



# LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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## Task force focus is on families for congressional support in Washington

story and photo by Tech Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot

WASHINGTON---Several members of the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force traveled to Capitol Hill in June as part of a national counterdrug day.

They joined 17 other states for a National Guard Counterdrug display in the foyer of the House of Representative's Rayburn House Office Building next to the capitol building in Washington D.C.

While the majority of the states participating chose to highlight their drug demand reduction activities or counterdrug accomplishments, Louisiana focused on families.

"We wanted to show congress exactly who is directly affected when the budget ax drops," Maj. Pete Schneider said from the marbled halls of the Rayburn house.

So with the cooperation of the people who make up the Louisiana program, photographs of families and friends were sent in and incorporated into a collage of faces that make up the counterdrug family.

"This was a really good idea to show the families who are directly affected by the program," said Col.

John Mosbey, director of the National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Directorate, as he complemented the different approach for the display to Schneider. "After all this is who it is all about."

Along with more than one hundred different photographs, Louisiana music accompanied a digital video that captured the mission of the program. Mardi Gras beads and pralines were giveaways that had interested parties coming back for more.

Representatives from several of Louisiana's congressional offices came by to visit and view the display and La.'s 7th District, U.S. Rep. Chris John, D-Crowley personally stopped by to commend the hard work the Louisiana National Guard is doing for the state and country.

"This is a great program utilizing the Guard in this way," said the Congressman as he pocketed several pralines to take back to his staffers.

"We have had a tremendous re-



**SHOWING SUPPORT FOR LOUISIANA in D.C.** are Louisiana. Congressman Chris John along with Staff Sgt. Melissa Vosburg and Lt. Donna Jones.

sponse to our display," said Lt. Donna Jones, operations officer for the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. "People came by and just stared at all the faces up there."

Let's hope these faces stick in the minds of the congressional representatives when the time comes to vote for the future of the program.

After all, Mosbey said it best when he said, families are what it is all about.

## Man arrested in shopping sting

COVINGTON---A Hammond man who came to Covington to do a bit of shopping found himself instead in the parish jail booked on a variety of narcotics charges.

After an investigation by the St. Tammany Parish Narcotics Task Force, the State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration, agents went to a local shopping center to meet a man who wished to buy drugs.

In exchange for a kilogram of cocaine, the suspect had allegedly made arrangements to pay \$20,000. Unbeknownst to the suspect, the arrangements were being monitored and coordinated by undercover operatives.

When he made his visit to St.

Tammany Parish, he was met instead by members of the Task Force, who had no drugs to sell.

He was booked with conspiracy to possess cocaine, attempted possession of cocaine and money laundering. A search of his vehicle yielded \$21,238 cash, which will now be added to the coffers of those who fight the narcotics trade.

Investigations revealed the suspect was released from federal prison only three months ago, and is on probation for possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Old habits apparently die hard, and he is now on hold in lieu of a \$150,000 bond.

**Staff Sgt. Paul Tullier supports St. Tammany S/O**

## Known drug dealers stopped from making delivery

JENNINGS---Two men from New Orleans were stopped by a Jeff Davis Parish Sheriff's Deputy for a traffic violation.

A consensual search of the brand new Yukon SUV revealed one pound of cocaine hidden inside the passenger's side door panel. The occupants of the

vehicle both had prior drug convictions and claimed to be headed to New Orleans from Houston.

The individuals were arrested and the cocaine and vehicle seized.

**Sgt. Brad Lavergne supports Jeff Davis S/O**

## Warrant busts up yard party

WESTWEGO---While in the process of serving a search warrant, two detectives with the Westwego Police Dept. observed several people standing in the front yard of the residence.

The subjects were ordered to the ground due to the high risk involved with narcotics search warrants.

Officers then encountered the target of the warrant who was walking out

of the front door of the house.

After serving her with a copy of the warrant, the officer began a search of the residence.

Prepackaged marijuana, scales and paraphernalia were discovered and the suspect arrested.

The subjects on the front lawn were released without harm. **Sgt. John Gardner support Westwego PD**

## STATE BRIEFS

ABBEVILLE---Information about narcotics being sold from an Abbeville residence resulted in the execution of a search warrant by the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's office. After a search of the suspected residence, agents were able to seize close to three pounds of marijuana and eight ounces of high grade cocaine along with numerous items of drug paraphernalia.

**Staff Sgt. Peggy Miguez supports Vermilion Parish S/O**

CHALMETTE--- What began as a helpful assist in an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Bureau turned into the recovery of Methadone and the arrest of a Slidell woman by narcotics agents.

While helping detectives in an unrelated investigation, the narcotics agents found that the suspect apparently had in her possession some 32 doses of methadone with an estimated street value of \$800.

**Staff Sgt. Al Shiro is assigned to St. Bernard Parish S/O**

PRAIRIEVILLE---After executing a search warrant on a local residence, a small amount of marijuana and numerous weapons were seized. The suspect decided to cooperate with the agents and made a deal to buy two pounds of marijuana from another local individual. This led to the seizure of an additional 20 pounds of marijuana, a truck, a boat, and a Harley Davidson motorcycle. **Sgt. 1st Class Michael LePlace supports Ascension Parish S/O**

"With National Guard support, we know we are not out there alone. We could not do our jobs without you," Donnie Marshall, chief to the Drug Enforcement Agency, Washington D.C.