

ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH



ACADIANA CHAPTER 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER MEETS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH, 415 ROBLEY DR. LAF, LA
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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2424 Pierre Matte Road, Branch, LA 70516

ACADIANA CHAPTER'S JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2016 AT HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AT 415 ROBLEY DRIVE IN LAFAYETTE, LA, AT 1030 HRS (10:30 A.M) WE WILL EAT LUNCH AT A NEARBY RESTAURANT AFTERWARDS THE MEETING WILL AS ALWAYS BE HELD TO ONE 1 HR IN LENGTH.

ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2016 IS NOW HISTORY.

Members of the Acadiana Chapter who attended were: Don Bacque and his wife Cookie from Lafayette who visited their son-in-law and daughter at Ft. Bragg, N.C.; Chapter Chairman Randy Vidrine and Delores, from Branch, LA; Chapter Secretary Treasurer Marcus "Mark" Melancon, from Lafayette, and Chapter members Randolph Bascle and his wife Kathie, from Bourg, LA. and Donny Rogers from Baton Rouge.

Everyone I spoke with enjoyed themselves immensely. The 82nd Airborne Division Commander MG, Richard D. Clarke and the Division CSM

Michael Greene made all of the veteran paratroopers welcome. The activities began at 0630 at Ardennes and Longstreet when the Division made their annual run (the entire Division) led by the Commanding General and his staff. The 15,000 paratroopers were very impressive (seeing the Division assembled together is impressive). After the run everyone was invited to the 1st BCT Dining Facility for breakfast. I know the older veterans who haven't been to an Army post lately were very impressed at the food and the service.

There were many activities including unit competitions such as wrestling and confidence course competitions. The Division held a solemn Memorial Service on Wednesday.

They conducted a Joint Operations Readiness Exercise on Thursday at Sicily DZ which was as always very well executed. This started with A-10 Warthogs flying over and strafing and bombing the objective. This was followed by a heavy drop and then personnel jumping from C-130 and C-17 jet cargo aircraft. After this the

Division review was held on the drop zone just like last year. The veterans paraded (those who could – not including me) in front of the grand stands to much applause. I had the distinct honor of meeting one of SGT Alvin York's sons (who is in his 90's and a great great grandson who is a paratrooper in the Division. I regret that I didn't get a picture.

JUNE MEETING SATURDAY JUNE 4TH 2016 AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Please attend to help the Chapter determine future activities. **One thing to discuss is the possibility of the Acadiana Chapter hosting a Joint Multi-Chapter celebration in Lafayette like we did in 2013.** If enough people are dedicated to doing this and also in doing the work necessary we can do it.

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. The registration form will be attached to this newsletter or e-mailed to you. A number of members have indicated an interest in attending and I may if circumstances allow.

AIRBORNE HISTORY!

Low Altitude Parachute Extractions System (LAPES)

This system was developed between the Army and the USAF as a method of getting heavy loads down on the DZ with a minimal chance of damage or destruction. It is a tactical military airlift delivery method where a fixed wing cargo aircraft can deposit supplies in situations in which landing is not an option, in an area that is too small to accurately parachute supplies from a high altitude. This method was developed by the US Military with the assistance of the 109th Quartermaster Company (Air Drop) in 1964. In May 1965, a detachment of the 109th was formed as the 383rd Quartermaster (Aerial

Supply) Detachment and sent to Vietnam. In 1966 the 109th was sent to Vietnam and took operational control of the 383rd. Both units provided Air Drop and LAPES support during the Siege of Khe Sanh in the Vietnam War. LAPES was used to provide a method of supplying heavy loads into Khe Sanh which could not effectively be supplied by air drop.^[1] This practice was perfected at Mactan Air Base in Cebu, Philippines. Preparation for a LAPES delivery includes loading cargo on a pallet rigged with two types of parachutes (chutes). The drogue chute is used to pull a cluster of larger extraction chutes out. The deployed extraction chutes will then pull the load out of the plane. Floor locks hold the pallet in place until extraction time. For those who have Internet capability you can see a very informative video on how this works. The location for it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgg3iRaVnbw>

ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

Please check out our Chapter website setup by 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.

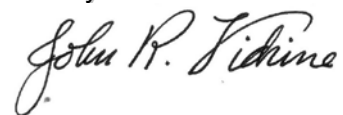
ACADIANA CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE:

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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