

ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH



ACADIANA CHAPTER 82<sup>ND</sup> 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 MARCH MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 6, 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**

**MARCH MEETING WILL BE DISCUSSING SPRING BAR-B-QUE AND FT. POLK JRTC BOX TOUR**

Plan to make the meeting and help in discussing our upcoming events! The Ft. Polk, JRTC Box Tour will be held on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. I am in touch with the JRTC Ops Group HHC 1SG. He will be communicating with me on the particulars which will be passed on to everyone. I will have additional information by the time of our March meeting , Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Come join in this. We will also be planning our Spring Bar-B-Que. **NOTE: Meeting start time is 1030 Hrs voted on last meeting. It will end at 1130 Hrs.**

**THE SPRING BAR-B-QUE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> 2016**

We will again have our annual Spring Bar-B-Que. This is an event that always results in a great turnout. Again this year we will be holding this at the Holy Cross Church's Knights of Columbus hall. This is located on the Church property 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. I am attaching to the e-mail (or including in the mailed newsletter) a form to fill out to attend. We ask that you do this as soon as possible. We are asking for \$5.00 per person for the Bar-B-Que. If you have 4 in your family it will be \$20.00. If you have 5 or 6 six in your family it will still be \$20.00. Our purpose is to cover our cost. We are not making any money on it, we just don't want to go in the hole. We will furnish a choice of Bar-B-Qued chicken or hamburgers (we are figuring 2 hamburgers

per person who chooses that. We will also furnish Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad and cold drinks.

We ask you to come for 1000 hrs (10:00 a.m.) in order to meet and visit with your fellow Airborne Troopers. We will serve the Bar-B-Que at 12 Noon. The biggest purpose is to have a time of fellowship and camaraderie together. Last year we had 75 and we hope to have that many or more this year.

**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 that our forces face.

The date is Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. The start time is 0900 to approximately 1300. We will be asking those in attendance for the March meeting who wants to go. We can do like we did before and meet together in Rayne,

LA. We can carpool so we will be going in just a few vehicles up to Ft. Polk.

## AIRBORNE HISTORY!

If you attended jump school at Ft. Benning, GA you are aware of the 250 foot towers. These have been there since the time of the establishment of the jump school after the test platoon completed their training.

In fact Major William C. Lee (later Major General and first commander of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division) who was Air Infantry project officer working for the Chief of Infantry General George Lynch learned of two parachute jump towers located in Hightstown, N.J. The towers were owned by the Safe Parachute Company who built the huge parachute tower for the 1939 World's Fair in New York City. Major Lee went to Hightstown and was given a demonstration of the towers. After receiving permission from Washington, he had the Test Platoon flown to Camp Dix, N.J. for a ten day stay in which they trained on the towers in nearby Hightstown. These towers were 150 feet tall. This occurred in August 1940.

Major Lee was able secure funds to build two jump towers at Ft. Benning, GA. Unlike the towers at Hightstown these were 250 feet tall. Later two more were built. In 1950 One was blown down by tornado winds. That tower was never rebuilt.

After the Test Platoon had proven the concept of Parachute troops, the Army organized the Jump School at Ft. Benning, GA. The 250 foot towers have been used ever since with instances where its use was suspended because of winds that could blow the jumper into the tower. I was at Ft. Benning in 2014 and they were in use then.

The jump schools that were organized at Ft. Campbell, KY for the 101<sup>st</sup> and at Ft. Bragg, N.C. for the 82<sup>nd</sup> never had the 250 foot towers.

There have been a number of jump schools organized by the Army. In Germany, the 8<sup>th</sup> Army had one at Wiesbaden, Germany. After WWII the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division had jump schools at Sendai and Yamoto, Japan until the Division rotated back to the United States. None of these had 250 foot towers.

## 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/](http://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 82<sup>nd</sup> 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.

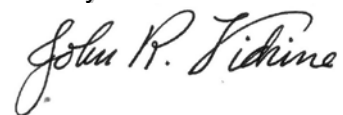
## ACADIANA CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE:

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](http://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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