

Emporia-based unit headed to Afghanistan in 2013

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Transportation company begins deployment training

Virginia Guard Soldiers from the Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group used this year's two-week annual training from Aug. 4 – 18 as an opportunity to get a head start on the skills they'll need next year when they deploy to Afghanistan. The unit is currently trained and organized as a medium cargo transportation company but will train on the Army's Palletized Load System prior to deploying, a system they were able to gain some experience with during annual training.

The unit is scheduled to enter federal active duty April 1, 2013. The approximately 160 Soldiers that make up the unit will head to Fort Hood, Texas, first to conduct mobilization training before heading on to Afghanistan. Once in country, they are expected to conduct transportation support operations and convoy security for military and host nation convoys. The mobilization is expected to last 12 months.



Soldiers from the 1710th Transportation Company train on the U.S. Army's Palletized Load System and M915 semi trucks Aug. 8 at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/16/1883/>

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Children of Virginia Guard Soldiers, Airmen enjoy 7th annual Youth Camp

More than 100 children of Virginia National Guard members participated in the seventh annual Virginia National Guard Youth Camp July 30 - Aug. 3 at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/15/1904/>

Fiscal law course prepares personnel for contracting responsibilities

Approximately 85 members of the Virginia Army and Air National Guard attended a three-day fiscal law course Aug. 14 - 16 at Langley Air Force Base. The course is a requirement for anyone who deals with money in the Virginia Guard.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/15/1901/>

Resolution delivered to Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion

Delegate Terry G. Kilgore of Virginia's First Legislative District visited Soldiers from the Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group to present House Resolution No. 45 Aug. 11 at the Gate City National Guard Armory.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/15/1887/>

1-111th FA gives friends, family members chance to fire howitzers

Family members and friends of Virginia Guard Soldiers from the Hampton-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team observed live fire operations and participated in the firing of the unit's howitzers Aug. 11 at Fort Pickett as part of Family Day.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/14/1922/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Hiring Events

Aug. 28 - Military.com/NCOA Career Expo at Fort Lee from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Aug. 30 - Military.com/NCOA Career Expo in Woodbridge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Register for either event at <http://www.military.com/career-expo/>

Aug. 30 - CivilianJobs.com Career Fair at Fort Lee from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register at <http://civilianjobs.com/careeradvice/jobfairs.aspx>

Sept. 7 - U.S. Chamber Hiring Our Heroes event in Springfield. Register at hoh.greatjob.net

Sept. 21 - Corporate Gray Career Fair in Spring from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register at www.corporategray.com

203rd RED HORSE Airmen recognized

Senior leaders of the Virginia Guard recognized more than 120 Airmen from the Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron during a Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony Aug. 18 at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach. The ceremony honored the unit's service as they completed approximately 70 projects in seven countries, at 18 different sites, during their deployment from March to October 2011.

The Hometown Heroes Salute Campaign publicly acknowledges Air National Guard Airmen and those who supported them during the President's call to duty for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and other operations.

"I am extremely proud of what we accomplished over there," said Lt. Col. Pete Garner, 203rd RHS Commander. Garner honored the families, saying, "Thank you so much for your support. It allowed us to do our job and do it well."

While deployed, the Airmen of the 203rd RED HORSE served as part of the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group, an organization made of up more than 400 personnel from the 203rd and other RED HORSE units that was a mix of active duty and Air National Guard. The 1st ERHG was headquartered in Southwest Asia and was responsible for providing theater engineer support for vertical and horizontal construction missions and projects that enhanced operations, safety and quality of life for military personnel in the Central Command area of operations.

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, stated, "We are extremely fortunate to have the 203rd RHS with Air Force engineering capabilities like this in the Commonwealth. They are a national asset."

As part of the Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony, the Airmen received the Virginia Governor's National Service Medal. The medal was created in 2005 by then-Governor Mark R. Warner to recognize the service of the men and women of the Virginia Army and Air Guard called to active federal service since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The award was first presented Nov. 11, 2005 at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

During the rotation, the 1st ERHG completed 70 projects valued at \$32 million. The unit's highest priorities were upgrading and expanding airfield pavement, bed down missions for unmanned aerial vehicles and construction of a munitions storage area. They utilized the full range of special construction capabilities including K-Span design and construction, erection of expeditionary shelter systems, wood and steel frame construction, erection of pre-engineered buildings, site development, concrete batch plant operations, quarry operations and asphalt, concrete and gravel pavements.

According to Garner, one of the most important projects completed was the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle landing strip along the Afghanistan and Pakistan border. "This project provided increased situational awareness and additional security in the area," said Garner.

"We do everything and we do it well," said Tech. Sgt. Aprille Canniff, commenting on her first deployment with the 203rd



Lt. Col. Pete Garner, commander of the Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron, shakes hands with one of the 120 Airmen recognized at the Hometown Heroes Salute held Aug. 18 at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach. The event recognized the unit's service in Afghanistan from March to October 2011.

RHS. Canniff said that one of the most rewarding projects was, "Rerouting an entire water system to allow for temporary housing for the Army."

Master Sgt. Alfred Dirosa, the 203rd RHS Structures Supervisor, has deployed three times with the RHS. "It was unusual working with the active duty Air Force, but the training we completed together fostered cooperation," he said. "I enjoyed supporting the Marines the most...they appreciated all we did...this made us want to work harder to achieve the mission."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/20/1936/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Raw Video: Engineers demolish derelict structures

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10151168795396131>

Photos: Engineers demolish derelict structures

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631199179958/>

Photos: Soldiers train on IED Defeat Lane at Fort Pickett

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631157300464/>

Photos: Transportation battalion welcomes new commander

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631035177940/>

Photos: Soldiers conduct rappel tower training

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631046621048/>

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