

More than 600 personnel to augment security operations

On page 2: Governor recognizes Va. Guard

## Va. Guard to support 57th Presidential Inauguration

More than 600 Virginia Guard Soldiers and Airmen will join a approximately 6,000 Guard personnel from 25 states and territories supporting the 57th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21, 2013, in Washington, D. C. and Northern Virginia. Virginia Guard personnel will assist with traffic control, crowd management, communications and chaplain support, and additional personnel will conduct mission command and sustainment support or in reserve for possible other missions.

“This is a good opportunity for the Virginia Guard to assist federal, state and local civil authorities in making sure the 57th Presidential Inauguration is a safe experience for the citizens in attendance,” said Col. James Ring, Virginia National Guard director of joint operations. “This is also a sound training opportunity because anytime we work with organizations law enforcement agencies for a scheduled event, it makes us better prepared for an unscheduled event like a hurricane or snowstorm.”

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/01/18/2767/>



Soldiers from the Leesburg-based Company C, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry conduct a leader reconnaissance Jan. 12, 2013, to prepare for their security assistance mission.

### Virginia National Guard News Headlines

#### Va. Guard Soldiers earn civilian credit for military experience

Virginia National Guard Soldiers have an easier way to translate their military driving skills into civilian credentials thanks to a program called Troops to Trucks that's helped several Soldiers find employment.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/01/11/2741/>

#### Exercise Noble Warrior brings Canadian reservists to Fort Pickett

With upwards of three feet of snow covering the ground at home, approximately 1,500 Canadian Army reservists forming Task Force Phoenix descended upon Fort Pickett Jan. 2 to escape the sub-zero temperatures and to conduct a four-day collective training event, called Exercise Noble Guerrier (Noble Warrior) 13.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/01/10/2722/>

#### Va. Guard hosts inaugural Sexual Assault Awareness Summit

The Virginia Guard gathered representatives from state, local and military organizations to discuss the goals of each organization and how they might work together to help survivors of sexual assault during the inaugural Virginia National Guard Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Awareness Summit, held Jan. 8.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/01/09/2733/>

#### Commonwealth ChalleNGe graduates 152 at Virginia Beach ceremony

One hundred and fifty two cadets of Class 37 of the Virginia Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Program walked across the stage Dec. 22 at in Virginia Beach for the second largest graduating class in ChalleNGe history.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/12/24/2749/>

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### March 23, 2013: Registration Deadline for Va. Guard Youth Night

The Virginia Guard Youth Programs, in partnership with the Richmond Flying Squirrels, will honor the Virginia Guard Youth and Families with a special “Field of Dreams” program, in Richmond on April 6, 2013 at 6:05 p.m.

To celebrate the Month of the Military Child, the youth will have the opportunity to run onto the field with the players and stand with them while the National Anthem is played. After the game the youth will be able to run the bases and enjoy a firework display. Discounted tickets are available for \$5.00 each.

Visit <http://ow.ly/gWp9T> for more information.

# Governor recognizes Va. Guard in state address

During the 2013 State of the Commonwealth Address delivered at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond Jan. 9, 2013, Governor Bob McDonnell recognized the Virginia National Guard for accomplishments during the year.

"We don't have to look far for inspiration from our brave and caring people," McDonnell said in the address. "On the rain-soaked night of October 30th as Hurricane Sandy's waters rose swiftly in Accomack County, Virginia National Guard soldiers trudged through high water to clear a path to transport seven adults and a child out of harm's way. Another rescue required Guardsmen to carry a citizen 200 yards through chest-high water to safety. Virginia Guard personnel rescued 42 citizens during Hurricane Sandy."

McDonnell recognized 1st Lt. James Breckenridge and Pfc. Norman Malone of the 1173rd Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, and the Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, who were all three in the gallery of the Virginia General Assembly for the address. Breckenridge and Malone both took part in the rescue missions in the wake of the hurricane.

"We salute you for your brave service to Virginia," he said.

McDonnell also pointed out that the return of Soldiers from Afghanistan this summer, all Virginia Guard units were home for Christmas for the first time since Sept. 11, 2001. Soldiers from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division Headquarters returned from duty in Afghanistan in July 2012.

In the last 11 years, more than 15,000 Virginia Guard Soldiers and Airmen were mobilized for combat operations and other missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world.

The Virginia National Guard has lost 10 Soldiers to hostile enemy activity during the Global War on Terror.

"Our Virginia Guard is rightly recognized as among the best in the nation," McDonnell said. "They have served all of us well."

In 2012, the Virginia National Guard was recognized as among the best in the nation in many areas including the 192nd Operations and Maintenance Groups earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company winning runner up honors in the national field kitchen food service competition and Army aviation maintainers from the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment earning the UH-72 Maintenance Team of the Year Award.

In addition to supporting Hurricane Sandy recovering operations, the Virginia National Guard brought more than 200 personnel on state active duty from June 30 to July 4, 2012, to support recovery operations in the wake of severe thunderstorms that struck across Virginia and caused wide-spread power outages.

Soldiers distributed water and ice in Bedford, conducted reconnaissance patrols in the Fredericksburg and Lexington areas and Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force provided mission command and sustainment support in Sandston and Fort Pickett.



**Lt. James Breckenridge and Pfc. Norman Malone of the 1173rd Transportation Company and Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, represent the Virginia National Guard during Governor Bob McDonnell's State of the Commonwealth Address deliver Jan. 9, 2013, in Richmond.**

Since 2001, the Virginia National Guard has called up more than 7,300 personnel for state active duty to support state and local emergency response organizations as part of a coordinated state-wide response, as well as missions in Louisiana, Mississippi, West Virginia and Vermont.

"Whether defending our freedoms abroad or securing our communities during times of natural disasters at home, these courageous individuals have demonstrated what it means to serve with honor," McDonnell said after declaring December 2012 to be Virginia National Guard Month in Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/01/10/2728/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Photos: Va. Guard displays capabilities for General Assembly

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157632529854166/>

### Photos: Governor and legislators commend Virginia Guard

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157632530738419/>

### Va. Guard 2012 Year in Review Photos on Flickr

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157632272040723/>

### Va. Guard establishes group for employment resources

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/12/14/2698/>

### Video: Governor recognizes Va. Guard in state address

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10151378490626131>

### Full text of the State of the Commonwealth Address

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/news/viewRelease.cfm?id=1591>

### Virginia National Guard on Twitter

<http://www.twitter.com/VaNationalGuard>

### Virginia National Guard on Facebook

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

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

### Virginia Guard Public Affairs Flickr Photostream

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