

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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**ACADIANA CHAPTER'S
FEBRUARY MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4,
2017 AT HOLY CROSS
CHURCH IN LAFAYETTE,
LA. MEETING TIME IS 1030
HRS.**

**FEBRUARY MEETING
WILL BE PLANNING ON
OUR 2017 SOUTHWEST
AIRBORNE MEMORIAL
DAYS EVENT**

This 3 day event will be held June 9-11 at the Lafayette, LA Ramada Inn on the Evangeline Thruway. A registration form is included or sent as an e-mail to you. Please fill this out and send in your check. Also, PLEASE contact your Airborne friends from your service and INVITE them to come have a reunion within the framework of this REGIONAL MULTI-STATE Airborne confab. A lot of work has transpired and more needs to be done. PLEASE come to our

meeting and give us your input.

**THE 36th ANNIVERSARY
BANQUET WAS A
GREAT SUCCESS**

All those who attended, and there were over 100 total, enjoyed a great evening of Airborne Camaraderie and fellowship. The speaker CSM Jeremiah Inman was very well received as was his wife.

We thank each one of you who came for attending. The appeal for the Chapter to support this event was well received.

**2017 SOUTHWEST
MEMORIAL AIRBORNE
DAYS JUNE 9-11, 2017**

This is a regional (for that matter a national) event. We last did this in 2014 and also in 1987, 1989 and 1993.

Our Acadiana Chapter will be hosting a multi-Chapter event (All Texas Chapter's) plus the Mississippi Chapter (and everyone else who cares to come). Our host hotel is the Ramada Inn in Lafayette, LA at 2032 SW Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA 70501. Our

of our visitors welcome and as we say in South Louisiana "Show them a good time." Les le bon temps roule, or Let the good times roll. A registration form will be attached to this e-mail (or mailed for those receiving this by USPS). I ask all Chapter members to make a real effort to attend and call your "Airborne" buddies and invite them. You can have a mini-reunion within the framework of this regional Airborne confab. Last time I had friends from Massachusetts and Illinois come to Louisiana. They had a great time. I hope they and other Airborne comrades will come. We don't have a speaker yet (we are inviting the Post CG from Ft. Polk, LA) but I am not sure at this time if he will be able to attend. Please make your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible and please send in your registration. We need 90 room nights at the hotel to meet our agreement which ensures the rates we have. Please fill out and provide photos for "Your Program Advertisement" in our Chapter Program which will be given to each attendee. This is a deductible business expense.

AIRBORNE HISTORY!

250 Foot Parachute Jump Towers, Fort Benning, Columbus, GA

These structures were originally constructed as part of an amusement ride at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City. The US Army saw value in them as platforms from which to train paratroopers (known as "Jump Towers"). They were purchased by the US Government after the World's Fair, disassembled, moved to Fort Benning in Columbus, GA, and re-erected with an addition to their height. Each of three Jump Towers now stands at 255'-6" high with a distance of 134'-3" from tip to tip of their massive arms. For training, soldiers are hauled up to the tip of an arm by cable, then released to descend by parachute.

Two of the towers are now used to train paratroopers.

The third tower is unused and stands set up as it was at the 1939 World's Fair. International Chimney was hired to make structural repairs, then clean and paint each tower. The nine month process included repairs and painting.

If you took your jump school at Ft. Bragg, or Ft. Campbell or in Europe you didn't experience the 250 foot tower.

This brings us to the next (or possibly only) tower you

were exposed to in jump school, the 34 foot tower.

The 34 Foot Tower

There are a number of stories about how the 34' tower came about, and how the height of 34' was chosen. I have heard (and perhaps you have too) about how the particular height of 34' feet was chosen. One story is that the Army asked a number of psychiatrist and psychologist as to what height would cause the most FEAR was told that it was 34 feet. I can no longer put my hands on the article, but I read in the "Static Line" newspaper from years ago how this came about. The First Sergeant of the Test Platoon was given the task of building a jump platform simulating the exit from an aircraft. Here is the simple story. The First Sergeant acquired some 40 foot telephone poles and set them in 6 foot holes, he then had a platform with cover built on them and voila – a 34 foot tower.

ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

Again, thanks go to our Chapter Member Matthew Lane for setting up our new website. It is located at: www.acadianaairborne.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.

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. You must tell them we need a DD214 or other document showing the issuance of the parachutist badge (Jump Wings). Make sure the DD214 indicates "Separation under Honorable Conditions" or a copy of their Honorable Discharge. This is a REQUIREMENT of the Association.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



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