. Syndistar will have a bio and picture of him on their website: [www.syndistar.com](http://www.syndistar.com) Please join me in congratulating Capt. Wells for this award.

## State Highlights

**Sgt. 1st Class Chris Primes** was presented the D'Fleury Award for his outstanding service and contributions to the U.S. Army Engineer Corps. He received the honor at the Engineer Regimental dinner in Alexandria this September. Col. Wayne Patterson, 225th Group commander, presented the award to Primes. The award is unique for it's the first award Congress ever authorized and commissioned. One of the first recipients of the award was General George Washington. The award is named after Capt. David D'Fleury who single-handedly assaulted a British position during the Revolutionary War. He was credited with striking the British colors from the fort and raising the American Flag.

**New team leaders assigned**  
Sgt 1st Class Chris Primes is the Team Leader for the U.S. Customs Service and Sgt. 1st Class Joel Abraham is the team leader for the Pelican area.



**Tech Sgt. Darlene Hill** is awarded a plaque of appreciation from the New Orleans PD for the time she has worked with them as a member of the Counter Drug Task Force.

# No deny, DEFY is a summer success story

By Captain John-Michael Wells  
Counterdrug Task Force

On August 7-11, 2000, the Louisiana National Guard conducted its third residential DEFY summer camp at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, Louisiana from Aug. 7-11.

The Louisiana National Guard's DEFY program is a joint effort among the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, and the Washington Artillery, the oldest and most decorated unit in the Louisiana National Guard.

On Monday morning, 32 boys and girls, between ages nine and 12, said good-bye to their parents and boarded a military bus for five days of intensive training, discipline, adventure, and lots of learning.

In addition to the DEFY curriculum, the Louisiana National Guard camp participants learned many life skills through extensive experiential education.

At the Pelican State Starbase classroom, a National Guard pilot taught the children the basics of flight, compass navigation, and how airplanes are controlled. He then led them through a flight simulator where the children were able to take off and "fly" a single-engine aircraft over the New Orleans skyline and back to a safe landing.

With the assistance of Fatal Vision® goggles, the children also experienced how difficult it is to perform simple tasks when they are impaired by alcohol.

Their experience at Starbase was further enhanced when each squad had to design a safety restraint system for a raw egg "passenger" riding a space shuttle on a crash course against a wall; there were minor injuries and one fatal-

ity, but most eggs survived the ordeal.

On Thursday, the children and their mentors loaded the bus again for a full-day trip to the Gillis Long Center in Carville, Louisiana. There, the challenges of DEFY were raised a notch when the children had to overcome the obstacles of the National Guard Ropes Challenge Course. Although guided by trained facilitators, the children had to rely on their own communications, teamwork, planning, and leadership skills to complete the team obstacles. After lunch, the group was off to overcome individual fears and limitations by rappelling from a thirty-foot tower un-



*Cool fun in the summertime, a group of DEFY campers enjoy the fun of swimming and team building. Photo by Capt. John Michael Wells.*

der the watchful eye of a rappel master and their squad leaders.

By the time graduation arrived on Friday, both the children and the camp staff experienced bittersweet moments of saying good-bye to new friends while looking forward to the adventures to come in Phase II in the DEFY program.

This monthly newsletter is published by the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. Send all submissions to Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chailhot at Shyobro@aol.com or fax 337-262-6647

# 4th Annual Counterdrug Task Force Minuteman Open Golf Tournament

November 10, 2000 Hidden Oaks Golf Course  
Check-In 7:30-8:30am Shotgun Start 8:30am

Entry Fee: \$45.00  
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Food,  
Drinks, and Parade of Prizes  
4-Man Scramble

For Information Contact Mike Miller: 278-8553  
Hole Sponsorships Available: \$50.00, Contact Mike  
Please enter early, payment reserves your foursome.

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Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members	Phone Number	Amnt. Enc.
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Mail Entry before Nov. 4 to: 2812 Bradbury Dr., Meraux, La.  
70075, or drop one off at Jackson Barracks, Building 35, Room 251