

**1,300 personnel from 20 states take part in exercise**

**On page 2: D-Day veteran recognized**

# Va. Soldiers, Airmen participate in Global Guardian

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen provided weather forecasting and fixed wing and rotary aviation support for Global Guardian 2012, a joint Army and Air Force exercise held at the Georgia Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah. More than 1,300 personnel from 20 different states including flying units, medical units and support units as well as members of the Royal Netherland Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force participated in the exercise that began Feb. 13 and concludes Feb. 24.

Units from the active and reserve Air Force and Army as well as Army and Air National Guard took part in the exercise designed to prepare units to deploy, conduct direct and indirect combat operations and redeploy safely to home base. The exercise provided an opportunity for the units to train in a realistic joint and multinational environment that simulates the situations seen in modern combat.



**U.S., Dutch and Canadian medical specialists unload a simulated casualty from a Virginia National Guard Lakota helicopter Feb. 21 during Global Guardian 2012 at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah.**

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb12/GlobalGuardian.html>

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### 29th ID Soldiers in Afghanistan serve at National Military Command Center

Five officers from the Virginia Guard, part of the 29th Infantry Division's deployment to Afghanistan, are assigned to Afghanistan's National Military Command Center where they advise and assist on national military issues.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb12/AfghanNMCC.html>

### Chemical Company trains for new mission as decontamination unit

Soldiers of the Rocky Mount-based 229th Chemical Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command conducted field training on new decontamination equipment Feb. 10 at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb12/229thChem.html>

### Reception exercise welcomes hundreds to Fort Pickett

More than 700 Canadian Army Reserve, active duty U. S. Army and Army National Guard personnel were welcomed to Fort Pickett Feb. 18 as the installation conducted a reception exercise for units participating in Exercise Southbound Trooper.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb12/PickettJRSOI.html>

### Virginia Defense Force tests communications capabilities

Members of the Virginia Defense Force from the Highland Brigade and Lafayette Brigade tested communication capabilities and provided a critical link to the Virginia Guard Joint Operations Center Feb. 11 when more than 120 Canadian Army Reserve personnel inprocessed into Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb12/VDFcommstest.html>

## Mark Your Calendars!

### March 13: Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event in Va. Beach

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Hiring Our Heroes" Veterans Event from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Convention Center at 1000 19th Street in Virginia Beach. The free hiring fair is for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses.

Employers and job seekers must pre-register for the event at the Chambers's HoH.GreatJob.net web site. This event will be open only to employers who are committed to hiring our veterans and to veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and eligible spouses.

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com).

# D-Day veteran from 116th Infantry recognized

More than a hundred people filled the halls of American Legion Post 74 Feb. 20 to witness Rep. Robert Hurt present the French Legion of Honor to local war hero Carl "Chubby" Proffitt, 93, and to pay tribute to a man who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day with his National Guard unit in 1944. The French Embassy in Washington, D.C. originally awarded Proffitt the medal in a small ceremony Feb. 15, but the American Legion wanted to honor him in front of his friends and family.

"Tonight Chubby's two sons, Chubby and Sterling, along with his brother Hollis, along with Chubby's friends are here to honor him as the French Government did last week by making him a knight of France's highest national honor, the Legion of Honor, for his part in liberating France and Europe during WWII," said Ron Fisher, organizer of the event.

"It hasn't really sunken in yet. I was one of 24 who got this medal, which is the highest French Decoration you can get," noted Proffitt. "It's the equivalent of the Congressional Medal of Honor in the United States. My head is all swollen out like this," he said indicating how large his head was getting from all the attention.

In addition to pinning the award on Chubby, Hurt also presented him with a U.S. flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol. The evening was filled with guests presenting Proffitt gifts of gratitude, including Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Green, Virginia National Guard Senior Enlisted Leader, who presented him with a Virginia State flag flown over the Virginia State Capitol.

"On behalf of the Soldiers, Airmen and the Virginia Defense Force, we thank you for your service and all you've done," said Green, a former command sergeant major of the 29th Infantry Division, which led the assault by the 116th on D-Day.

Soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team presented him with a framed map of Normandy under the condition he give it back to them so they could have it signed by current members of the 116th before they return it to him.

In a surprise move, Charlottesville Mayor Satyendra Singh made his first official declaration in Proffitt's honor during the event.

"One of the joys of being mayor is you can also do proclamations and declarations and I have been mayor for a short time...so as my first declaration, I want to declare, I, Satyendra Singh, as the Mayor of Charlottesville, declare Monday, Feb. 20th, Chubby Proffitt Day in the city of Charlottesville," Singh said.

As a native of Charlottesville, Chubby attended Lane High School, where he played baseball. He enlisted in the Virginia National Guard in 1939 and was called to active duty in 1941 with the rest of Company K of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division of the Virginia Army National Guard.

On June 6, 1944, Chubby led his boat team ashore across the fire swept Omaha Beach. Two days later he climbed on a damaged tank under heavy machine gun fire at a place called Grand-Camp in France for an effort to rescue a group of trapped Rangers, Fisher said. The Army later awarded Proffitt the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for his actions. He fought through the hedgerows of Normandy where as a senior noncom-



**Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Green, senior enlisted leader of the Virginia National Guard, presents a Virginia flag to Carl "Chubby" Proffitt Feb. 20 in Charlottesville.**

missioned officer; he went back out under fire after every assault to check on those who had fallen and to rescue his wounded men. Proffitt was wounded twice during that period, and in October, he was given a battlefield commission to second lieutenant.

After the war, Chubby worked as a bus driver, a salesman, a truck driver and worked for the Charlottesville firm of King and Roberts where he worked his way up to general manager. He played fast-pitch softball, umpired, and later coached a number of little league, junior league, and American Legion baseball teams. Recently, the city of Charlottesville named the sports complex at McIntyre Park after him.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb12/ChubbyProffitt.html>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Video: Chemical Soldiers conduct decon procedures

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10100441021002426>

### Virginia National Guard member scratches the itch to serve after eight-year break

<http://www.nationalguard.mil/news/archives/2012/02/022312-Virginia.aspx>

### National D-Day Memorial web site

<http://www.dday.org/>

### 29th Infantry Division Historical Society

<http://29infantrydivision.org/>

### U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes web site

<https://hoh.greatjob.net/sc/index.action>

### Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Savannahs-Combat-Readiness-Training-Center/166760950056856>

### Virginia National Guard on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/vanguardpao>

### Virginia Guard Public Affairs Flickr Photostream

<http://flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao>

### Virginia Guard Public Affairs YouTube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/vanguardpao>