



# LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

March 2004

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

Number 3

## A meeting with the commander-in-chief



My mother and I met the President of the United States, February 17th at Ft. Polk, La. President George Bush came to wish the outgoing soldiers good luck, they were leaving for Iraq soon. Seven different families, a total of twelve people from other states, were there as honored guests

because they had lost family members during the war in Iraq. My father, Sgt. Floyd G. Knighten, Jr., passed away on August 9, 2003, while on a mission in Iraq. He died from the extreme heat outside and inside the cab of the 5-

ton truck he was in. I was sent home the next day to return to my mother Soledad Knighten and to stay home with her. President Bush wanted to meet the families of the lost ones. He sat down, spoke to us personally; told us that our losses were HIS heroes. We were presented with Presidential Coins and autographs and pictures and the love that President Bush gave all of us. General Schoomaker was also there and I spoke with him as well.

*- Sgt. Floyd G. Knighten, III, 1087th Transportation Company, CDTF support to the Louisiana State Police Narcotics in Monroe.*

## Ecstasy ring round-up spans nationwide

A U.S.- Canadian drug trafficking ring believed responsible for 15 percent of all the Ecstasy smuggled into America has been wiped out, Drug Enforcement Administration authorities said.

They announced arrests and criminal charges against 170 people. Thirty people were indicted in New Orleans and another five in the Baton Rouge area, federal prosecutors said.

At its height, the ring distributed one million Ecstasy tablets per month in the two countries, and laundered \$5 million per month using travel agencies and bank transfers in the United States and Vietnam.

Drug Enforcement Administration chief, Karen Tandy, said the two-year investigation culminated in the arrest of nearly the entire trafficking operation from leaders to couriers.

Louisiana Counter Drug Task Force members who support the DEA are: *Master Sgt. Wayne Herrin, Staff Sgts. Alan Floyd, Pay Day, Mike Timmreck, Jacob Lirette, Barbara Roche, Regina Strong, Tech Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot, Sgt. James Spurling, Private 1st Class Roberto Murello, Reggie Martinez, Tam Nguyen and Airman 1st Class Scott Corales.*

*“Only one military organization can hold and gain ground in war- a ground army supported by tactical aviation with supply lines guarded by the navy.”*

**General Omar N. Bradley 1951**

## UP IN SMOKE

HOUMA — Firefighters encountered more than smoke and flames Monday night after responding to a fire at a Village East home where suspected marijuana plants were found growing in a foil-lined closet.

The first units from the Village East Fire Department arrived shortly before 10 p.m. where they reported heavy flames and called for assistance from other local fire departments, officials said.

After knocking down the fire, which firefighters at the scene said caused heavy damage to a master

bedroom, the plants were discovered in the closet of another room, and law-enforcement authorities were notified.

The Terrebonne Narcotics Task Force, said this morning that officers are still assessing their find, but an initial count was made of three alleged marijuana plants with an estimated value of about \$1,500 each.

Fire officials at the scene said a lighting system that they believe was there to aid the plants' growth and a book on how to grow marijuana were discovered in the home.

**Tech Sgt. John Fos supports Terrebonne Narcotics Task Force**

## Welcome back to the CDTF from duty overseas

First Sgt. Paul Tullier  
Sgt. 1st Class Leo Davis III  
Sgt. 1st Class Alphonso Morales  
Sgt. 1st Class James Garner  
Staff Sgt. Russell Graham  
Staff Sgt. Todd Stremlau  
Staff Sgt. Regina Strong  
Staff Sgt. Richard Landry  
Sgt. Darren Mullen  
Sgt. Leah Didier  
Sgt. John Carter



## Troopers hot on interdiction stops

**St. Martin Parish** - March 1 - Louisiana State Police stopped a 1999 Ford Pickup truck on Interstate 10 and discovered 40 pounds of marijuana concealed under the back seat and in the rear wall of the pickup.

**Jefferson Davis Parish** - March 1 - A Louisiana State Police Trooper stopped a 2003 Dodge Pickup pulling a horse trailer on Interstate 10. A search of their vehicle disclosed \$391,765.00 hidden in a false compartment inside a tool box in the horse trailer.

**St. Martin Parish** - March 1 - A Louisiana State Police Trooper stopped an Alamo rental 2004 Chevrolet Impala on Interstate 10. A consensual search of the vehicle disclosed 6.2 pounds of cocaine concealed under the rear seat.

**Ouachita Parish** - March 3 - A Louisiana State Police Trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria on Interstate 20. The Ford was a prior Michigan law enforcement vehicle with several antennas and a push bumper. A narcotic detector canine alerted on the

vehicle and a subsequent search revealed a gym bag on the back floorboard containing \$104,000.00 plus \$2,700.00 on the driver. The driver claimed the currency, but it was seized then the driver was released.

**St. Martin Parish** - March 5 - Louisiana State Police stopped a 1999 Kenworth Tractor Trailer on Interstate 10 for a traffic violation. A consensual search of the tractor and trailer revealed 196 pounds of marijuana concealed inside a false compartment in the refrigeration unit of the trailer.

**Livingston Parish** - March 27 - The Louisiana State Police conducted a traffic stop on a 1999 freighter tractor trailer from Texas on Interstate 12 and discovered 466 pounds of marijuana behind pallets of produce.

The CDTF personnel who support the Louisiana State Police are: **Sgt. 1st Class Jack Toney, Sgt. 1st Class Leo Davis, Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Deshautelle, Staff Sgt. Russell Graham, Staff Sgt. Craig Juan, Staff Sgt. Brandon Beaudoin, Sgt. Shelby Thomas, Sgt. Leah Didier, Sgt. Floyd Knighten, Sgt. Nintendo Do, Sgt. Anna Baca, and Sgt. Stephen Gomez.**

**Mark your calendar -  
The annual CDTF  
conference will be held  
April 14-16 at the Baton  
Rouge Marriott**

## Exercise your writes

The monthly newsletter of the Louisiana Drug Guard is a forum to highlight the achievements of members of the Louisiana Counter Drug Task Force. Send in your stories, comments, drug reduction activities, births, promotions and anything to share with the members of the task force. Contact Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot at [Chaills@gchidta.org](mailto:Chaills@gchidta.org), or phone 337-262-6774, fax 337-262-6770