

Maj. Gen. Thackston served as AG from 1994 to 1998

On page 2: Transporters haul Canadian trucks

Former Adjutant General laid to rest in South Boston

Current and former members of the Virginia National Guard and senior state government officials joined family, friends and the community of South Boston Feb. 21, 2013, in paying final respects to retired Maj. Gen. Carroll Thackston as he was laid to rest at Oak Ridge Cemetery with full military honors. Thackston, the Adjutant General of Virginia from July 1994 to September 1998, passed away Feb. 17, 2013, at Lynchburg General Hospital at the age of 79.

Former Gov. George Allen presented Thackston's widow with a Virginia state flag, and Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, presented his widow and three sons with U. S. flags at the burial site. The Virginia National Guard's Petersburg-based Funeral Honors Team provided the color guard, flag-folding detail, firing detail and bugler, and air crews from the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment conducted a fly over with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/02/24/3069/>



Members of the Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors Team provide military honors at the funeral of retired Maj. Gen. Carroll Thackston Feb. 21, 2013, in South Boston.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Potential warrant officers get head start at Virginia's Pre-WOCS

At the Fort Pickett-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Soldiers hoping to one day become warrant officers gathered Feb. 22-24 for Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate School.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/02/26/3062/>

36 Canadian Brigade Group invades Fort Pickett for Southbound Trooper

Canadian reservists hailing from the Halifax, Nova Scotia-based 36 Canadian Brigade Group descended on Fort Pickett Feb. 17 to take part in Exercise Southbound Trooper.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/02/26/3056/>

Virginia Air National Guard achieves LCAP excellence

Airmen of the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing and 1st Fighter Wing maintenance teams scored an 'Excellent' 91.37 percent in the Air Combat Command Logistics Compliance Assessment Program assessment held Feb. 8-13, 2013, at Langley Air Force Base.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/02/25/3029/>

Virginia Chemical Company conducts full spectrum CBRN operations

Soldiers from the Rocky Mount-based 229th Chemical Company, 276th Engineer Battalion trained on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear reconnaissance and decontamination tasks during a field training exercise held Feb. 9, 2013, at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/02/21/3024/>

Mark Your Calendars!

March 8: Registration Deadline for iTap 2.0

Register for iTAP 2.0, a comprehensive on-site weeklong program for the Va. Guard personnel and family members to determine lifestyle and career needs. Class dates are April 8-12 and April 22-26. Deadline for April 8 class is March 8, and April 22 class is March 22.

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

March 23: Registration Deadline for Virginia Guard Youth Night

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

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

Transporters make Canadian exercise possible

Soldiers from the Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group drove more than 48,000 accident-free operational miles between Feb. 4 and 13, 2013, to transport wheeled vehicles and trailers for the Canadian Army Reserve to take part in Exercise Southbound Trooper and Southern Raider at Fort Pickett. The mission provided realistic training for the Soldiers but also provided the Canadians with the vehicles they needed to conduct the exercise.

“Quite frankly, the exercise would not have taken place without the support of the Virginia Guard’s 1032nd Transportation Company,” said Lt. Col. Donnie Walsh, the deputy commander of the 36 Canadian Brigade Group and commanding officer for Exercise Southbound Trooper XIII. “With the training dollars provided for the exercise, we didn’t have enough to transport the vehicles we needed. If the 1032nd wouldn’t have been able to transport the vehicles, we would not have been able to conduct the exercise.”

Walsh commended the Soldiers from the 1032nd for the conduct of the mission. “They were professional, on time and got the vehicles here safely,” he said. “They were excellent.”

The Canadians paid for the fuel, lodging and food for the mission in an annual training status. Walsh estimated the cost savings to the Canadians was well over \$400,000.

A total of 44 Soldiers driving 17 M915 trucks with 15 M872 trailers along with a wrecker and contact maintenance truck travelled more than 400 miles each day for three days to make the trip to Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in southwestern New Brunswick. A major snowstorm delayed the mission for about three days, and the Soldiers had to navigate through challenging conditions after the snow to get back to Virginia.

“Any time we can get real-world missions, it is a great help to us,” said Capt. Brian Sansom, commander of the 1032nd. “This is why we exist, and conducting a line haul mission like this was a great service for the Canadians. The mission went extremely well.”

In addition to the behind-the-wheel training, the mission also gave younger Soldiers the experience of being away from home and what is involved with taking care of themselves for an extended period of time.

“I thought it was a good training experience for our troops,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Brummitt, the assistant convoy commander from Bristol. “We were able to get good drive time and there were learning lessons all the way around. We were able to see the sights, visit a different part of the world, but at the same time we were able to perform our mission and learn how to be a better truck driver.”

Planning for the mission began in November 2012 with a route reconnaissance between Fort Pickett and Gagetown to determine overnight stay locations as well as locations for feeding Soldiers and fueling vehicles.

The unit also had to conduct drivers training to get Soldiers



Soldiers from the Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company unload Canadian Army Reserve vehicles Feb. 14, 2013, at Fort Pickett.

qualified on the M915 truck, a 14-ton commercial-style transport vehicle used for the line haul missions. Soldiers from the 1032nd normally drive the M1088 truck, which is a five-ton truck that is normally used for shorter transport missions on all types of terrain.

“This mission gives our Soldiers a lot of confidence in their driving abilities,” said Maj. Tim Pillion, commander of the 1030th. “They were able to safely drive through less-than-optimal conditions, and it gave them confidence in their skills and the capabilities of the truck they were driving.”

Soldiers from the Rocky Mount-based 1173rd Transportation Company will drive the vehicles back to Canada during their annual training in late March.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/02/27/3075/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Ceremony scheduled by 203rd RED HORSE to remember Airmen, Soldiers killed in plane crash 12 years ago

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/02/25/3045/>

Photos: Senator Kaine visit with Va. Guard Soldiers

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157632821485493/>

Photos: Florida Soldiers conduct airfield operations at BAA

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157632819923434/>

Photos: Chaplain section hosts cookout for Soldiers on AT

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157632766809751/>

Va. Guard Youth Programs on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/VANGYouthProgram>

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