



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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Agents make major cocaine bust

Two-month surveillance nets nearly \$400,000 in drugs, paraphernalia

Lafayette Metro Narcotics Task Force agents confiscated nearly \$400,00 of cocaine from a man's home in Lafayette.

Agents characterized the man as a middle to high-level cocaine dealer supplying lower-level dealers. He was

arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute crack and powder cocaine and manufacturing crack cocaine.

He had been under surveillance by agents for two months. A task force from the city police and sheriff's office served a warrant at the home where they found four pounds of crack cocaine cookies, valued at \$263,750, 2 1/2 pounds

of white powder cocaine, valued at \$128,000 and \$12,236 in cash.

The man faces an estimated 60 years in prison if convicted. More than 187 people in Lafayette parish have been arrested this year by task force agents for various drug offences.

Sgt Jason Escoyne, Co. C 199th Support Battalion supports Lafayette Metro Narcotics

Summer camp brings out best in kids, mentors

Another successful Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) summer camp was conducted at Jackson Barracks by members of the Louisiana National Guard, U.S. Navy through the directive of the U.S. Attorney's Office Weed and Seed initiative.

Every summer, at-risk children from the New Orleans Treme area, gather at historic Jackson Barracks for a full week of activities that enrich both student and teacher.

Twenty four students were able to experience life from a military point of view. They were taught leadership and

city survival skills, plus self-enriching tools to use in their everyday lives.

After completion of the summer camp, DEFY mentors will meet with the students once a month for a field trip. DEFY is designed to increase the student's self-esteem and enhance resiliency skills to drugs.

This program is a U.S. Attorney's Weed & Seed Initiative in which the Louisiana National Guard and U.S. Navy partner together. The DEFY program is two-

fold and begins with an intensive summer camp that includes classroom work and physical activities and rounds up with the year-long mentor program.

The following Counterdrug Task Force personnel volunteered throughout the duration of the camp. Several will mentor the kids for the coming year.

Participants were, **Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Vosburg**, **Tech Sgt. Steve Haynes**, **Officer Candidate Charon Camarsa**, **Staff Sgt's. Alex Griffith**, **Paul Hooper**, **Alfonso Morales**, **Al Schiro** and **Simmie Brown**.

Guard Matters

In Sympathy

The Counter Drug Task Force would like to send their thoughts and prayers to **Senior Master Sgt. John Harris** whose mother passed away from cancer this August.

This is just a reminder that any soldier or airmen reporting to the Naval Support Activity, Naval Air Station, or Coast Guard medical clinics are required to report in duty uniform for all appointments.

Duty uniform is either Class A, Class B, or Class C uniforms. The duty uniform is **NOT** the PT uniform unless you are reporting for physical therapy or cannot wear the uniform for some medical/physical reason (i.e. whole leg cast:).

If you are on leave, you are required to report in duty uniform for medical appointments. Civilian clothes are not allowed.

You will be turned away from the clinics if you do not report in the correct uniform.

*Free baby rabbits to good home! One solid black and one brown bunnies. These are for pets only; not for gumbo. Contact **Sgt. Regina Strong** at (318)676-4080*

DEA/HIDTA tracks down cocaine and dealer

During the month of August agents from DEA/HIDTA New Orleans conducted a cocaine operation in Orleans Parish. Through a confidential informant, agents were able to purchase 1/2 kilo of crack cocaine.

Later the same day the informant went back and was able to purchase another 1/4 kilo of crack cocaine and made arrangements to purchase another 1/4 kilo of crack cocaine from

the same target from a different location.

On August 14, agents served a federal search warrant at the targets residence and seized 1300 grams of crack cocaine, 5000 grams of powder cocaine, \$12,275.00, and a .357 caliber revolver.

HIDTA is supported by **Staff Sgt. Chris Trenticosta** of the 2225th Panel Bridge Company and DEA Group 5 is supported by **Staff Sgt. Paul Dey** of C. Co. 205th Engineers.

Guilt by association and knowledge hits grocer hard

The owners of Hammond's Colorado Street Grocery could lose their business if a judge rules that they knowingly allowed drug dealing on their premises.

Judicial District Judge Ernie Drake granted a preliminary injunction against the owners of the business, after finding probable cause to hold the August hearing.

The June, the city filed a civil suit against the owners after Hammond in-house attorney Doug Brown said an undercover police officer purchased crack on the premises earlier this year.

The suit is the civil phase of citywide crackdown on drug dealing that kicked off this year with an undercover sting that netted 22 arrests in May.

The city is using a state statute that gives municipalities the right to sue property owners for injunctions against future drug activity - a penalty that closes the property for five years.

Property owners are liable for upkeep of the property, as well as

taxes, during that period. "We really don't want to shut anybody down, we just want the crack gone," Brown said Tuesday. "But we're prepared to go in that direction if we have to."

John Feduccia, the attorney representing grocery store tenants said his clients are victims of the drug dealing, not accomplices. "These people are legitimate store owners. They've invested a great deal of money in (their business) in order to make a go of it in this country," he said. "Their lives are on the line as much as anybody's." The drug activity doesn't occur in the store or anywhere where the tenants can see, he said. "It's going to take an effort by police as much as anyone to get these problems resolved to make the neighborhood safe again," he said.

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

Exercise your writes

Send stories and information to Tech Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot for publication in the Louisiana Drug Guard