

ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH



ACADIANA CHAPTER 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER MEETS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH, 415 ROBLEY DR. LAF, LA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

(337) 684-6175 or Cell (337) 288-2730

2424 Pierre Matte Road, Branch, LA 70516

**ACADIANA CHAPTER'S
APRIL MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR
SATURDAY MORNING
APRIL 9, 2016 AT HOLY
CROSS CATHOLIC
CHURCH AT 415 ROBLEY
DRIVE, LAFAYETTE, LA,
AT 1000 HRS (10:00 A.M)
THIS WILL BE OUR
ANNUAL SPRING BAR-B-
QUE**

**OUR APRIL MEETING
WILL BE OUR SPRING
BAR-B-QUE HELD AT
HOLY CROSS CHURCH IN
LAFAYETTE**

Plan to come to the Holy Cross Church's Knights of Columbus building. This is to the East of the Church proper. If you are coming in on Robley from Ambassador Caffery, go past the Church and look to the right. You will see the building and parking lot. Please be there at 10:00 AM (1000 Hrs). The reason we asking EVERYONE to come at that time is so we can VISIT and enjoy some "Airborne" camaraderie. As it stands, now we have 58 people coming and it may be more before the deadline.

Everyone who is coming, feel free to bring a dessert.

**FT. POLK JRTC BOX
TOUR**

General McGuire invited us to attend the Ft. Polk, JRTC Box Tour. This is an opportunity for us to go to the training area (combat village) where our troops are trained in fighting our enemies throughout the world. You will see the role players who act as the terrorist and or civilians that our forces face.

The date is Saturday May 7th. The start time is 0900 to approximately 1300. We will be asking those in attendance for the April meeting who wants to go. It will be ideal if we can carpool, but everyone who wants to attend will have to be at Ft. Polk, early on the 7th. The Busses will leave the Bayou Theater (on Mississippi Avenue) at 0900 Hrs. If you are not on the bus, you will have missed it. I received a call from the JRTC HHC 1SG and the Company Commander this week. **IF YOU PLAN to come - I need to know as soon as possible.** I have to provide them a by name

(first and last name list) with a drop-dead date of Friday April 29th. If you are coming from some distance, I suggest that you come in the evening before and get a motel room. **WE MUST BE** at the Bayou Theater on Mississippi Ave **BEFORE 0900** when the buses leave. **I suggest that you are there NO LATER THAN 0830. If you are NOT ON THE BUS YOU WILL MISS OUT. The Busses will leave at 0900.** The two closest motels (which are near the main entrance gate) are LaQuinta 1308 Entrance Road (337) 537-8200 and Quality Inn (adjacent to the LaQuinta) 1304 Entrance Road (337) 653-6200. There are many others in the Leesville area.

If you **DO NOT HAVE** a retired military ID card, you **MUST** come to the main gate security office (to the right before the security check point **to get a vehicle entry PERMIT.** From Hwy 171 you take the Entrance Road exit heading east to go to the Ft. Polk Main Gate entrance. Before you get to the Security Check Points turn right and park in the security office parking lot. Go into the

office and show them your valid driver's license and they will give you a permit. That gate is open 24/7 and you can go in at any time to get the permit. If you are coming in that Saturday morning I strongly suggest that you get there about 0730 (or earlier) in order to make sure you are at the Bayou Theater before departure time.

The video clip below shows the last Box Tour that our Acadiana Chapter attended about 3 years ago. Chapter member Col. (R.) Ted Cox and I were interviewed in this video and many of you will see yourselves. My late great friend MAJ V. Andre LeBlanc is also seen in this video clip.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/140298/jrtc-box-tour#.Vv2fyhFcZpM>

Again, be sure to contact me to put you down if you ARE GOING to attend. I must have your names in order for you to attend.

If you have any questions call me at (337) 288-2730 (my cell phone).

ALL AMERICAN WEEK FT BRAGG, N.C.

All American Week is scheduled for **23-26 May 2016**. The Association has again arranged for rooms at the Airborne Inn-Moon Hall Bldg. D-3601 Darby Loop, Fort Bragg, NC 28310 (910) 396-396-7700 (POC: Ms. Monica Wells,

www.ihgarmyhotels.com from 22-27 May. Please contact the hotel directly for reservations and use *group code: ABD*. The Association Dinner Social is scheduled for May 26. The AAW Registration and AAW flyer is posted on our website. (Copies e-mailed with this newsletter or hard copy if you receive the newsletter by USPS.

Registration for AAW is online and can be paid for online or by write in application. We will also be offering annual AAW coins that can be purchased on our website or with your registration or at AAW. I am attaching the form to register for All American Week with this newsletter (by e-mail or regular mail).

82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The 70th Convention is going to be hosted by the Kentucky Chapter in Louisville, KY. It will be held August 10-13, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport hotel. The hotel room rate is \$99.82 per night including tax. This rate is good from 7 August through 17 August 2016. To make hotel reservations call 888-233-9527 and request the 82nd Airborne Division rate when calling.

The registration for the convention is \$90.00 per person until July 20th after which it will be \$110.00.

AIRBORNE HISTORY!

In the 20th century prior to and during WWII, the U.S. Army was involved in a number of important training exercises. They included the Louisiana Maneuvers and the Tennessee Maneuvers. For those of you who served in the 1960's there were the **SWIFT STRIKE** exercises. These occurred in 1961, 62 and 1963.

I (John R. Vidrine) took part in Swift Strike III, which occurred July 21, through August 16th 1963. Members of our Chapter who took part in this are myself, (Randy Vidrine) HMB 1/325th Battlegroup, CSM (R.) Grady Thomas who was with the 2/504th Airborne Battlegroup SGM (R.) Joseph Mitchell who was with the 82nd Divarty and SGM (R.) Paul Cadour who was with the 506th ABG of the 101st CWO 3 Gerald "Jerry" Meador was a brand new 82nd Aviation unit helicopter pilot.

The unit's taking part in this exercise were: the 82nd Airborne Division and the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division (then at Ft. Carson, CO who were allied together. The 101st Airborne Division and the 2nd Infantry Division (then at Ft. Benning, GA were allied together.

All four Divisions covered hundreds of miles all over South Carolina. The 82nd and the 101st were both parachuted in for the exercise.

Check out the You tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wK2NxmBcPI> This is a U.S. Army, "Big Picture" production and is a very interesting bit of history especially for those of us who took part in this exercise. This is about a 30 minute presentation and has a lot of pictures of the maneuver and the men and equipment involved.

ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

Again, thanks go to our Chapter Member Matthew Lane for setting up our new website. It is located at: www.acadianairborne.org/ Please bookmark this site on your computer for quick reference. Matthew has placed our Chapter Newsletters there along with a Chapter application form for the 82nd Association and Chapter membership. A copy of the application form can be printed from the website. If you would, please go there to print out copies to keep available to help recruit new members. If you run up on a "qualified" veteran, that is a person who has earned the parachutist badge, please get their information and get it to me for follow up.

ACADIANA CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE:

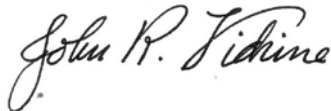
The Chapter has and has had a Facebook page, which was set up by Chapter member John Hurth's daughter. The link is long,

but worth bookmarking on your computer to check on it. www.facebook.com/pages/Acadiana-Chapter-82nd-Airborne-Division-Association/174739489213482?fref=ts

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

We ask you to keep a copy of the application form and recruit new members! If you want, application forms call me. If you need me to mail, you an application form please contact me.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



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C-119 Flying Boxcar cargo aircraft, which were used by the 82nd and the 101st to jump into South Carolina for Swift Strike III.



Paratroopers preparing to emplane for South Carolina. Planes flew from Pope AFB, Ft. Campbell, KY and Kinston, N.C.



Two detainees being held by 101st Paratroopers at a roadblock. They no doubt felt they had intelligence on the enemy (82nd and 5th Mech).