# The Louisiana Citizen Soldier

*"Preserving Our Legacy"*

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Happy Holidays

*The official publication of the Louisiana National Guard*

# Terror of Sept. 11 attacks felt throughout nation, at home

**Story By Master Sgt. John Sullivan**
**Det. 1, 102nd MPAD**

NEW ORLEANS - On Sept. 11, the world as we once knew it changed forever.

The world watched as the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City were destroyed and the Pentagon was heavily damaged in suicide attacks by men who hijacked civilian airliners and then crashed them into their targets.

A fourth airliner crashed near Pittsburgh, Pa., after the passengers fought with the hijackers and prevented them from continuing their journey to Washington, D.C.

From those first few moments of disbelief and horror, members of the Louisiana National Guard were struggling to cope with a new world -- and the awful reality that the United States itself was under attack.

"I couldn't believe it at first," said Master Sgt. Mike Royer. "I don't think anyone thought it was real."

Throughout Jackson Barracks, Guardsmen and women, along with their civilian counterparts, huddled around TVs and radios and listened as the terrible truth was confirmed -- the United States had been attacked and the civilian death toll would be staggering.

The president was onboard Air Force One zig-zagging across the nation with Air Force jets providing fighter protection.

Despite the shock of seeing the images of the Twin Towers collapsing and the first roaring over the skyline of the Pentagon, members of the Louisiana National Guard jumped into action.

Guardsmen and women quickly took up defensive positions around Jackson Barracks, Camp Beauregard and all Guard installations as emergency security procedures were put into position.

"It was pretty wild, no one really knew what was going to happen," said Master Sgt. Bob Davis. "Guards were put on all of the entrances and exits and I guess we were like the rest of America, just waiting to see what else was going to happen."

Members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 159th Tactical Fighter Wing scrambled their F-15s to begin patrols over the Gulf Coast.

They took off just as the FAA was ordering all civilian jetliners to land at the nearest civilian airport. The skies over the United States had, for the first time in its history, been closed to all but military aircraft.

Citizens of major cities across the United States looked into the sky and saw U.S. fighter jets patrolling the skies -- ready to respond to any new attack.

Since those first few terrible hours, the Louisiana National Guard has put Guardsmen and women on duty to protect Jackson Barracks and guard the seven major airports in the state.

In October, President Bush called on the states to send National Guard troops into the nation's airports to provide security.

Louisiana was quick to respond.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, at a press conference at the Louis B. Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans, said the Guard would place armed soldiers at airports in Lafayette, New Orleans, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Monroe, Shreveport and Lake Charles.

"We are confident that our Guardsmen will accomplish their mission for as long as they are needed," Landreneau said. "These soldiers are leaving their homes and families and reporting to guard our airports for a mission that has no end date."

In other recent developments, members of the 159th Tactical Fighter Wing left the Belle Chase Naval Station for a three-month tour of duty in Turkey. The F-15 Eagle Drivers of the 159th will be patrolling the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

The rest of the squadron will continue to perform its homeland defense mission.

"Our Guardsmen and women will be on duty until this thing is over," Landreneau said. "They have answered the call to protect our nation and they will continue to perform their missions - whether here in the United States or overseas."

# Armed sentries placed on post at all Guard installations

**Story By Sgt. Shannon M. Kleinschmit**
**Det 1., 102nd MPAD**

It's a cool and sunny Saturday morning in New Orleans as motorists travel along Claiborne and St. Claude avenues in front of Jackson Barracks.

Some are headed west into New Orleans, while others are headed east to Arabi and Chalmette. Few realize they are under the watchful eye of the Louisiana National Guard.

The diligent stares and heightened awareness of the citizen-soldiers are reminders that the events of Sept. 11 have changed the face of America's National Guard forever.

Since that fateful day, security has been beefed up at all military installations. No longer can residents, or even soldiers, drive unchallenged onto the post. Armed sentries stop every vehicle and ask to see two forms of identification, at a minimum. For soldiers, this usually means a military ID card and a valid driver's license.

These young men and women are on duty 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week. Their primary mission is to safeguard Jackson Barracks, Louisiana National Guard headquarters.

Spec. Jason Vercher, 23, of New Orleans, is a member of 141st Field Artillery and has been on Guard since Sept. 14. He wears a bright orange vest and carries an M-16 automatic rifle. He is a volunteer sentry like many of the Guardsmen assigned to guard Jackson Barracks.

Cpl. Welton Clemmon, a foward observer with the 141st, said he spent seven years on active duty. He has been with the Guard for nearly two years now. A single parent from Marrero, Clemmon said he has his hands full juggling his home life and military responsibilities.

"I used to have a different day job, and it was hard, but now I work here from 0600 hours to 1400 hours, so I'm home for my son when he gets back from school and get to spend time with him and help him with his homework," Clemmon said. "It works out a lot better."

Spec. Anthony McClellon Jr., of New Orleans, has been with the 141st Service Battery since June. He has been on sentry duty since it all began on Sept. 11. "The response of most of the people to what we are doing is positive," he said. "They understand what we are doing."

Private 1st Class Brandon Brewer of Chalmette started his guard duty assignment in late September. The former safety team employee of Mobil Oil Refinery volunteered to perform guard duty immediately after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Brewer said he is proud to serve his state and nation and wants to do all he can to support the Guard's new mission of homeland defense.

Athough duration of the new mission for enhanced security measures is undetermined, Jackson Barracks is using all of its resources to accomplish the mission.

# Noble Task Force Command Center – 'On Call' for our Nation

**Story by Capt. Pat Simon**
**STARC Public Affairs**

Jackson Barracks -- Sunday Morning. All is quiet at the Command Post of the Louisiana Army National Guard's Noble Eagle Task Force. But do not let that fool you. This small group of staff soldiers responsible for managing troops who are now providing security at the Louis Armstrong International Airport, are at the ready at a moments notice; anytime, any place.

If members of this command center are not physically at the office, they are just a phone call or page away.

"We are a mobile group. We get called out 24/7," said Major Vincent Maggio, the Task Force's S-4. "I am in charge of getting supplies out to the soldiers on guard," he said.

Handcuffs, flashlights, batons, uniforms; you name it, if soldiers patrolling the airport need it, the command center will supply it.

"It's nothing but realistic training," said Maggio who also the S-4 for the 61st Troop Command. "At that level, (61st Troop Command) we provide support for units on a larger scale. Here everything is down to the unit level. We're doing it for the individual soldier."

*The Guardsmen and women who make up Task Force Noble Eagle began helping to secure our state's airports in early October*

Fewer soldiers to serve, but there's no greater cause to support during this critical time for our country.

Maggio, who works at a chemical plant in Baton Rouge (he prefers not disclosing its name), is just one of many soldiers called onto active duty October 1st to support airport security efforts in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Personally, it makes me feel good. I can see progress. I get a direct sense that what we're doing is helping," he said.

It really is helping. Just look at the soldiers at the airport and know this small group at the command center is responsible for keeping them squared away.

# *Conducting Homeland Security: Swiftly into a new era of defense*

[The following is an excerpt taken from a nineteen page article that will be published in Armor Magazine in the March/April editions. The full article is available on request.]

**Story By Maj. Mike Pryor**
**(with Lt. Col. Ronnie D. Johnson)**

*"I need you in here ASAP," came the call from my battalion commander and AGR Deputy Director for Training and Mobilization in my state. "You will be doing mission contingency planning for critical infrastructure sites in the state…."*

The reply I had been waiting to give to any such phone call for the last week was, "What time do I report?"

"I've got one of the Captains stopping to pick you up on his way here, so, this afternoon as soon as you can get here."

"I carpooled today, sir, so I don't have a uniform or any shaving gear, but I will be in that car with the Captain."

"We'll buy you a toothbrush, and if you get to smelling too bad, I'll let you sleep out back with the dogs instead of on my couch."

"Fair enough, sir. I will see you soon."

That is how my first of three, separate tours of duty planning Homeland Security missions for my state began on Sept. 18, 2001. It is highly illustrative of the nature of this new mission that began with no written doctrine or necessary guiding terms and definitions. As my battalion commander said when I arrived at his office, ***"…We are making this out of whole cloth – there's just nothing already written on this to go from . …"*** And underscoring everything I have done is the personal realization that the planning and missions I have been involved with needed to be written and rehearsed respectively no later than Sept. 10, 2001 – we just did not know it.

Prior to my arrival, the state's training office, key state directorate heads, and The Adjutant General conferred to determine what were designated as "Key" and "Critical" infrastructure assets within the state. This is perhaps the first instance where **new doctrinal definitions had to be crafted**. For the purposes of prioritizing support, the TAG and state staff determined that "Key" assets held some national and/or strategic implications, and "Critical" assets held state strategic and/or economic implications.

The recommendations for assets to be listed came from existing state military files that required significant updating, institutional knowledge of state infrastructure by our Office of Emergency Preparedness, and from agencies who contacted the state's OEP, or the Governor's or TAG's offices directly. Based on the criteria above, the list was compiled, sites were categorized as "Key" or "Critical," and then they were prioritized based on a combination of what we knew their overall impact to national and state security to be, and the Governor's and TAG's intent.

We simultaneously began to coordinate through our OEP for meetings with critical infrastructure security and site managers. The OEP has a combination of institutional knowledge of personnel at these sites and holds close ties to local (Parish) OEPs and agencies. My state's military leadership knew instinctively that **any work we did would be a joint, multi-agency effort that included local political, governmental, and law enforcement agencies**. Not doing so might produce hurdles too significant to clear and undermine the security process……

At the conclusion of my first, solo recon of a key infrastructure site for the purposes of drafting its security plan, I

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# Security

**Continued from Page 3**

returned to give a short briefing to my battalion commander/state Deputy Director for Training and Mobilization. He let me finish before he said, ***"…Okay. Now, shift gears. We have a requirement to stand up an airport security task force based on the President's comments yesterday about placing Guardsmen in the airports to increase security and public confidence. There has been an initial meeting already with the Directorates, and they have all been tasked to provide us with their annex to the order by noon tomorrow. You and the boys are going to spend the weekend putting the order together for the TAG's approval by noon on Sunday. Questions?..."***

I did not need to ask any. I have been my commander's S3 for four years and through our NTC rotation. I understand and completely believe in his desire to retain flexibility to ensure success in every endeavor. To borrow from comedian Eddie Murphy, I am the very picture of Gumby. This was another time and place defined by one of General Shinseki's comments to the AUSA Seminar:

***"…WHILE OPERATIONS WERE PLANNED AS* SEQUENTIAL EVENTS ON A LINEAR BATTLEFIELD, WE NOW *LOOK TO MASTER CONTINUOUS AND SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS ON NONCONTIGUOUS AND DISTRIBUTED BATTLESPACE IN THE FUTURE…."***

(General Eric K. Shinseki, AUSA Seminar, Washington, D.C., November 8, 2001.)

We were in the process of contingency planning for multiple critical infrastructure sites which might need to be manned *tomorrow*, and had to simultaneously plan for deployment of a security task force spread across the state in multiple airports……

By the time our troops had deployed to the airports, I was moving toward the end of my first tour of duty planning for HS missions in Louisiana. I was told to continue my work on a particular site security plan to ensure its completion before I returned to my job with DOTD….

I mentioned above my "first tour." After almost two weeks back at my "civilian" job, I was called in again when the President and Secretary John Ashcroft announced a heightened state of alert was necessary for the nation just before Halloween.

This call came even as we were deploying soldiers to six critical infrastructure sites around the state. On that Monday afternoon, I was returning from a computer training class when I received a call telling me to "Stand By." I returned to work and notified my supervisor and section head of the phone conversation, and went home for the night.

On Tuesday morning, I was almost half-way to work when the call came asking me to turn around, go to a particular site and conduct the initial recon.

I was to meet with the site's staff, tour the facility, determine their needs as far as augmenting their security force, and report back to my battalion commander at the state training office. As I was doing so, members of my brigade's MP platoon were mobilizing for duty at this location. After reporting to my commander, I continued on to my brigade headquarters in order to directly brief the task force (MP platoon) commander. Having done so, I finished the day drafting the security plan at my brigade headquarters, and acted as a liaison of sorts between their Emergency Operations Center and the state training office.

As I write this article, I am on duty for my third tour since Sep. 11, this time as my state's Operations Officer for the Louisiana National Guard's Super Bowl Task Force. We are preparing to join in and synchronize ourselves with the largest coalition of site security, government, and law enforcement personnel I have ever been a party to. It gives even more meaning to the lessons learned I mentioned in the article above.

Homeland Security is an evolving operation requiring the drafting and understanding of new doctrine and doctrinal terms *on the fly*. It is, as has been said around our headquarters often, not a mission for the faint of heart.

One day, HS doctrine will be as well known as tasks, conditions and standards for a tank platoon attack. But for the moment, it is new, challenging and exciting and it brings out the very best in the individual soldier and leader.

**Major Mike Pryor** is currently mobilized as the Operations Officer, Super Bowl Task Force, for the Louisiana National Guard. In addition, he serves as the M-Day S3 of the 1/156 Armor Battalion located in Shreveport, Louisiana. He has served at the platoon, company, battalion and brigade levels, both as a drilling Guardsman and as an Active Guard and Reserve officer. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas and CAS3.

# Guard soldiers proud to be part of homeland defense missions

NEW ORLEANS—On any given day, Sgt. Rhonda Bowling knows precisely how long she's been in the service.

Ten years, two months, 14 days, mostly in the Navy, Bowling said on a recent Saturday morning. "I don't get down to the hours and minutes," the California native, now living in Metairie, said.

It's only been six months since she joined in the 3673rd Maintenance Co. of the Louisiana Army National Guard. But two of those have been while the National Guard has taken an unprecedented role in the defense of America.

Bowling is one of a few hand-selected sergeants on an active duty task force at Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans.

Since Sept. 11, security at high-profile areas, including major airports across the country, has increased to levels not witnessed before on this soil.

Just how many soldiers are on the task force is not being divulged.

Citing security concerns, leaders of the airport detail did not disclose numbers actually on the premises or other sensitive information shared only with federal agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service and FBI.

Weeks after the four airplanes were hijacked on Sept. 11, President George W. Bush called on the Guard to provide immediate support for homeland defense.

Now, for the first time in U.S. history, Guardsmen like Bowling are working with civilian local and federal authorities in the fight against terrorism.

It's something of which Bowling is extremely proud. "I love it," she said. "I'm doing something that's making a difference."

That sense of duty is echoed amongst her fellow soldiers currently working 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Staff Sgt. Mario Suarez, of the 141st Field Artillery, heard about the Sept. 11 events unfold while at work.

"An electrician told me. I thought it was a joke," he said. Suarez, a section chief in a firing battery, immediately called his unit when he heard for himself what happened.

He has been at the airport since Oct. 1, mainly working in the concourse where travelers catch flights to Latin America. Suarez, a Kenner resident, speaks Spanish.

While most have been out since the beginning, Sgt. Peter Turnage, of Walker, recently joined the security team.

Turnage, 32, has served in the 205th Engineer for 13 years. On Sept. 11, he left his job at Vallen Safety in Baton Rouge three hours after the first plane crashed into the first World Trade Center tower.

Turnage says he sped home and began packing. "Everything I had military, any gear, I put in my duffel bag," he said, awaiting word of a possible call-up.

It never came. Instead, he volunteered for duty at Exxon Refinery, and worked a short time at Jackson Barracks before coming to the airport.

Turnage is prepared to stay as long as it takes. "I'll stay out a year (if necessary)," he said. And while caution has kept the mood serious, there have been some exceptions.

One traveler misunderstood instructions to remove his belt when it caused the sensors to go off. He complied, but then he unbuttoned his pants and lowered them. Standing in his underwear, everyone in the area burst into laughter.

Those are some of the more memorable moments these soldiers say. And they've also been on increased alert when dignitaries and high-ranking officials, including first lady Laura Bush, arrived at the airport. But it's the pats on the back, and appreciation from travelers that make the job.

"I get a lump in my throat," Bowling says holding back tears. "This is the first time I've been in the service when anyone has ever said thanks."

# Guard runner competes near attack site

**Story by Capt. Ed Bush**
**Deputy Public Affairs Office**

Louisiana Guardsman Capt. Ross Shales of the 141st Field Artillery Battalion frequently represents the National Guard in marathon competitions. He has competed throughout the United States as well as internationally and run hundreds of races. On Nov. 9, Shales competed in the 26th Annual Marine Corps Marathon held in Washington, D.C. He finished fifth out of the 31 members competing on the National Guard team and though it was not his best performance, Shales says that he will always remember this competition, "I've run in a lot of races, and I've run in D.C. many times before, but I will never forget this competition."

At the 4.5 mile mark of the 26 mile course, less than 30 minutes into the race, the participants of the marathon got to see first-hand the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon. As they ran by, many runners removed hats, placed their hands over their hearts and bowed their heads in respect to the 189 people who died there on Sept. 11.

Shales said, "I had visited the Holocaust museum the day before, and then, to run by the Pentagon was almost overwhelming. As I was running, I didn't concentrate on any specific aspect, but I remember thinking how remarkable it was that only a few weeks after the tragedy, this country could rebound so quickly that we would have a marathon in Washington, D.C."

As over 15,000 runners worked their way through the streets of the nation's capital, many felt the support of the multitude of spectators who lined the course. "I noticed, especially being a member of the National Guard, that I had more people yelling "Go Guard!" said Sgt. Kelly Wild, the top female finisher on the Guard team. "They were screaming it out and really meaning it."

The Marine Corps Marathon was the first major event in the D.C. area since Sept 11 and runners noticed the increased security. According to race officials, "There were nearly 2,500 Marines posted along the course, a thousand more than the year before, but it was important to all of us that the race go on."

Shales commented on the importance of this year's race, "Running this year was different because I was so aware that I was representing the military." He went on to say, "Everything about this event was different this year, even the trip home. As I passed though the D.C. and New Orleans airports, I saw fellow Guardsmen on security details. I felt very proud to be a member of this organization."

# LAARNG named recipient of 2001 quality award

**Story by MAJ Maria LoVasco**
**STARC PAO**

The Louisiana Army National Guard will add another award to its already brimming trophy case of quality and excellence awards.

They were announced as one of the recipients of this year's 2001 Louisiana Quality Award given by the Louisiana Quality Foundation. The other winners were DynMcDermott Petroleum Operations Company, which manages the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and Loyola University's College of Business Administration in New Orleans.

The award uses criteria employed in the U.S. Commerce Department's prestigious Baldrige National Quality Award Program. The criteria assesses organizations in the areas of Leadership, Strategic Planning, Customer and Market Focus, Information and Analysis, Human Resource Focus, Process Management and Business Results.

*Maj. Gen. Landreneau (holding trophy) stands with key members of his staff and representatives of the Guard after accepting the quality award.*

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general, accepted the award at the Louisiana Quality Foundation's Awards Banquet held November 30, 2001 in Baton Rouge.

"It is a privilege and a real honor to be able to accept this award," he said. "Some folks say that applying these criteria is not possible in the daily crush of operations, but in the Guard we have found the opposite to be true. At the end of the day the only right answer is that the customer must be fully satisfied."

This win comes on the heels of placing first in their division in the Army Communities of Excellence Program. Louisiana has competed in the ACOE program since its inception in 1989.

By taking a quality management approach, the Louisiana Guard has implemented such initiatives as flexible work schedules, improved customer awareness and relationships, and improved performance results causing the Louisiana National Guard to be rated consistently among the best of the 54 states and territories.

Chuck Tolleson, President of the Louisiana Quality Foundation, said, "the criteria fit regardless of your type organization, your customer base, or your processes. When it is all said and done – demonstrating a continuous improvement capability is the defining competitive advantage."

"Tonight while we celebrate the achievement symbolized by this award, Louisiana Guardsmen are on duty in the airports," Landreneau said. "They are on duty protecting our airspace, and they are deploying overseas to take part in Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom. To you the customer I say, the Louisiana National Guard is ready."

# 165th Quartermaster Battalion gets new commander

BOSSIER – A ceremony marking the change of command for the 165th Quartermaster Battalion was held at the Mason Dixon Armory at 2 p.m. Nov. 4.

The outgoing commander was Col. Philip L. Arthur and the incoming commander was Lt. Col. Larry K Willis.

The 165th Quartermaster Battalion was officially activated on Sept. 1, 1999, in Bossier City. It is comprised of 1083 (-) Transportation Company from Minden, 1083d Transportation Company from Vivian and the 156th Army Band from Bossier City.

The major highlight for the battalion this training year was its participation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. During the exercise the battalion was responsible in assisting the 256th Infantry Battalion (M) with railhead operations.

# 528th Engineer Battalion changes command

MONROE – A ceremony marking the change of command for the 528th Engineer Battalion was held at the Monroe Armory on at 10 a.m. Nov. 4.

The outgoing commander was Lt. Col. Theodore B. Eilts and the incoming commander was Lt. Col. Owen W. Monconduit.

Attending the ceremony were Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana and Lt. Col. Glenn H. Curtis, commanding officer of the 225th Engineer Group.

The 528th Engineer Battalion (CBT HVY) training year consisted of construction operations through out the state and abroad.

These operations included Haughton Recreation Complex in Bossier Parish, Many Airport in Sabine Parish and Pine country Ed Center on Camp Minden in Webster Parish. The battalion deployed soldiers to the Azores Islands and to Germany during their annual training period.

As of October, several members of the 528th are participating in TF Noble Eagle by providing security of the airports as well as security at Camp Beauregard.

In addition to its military duties the 528th is committed to the community by assisting Lifeshare Blood Center with their annual MASH Bash and the Boy Scouts of America with their annual food drive.

## From the Front Lines

# Homeland Defense crucial since 9-11 attacks

This time of year, it is fitting to reflect upon the past year's successes and look ahead to what challenges the future might hold for us. Although we have seen great successes over the past year, the current state of our nation has taken center stage for all of us, and we have turned our focus to doing whatever is necessary to defend our country.

It goes without saying that the men and women of the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard have accomplished much in 2001. Our 256th Infantry Brigade, all its elements and the Pelican State Task Force completed an extremely successful rotation through the National Training Center.

Soldiers, airmen and even Youth Challenge cadets fought floods statewide this summer; and our 225th Engineer Group deployed to the Azores Islands, and Hohenfels, Germany. Recently, the 159th Fighter Wing deployed to Turkey to enforce the Iraqi No-Fly Zone. For all of these achievements and more, I am proud of each and every soldier and airman in our organization.

Just over three short months ago, our great nation came under attack, and our freedoms, liberties, democracy and way of life were threatened by the realm of terror that was unleashed upon us. This unprecedented act of war against our country will not be forgotten.

It was apparent immediately after the planes crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a field in Pennsylvania that our world had changed. No one knew how these events would affect our nation ultimately, but we knew we wouldn't tolerate such an attack on our homeland.

Whatever mission was to come, it didn't matter. The highly-trained men and women of the

**Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau**

Guard were ready to do their part without a moment's hesitation. Our soldiers and airmen were there, ready to do whatever was necessary to help our nation respond and recover from the Sept. 11 tragedy before the sun set on this tragic day.

The Louisiana National Guard is nationally recognized as one of the most outstanding and ready organizations in the country. We take very seriously our commitment to citizens of this state to be a premier, trained and ready National Guard.

The tragic events of Sept. 11 have indeed affected us all and changed our way of life. The attack on the United States and the very real possibility of further acts of aggression brings to the forefront the issue of homeland defense.

As we continue to focus on securing our nation, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Louisiana State Police, the Office of Emergency Preparedness and local, parish and state agencies and entities to ensure a coordinated, synchronized response.

Our soldiers and airmen were put into action right away on Sept. 11. Within two hours of the attack on the Pentagon, our 159th Fighter Wing's F-15s were flying armed in defense of U.S. Air Space. One hundred members of the 159th were placed on active duty at the Naval Air Station, Belle Chasse. Our F-15s have continued to stand alert protecting American airspace.

Immediately after the attacks, our installations were put on a heightened state of alert. Armed guards were placed at entrances to conduct ID checks and monitor incoming and outgoing traffic. All mail has been closely monitored for anything that looks suspicious and we continue to operate in a high state of alert today.

We organized a contingent of soldiers and airmen into the Noble Eagle Task Force, whose mission is to augment security at the seven commercial airports around the state – Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans and Shreveport. These soldiers are trained, ready, very professional and represent the Louisiana National Guard in an outstanding manner!

Also formed were the Ready Reaction Forces to provide site security or restore order in protection of life and property on an as-needed basis. These forces are stationed throughout the state and will remain on stand-by. By strategically placing teams throughout the state, the Ready Reaction Forces are capable of responding quickly at various levels as needed.

All these missions were swiftly and efficiently planned and executed. The Louisiana National Guard's involvement in providing security for the upcoming Super Bowl in New Orleans is another example of our commitment to safeguard our citizens.

Our continued presence in these areas is a source of comfort for our citizens who look to us for protection and a source of great pride for all our soldiers and airmen that we are doing our part to combat terrorism.

We have faced many challenges in the past, overcome many obstacles and even faced enemies before. Our soldiers and airmen have always answered our nation's call. But you continue to amaze me and make me even more proud. I cannot tell you enough how good it makes me feel to lead an organization of such fine and dedicated soldiers and airmen.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support of the Louisiana National Guard. Each of you is a valuable asset to this organization and our strength lies in the dedication and commitment of our people. Please remember in your prayers our deployed Louisiana Guardsmen and their families.

Best wishes to you and your family for a safe, happy holiday season, and a New Year full of joy and peace. May God bless you and the great nation we call home.

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# Maurice man takes helm of 61st Troop Command

**Story by Bernard Chaillot**

NEW ORLEANS -- A Maurice man and career Army National Guardsman has assumed command of a key state military post, the 61st Troop Command at state Guard headquarters at Jackson Barracks.

Sans C. Broussard, former deputy commander of the 256th Infantry Brigade in Lafayette and commander of the brigade's 2nd Battalion based in Abbeville, recently took over from Col. Perry Jeff Smith Jr. of Gonzales.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, state adjutant general, said Broussard's performance in a long line of leadership posts made him a natural choice for the state position that manages various military units. "Leadership defines what we are as an organization through study, hard work and field training, with good officers and soldiers treating each other with dignity and respect," Landreneau said.

"To quote Winston Churchill, 'To create great armies is one thing, to manage and control them is another,'" Landreneau said. "Col. Broussard has the integrity, courage and expertise to manage troops."

In relinquishing command, Smith thanked his wife, Deborah, for her support during his 33-year Guard career and said it is always with mixed feelings that an officer gives up one leadership post for another.

"I have a sticker on my motorcycle helmet that says, 'Lead, follow or get out of the way,'" he said. "I have led and I have followed, but I've never known how to get out of the way, so hopefully my family and friends can help me."

Broussard thanked Landreneau for the opportunity to serve and Smith for the example of leadership he set at the unit. "There is no greater honor in life than that of commanding soldiers," he said. "Loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity, personal courage and selfless service all come into play each day."

Broussard said he values integrity above all. "Without trust, we are nothing," he said. "Our country has placed a great deal of trust in us in these troubled times, and we will continue to be up to the task."

The new commander holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and is studying for his master's degree in business administration from the university.

Broussard is a foreman for Amerada Hess at the Sea Robin Gas Processing Plant in Erath. His wife, Linda, whom he thanked for her unwavering support during a 30-year Guard career, teaches at Maurice Elementary. They have four daughters, Dawn Hebert, Dana Gautreau, Virginia Broussard and Erin Broussard.

# WASHINGTON ARTILLERY CHANGES COMMAND AT PASS IN REVIEW

JACKSON BARRACKS – The historic Jackson Barracks parade field provided the backdrop for the One Hundred and Sixty Third pass-in-review ceremony of the Washington Artillery.

The proud Washington Artillery is the most historic unit in the Louisiana Army National Guard, and had its beginning in New Orleans one hundred and sixty-three years ago.

It is the oldest militia unit in the state of Louisiana and the oldest Field Artillery Battalion outside of the 13 colonies. rom its involvement in the Civil War in the 1860s to its mobilization for Operation Desert Storm in 1990, the Washington Artillery has served with distinction.

The pass-in-review ceremony dates from the earliest times in military history and demonstrates the glory and strength of the assembled troops. Alexander the great was the first military leader to use this technique of inspection hundreds of years ago.

The Washington Artillery Pass-In-Review was also the setting for a change of command ceremony as Major Jonathon Ball formally accepted command of the battalion from Maj. Russel Hooper. The changing of command was symbolized by the passing of the Battalion's Colors from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, The Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard, was the Guest of Honor for the ceremony and in his comments to the members of the Artillery said, "You've had the opportunity to be led by one of the most capable soldiers in the National Guard and now, that opportunity repeats itself."– end of story.

# Scores of Acadiana's soldiers take part in annual reviewing ceremony

**Story by Bernard Chaillot**

NEW ORLEANS - The last time the famed Washington Artillery of the Louisiana Army National Guard was called to federal service was 11 years ago this month for Operation Desert Storm. The time before that was during World War II.

With reserve units nationwide now being activated to support the global war against terrorism, the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery at Jackson Barracks stands ready to serve if called upon, said Capt. Ed Bush, state public affairs officer and master of ceremonies at a recent change of command here.

The ceremony just upstream from the Battle of New Orleans site at Chalmette - where Andrew "Old Hickory" Jackson got revenge for the sacking of Washington during the War of 1812 - featured scores of Acadiana soldiers charged with homeland defense missions.

Maj. Russell L. Hooper of Terrytown turned over the reins of command to Maj. Jonathan T. Ball of Slidell in a ceremony at which troops in period costumes fired cannon salutes from the top of the river levee.

Hooper got the state Meritorious Service Medal from Guard commander Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, who praised his active duty service during Desert Storm as Hooper moved on to a domestic defense post.

Hooper said his three years of command here "were rewarding personally and professionally.

My wife, Sheila, has made many sacrifices to support my career, and I need to thank her for that and a lot more."

Ball thanked Hooper for his example of leadership and said he would commit himself "to the welfare, care and training of the soldiers of the Washington Artillery."

Col. Sans Broussard of Maurice, former deputy commander of the 256th Infantry Brigade based in Lafayette, was on hand for the change of command after assuming the leadership of the 61st Troop Command earlier in the day.

# Air Guard headquarters marked by new courtyard

On Dec. 2, at Jackson Barracks, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general, conducted the official ribbon cutting ceremony and opened the new courtyard entrance to the Air National Guard Headquarters.

Col. John Robinson, acting as the master of ceremonies, stated that planning had begun in 1997 when the building was formally dedicated as an official U. S. government building.

According to Robinson, the construction planning was divided into two phases; Phase I being the renovation of the building and Phase II being the attractive courtyard. Phase I was completed in August 2000 and phase II in December 2001.

Col. Bob Buehler, director of operations (LA ANG), thanked the group of distinguished visitors, as well as the 214th Engineering Installation Squadron formation for attending the ceremony and called upon Landreneau to address the gathering.

Landreneau stated he was "honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with the members of today's Louisiana National Guard." He went on to thank Robinson, Major Aldridge and all those who participated for their hard work leading to the completion of the job. Landreneau also expressed his thanks to all Guardsmen for what they do for the state and our nation.

# *Veteran, scholar receives award from LAARNG*

The Annual Christmas Formal, held at the Jackson Barracks Officer's Club, provided the setting for a special awards presentation.

Retired Col. Richard J. Stillman was the honored guest and was presented with the Fleur-de-Lis Award. Maj Gen Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisana National Guard, presented Stillman with the award.

Stillman is Professor of Management Emeritus at the Univerisity of New Orleans.

During World War II, Stillman was on General George Patton's staff and had an opportunity to observe firsthand the General's leadership. Stillman's motto, "be a doer, not a viewer," is encapsulated in his 18th book, "General Patton's Timeless Leadership Principles: Your Practical Guide for a Successful Career and Life," published in hard cover and paperback.

The Fleur-de-Lis was presented for Stillman's meritorious achievement as an author, educator and promoter of selfless service and patriotism.