

Mission provides more than 20,000 hours of training

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Virginia Airmen support humanitarian mission

More than 40 members of the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Medical Group deployed to Kaua'i, Hawaii, from Feb. 27 to March 9 to participate in the first Tropic Care Innovative Readiness Training operation.

The operation brought together nearly 300 National Guard, reserve, and active-duty assets from the Air Force and Navy to accomplish priority medical training requirements while providing basic medical services to underserved Americans on the island.

The task force completed more than 20,000 hours of training and delivered \$1.98 million in health care services to more than 10,000 Americans in need. The success of the pilot program sets the stage for more deployments like this in the future.

"When you think of Hawaii, the last thing you would envision is thousands of Americans without access to basic medical, dental and vision services," said Col. Brian Preston, 192nd MDG commander.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2011/03/22/675/>



Maj. Tiffiney T. Harper, chief of dental services for the 192nd Medical Group, provides dental care for a young patient March 7 during Tropic Care in Hawaii.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia Guard artillery Soldiers represent the modern military history event

Soldiers from the Hampton-based Battery B, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, represented the modern military at the Military Through the Ages event March 17 and 18 at the Jamestown Settlement, and Maj. Gen. Frank E. Batts, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, presided as the reviewing official for the parade.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2011/03/22/681/>

Senior Enlisted Leader awards combat medals to Emporia WWII veteran

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis A. Green, the Virginia Guard Senior Enlisted Leader, presented long overdue medals to World War II veteran Mat Franklin Spence March 16 in Emporia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/03/22/696/>

Virginia and D.C. Guard weather flights team up for tactical training

Airmen from the Virginia Air National Guard's 200th Weather Flight and the Washington D. C. Air National Guard's 121st Weather Flight conducted joint training at Fort A. P. Hill from March 8 to 11 with a focus on operations in a tactical field environment.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/03/22/721/>

Va. ESGR provides assistance for veterans seeking jobs

The Virginia Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve sponsored an employment assistance workshop March 12 in Virginia Beach to help veterans looking for jobs prepare for Hiring our Heroes job fair.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/03/22/729/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Summer Camp registration has begun!

The Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp is for military teens ages 13-17 and will be held in New Castle at the Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing from June 24-28 2012.

The 7th Annual Youth Summer Camp is for youth ages 8-12. The camp will be held in Virginia Beach at the State Military Reservation from July 29 to Aug. 3.

Applications can be downloaded at www.jointservicesupport.org.

For more information, contact Dana Ivory at dana.ivory@us.army.mil or Drew Davis at drew.s.davis@us.army.mil.

Virginia Guard celebrates Women's History

The Equal Opportunity office of the Virginia National Guard welcomed Soldiers and civilians to celebrate Women's History Month March 21 at the proposed Virginia National Guard and Fort Pickett museum at Fort Pickett. The special program included a "round table forum" and a brief presentation by Col. Michelle Rose, Joint Resource Manager of the Virginia Guard. Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., Adjutant General of Virginia, promoted Rose to the rank of colonel earlier that morning in Sandston.

The forum afforded female Soldiers an opportunity to voice the experiences and some of the unique hardships they face during their careers as women serving in the military. The Soldiers shared their experiences and learned that others have faced similar obstacles along their career paths as well. Many of the women spoke of their experiences while serving overseas.

"I think everyone that attended, whether they deployed or not, was able to receive some valuable information that will help them as women leaders in the military," said Capt. Amelia Coppage, State Equal Employment Manager. "It started off a little slow, but once we got started everyone relaxed and was able to share their experiences, the good and the bad."

"We have come a long way in the last 20 years that I have been in the military, but I still think that it is important for women to get together and talk about shared stories," said Rose. "It was amazing, during the forum today, I noticed one noncommissioned officer talking about a situation she had in a theater of operations and somebody on the other side of the forum would be shaking their head up and down agreeing with her."

"A lot of times people tend to be a little bit shy talking about some of these issues that they have had while they were overseas, or even concerns at home while they were deployed, but it's kind of like a sisterhood when we discover similar situations."

A key topic of discussion was the many humanitarian projects that Soldiers deployed overseas often take on in addition to their everyday war fighting missions. The female Soldiers discussed the many different ways they contributed to such projects while deployed.

"I think there are a lot of perspectives out there of female service members that get muddled in the typical media stories," said Rose. "Seeing the perspective from a female side is just different and here today we actually talked a lot about the special projects that we as service members had the initiative to do while we were deployed in support of the war effort."

"Sometimes I think it really takes a female perspective to get ideas generated and these missions off the ground."

Women's History Month is an annual declared month worldwide that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. The United States, the United Kingdom and Australia celebrate the month in March, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8.

"The whole intent for these events is to provide cross-cultural awareness for the Soldiers, Airmen and all employees of the Virginia Guard," said Coppage. "Anytime they can come and learn



The Virginia National Guard Equal Opportunity Office celebrates National Women's History Month March 21 at the Virginia National Guard and Fort Pickett proposed museum at Fort Pickett. The program included special guest speaker Col. Michelle Rose, the first female in Virginia Guard history to command a battalion in a combat theater.

something different or new about another culture or a different gender, then I think that helps us grow as a stronger organization that people will want to work for."

"It is important for us to celebrate Women's History Month because there are so many service women out there, many before my generation, that have contributed so much that never got recognized, so it is nice to see some recognition for contributions going on now," Rose said.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2011/03/22/701/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Minuteman Report Video: Tropic Care 2012

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=1015072879851131>

Women in the U. S. Army

<http://www.army.mil/women/>

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

<http://www.yellowribbon.mil/>

Hero to Hired Employment Assistance Web Portal

<https://h2h.jobs/>

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

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

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

<http://www.esgr.org/site/>

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>