



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

September 2004

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

Number 9

Harvest season off to a flying start

Marijuana plants seized during aerial missions

Louisiana State Police Narcotic agents, St. Landry Parish Deputy Sheriff's, and Louisiana Army National Guardsmen flew a series of marijuana eradication missions in the Acadiana region of Troop I.

The spotters located three marijuana grow plots in a wooded area south of Krotz Springs near the west bank of the Atchafalaya River.

The ground crew, made up of additional troopers, deputies, and guardsmen, recovered approximately 50 marijuana plants ranging from three to six feet in height.

Investigators have no suspects in respect to the seizure.

Spotters located two separate grow sites in the northeast corner of Evangeline Parish near Bayou Chicot.

The first plot, which contained one 24-inch marijuana plant, was found in an open field near several watering and fer-

tilizing apparatus.

Agents are actively investigating the grow and have a suspect identified.

The second plot was located in a lightly wooded area behind a residence near the community of St. Landry.

The occupant of the residence was called home by a family member. Agents conducted a consent search of the home and recovered additional amounts of processed marijuana.

Due to a pending medical condition, the cultivator will be arrested by agents at a later date.

For the record. National Guardsmen did not participate in the actual "whack and stack" but rather were conducting aerial and surface reconnaissance.



Members of the RAID are Maj. Dallas Jones, CW4 Rich Ragsdale, CW3 Eric Feazell, CW3 Ty Mullins, CW3 Rick Rowzee, Staff Sgt. Keith Stoltz, Staff Sgt Jason Debusk and Sgt Logan Kennedy. Guard personnel who support LSP West District Narcotics Marijuana Eradication missions are 1st Sgt. Jack Toney, Staff Sgt. Leo Davis III and Sgt. Nintendo Do.

"Drugs are murdering our children." - President George Bush the Elder, 1989

Sleepy evacuee gets arrested for drugs, guns

An Alabama man fleeing hurricane conditions was arrested after he fell asleep in the Wendy's drive-through with a bag of marijuana on his front seat, Lt. Sal Mike of the Hammond Police Department said.

A motorist flagged down a city police officer to report the Southwest Railroad drive-through pickup lane was blocked by a man who had fallen asleep.

Around 3 p.m., the motorist pointed out the maroon 2002 Ford F-150 truck in the line, and an officer saw the 28-year-old man asleep at the wheel. The policeman knocked on the window to tell the man to move on. When the sleepy man rolled down the window, a bag of pot on the front seat was clearly visible.

The officer reached inside the truck and grabbed the pot. He arrested the driver and discovered three weapons.

One was a 10-mm semiautomatic pistol found in the center console. A .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol and 12 gauge assault-style shotgun were found in the back seat. The officer seized all three weapons, the marijuana and a large amount of cash for evidence.

The man was charged with illegal possession of firearms while in possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

Staff Sgt. Ron Mays supports the Hammond Police Department.

Up river with drugs and stowaways

Early in September, agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E) received information that a vessel traveling up river was carrying an undetermined amount of illegal narcotics.

Agents, along with guardsmen assigned to I.C.E, set up surveillance and targeted the vessel.

After an extensive search of both crew and vessel, burlap sacks were discovered containing packages of cocaine.

Along with the contraband, three stowaways were also discovered.

The total amount of the seizure was 640 pounds of cocaine.

Since the apprehended only spoke

Spanish, **Tech Sgt. Walter Castillo** provided crucial translations between the stowaways and I.C.E. agents which contributed to an ongoing case and more arrests.

The following day, agents along with CDTF personnel, boarded another vessel and after a search, bundles of marijuana were discovered.

The marijuana was seized and amounted to 80 pounds.

With information obtained by agents, a successful controlled delivery was performed which resulted in three arrests and the seizure of an 18 wheeler and a pickup truck.

I.C.E New Orleans is supported by **Staff Sgt. Lance Robeaux** and **Tech Sgt. Walter Castillo**.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Marie L. Schneider, mother of Lt. Col. Peter Schneider, passed way on September 25. Sincere and heartfelt condolences go toward the Schneider family for their loss.



girls girls girls



Chief Master Sgt. John Harris, wife, Kendall and four-year-old daughter Ashlyn welcome Corrine into their family on September 10th.



Staff Sgt. Tyler Williamson, and wife, Ann, welcome Kate and Emily into the world on September 6th (Labor Day fittingly)