



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

May 2001

VOLUME X

NUMBER 5

CDTF conference attendees pass a good time



Happy to be in Lafayette were Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard, Counter Drug Task Force Coordinator, Maj. Pete Schneider, Chief Master Sgt. Mike Bannon, State Enlisted Advisor for Air, and the Director for the National Guard Bureau Counter Drug Program, Col. John "Duck" Mosbey. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot

LAFAYETTE...Members of the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force (CDTF) met in Lafayette for its annual conference, April 10-12.

Maj. Pete Schneider, CDTF coordinator, launched the conference with the state of the task force briefing. As always, the outstanding performance of the task force was the highlight of the presentation.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the Adjutant General for the Louisiana National Guard spoke on command guidance. His pride in the airmen and soldiers

upon us as the example of how the program should be conducted. Landreneau presented a surprised Mosbey with the La. Legion of Merit Cross for all he does for the state program.

Schnieder then introduced the special guests in attendance, Landreneau, Mosby, DEA Special Agent in Charge George Cazenavette, U.S. Customs Special Agent Doug Evans, Gulf Coast High Intensity Task Force member Tony Soto, La. State Police superintendent, Col. Terry Landry, Chief Master Sgt. Mike Bannon,

accomplishing this task in addition to performing their duties to their National Guard unit of assignment was evident and he complemented all on a job well done.

A special guest was Col. John "Duck" Mosbey. As the current directorate of the National Guard Bureau Counter Drug Program in Washington, he told members of the task force the rest of the nation looks

state enlisted advisor for air and former customs agent and Barbara Oden, coordinator for Rapides Parish Safe and Drug Free School program.

After lunch a riveting film on club drugs and rave updates was presented by DEA agent Cazenavette. The most difficult hour at a conference is always following lunch. Not this time, there was not a sleepy eye in the crowd as they watched with intense interest the cloistered action of a New Orleans rave party. The intoxicating music and zombie-eyed crowd really brought the message of how dangerous these rave parties can be.

Several issues followed the rave presentation, Maj. Bill Stroud spoke on legal issues for CD personnel, Maj. John Michael Wells presented a Drug Demand Reduction Briefing and CW3 Charlene Adams brought everyone up to date on Tricare prime remote health issues.

After a full day of these important updates and meetings, a crawfish boil was held on the grounds of the optimist club. Members of the Lafayette Metro Narcotic unit boiled the crawfish and a Cajun band played traditional music wrapping up the evening "Lafayette style."

It was obvious as the conference came to a close the next morning that everyone had a great time.

When asked how he thought the conference went, the state coordinator replied, "It was the most successful conference we've had yet," Schneider said with pride for the program.

Meth lab explodes in quiet neighborhood

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) _ A suspected illegal drug laboratory exploded in flames in a quiet neighborhood here and three people were arrested.

"It was kind of mind-boggling," said a neighbor, whose home is within 25 feet of the home where the explosion occurred. His family heard the large boom and saw flames about 10 a.m. Easter Sunday.

Two residents of the volatile house were charged with possession of narcotics. A Shreveport police spokeswoman said methamphetamine, ecstasy and marijuana were found.

A third man was charged with possession of narcotics and with trans-

porting dangerous chemicals. Firefighters made two trips to the home Sunday. The morning fire was brought under control about 10:45 a.m.

About 3 p.m., firefighters surveyed the area again and discovered small flare-ups. Because of the chemicals, the area was blocked off and families were evacuated overnight.

The arrests coincide with a string of methamphetamine discoveries in the area. Last weekend, two people were arrested in south Bossier Parish; in late January, 23 people were arrested on drug-related charges. **Sgt. Regina Strong and Sgt. Nicole Wilkinson support Shreveport PD**

Ecstasy drug lab major hit for agents

DENHAM SPRINGS, La. (AP)_ State police are calling their first bust of an Ecstasy drug laboratory this week a major hit.

On Thursday, undercover agents arrested two men and a woman on charges of manufacturing and distributing Ecstasy, a popular drug at rave parties.

A 38-year-old Denham Springs man was manufacturing the drug out of his home according to a state police spokesman. Narcotic agents arrested the man and an associate, after buying 358 capsules

from them. The undercover agents also reported incriminating the violator by buying 172 Ecstasy capsules for \$3,820 from him between February and March.

Following their arrest, agents raided the suspect's home, where they allegedly found Ecstasy cooking in the living room. A 29-year-old girlfriend was arrested in the raid on the home, where 24 marijuana plants were also found. **Master Sgt. John Shelton and Sgt. Shelby Joe Thomas support LSP South District Narcotics**

Drug probes yield numerous arrests, seizures

OPELOUSAS...Multiagency investigations into illegal drug rings yielded numerous arrests and the seizure of drugs worth more than \$100,000 in southern Louisiana, authorities announced Wednesday.

Eight alleged members of a drug ring were arrested in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes, while 10 people were arrested in St. Landry Parish Friday.

Those arrested were charged with a variety of possession and distribution charges. Since ecstasy is not commonly found in St. Landry Parish, Sheriff Howard Zerangue said he is certain that the drug ring was supplying areas across parish lines.

The amount of cocaine seized in the drug bust was valued at more than \$136,000, police said. Nearly \$100,000 worth of illegal drugs were seized in the investigation covering Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes.

The arrests, announced Wednesday by the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Department, came after undercover agents bought about \$12,000 in crack cocaine from the suspects last week. Most of those arrested in both drug busts were under the age of 30. More arrests and additional federal indictments are possible, authorities said. **Tech Sgt. John Fos supports Terrebonne PSO, Sgt. Tod Archote supports Lafourche PSO**

Warrants mentioning

NEW ORLEANS (AP)_ Authorities have arrested two men and seized 218 pounds of cocaine in what is being called one of the largest drug busts in the city's history.

Acting on an informant's tip, drug agents arrested cousins on federal charges of possession with intent to distribute cocaine on Friday.

Authorities found four duffel bags of cocaine that had been brought from Texas, according to police and a criminal complaint filed in federal district court.

The suspect allegedly has funneled more than 650 pounds of cocaine into the city and onto the streets in the past three weeks, investigators with the New Orleans Police Department and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration said.

The federal court complaint said the investigation began last week in Texas when an informant jailed on other drug charges told the DEA that he wanted to discuss drug trafficking between New Orleans and Houston.

As a result, authorities were able to track the cocaine being transferred between the two cities, the complaint said.

Police said the cocaine carried a street value of \$30 million. **Staff Sgt. Mike Plaiscia, Senior Amn David Schehar, Sgt. Paul Hooper support NOPD.**

Exercise your writes

The Louisiana Drug Guard is a forum for all members of the CDTF. Please send all submissions to Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot at Shyobro@aol.com or fax 337-262-6647. This monthly newsletter is published by the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force through the offices of the U.S. Customs Service RAIC/LAF.