

**External evaluation conducted every 18 months**

**On page 2: Lane reversal mission commo checks**

# 34th CST evaluated as fully mission capable

The Virginia Guard's Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team was evaluated as fully mission capable by U. S. Army North's Civil Support Readiness Group-East after conducting a Training Proficiency Evaluation May 15 at the Dinwiddie County Airport. The CST conducts an external evaluation every 18 months to validate they are able to effectively conduct their mission of providing support to first responders in potential biological, chemical, nuclear, radiological and explosive incidents.

"The 34th CST is an essential element of the Virginia Guard's emergency response capability, and we were confident they would do well in this evaluation," said Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia. "We are very proud of the Soldiers and Airmen on the team and how well they performed."

The CST can identify agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise an incident commander on response measures and assist with requests for additional support.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/17/1177/>



**A member of the survey section of the Virginia National Guard's 34th Civil Support Team conducts a reconnaissance of an area with a possible hazardous substance May 15 at the Dinwiddie County Airport.**

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Infantry Soldiers focus on squad training at Fort A. P. Hill

Dedicated to their mission of being a ready, relevant, and responsive Virginia Army National Guard unit, the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Brigade Combat Team, conducted squad training exercises May 4-6 at Fort A.P. Hill.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/07/1120/>

### 203rd RED HORSE Airmen tackle new Qualification Course at SMR

Airmen from the Virginia Air National Guard's 203rd RED HORSE Squadron hit the beach at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach May 6 for individual weapons qualification on their M-4 rifles.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/15/1154/>

### 29th ID veterans, commander lay wreath at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Maj. Gen. Frank E. Batts, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, joined members of the 29th Division Association for their annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery May 13.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/16/1167/>

### Partners in Care initiative links groups with Soldiers and Airmen in need

More than 85 representatives of faith-based and non-profit organizations from across Virginia took part in the kickoff for the "Partners in Care" initiative May 14 at Fort Pickett. The program is an alliance between the Virginia Guard Chaplain Corps and groups looking to assist Soldiers and Airmen during a time of need.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/15/1181/>

## Mark Your Calendars!

### May 20: 116th Brigade Combat Team Freedom Salute

A Freedom Salute honoring the service of the Soldiers of the Staunton-based 116th Brigade Combat Team will be held at 10 a.m. at the Richmond Convention Center. The Soldiers began federal active duty May 15, 2011, and served in Afghanistan from July 2011 to January 2012,

### May 20: 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Freedom Salute

A Freedom Salute honoring the service of the Soldiers of the Sandston-base 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment will be held at 2 p.m. at the Richmond Convention Center. The Soldiers began federal active duty Feb. 25 and served in Iraq from April to December 2011.

## Exercise tests communications for lane reversal mission

Soldiers and Airmen from the Virginia National Guard and members of the Virginia Defense Force joined members of other Virginia state agencies for a communication exercise May 5. The exercise was a chance to test and validate Interstate 64 lane reversal communications between Richmond and Norfolk and prepare the Department of Military Affairs for missions in the event a hurricane strikes Virginia.

Members of the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management participated in the exercise.

If a hurricane or other disaster were to hit the Hampton Roads area, the governor could order an evacuation of the region. Then gates would be lowered at entrance and exit ramps on eastbound I-64 so that all lanes of traffic would be westbound, along an evacuation route.

VDEM has conducted I-64 lane reversal exercises and the Department of Military Affairs has conducted training to support the lane reversals, but the two have never taken place at the same time, according to Chief Warrant Officer Chris Johnson, deputy communications officer and knowledge management officer.

“This year, for the first time, VDEM, VSP, VDOT and DMA conducted a joint command and control lane reversal exercise,” he said. “This was a great success because it identified our strengths, as well as a few gaps to improve on.”

Although no gates were actually lowered, 14 Soldiers from the 1030th Transportation Battalion, along with members of the Virginia State Police, were positioned at three exits to simulate a lane reversal. They were then able to test communications back to a mobile command post set up at the I-64/I-295 interchange.

While the exercise was an opportunity for members of the Department of Military Affairs to work alongside other state agencies, the main goal was to improve communication and ensure a proper flow of information between all agencies involved, explained Maj. Todd Pegg, executive officer of the 1030th Transportation Battalion.

“We’re trying to fix the information flow to ensure communication up and down the entire chain,” Pegg said. “Us talking to Soldiers is the easy part. It’s the communication between us and other agencies that is the key.”

Pegg was one of 14 Soldiers on duty at a mobile command post near the I-64/I-295 interchange where the Virginia State Police had its mobile communications trailer set up.

“The Soldiers from the 1030th Transportation Battalion were great,” Johnson said. “They immediately began communicating with their teams at gates on I-64. It is good that our troops are using their combat experiences to provide support to the citizens of Virginia.”

While Soldiers from the 1030th monitored communication from their humvees, members of the VDF used their Tac Paks to ensure communication between the command post and Virginia National Guard Joint Operation Center.



**Capt. Clint Harris, commander of the 1173rd Transportation Company, checks the status of other vehicles under his command during a state-level inter-agency communications exercise along the I-64 corridor between Richmond and Norfolk May 5, 2012.**

Soldiers and Airmen at the JOC focused on ensuring their communication measures were fully capable while a UH-72 Lakota helicopter from Detachment 2, Company B, 777th Aviation Support Battalion flew over the region to test air to ground communication. The purpose was to execute a communication check between the JOC, exits that will be stood up with communication suites during a lane reversal, and Virginia Guard air assets, according to Capt. Sandy Saltzman, a plans officer in the Virginia Guard J-5 office.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/15/1163/>

### MORE ON THE WEB

**Virginia Guard Air, Army troops travel to Tajikistan for medical information exchange**

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/08/1138/>

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