



The Louisiana
Citizen Soldier

“Preserving Our Legacy”

VOL. 3 No. 3

DECEMBER 2002

**LANG’s Washington Artillery raises a new
American Flag at the Governor’s
Mansion, home of Louisiana Governor
Mike “M.J.” Foster, in Baton Rouge.**

The official publication of the Louisiana National Guard



Jackson Barracks sponsors reunion, honors Patton's Staff

Jackson Barracks was the location of a historic reunion for members of General George S. Patton's Staff. The three day event brought together the proud members of the decorated Third Army "Patton's Own" Staff.

Under the command of Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., Third Army participated in eight major operations and gave new meaning to "hard charging, hard hitting, mobile warfare."

Throughout Third Army's swift and tenacious drive into and through France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria, its rugged soldiers inflicted far more casualties and damage to the enemy than they received while enroute to victory.

Reduced to statistical figures, the feats of the Third Army were astonishing. The Army liberated or captured 81,522 square miles of territory. An estimated 12,000 cities, towns and communities were liberated or captured, including 27 cities of more than 50,000 in population.

The correspondents the U.S. Army and soldier correspondents wrote 30,326 stories and submitted 7,129 photographs about the Third Army's combat fighting.

Perhaps more than any other group of soldiers in the European Theater, the soldiers of the Third Army deserved the praise of the Supreme Allied Commander when he said, "Working and fighting together in a single indestructible partnership, you have achieved perfection in unification of air, ground, and naval power that will stand as a model in our time."

Among the Staff members present and honored during the reunion are Richard J. Stillman, Ph.D. (Colonel, USA Ret). Dr. Stillman is professor of management emeritus, University of New Orleans. During World War II Col. Stillman was on General Patton's staff. He had the opportunity to observe his leadership style daily on the battlefield.

As Secretary of Third Army's General Staff at the end of World War II, he had an office next door to General Patton.



Soldiers re-enlist during New Orleans Saints game

The November 24th NFL Football Game between the New Orleans Saints and the Cleveland Browns had all the makings of a great matchup. It was a pretty big game for the Saints, looking to make their mark in the division race. Plus, it was Military Appreciation Day, a day set aside by the Saints Organization to recognize and show appreciation for the men and women of the Armed Forces. It promised to be a good event for all.

But, for members of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 2225th Panel Bridge Company, it would be a day they would never forget.

"We always try and come up with some new things for our soldiers to do, you know, to build up

unit morale," said First Sergeant Chris Primes, the company First Sergeant. "This started out as a crazy idea but it's turned into a great event."

The 2225th, through a little planning and a lot of coordination, arranged to have approximately 9 of it's members re-enlist in the Louisiana Army National Guard at the New Orleans Saints game.

The actual re-enlistment took place shortly before kick-off and that allowed the members of the 2225th to re-join their families in the stands, sit back, and enjoy the game.

Over 70 members of the Panel Bridge Company (and their families) were able to sit together in one section for the game. Primes talked about the event, "We made sure everyone could see our sign! They definitely knew who we were!"

It is probably no coincidence that the 2225th was recognized this year for having the Best Family Readiness Group of the Year!



Pictured (left to right) are First Lt. Melvin McElwee, commander; Sgt. Kevin Dice; Sgt. 1st Class Joey Billberry Readiness NCO; Staff Sgt. Alan Dunn; Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Giroir; Staff Sgt. Joe Srofe, Retention NCO; Sgt. 1st Class Trey Galmiche; First Sgt. Chris Primes, Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Vosburg, Retention NCO; Sgt. 1st Class Troy Barron; and Sgt. Guy Carlberg.



Guard awards luncheon held during Leadership Conference

Members of the Army National Guard took time out during the Leadership Conference to recognize their own achievements and highlight some of the great accomplishments of the year.

The annual Awards Luncheon took place during the conference and offered leaders a mental break from the task of defining goals as well as a chance to brag a little bit in front of their peers!

The sold-out luncheon was a great success and left everyone feeling more than a little bit proud. In his comments following the presentation of the awards, MG Bennett C. Landreneau, The Adjutant General stated that, "You should all be very proud of the great things we accomplish." Landreneau



went on to say that, "Your accomplishments are even more impressive when you look back at all of the other things that were going on at the same time."

Over 50 awards, individual and unit level, were presented at the luncheon

including:

- The Certificate of Victory - Co C, 769th EN BN
- NGB Supply Excellence Award – USPFO Warehouse
- Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award – USPFO Warehouse
- The Eisenhower Trophy – Co C, 1088th EN BN
- The Milton A. Reckord Trophy – 1088th EN BN
- Aviation Leadership Award – 1SG Dannie Bergeron
- Family Readiness Group of the Year – 2225th Panel Bridge Co
- Army Guard Family of the Year – SFC Daniel and Linda Verbridge

State Command Sgt. Major holds awards banquet

On Oct. 18, the senior enlisted members of the Louisiana Army National Guard gathered in Alexandria for the third annual Enlisted Awards Banquet.

The Banquet is attended primarily by the upper ranks of the enlisted corps and serves as an opportunity to award two individuals with the distinguished recognition as the Outstanding First Sergeant and Outstanding Sergeant Major of the Year.

The caretaker of the Awards Banquet is State Command Sergeant Major John Morrow, who started the program three years ago.

This year's program consisted of two "Special Salute" segments. The segments were inspirational video presentations that



contained everything from John Wayne saying the Pledge of Allegiance to a re-cap of recent Guard activities.

During the awards presentation, CSM Morrow presented the Outstanding First Sergeant Award to First Sergeant Steven



Stuckey, HHC 1-156th Armor Battalion.

The Sergeant Major of the Year Award went to Sergeant Major Homer Stelly, 2-156th Infantry Battalion.

Congratulations to all the award winners!

National Guard leadership gathers to develop goals, objectives



The Louisiana Military Department held its annual Leadership Conference in Alexandria in October and members gathered to discuss and further develop the Organizational Goals and Objectives for 2003.

The conference provides an important step in the process of formulating and developing the organizational plans for the future.

Of particular importance to this year's

conference was a deliberate effort to form one clear set of goals and objectives that can apply to the Army and Air National Guard as well as to the Office of Emergency Preparedness and all branches of the Louisiana Military Department.

With the creation of the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security, a component of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, particular emphasis has been directed toward bringing together the separate pieces of the Military Department.

Following the basic premise of "Our sum is greater than our parts," Guard leaders wrestled with the challenge.

The end result was a set of goals and objectives that are perhaps more defined and more far-reaching than ever before, particularly in the areas of homeland defense and state missions.

To recap, the 2003 Goals for the Louisiana Military Department are:

1. To attain and maintain personnel readiness IAW established NGB goals and meet LANG end strength.

2. To improve the quality of life for soldiers, airmen, employees, and their families.

3. To attain and maintain training readiness IAW with established NGB Goals.

4. To attain and maintain logistics readiness IAW established NGB Goals.

5. To develop and integrate the goals and objectives for the State Military Department necessary to fulfill the state and community missions.

(NOTE – each goal has an accompanying set of objectives)

If you have do not have the complete listing of the 2003 Annual Objectives for the Louisiana Military Department, request one through your unit administrator.



LA Military Department web page gets facelift

The Official Website for the Louisiana Military Department has received a facelift. The changes were made to the site to improve specifically on these aspects:

1. Ease in navigation
2. Professional graphics and “clean” look
3. Capability of posting news stories and press releases
4. Representation of the entire Military Department

Most noticeable is a new layout of the pages that use military patches/symbols as icons and buttons throughout the site. Additionally, a scrolling text feature highlights the latest organizational news and directs users to the newly added “News Headlines” page where news stories and



press releases are posted.

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle areas have been added as well as a lot of general information and contact phone numbers for all installations.

According to the Office of Public Affairs, the new look has resulted in increased traffic to the site as well as feedback from users through the “Talkback” feature of the Website. Said one PAO representative, “The gallery pages have been a great addition to the site. People have really

responded well to the addition of all the pictures.”

The website can be accessed internally through RCAS at:

<http://www.lang.ngb.army.mil>

The website can be accessed externally through the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.la.ngb.army.mil>

Note – To update their respective areas, individual units and sections can e-mail suggestions/proposed changes to the Office of Public Affairs.

Battalion Washington Artillery holds Annual Review



The oldest militia unit in Louisiana celebrated its heritage on the Jackson Barracks Parade Field on Oct. 27. The Washington Artillery conducted their annual Pass-In-Review and

provided spectators with quite a show that included the 156th Army Band, fireworks, and a canon salute battery.

The Washington Artillery had its proud beginning in New Orleans one hundred and sixty four years ago. It is the oldest militia unit in the State of Louisiana and the oldest Field Artillery Battalion outside the original thirteen colonies. Since that time, it has served with distinction in our country’s wars and it has seen lively action in numerous important military campaigns.

The Pass-In-Review, a technique of inspecting troops that dates back to Alexander the Great, provides the Artillerymen with an opportunity to “strut their stuff” in front of their peers and fellow soldiers.

Lt. Col. Johnathon Ball, Commander of the Washington Artillery commented on the ceremony, “This is an important event for us. We have a proud lineage to represent and this gives us a chance to do just that.”

During the ceremony, outstanding unit members and accomplishments are also recognized. The awardees this year included:

The Col. Numa P. Avendano Award for the outstanding enlisted soldier of the year presented by: Brig. Gen. (RET) Russell Mayeur.

This year’s award was presented to: PV2 John T. Basco, Jr. (Bravo Battery)

The Lt. Col. Edward P. Benezech, Sr. Award for the outstanding soldier of the year above the grade of E-5 presented by: Col. Edward Benezech, Jr.

This year’s award recipient was: SGT Jeffrey T. Ayers (Alpha Battery)

The Avendano Continuous Fire Streamer awarded to the Battery with the highest achievements in live fire exercises and artillery procedures throughout the entire training year presented by: Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreaneau

This year’s award was presented to: Bravo Battery Commanded by: Capt. Keith E. Robinson and 1SG Jerry Workman

The “Try-Us” Streamer awarded to the outstanding battery based on its combat readiness in the areas of administration, training and maintenance presented by: Col. Ron Johnson, Deputy Commander of the 256 BDE.

This year’s award was presented to: Alpha Battery, Commanded by: Capt. Harry M.F. Pezold and 1SG Robert U. McGriff.

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NFL, New Orleans Saints Show Appreciation

The National Football League provided the backdrop for an outpouring of support and appreciation for the members of the United States Armed Forces. As the theme for their Sunday November 24th home game, the New Orleans Saints sponsored "Military Appreciation Day" and invited all members of the Armed Forces to attend and participate in the game.

National Guard soldiers and airmen stood tall as part of the Joint Services Color Guard that marched onto the 50-yard line for the playing of the National Anthem. The Superdome swelled with patriotism as players and fans stood with hand on heart as the Marine Corps band played the familiar music.

The spirit of competition was not limited to the playing field and recruiters from all branches of service were present for the game. The Louisiana Army National Guard recruiters took a "if they hear us they'll visit us" approach and the custom made Recruiting HUMVEE (complete with it's sound system and row of 10 inch speakers) was definitely drawing a crowd!

Said one Louisiana Air Guard Recruiter, "Events like this are a lot of fun! It's good P.R. and it's a good family day."



The members of the Joint Services Color are Staff Sgt. Pablo Paz (NCOIC), Staff Sgt. Charles Callahan, Staff Sgt. Richard McSpaddin, Sgt. John Boswell (USMC), Cpl. James Pulley (USMC), Staff Sgt. Nikki Deharde (USAF), and Petty Officer Allan Richardson (USCG).

Competition Fierce for Elite Soldier Award

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

The weather was on the cool side, but the competition was hot for the coveted title of NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year for the Louisiana National Guard. Normally the two positions are decided by nominees going before a board of non-commissioned officers and senior sergeants majors, but this year was a little different.

"We wanted to do something that tested both their books skills and their soldier skills," said state Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Morrow. "I think this is a better judge of how good a soldier or NCO they are."

Twelve guardsmen from the state's major commands began the day, held in early November, with a series of tests on their soldier skills. They were tested on such tasks as properly throwing a dummy hand grenade at a target, identifying terrain features on a military map, plotting a position on a map and decontaminating skin and equipment after chemical exposure. At the end of the day, though, there could only be one winner in each category:

Soldier of the Year for 2003 will be Spec. Kevin Bergeron of Marrero while the NCO of the Year is Sgt. 1st Class Patrick M. Sellen of



Chalmette, La. "None of them knew what they would be tested on until they arrived," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wale, a member of the staff at the NCO Academy at Camp Ball. "Each of the guardsmen here were given a list of 10 possible topics. But they didn't know what they would be tested on until they arrived." The guardsmen went through the tests, running from position to position to take the test under the watchful eyes of academy cadre staff who were the graders.

At the decontamination station, Spec. Saul Duos, a member of the 527th Combat Engineer Battalion, waited for his turn to take the test. "This is different from what we use to do," Duos said. "I think it's better. This way we get tested on everything that we know, not just what

we studied up on." Morrow said with the world's situation, this way of determining the top soldier and NCO was logical. "We want to test them on everything they know," he said. "It's not easy, but it shouldn't be."

In addition to the common task tests, the guardsmen took a regulation PT test. Under the eyes of sergeants majors and cadre staff, the guardsmen took their turns doing push-ups, sit-ups and a 2-mile run. The last part of the test was the traditional Class A review in front of members of the board. The candidates for the Soldier of the Year went before a select board of senior NCOs while the NCO candidates answered a battery of questions from sergeants majors in a series of one-on-one interviews.

In the end, though, during a steak dinner prepared by the Academy, Morrow announced the winners. Bergeron and Sellen were both honored by their fellow guardsmen during the dinner after Morrow announced the results of the competition. "I think we have started something very important here," Morrow said. "This will be the way we do the competition next year as well and hopefully it will be way from now on." Morrow said the Bergeron and Sellen will be honored at a dinner and reception in 2003.



National Guard Team meets Goals at ARMY 10-MILER

The LA National Guard 10-Mile team successfully completed its "Run for the White House" with a 2nd Place finish in the National Guard Mixed Team Category at the US Army 10-Miler in Washington D.C. on 20 October 2002.

The Guard team was comprised of the following members: Johnny McBride (RET) 159TH FW; Kyle Franklin, 225TH Engr GP; Robert Searle, 199TH S/B; Erwin Venson, 199TH S/B; Kande McKay, HSC 225TH Engr Gp; Richard Miller, Det 5 Hqs STARC; and Bonnie Guidry, Det 5 Hqs STARC.

Team spokesman Captain Kyle Franklin described their goals, "It was our intent to be competitive, look extremely sharp, and give everyone a taste of the food, atmosphere and people of Louisiana."

The annual event is more than just a race



and all teams share a little camaraderie and a lot of food that represents of their home states.

Franklin elaborated on the festivities, "The preparation of the post-race meal was a big deal. Thanks to SFC Johnson of the "Old Guard Mess" in Ft. McNair and Lt Col Robert Brown of the Washington D.C. Guard, we were able to properly

prepare and store our Zatarain's Jambalaya and Blue Runner Red Beans the evening prior to the race.

The Pasta dinner was highlighted by our introduction to the Sergeants Major of the Army, Reserve, and National Guard. The CSM of the National Guard, CSM Lever and his wife, a Louisiana native, were delighted to see us!"

"Phase III involved decorating our tent with decorations donated from The Mardi Gras Annex, setting up the food, and running the race. A special thanks goes out to Col (Ret.) Washispack and Lt Col (P) Singelton for their help in this endeavor."

According to Franklin, the Louisiana was a popular favorite, "Everyone completed the race and returned back to our tent to assist serving over 200 people delicious meals of jambalaya with red beans and rice!"

Jackson Barracks Museum holds T-Shirt design contest

The Jackson Barracks Military Museum held its first ever T-shirt design contest this past year. The museum solicited T-shirt designs for the Army and Air National Guard and the contest was open to members and/or family of the respective organizations.

The Judges for the event were COL Ben Soileau, commander of the 159th Fighter Wing, MAJ Ed Bush, Deputy PAO, and CSM John Morrow, state command sergeant major.

The winner for the Louisiana Army National Guard design was Miss Kristy Zabasky, daughter of Col. Tom Zabasky.

Zabasky is Deputy Commander of the 204 ATSG. Miss Zabasky is a graphic arts design



student at Louisiana Tech University. She appears to have chosen the right field for her talents!

The winner of the Louisiana Air National Guard design was Mr. Tanin Prompradit, husband of TSgt Kelly Prompradit at the 159th Fighter Wing. Mr. Prompradit wanted to come up with a design that would be "kid friendly."

We think he succeeded. Both received \$50 checks and a free T-shirt.

The T-shirts are available at the Museum gift shop in adult sizes (small through extra-large) for \$15.00 each. They feature the museum logo on the front with either the Air or Army design on the back.

A special thank you to all the contestants and to the panel of judges!

Looking back, ahead at Operation Enduring Freedom

Over a year has passed since the day that forever changed our country. Debris from what was once the World Trade Center has been cleared away in a hundred thousand truckloads.

The west side of the Pentagon looks almost as it did on September the 10th, 2001. Across America, families are preparing for the holiday season. For many, life seems almost normal.

Yet, as President Bush has said, "We are a different nation today — sadder and stronger, less innocent and more courageous, more appreciative of life, and for many who serve our country, more willing to risk life on behalf of a great cause."

Today there are over 60,000 American troops deployed around the world in the war against terror — more than 7,000 in Afghanistan.

Speaking for the Louisiana National Guard, we have over 500 Citizen Soldiers from the 769th Engineer Battalion currently deployed to Afghanistan. The 527th

Engineer Battalion recently received a mobilization order and is also preparing to deploy overseas. Over 150 of our Guardsmen from the 239th Military Police Company have just returned home to Louisiana — they have been in Quantanimo Bay Cuba, securing Camp X-Ray. The members of State Flight Detachment 38 (Operational Airlift Support), are participating in a planned rotation to Kuwait and providing overseas operational airlift support to the theater of operations.

This is a very different time for all of us.

After September the 11th, we needed to move quickly, and the Louisiana National Guard responded to calls from our President and our Governor. We secured Louisiana's Airports; safeguarded key structures throughout the state; stood guard during the Superbowl; and patrolled the French Quarter during Mardi Gras. All in the name of Operation Noble Eagle - Homeland Security.

President Bush has concluded that our government must be reorganized to deal more effectively with the new threats of the 21st century. Here in Louisiana, Governor Foster has gathered his key leadership and Major General Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard and head of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, has been charged with the responsibility of creating and implementing Louisiana's Office of Homeland Security.

This office will be headquartered in Baton Rouge and will serve as the single coordinating element for over 40 different agencies in times of emergency. These agencies will come together under one permanent department with an overriding and urgent mission: securing our homeland, and protecting the American people and the citizens of Louisiana. Never before has such a cooperative effort been undertaken.



Freedom

Continued from Page 7

The steps that Louisiana has taken and the programs that we have already implemented regarding Homeland Defense have drawn national attention. Many states are now using our plan as the model for which to base their own. The challenge that lies before us as a state and as a collective nation is that we must change the way we think. Homeland security is not a concept, it has become a necessary way of life.

Americans have a renewed sense of patriotism and the concepts of “service” and “values” suddenly don’t seem quite so old fashioned anymore. It is hard to remember a time when so many American Flags have been displayed proudly.

It is unfortunate that we had to experience such a tragedy to bring about this renewed sense of patriotism but the reaction of American citizens is encouraging.

American citizens and from across the

country have asked, “What can I do to help? What do I need to do to make my community, my family, better prepared?”

President Bush has created Citizen Corps to provide a mechanism for American’s to get involved and to fill the need for those want to make a difference.

Citizen Corps is a local, community-based initiative to have every American become active participants in the homeland security effort and support the local first responders and emergency managers.

There are many ways to get involved in Citizen Corps. There are programs and activities already underway across America that focus on making communities safer, stronger, and better prepared. Besides the five national Citizen Corps programs, you might seek out other volunteer agencies and organizations that support the mission of Citizen Corps and are a good match with

your skills and abilities. Or you can contact your local police department, fire department, and emergency medical services department to ask how you can get involved in citizen’s programs that they offer.

America’s culture is changing - we’re ushering in a period of personal responsibility in this country. People in America are understanding that if you live in a community, you have an obligation to help that community realize its full potential. There is such a thing as personal responsibility and sacrifice.

The Louisiana National Guard, as a community based organization who’s strength comes from it’s volunteer members, will no doubt continue to play an important role in our nation’s efforts. Today’s Citizen Soldiers are a source of pride and inspiration to those around them – but that is nothing new - they have done it for over 200 years.

Annual Kids AT at Beauregard a grand success

Story by MAJ Maria LoVasco Tolleson
HQ STARC PAO

More than 85 children attended this year’s Kids’ AT held at Camp Beauregard from June 25-28. Sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews spent four days participating in activities unique to the National Guard.

Nearly 53 volunteers comprised the cadre of adults and adolescents who oversaw the care, feeding and entertaining of the kids. They performed as platoon leaders, squad leaders, platoon nurses, operations, administration and logistics personnel to name a few. New this year was the incorporation of junior counselors. These junior counselors, many of them former Kids’ AT campers, were older kids, 13 and above, who served as assistant squad leaders in the four platoons.

The day prior to the campers’ arrival the cadre assembled to go over the agenda, set up the quarters and receive training in CPR. The first day of Kids’ AT was spent in-processing the kids as they arrived. Two busloads made the trip from Jackson Barracks.

The age of the campers ranged from 8 to 13. They stayed in the Youth Challenge Program barracks – an open bay set up with rows of double stacked bunk beds and a communal latrine. The boys and girls made up their beds, received their tee shirts, water bottles and caps, and became acquainted with their platoon leaders and platoon mates.

That evening they underwent a swim

assessment at the ACOE Pavilion area pool, and after snack time, it was lights out.

Most mornings began at 6:30 a.m. with reveille. After breakfast at the YCP dining facility, the four platoons began their first full day of activities on a round-robin schedule.

Rain delayed the rotations that morning, but as soon as the clouds cleared, the kids bounded enthusiastically into the confidence course area. They navigated the rope bridge, balanced aboard the logs, climbed over a wall and scrambled through the “tunnel of love.”

Meanwhile over at the ROPES course another platoon was learning about trust and teambuilding through such exercises as the “trust fall” where one must learn to trust his team members to be ready to catch him as he takes a dive backwards into their waiting interlocked arms.

Later the kids were treated to a demonstration of various rappelling techniques.

Meanwhile underneath the YCP Pavilion another platoon was seeing the drug-sniffing dog in action and was being told about the dangers of drugs and the efforts of law enforcement to catch drug traffickers.

The final platoon was constructing rockets under the instruction of Ms. Cheryl Arbour of the Louisiana National Guard’s STARBASE Program. These rockets were going to be fired the next day.

That afternoon four buses headed out for the woods surrounding Esler Air Field for classes in land navigation, camouflaging, team building and a visit to the PLDC Training Site, but heavy rains kept the kids stranded aboard the buses.

When it became evident that the rain was not going to let up, the Kids’ AT leadership coordinated with the PLDC students in the field to set up an ambush on the vehicles.

Upon cue the soggy woods erupted in noise and colored smoke, and the camouflaged,

See KIDS AT on Page 8

2003 KIDS’ A.T.



17-20 JUNE 2003
CAMP BEAUREGARD
PINEVILLE, LA.

Applications available at the Office of Family Programs
800-541-5860
Online at <http://www.la.ngb.army.mil/fs/index.htm>
or
RCAS: at 01-lang-jb, share, Kids’ Annual Training

Kids AT

Continued from Page 8

uniformed soldiers began approaching the buses stealthily with muzzles flaring.

The children squealed with mock fright and delight and plastered themselves against the windows to get a better look at their “attackers.” Thus the afternoon was salvaged.

That evening the campers went to Skateville in town for skating and pizza.

The weather again affected some of the activities planned for the next morning, but the campers and cadre didn’t miss a beat. They traveled to England Air Park to visit the Air Traffic Control Tower and see a Blackhawk display.

Getting to the top of the tall tower on the narrow, steep stairs was half the fun, and the children enjoyed climbing aboard the helicopter.

Later an Emergency Crash Response vehicle arrived and an air medevac helicopter. They listened enraptured as the firefighters and pilots answered questions and showed off the equipment.

The low cloud cover and rain prevented the F-15 and C-130 from arriving as scheduled.

That afternoon, back at Camp Beauregard, the kids rotated among a simulated Tactical Control Center set up outdoors, the Mobile Close Combat Tactical Trainer (MCCT) and the Engagement Skills Trainer Simulator.

The MCCT was a virtual reality trainer that gave the illusion of maneuvering an armored vehicle across the floor of a desert terrain.



Campers had a chance to build and design a rocket before experiencing the rush of launching their rocket and monitoring its trek skyward.



One of the many highlights of Kids’ AT was going through some of the obstacles on the Confidence Course. Here the kids get a little boost from the cadre to scale a wall.

The computer responded to the actual movements of the kids driving the vehicles and these movements were depicted in computer graphics in another room where another set of kids awaiting their turn were able to watch the movements on a bank of monitors.

A big hit with the kids was the Engagement Skills Trainer, a wide screen video which set up scenarios that called for the kids to fire with specially outfitted 45 pistols and M-16s aimed at the “bad guys” on the screen. The video screen took up one entire wall of the building, and the scenarios ranged from wooded to urban settings.

That day the kids also fired the rockets they had constructed. With a countdown beginning at 5 the children launched the rockets with an exhilarating whoosh and watched the parachutes gently waft back to earth.

That evening the kids enjoyed more swimming followed by a barbecue of hamburgers and hotdogs. Before evening’s end they had the choice of two movies: Shrek or Snowdogs, before turning in for their final night in the barracks.

The next morning began with a bustle and a call to clean the barracks and gather up the linen. After breakfast the campers practiced more drill and ceremony under the YCP Pavilion, because of course, it was raining again.

As the parents began to assemble in the stands the practice gave way to a Drill and Ceremony competition which was won by the 3rd Platoon.

And then it was off to the Camp Beauregard theater for a closing ceremony where each child received a medal and a certificate from the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau. Outstanding junior counselors were chosen from each platoon, and the children were treated to a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of their escapades during camp.

Kids’ AT was coordinated by the Office of Family Programs and Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve Office located at Jackson Barracks. Lt. Col. Jerrold Richard of the Family Support/ESGR Office served as the Commandant of Kids’ AT. Sgt. 1st Class Robert S. Morrisette, Louisiana National Guard Marketing NCO, served as the 1st Sergeant.







Raising Old Glory



A Color Guard from New Orleans' own Battalion Washington Artillery occupied center stage in an official flag raising ceremony that took place at the Baton Rouge residence of Governor Mike Foster. The five-man detail, wearing the traditional colonial Minute-Man uniforms, performed the duties of unfolding the national colors and then raising the flag onto the newly erected flag pole at the Governor's Mansion. The Louisiana Guard's 156th Army Band provided the music for the event.

WHO AM I?

*I and mine
May fight today,
So you and your's
Can stay and play
Put on this suit and
follow me.
Who am I?
I am a soldier.*

*Don't like our
country?!
Here's what I say.
Put up, shut up,
Or get out of the way!*

*Put on this suit and
follow me.
Who am I?
I am a soldier.*

*Many have died
To get to this place.
Many have suffered
For freedom and grace*

*Put on this suit and
follow me.
Who am I?
I am a soldier.*

*It may not be mine
To stand and fight,*

*But to prepare you
For another night.*

*Put on this suit and
follow me.
Who am I?
I am a soldier.*

*I pledge allegiance
To the Flag
Of the United States
of America
And to the republic
for which it stands
One Nation*

*Under God
Indivisible
With liberty
and justice for All*

*Who am I?
I AM A SOLDIER!*

Submitted, Written by:

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HQ 773rd Maint. Bn.
Louisiana National
Guard**



A Word of Thanks

During the holiday season, Schiro Hall, the Jackson Barracks Officer's Club, is home to some truly great events. The annual Winter Formal, for example, is one of those indicators that Christmas is coming and it gives us a chance to dress up, and enjoy some camaraderie. But, in addition to the camaraderie we get some really good food, beverages of choice (served with a smile), in a beautiful first-class establishment.

A small group of people, working behind the scenes enable events like the Winter Formal to happen and allow the rest of us to have a pleasant evening. Thank you to those special people.