



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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More to DDR that just feel good stuff

Staff Sgt. John Salas is part of the Drug Demand Reduction Team. He sends this message to every member of the Counterdrug Task Force

Hello fellow CTF members. I just wanted to give ya'll a little insight on DDR. Many of you may feel that DDR is some kind of touchy "feel good" type of group that goes around telling kids to just say NO! Well it is!

Being a former Marine experiencing two combat environments (Persian Gulf and Somalia) I can definitely appreciate the "high speed" stuff that some of you do. I mean dressing up like McGruff and getting mobbed by a bunch of 3rd graders is a far cry from macho!

All joking aside, America's youth is in trouble. You say, "yeah we know, we've been busting a whole lot of those rock-slinging punks." Yes, I am speaking of the young dealers, but let us not forget the innocent ones.

You know, the ones you see when the warrants are served, crying and scared with the door busted wide open, strange men dressed in black with guns are everywhere and Mamma is a crystal-dealing speed freak.

Are they tears of sorrow because the young person knows that they will go to foster care and that once they are of age, they will get out the children's home and begin a pathetic life of drug abuse and prostitution since that is all Mamma taught them. Or could they possibly be tears of joy knowing now Mamma will stop killing herself with dope.

And there are the ones like the prom queen whose lawyer father is an alcoholic and tends to find pleasure in beating the hell out of her mother.

Or the athlete playing for the #1 high school team in the nation who's father has pushed him to the point of suicide over scholarships.

And there was a 4.0 GPA girl whose stepfather has been in jail for two years for molesting her little sister. She told me, "Sergeant Salas, I was too scared to say anything through the whole investigation and now you are the first person I've told that he was hurting me for months before he even touch my sister."

And yes, the kid just like the one ya'll picked up the other day who lives with his grandmother on welfare because his mother is a crackhead and is in jail for prostitution. His daddy? Who's that?

These are some examples of the young people I speak to in the high schools across our states. These are the ones that are going to be reaching our for something and end up grabbing a hold of dope, pregnancy or suicide.

Or lest we forget the young person who grew up in a solid family environment, you know, the kind your young child is being brought up in. they will not be exempt from the influence of the people around them, good or bad.

I am at the U.S. Attorney's office in Shreveport introducing DDR to a new region with a "grass roots" approach to young people. My presentation is hard and real. Teenagers are numb to the old, "just say no" message. Many of them are numb to everything.

If any of you ever need someone to speak at any of your area high schools, church youth groups, or other organizations, please call me. Or if your agency has any questions about training sponsored by the Law Enforcement Coordination Committee, contact me.

Keep up the outstanding work, Interdiction! The thing you are doing make me proud to be a member of the CTF.

Staff Sgt John Salas may be reached at 318-676-3600 ext 195 or email him at john.salas@usdoj.gov

Highway interdiction keeps officers rolling

CROWLEY---On November 10, officers with the Acadia Parish Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at a local residence in Rayne. Officers received numerous complaints that the residents were selling a large amount of crack cocaine. Upon entry into the residence, officers located approximately 51 grams of Crack Cocaine, 75 Valium, \$34,625 in cash, two (2) weapons and several items of stolen merchandise. Both residents of the location were arrested and jailed. An investigation into the size of this operation is ongoing.

On November 12, a Criminal Interdiction Officer stopped two local residents driving a late model blazer. Upon questioning one of the two individuals, the officer recognized the passenger from a previous drug related stop. The Officer requested a voluntary consent to search the vehicle and recovered 5 pounds of marijuana. Both subjects were arrested and jailed in the Acadia Parish Jail to await bond.

On November 21, a Criminal Interdiction Officer stopped a 1992 mercury Cougar for impeding the flow of Interstate traffic. The vehicle was traveling in the left lane of the Interstate and was clocked as doing 60 MPH. Several vehicles were behind the Cougar and were trying to pass. Upon seeing the Interstate Officer, the vehicle braked abruptly and slowed to 45 MPH. The officer stopped the vehicle and became suspicious when the story the driver gave contained inconsistencies. A computer check on the driver revealed that he had been arrested twice before for interstate trafficking of illegal drugs. A voluntary consent to search was signed by the driver and the officer located 7 pounds of marijuana in the trunk of the vehicle. The driver was arrested and jailed with a \$100,000 bond.

Later the same evening, in heavy fog, the same officer stopped a Houston Texas man driving a 1992 Acura bearing TX plates. The driver was initially stopped for driving on the shoulder of the Interstate and for driving too fast for weather conditions. The driver stated that he was going to Lafayette to visit his girlfriend. The Criminal Interdiction Officer became suspicious and asked for voluntary consent to search. The driver gave consent to search. Upon searching the vehicle, the Officer located a tennis ball that was covered in black electrical tape. Upon opening the package, the officer discovered approximately 3 ½ ounces of Cocaine. The driver was arrested and jailed in the Acadia Parish Jail. *Staff Sgt. Peter Leger supports Acadia S/O*

LAFAYETTE--A Louisiana State Trooper stopped a rental vehicle, November 22, on Interstate 10 for a traffic violation. The driver of the vehicle is a known drug violator, courier and resident of Cuba, Alabama. She claimed to be on her way back to Cuba from Houston. The renter of the vehicle was another known drug trafficker and was allegedly following the rental in another vehicle. A consent to search the car was obtained and 99 pounds of marijuana was concealed in the spare tire well in the trunk. The subject was arrested and the marijuana seized.

Just the day before, the same trooper stopped a U-Haul truck on Interstate 10 for similar traffic violation. The driver of the vehicle was an illegal alien from Honduras and was transporting furniture to North Carolina. A consent to search the vehicle was obtained and 103 pounds of marijuana was located concealed inside an air compressor. The department of Immigration and Naturalization was contacted and the drugs seized. *Staff Sgt. Leo Davis III supports LSP West District Narcotics*

In Brief

Monthly Safety Tips

Greet the year 2000 alive and well. Don't let yourself or friends drink and drive.

Stay relaxed to keep stress and injuries down and holiday spirits up.

Practice moderation, avoid overexertion and under-indulgence

Unplug holiday lights before leaving home and at bedtime.

Specialist Tara Michelle McLemore has transferred to North District Narcotics-Monroe Field Office and Staff Sgt Chris Trenticosta has been rehired and assigned to LSP HIDTA in Metairie. He worked with US Customs Container Examination from March-Sep 99. They are both welcomed additions to the Louisiana State Police team.

1st Sgt. Travis Holmes has left the CTF and accepted a full time position in Europe working for the Federal Government.

With the signing of the Defense Authorization Bill FY 2000, the military will receive a 4.8 percent pay raise and a revised pay chart that will result in additional pay raises in July.