



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

February 2000

VOLUME IX

NUMBER 2

Ecstasy big drug in local club scene

NEW ORLEANS---Amid the disco lights and loud music of some local nightclubs, one of the biggest sellers from the bar isn't alcohol, it's bottle water.

And lest anyone take that as a sign of clean living on the part of some patrons, law enforcement officials said the high volume of water sales actually indicated a problem.

Ecstasy is the most popular drug sold at these clubs, Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies said after a recent eight-month undercover operation. The amphetamine leaves its users desperately thirsty, and willing to pay \$2.50 for a small bottle of water. Once, an undercover officer saw people lining up to scoop water from a toilet tank.

As a result of the investigation, the Sheriff's Office issued arrest warrants for 85 people this week. Sixty-one

suspects had been taken into custody by late January.

Jefferson Parish deputies initially went undercover looking for a local source of GHB, a popular synthetic drug that sent 10 women to local hospitals last January and three teenagers to the emergency room last summer.

But instead of GHB, investigators found the night life in Fat City to be thick with other drugs, particularly ecstasy. In July, after a three-month investigation, deputies made 50 drug-related arrests, including a disc jockey from one local bar.

After those arrests, deputies expanded their investigation to include West Jefferson.

Staff Sgts. Pat Bucher, Wendy Reed and Stacy Vendetti support Jefferson Parish S/O

Printed in part from the Times-Picayune; New Orleans, La.; Jan 22, 2000

Traffic stop leads to history making drug seizure

NATCHITOCHEs---An oldsmobile traveling at a high rate of speed was pulled over by a Sheriff's Deputy and resulted in the largest criminal patrol stop drug seizure in Natchitoches Parish history, but not until after a high speed chase, a foot pursuit and a few house visits.

The speeding driver led the deputy on a chase before abandoning the vehicle and fleeing on foot with two of his fellow passengers. After a two-hour search, with the aide of the State Police and the Parish detention center bloodhounds, the three were discovered and arrested.

Deputies searched the oldsmobile and discovered close to 40 pounds of marijuana, electronic weighing scales and a mobile phone.

The decision was made to carry through with the delivery of the marijuana to the intended recipients. This led to the arrest of three additional people and the seizure of cash and contraband.

The detectives then turned their attention toward the supplier. A late night trip to Houston resulted in the arrest of a hispanic male and the seizure of 79 pounds of marijuana and more than \$26,000 in cash.

All the subjects arrested locally were placed in the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center. The Houston Police Department Narcotic Task Force agents handled the Houston arrest. **Sgt. Chad McNeal supports the Natchitoches Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force**

January busy for highway interdiction

January was a great month in traffic stop seizures for the criminal patrol units that ride the interstate systems of Louisiana.

Acadia Parish S/O

- Jan 10 - 1/2 pounds of marijuana, 2 arrests
- Jan 13 - 4.4 pounds of cocaine, 1 arrest
- Jan 29 - 11 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 29 - 100 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 30 - 40 vials steroids, 30 pills, 3 arrests

Staff Sgt. Peter Leger

supports Acadia Parish S/O

Jefferson Davis S/O

- Jan 4 - 45 pounds marijuana, 2 arrests
- Jan. 9 - \$36,000.00 U.S. Currency
- Jan 11 - 155 pounds of marijuana, 3 arrests
- Jan 30 - 8 pounds of marijuana, 3 arrests

Sgt. Brad Lavergne

supports Jefferson Davis S/O

LSP West District- Lafayette

- Jan 8 - \$38,280.00 U.S. currency
- Jan 8 - \$55,600 U.S. currency
- Jan 9 - 2 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 13 - 94 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 18 - \$6,849.00 U.S. Currency, 1 arrest
- Jan 19 - 79 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 24 - 179 pounds of marijuana, 2 arrests
- Jan 30 - 59 pounds of marijuana, 3 arrests

Staff Sgt. Leo Davis

supports LSP West District

LSP West District- Lake Charles

- Jan 17 - 53.6 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 19 - 6.9 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest

Sgt. Brian Lavergne

supports LSP West District

LSP South District- Baton Rouge

- Jan 11 - 234 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 22 - 74.2 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest

Staff Sgt. John Shelton

supports LSP South District

LSP South District-Mandeville

- Jan 8 - 34 pounds of marijuana, 1 arrest
- Jan 28 - 80 pounds of marijuana, 4 arrests

Sgt. Shelby Joe Thomas

supports LSP South District

Tricare Prime Remote

It is mandatory that everyone who qualifies for this program be enrolled, if not call the toll free number to obtain an application:

La. West of the Mississippi - 1-800-406-2832

La. East of the Mississippi - 1-800-444-5445

Staff Sgt. Kenna Wood is the Tricare Prime Remote POC for the Louisiana National Guard. She can be reached at (504) 278-8351. She can answer any questions you may have concerning this program.

Officer assistance leads to drug discovery

BOGALUSA--- Two young men travelling with a floor board littered with bagged marijuana ran out of luck as they were heading home from the vicinity of Bogalusa High School.

They pulled their truck over because they claimed it was overheating.

The boys were parked on the shoulder of the street when a policeman returning to the station from a call saw the truck and stopped with an offer of help.

The boys told him they didn't

need any help; their truck had just overheated. When the officer glanced through an open window he saw plastic bags filled with marijuana laying on the floor.

The two 17-year-olds were charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The officer confiscated between a quarter and a half pound of marijuana. **Sergeant 1st Class Laverne Cook supports the Washington Parish Task Force**

25 pounds of pot seized, 5 arrested

NEW ORLEANS---Police put a significant dent in a drug ring that was moving Mexican marijuana from Houston to New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish, arresting five people and netting 25 pounds of the illegal drug as well as a cache of guns and money.

The bust was a large one and will make marijuana more difficult to get in the area, a spokesman for the New Orleans Police Department said.

The bust was part of an undercover operation that also include officers from the St. Bernard parish

Sheriff's office and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

The mid-level drug supplier and four traffickers arrested offered no resistance when they were picked up at an apartment in eastern New Orleans.

The supplier apparently received deliveries of marijuana from Texas when he then passed on for use in the area. **Master Sgt. Paul Schulz, Staff Sgts. Mike Plaiscia and Darlene Hill support the NOPD**

Reprinted in part from the Times Picayune, New Orleans: Jan 6, 2000

CONGRATULATIONS

Ethan Anthony Louis

Capt. Dallas Jones and Lt.

Donna Chetta-Jones are the

proud parents of a 7 pound 10

oz. boy born Dec. 30th.

ATTENTION

There will be no main taskforce meeting this year. Each team will have separate meetings. More to follow...