



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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The September Meeting will be held on Saturday Sept. 9th (the 2nd Saturday) at Holy Cross Church, 415 Robley Drive, Lafayette, La at 1030 hrs. in Building D.

THE SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 2ND SATURDAY (THE 9TH) BECAUSE THE FIRST SATURDAY IS ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND.

The Chapter meeting will begin at 1030 hrs and end at 1130 hrs at which time we will gather at a restaurant chosen at the meeting for lunch. At that time, we will have the best part of the meeting, sharing a meal and visiting with each other. Please make a real effort to attend.

THERE WAS NO AUGUST MEETING (AS VOTED UPON IN JULY) WE DID GATHER AT CAMP CLAIBORNE ON AUG. 14, 2017

A number of our members gathered at Camp Claiborne for a ceremony commemorating the re-designation of the 82nd Infantry Division (which was reactivated in March 1942 at Camp Claiborne, LA to become the FIRST US Army "Airborne" Division on 15 August, 1942. The next day the 101st Infantry Division which was formed (as a new Division) at Camp Claiborne in March of 1942 to become the SECOND Airborne Division in the US Army. Both of them established histories of bravery and accomplishment in WWII.

The ceremony was arranged by the US Forrest Service (whose Kisatchie National Forrest housed Camp Claiborne during WWII). Mr. Douglas Rhodes, Deputy Forrest Ranger and Military Liaison was instrumental in organizing the ceremony.

Ft. Polk's Commander MG Gary Brito, the Assistant Division Commanders of the 82nd and the 101st were present and spoke. They were: Colonel Chris Laneve of the 82nd Airborne Division and Brigadier General Kenneth Royar of Ft.

Campbell, KY. All three Generals spoke and those present heard the taped speech given by SGT Alvin York to the 82nd Infantry Division in March 1942. Chapter members present were: Randy Vidrine, Mark Melancon, Paul Cador, Ted Cox, Bob Romero, John Girard, Al Spinks, Bobby Martin, Malcolm Guidry, John Hurth, Lorne Quebodeaux, Ricky Sumrall and friends from Chapter 81 Chapter of the Special Forces Association (Breux Bridge) were: Kenny Gakendorf, and Jerry Broussard.

FORMATION OF AN 82ND CHAPTER IN SHREVEPORT.

I have been in communication with **Mr. Randy Colvin** regarding an interest by a number of 82nd (and other Airborne Veterans) in forming a Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association in Shreveport LA.

I want everyone to know that I endorse this effort 100%. The members we have in our Acadiana Chapter, which was formed in 1980 who live in North

Louisiana, especially in the Shreveport / Bossier City area deserve to have a Chapter close enough to attend meetings and events that Chapters conduct. I am encouraging everyone in the area to contact Mr. Colvin (who is a 505th PIR Veteran) in order to transfer into the Chapter they form. His e-mail address is: randycolvin505@yahoo.com

His Cell phone number is: (253) 495-3177. In order to form a Chapter there must be a minimum of 20 members. This should be no problem. You may wish to call Randy when you get this newsletter as they are having a meeting in Shreveport this Friday the first of September (1 Sept) at 1830 hrs.

If you have an interest (and I hope some of you do) in becoming an officer in this new Chapter I encourage you to do so.

82ND 1BCT LOSSES IN AFGHANISTAN

I learned from Alan Yeater's 18th Airborne Corps newsletter that the following two soldiers were killed in Afghanistan. Sadly, on 2 August, two paratroopers of the **82nd's 1st BCT** were killed near the Kandahar Airfield, just outside Kandahar City, in southeast Afghanistan. They were in a military convoy that was struck by a suicide bomber driving a pickup truck carrying explosives. Two armored vehicles were heavily damaged, and four

other Soldiers were injured (unknown if they were 82nd paratroopers). This was the first deployments for both soldiers who were killed - **Sgt. Jonathan M. Hunter**, 25, from Columbus, Indiana, and **Spc. Christopher M. Harris**, 25, from Jackson Springs, North Carolina.

Please pray for their families and for all of our military personnel in harm's way. We can be thankful as a nation that we have such fine people serving.

AIRBORNE HISTORY!

All of us have heard the term "stick" in reference to paratroopers jumping from an aircraft. The term goes back to WWII when the term was first used. Initially the bomber forces used the term "stick" to describe a group of bombs arranged in a bomb bay to fall at intervals on a target. It was natural that when Airborne (parachute) forces were organized that the jumpers jumping from aircraft were referred to as a "stick" of paratroopers. The size of a stick depends upon the load of troopers jumping from a particular aircraft. In WWII, a stick could also refer to the number of troopers jumping from one (or in the case of the C-46 two doors) in one run over a drop zone. A C-47's jumpers all exited from one door (left door) of the aircraft, so all of the jumpers constituted a "stick." On the other hand, the C-46 "Commando" had two (2)

doors and therefore two sticks of jumpers.

Another term used since WWII is "Chalk." The Chalk refers to chalk marking on the aircraft to identify them. This is all part of the means to keep track of aircraft and jumpers during operations.

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

Keep your antennae tuned for "Airborne" veterans. Keep a copy of the Chapter's application form handy to give to anyone you meet who tells you they are a paratrooper. Be sure to tell them that we must have a copy of their DD 214 showing the award of the Parachutist Badge or a copy of their Jump School Certificate, or any other official document showing issuance of jump wings. We also must have proof of Honorable Discharge, which will be on the DD214 or by copy of an Honorable Discharge. Wear your Airborne cap or shirt.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



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Some Chapter members at Camp Claiborne. Al Spinks, Malcolm Guidry, Mark Melancon, Bobby Martin, John Girard and Randy Vidrine. Note the nice large tent the US Forrest Service set up.



101st ADC, MG Gary Brito Ft. Polk CG and 82nd ADC



Plaque that was dedicated with history of 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions at Camp Claiborne, LA.