



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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Four booked in cocaine shipping ring

HAMMOND---Two St. Helena Parish residents, and a mother and son from Texas, are charged with bringing cocaine into the Baton Rouge area.

The 28-year-old violator admitted to using the drug pipeline to bring in more than 100 kilograms, or 220 pounds, of cocaine into the area in the past year, a Drug Enforcement Administration Agent wrote in an arrest warrant.

A federal grand jury in Baton Rouge on Wednesday indicted two residents of St. Helena Parish, and a mother and son from Pasadena, Texas.

All are charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base and with possession of cocaine and cocaine base with intent to distribute.

The indictments stem from the Aug. 2 arrest of the primary suspect in rural St. Helena Parish on a warrant charging him with distributing crack cocaine in southern Mississippi.

Upon his arrest, the suspect told DEA agents he and another St. Helena resident started dealing in September with a supplier in Houston and had bought at least 100 kilograms of cocaine.

They agreed to cooperate with the DEA, making a series of phone calls to the supplier in Houston, a man known

only as "Johnny," and asked for a shipment of 15 kilograms, or 33 pounds, of cocaine.

After several more calls, "Johnny" paged the suspect and attached the number "5" to the phone number.

After he called "Johnny" he was told he could deliver 5 kilograms, or 11 pounds, of cocaine the next day.

"Johnny" said he would make the delivery with his mother and meet them in Baton Rouge that evening.

DEA agents tracked the mother and son through south Louisiana before an Iberville Parish sheriff's deputy stopped them on Interstate 10 near the Grosse Tete exit.

They agreed to allow the deputy to search the car, but not the box covered in wrapping paper in the back seat.

Deputies searched the car using a drug-sniffing dog, who focused on the wrapped box.

Inside the box, deputies found 4 kilograms, or almost 9 pounds, of cocaine.

In addition to the DEA, Hammond PD Narcotics, and Tri-Parish agents were involved in this investigation, which took place over the course of two months before the arrests were made. On 8-2-01 a search warrant, at the

primary suspect's home in St. Helena netted five pounds of powder cocaine, four ounces of crack cocaine and \$20,334.00 cash. A safety deposit box containing \$148,875.00 was seized as well.

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

Thousands of pills seized by trooper

LAFAYETTE... After stopping a vehicle for a traffic violation, a state trooper had a notion something wasn't quite right.

He obtained a written permission to search the vehicle, and after a brief look, discovered four thousand Valium and Xanax stuffed in a wheel well.

The pills were seized and the two Mississippi men were transported to the St. Martin Parish Jail and booked.

Staff Sgt. Leo Davis, Co. C 415th MI, and Marco DeLeon, B Co 3/156 Inf., support West District Narcotics

Warrants Mentioning

Capt. Dallas Jones will be attending the OH-58A/C Instructor Pilot Course in Arizona for the next 6 weeks. While he is gone, **Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven Hoskins** will take over as Acting Commander. You can contact Hoskins for all mission requests by pager 800-418-2249 or his office 318-484-2309 ext 8125. In the meantime, **Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Fezell** has completed the OH-58 Maintenance Pilot Qualification Course, so RAID has its own MTP now. Remember that November through February is the slow season for RAID so remind those LEAs that they are still here and would love to fly those helicopters instead of flying those wooden desks.

An obvious arrest for Kenner PD occurred after local police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. The officer noticed two clear plastic bags of apparent marijuana in plain view. The two passengers surrendered peacefully and the marijuana seized. **Senior Amn Lanitra Reed, 159th Fighter Wing**, supports the Kenner Police Dept.

Exercise your writes

The Louisiana Drug Guard is a forum for all members of the CDTF. Please send all submissions to Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot at Shyobro@aol.com or fax 337-262-6647. This monthly newsletter is published by the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force through the offices of the U.S. Customs Service RAIC/LAF.

Making a difference from the small town up

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Leonard

Through our role with the Governor's Drug Policy Board, our Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, Major John-Michael Wells has established a liaison with the Governor's Office of Rural Development to include our personnel as resources to help with drug related issues.

As part of the Small Town Resource Team, I was tasked with gathering information from a variety of relevant sources, developing a drug threat assessment and making recommendations for how to address those threats for the town of Cheneyville.

To prepare myself, I spoke with some of our Taskforce members that have experienced participating in these projects. I also looked at some of their reports and did some research on topics related to what was covered in their reports.

Cheneyville, with its population of under a thousand, is the kind of small town people talk about, where everybody knows everybody. There were several meetings over the three days that extended into the late evening on each day. We met with elected officials, citizens, educators, religious leaders and youth from the area who were all eager to share their input. Almost all of the groups acknowledged the seriousness of the drug problem and expressed a desire to do something about it.

Having grown up in a small town, I

could relate to the perspectives of the citizens of Cheneyville. They want the same things we all want... to be part of a respectable community, a safe place to call home, a better future for their kids, to be able to hunt and fish within "hollering distance" of home. Well, maybe not all of us want to hunt and fish but a lot of us do.

The committee of citizens that were assembled prior to our visit is expected, with the help of a \$10,000 grant from the state, to implement a plan based on our recommendations. That committee designated the drug problem to be the single most significant threat to the improvement of Cheneyville.

Hopefully, the Town of Cheneyville will include some of my recommendations when implementing a long term plan to eliminate the drug problem there.

I realize that may sound like a lofty goal, but considering the size of Cheneyville and the fact that when pressure is put on drug dealers they move to another area to operate. This would "flush" the drug dealers out of Cheneyville, because there is no place to blend in or hide.

Unlike the "big city," I believe that a thorough drug prevention and enforcement effort could bring dramatic improvements in the quality of life for Cheneyville's citizens. That would be very gratifying to have been a part of.

Cocaine courier runs vehicle into river

Lake Charles—Louisiana State Police Narcotic agents responded to a call from Troop D road troopers after a car chase ended in a nearby river.

Once the Mississippi man was pulled over for a traffic violation, he must have had second thoughts. A minute later he sped away, hitting the State Police troopers vehicle twice.

A lengthy car chase ended when the suspect drove his vehicle into the

Calcasieu River. The vehicle contained four pieces of luggage that held more than 65 thousand grams of cocaine.

A total of 144 pounds of the white powder was seized and the violator was booked for possession with intent to distribute cocaine, among other charges.

Staff Sgt. Leo Davis, Co. C 415th MI, and Marco DeLeon, B Co 3/156 Inf., support West District Narcotics