REVEILLE (CS)



Sendoff for Louisiana 256th was a team effort

The Louisiana National Guard's member of the Camp Shelby staff lization quickly and efficiently. 256th Infantry Brigade Combat who pitched in to make sure the team held its Tiger Day celebration event ran smoothly. This was one of March 5, complete with a sendoff ceremony for friends and Family since mobilization began in 2004, members, and it was a huge success. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership and Soldiers of the 256th for their outstanding efforts during their mobilization here, and all the Family members, friends and distinguished visitors who took the time to make the event something special for their troops.

Col. Steve Parham

the largest sendoff events we've had and its success was a testament to our 'can-do' attitude and willingness to get the job done. Keep up the great work! The 155th Brigade Combat Team

is here in large numbers, getting ready to demobilize and send its Soldiers home to their families. Let's give them the support they Thanks also to each and every need to accomplish their demobi-

Daylight Savings time is here once again and the days will be getting progressively longer as we head toward the summertime. There have been several severe weather alerts in the past few weeks, and tornado season is just around the corner, so take a few minutes to check the weather before you head out to work. Make sure you have appropriate clothing for the expected weather conditions, and use caution on the roadways in the event of severe weather.

There is still a lot of construction and the United States of America.

going on throughout the installation, and I remind everyone to be especially mindful of safety in and around these areas. Expect delays due to road construction and plan accordingly. I'd also like to thank everyone for their patience during this time, especially with the traffic congestion and delays caused by the construction around the North gate. In just a short while the North gate will be back to its normal hours of operation.

God bless you all, your families

News**Briefs**

Drop Zone donation

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center received two checks from the owners of Drop Zone Inc., at the CSJFTC Headquarters last month.

'We have a contract with Shelby through MWR," said Van Patrick Jr., Drop Zone Inc. "It's a rental fee of sorts. We give because Camp Shelby took us over."

Patrick said between 90 to 95 percent of their business comes from the Mississippi installation.

In Nov. 2009, Patrick got in touch with the Wounded Warrior Project and inquired about donating part of their gross monthly revenue to the project.

"It's a noble project to give to," he said. "We wanted to give back. There were no ties, stipulations or anything."

check, totaling One \$7,024, went to the Wounded Warrior Project. The second check, totaling \$1,239, went to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund at Camp Shelby. That check, Patrick said, was 15 percent of the gross monthly sales from the Burger Shack, another company owned by Patrick.

"That Wounded Warrior check is 10 percent of gross sales for the month," Patrick said.

Col. Steve Parham accepted the checks and said the money will be put to good use.

to Hurricane Katrina. "When Katrina hit, everything was blown away," he said. "My mom and dad had no insurance on their stand. However, when the needs of the men working here became dire, they got a tent, grill, some meat and started cooking for the Soldiers because they were important to them."

Patrick said he will continue to donate to the Wounded Warrior Project and won't likely stop anytime soon.

"It's the right thing to do," he said. "If you are hurt or your buddy is hurt, the funds are there to help you out."

Tax assistance

The Camp Shelby JFTC Tax Assistance Center is currently open and is located in the Legal Assistance Office on the Drill Hall floor of Building 1001 Lee Avenue.

Assistance is available to all personnel who are on military orders and their Family members.

Members should call and schedule an appointment at 588-2192 or 558-2190. Please bring all documents necessary for tax preparation, including W2's, 1099's, 1098's and copies of all dependents' social security cards.

Lowe's discount

Lowe's is offering an all day, every day 10 percent discount to all military personnel who are active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family "We are appreciative for members, with a valid, government-issued military ID card.



256th

Continued from Page 1

answer the call of our nation."

The 256th IBCT, headquartered in Lafayette, La., is comprised of nearly servicemembers 3.500 throughout the state from

Abbeville, Lake Charles, Shreveport, New Orleans, and Plaquemines. An estimated 400 Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's 1-116th Infantry Battalion, based in Lynchburg, has also joined the group.

For the past two months, Camp Shelby has been the home of the 256th while they received intensive training in preparation for their deployment to Iraq.

"Today marks the completion of a long journey,' said Bednarek. "The tough and demanding training here at Camp Shelby has prepared you well for your upcoming mission. Each of you have proven yourselves to be combat team members, with complete

"We had some long, cold and snowy days here but we have trained very hard," said 256th Tiger Brigade Commander, Col. Jonathan Ball. "They have worked hard to learn their skills and I am confident that they are ready to go."

The event drew nearly 9,000 Family members who drove through the south gate of Camp Shelby past miniature American flags and yellow ribbons placed on side of the road to welcome the Mississippi National Guard Army 155th Brigade Combat Team, which is returning from Iraq as the 256th prepares to leave. After a short time spent with Family and friends, the Soldiers will leave for Iraq, embarking on an 11month deployment. The mission of the 256th will be to provide convoy security in and around central and southern Iraq.

everything you do," Parham said. "The Soldier always come first to you."

Patrick said Soldiers are giving back to their fellow Soldiers whenever they buy food at the Burger Shack or order pizzas from Drop Zone Pizza.

"It gives them a sense of ownership," Patrick said. "When they give to Drop Zone, it gets returned to them in the long run."

The Burger Shack has been around for more than six years and the establishment can trace its roots back

All other military veterans will receive the discount on the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day weekends.

"Lowe's was founded on the heels of World War II by veterans Jim Lowe and Carl Buchan and has always been a supporter of the military," said Larry Stone, Lowe's president and chief operating officer.

The discount is available on all purchases up to \$5,000.



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proficiency in many training events."

Bednarek also mentioned that the brigade had fired a half a million rounds of ammunition during their training here at Camp Shelby and that everyone is proud of what they have accomplished and the sacrifices that they are making.

During their mobilization training here at Camp Shelby, the Tiger Brigade had to endure weather that is not common down in the south.

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