

Katrina turns base into war zone

Rescue operations keep flights nonstop

By Joe Darby
West Bank bureau

About 40 military cargo planes lined up nose to tail on the airfield, disgorging equipment and soldiers loaded with packs, combat gear and M16 rifles.

Jets and helicopters buzzed overhead, while to the north, tall, black columns of smoke from burning buildings reached



STAFF PHOTOS BY KATHY ANDERSON

Fog rises amid the Army National Guard tents at Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse shortly after sunrise. The tent city on the base's golf course provided housing for up to 7,500 military personnel working security, rescue and cleanup operations in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

skyward.

It wasn't a war zone, but it felt like one.

"It was unlike anything I'd ever seen," Navy Lt. Cmdr. Paul Prokopovich, assistant operations officer of the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in

Belle Chasse, said last week, recalling the first few days after Hurricane Katrina struck the New Orleans area. "It felt like a wartime tempo; it was an intense operation."

The base in Plaquemines Parish, which normally hosts several Navy, Marine, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units as well as a Coast Guard station, became the main stag-

ing area for the military's response to southeast Louisiana's worst storm in history.

The base still hosts 2,500 National Guard troops and 1,500 Federal Emergency Management Agency and civilian contractors involved in the recovery effort.

Tons of cargo

In the peak days after the storm, as desperately needed

See **WAR ZONE**, A-29

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
USA Fire & Burglar Alarm, LLC
 Parts & Labor Warranty.
 Locally owned and operated
\$7.50 monitoring per month
 (504) 733-8040
 1-866-666-8040
*All Monitoring Systems Require \$5.00 Monthly Maintenance Fee
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

NOW OPEN?
FULL COLOR Banners, Signs & Magnets
464-4436

 PELICAN GRAPHICS



Marvin V. Cavallino, DDS
Claudia A. Cavallino, DDS

CAVALLINO PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

We are pleased to announce that we are open for our patients. New Patients are accepted and welcome.

3116 Sixth Street • Metairie • 504-833-5528



Army National Guardsmen from Illinois shoot hoops at the end of the day. They are among 2,500 National Guard troops who remain on the air station in Belle Chasse, which logs about 150 flights a day, almost all related to recovery operations.

Marines set to scale back in Japan

By Thom Shanker
© 2005, The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The United States and Japan announced a sweeping agreement Saturday to reshape their military alliance, including the reduction in the number of Marines on Okinawa and the construction of a new generation of radar equipment in Japan as part of a missile defense system.

After a morning meeting of the two nations' foreign and defense ministers, a joint agreement was released calling on Ja-

pan to accept more responsibility for its own defense, and requiring the United States and Japan to integrate planning further in case of conflict. The two sides agreed to greater sharing of intelligence and to expand bilateral military training and exercises.

The document was yet another step in the evolution of modern Japan, which has already grown from a defeated adversary to an occupied nation to an economic powerhouse under the U.S. security umbrella.

The agreement and subsequent statements gave a clear indication of Japan's desire to take an even greater role in global security missions within constitutional constraints imposed at the end of World War II.

Plenty of Treats... No Tricks



Treat yourself to some shopping and let us take care of the kids.

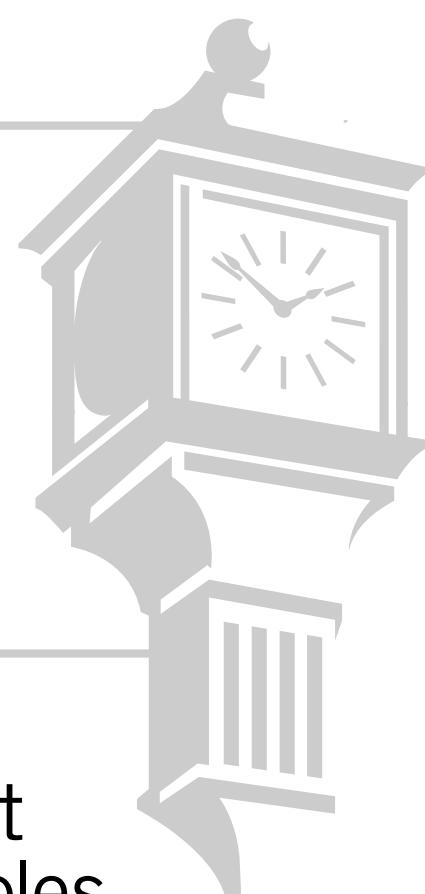
**Mall-Wide
 Trick or Treating
 5:00pm October 31**

Lakeside is currently open 11am-7pm Monday-Saturday and 12pm-6pm on Sunday.



Do you have a Whitney Safe Deposit Box?

Make an appointment to access your valuables.



If you have a safe deposit box in a Whitney Bank Branch that is currently closed or otherwise affected by Hurricane Katrina, we'd like to ensure that you enjoy secure, private access to your valuables. You can make an appointment to access your safe deposit box from any of the branches listed below by logging on to **whitneybank.com** or calling **877.611.9448**.

- Harrison Ave.
- Read Blvd.
- Paris Rd.
- Gentilly
- Veterans Blvd.
- Transcontinental Dr.
- Gretna
- Third District

- Poydras Plaza
- Poydras St.
- St. Charles Ave.
- Broad St.
- Tulane University
- Labarre Rd.
- Wilshire Blvd.
- Kenner
- River Ridge



WHITNEY

whitneybank.com

It takes a Whitney Banker.

Member FDIC