

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

THE AUG MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY SEPT 8TH IT WILL BE HELD AT BUILDING D AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH, IN LAFAYETTE, LA BEGINNING AT 1030 HRS. WE WILL MEET IN BLD D.

SEPTEMBER MEETING IS GOING TO ADDRESS SEVERAL ITEMS

The next biggest item to address is our 38th Anniversary banquet which is scheduled for Saturday January 19th 2019. We will also discuss the proposed trip to Ft. Benning, GA to visit the Jump School which we all fondly remember. We will be going over our December meeting which will be held in the Ft. Polk area. The PAO office has offered us the opportunity to have a group tour of Ft. Polk which we will go over. Come to join us in "Airborne" Camaraderie and fellowship.

ACADIANA CHAPTER'S 38TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019 AT CHEF ROY'S.

I am attaching (or enclosing, if you get this by USPS) a copy of the form for the meal. This is our largest event of the year and all who come get to meet and visit with members you may not see at the regular meetings. Please fill the form out and send in your funds as soon as possible.

Our guest speaker is Colonel COL Jarrett A. Thomas II who is the Ft. Polk, and JRTC Garrison Commander. He is a Master Parachutist and has served in the 82nd Airborne Division as a Brigade S1 and also as Deputy Chief of Staff of the 82nd Airborne Division. Please come and welcome Colonel Thomas and enjoy a great "Airborne" evening with fellow paratroopers.

100 YEAR OLD THREE WAR PARATROOPER MAKES PARACHUTE JUMP ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Blowing out 100 candles wasn't good enough for Polito "Paul" Olivas, a 30-year Army veteran whose career took him through World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

On Wednesday, the former Green Beret jumped tandem from a plane 14,000 feet in the air over Oahu's North Shore and landed in Dillingham Airfield – a week after he turned 100.

"I'd do it again," he told a gaggle of reporters minutes after landing.

As a veteran paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division he jumped into Normandy, France, on D-Day in June 1944, Olivas has hundreds of parachute drops under his belt. But none included freefalling — the span in jumping before the chute opens. His jumps were all relatively low to the ground, and the parachutes were connected to a static line that automatically unfurled them as he exited the airplane bay door.

His birthday jump had a minute-long freefall, followed by about five minutes under an open chute.

He recalled that on D-Day, his plane was only about 300 feet above the ground when he jumped.

He made a second combat jump into Holland as part of the ill-fated Operation Market Garden, whose success depended on

capturing nine bridges behind German lines. He was with the 101st near Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

Olivas entered combat once again in 1951 in Korea with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

He leaped at the chance to join the 10th Special Forces Group, Airborne, when it was formed in 1952. Olivas was among the first members of that the Green Berets.

At 100, Olivas is the picture of health, needing neither eyeglasses nor hearing aids. He takes no prescription drugs.

He jumped in tandem with Richard Doppelmayer, a family friend.

Olivas, who retired from the Army in 1970 and has lived in Hawaii for 50 years.

"I've been very fortunate," Olivas said of his life before the jump. "A lot of friends, a lot of close calls, but God saved me for something."

When a friend informed him that a 102-year-old held the Guinness World Records for oldest person to skydive, Olivas said he'd jump on his 103rd birthday.

"Gotta stay healthy," he said. "Keep drinking my Bud Lite."

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING CHAPTER MEETINGS

Please make a real effort to attend this meeting coming up. It is important because our organization has its strength in our members. You will benefit in the

opportunity to interact with fellow paratroopers and you have a voice in all that we do. We will be discussing a possible trip (as a Chapter) to Ft. Benning to visit the Jump school as we have on two previous occasions.

82ND PARATROOPERS RETURN FROM 9-MONTH DEPLOYMENT:

More than 100 Fort Bragg paratroopers returned from a nine-month deployment across three countries. The soldiers from the 249th Composite Supply Company, 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, were working in Iraq, Kuwait and Syria during the deployment. They are part of the 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade. Family and friends of the 114 soldiers met them when they returned to Fort Bragg in the early hours of August 5th. In recent months, the company's soldiers were the only 82nd Airborne Division troops deployed.

RENEWING CHAPTER MEMBERS:

RENEWAL - Brian W. Fladmo, lives in Hammond, LA. Brian served in 250th Med. Det. (Surg) (ABN) Ft. Lewis, WA April 97 to March 1998.

Terrance "Terry" O'Connor lives in Lafayette, LA. He went to jump school at Ft. Bragg in 1956; He served with the 319th Art

with the 82nd; Terry was sent to Europe with 11th Abn Div (187th PIR) to include having served in Beirut Lebanon in 1958.

We thank both for their continued membership in our Airborne Chapter.

Please check your membership card to see when it expires. If you are close, please renew.

ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

Our website is located at: www.acadianaairborne.org/ Please bookmark this site on your computer for quick reference.

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

First, wear an Airborne Cap and you will smoke people out. We ask you to keep a copy of the application form and recruit new members! Applications can be downloaded from our Chapter Website.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



John R. "Randy" Vidrine
HHC 2/325th Dom Rep 1965
Chapter Chairman Acadiana
Chapter 82nd Abn Div Association
2424 Pierre Matte Road
Branch, LA 70516-3631
Home Ph (337) 684-6175
Cell Ph (337) 288-2730
E-mail: jvidrine@aol.com

