

**Units recognized for training and readiness excellence**

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# Top Virginia National Guard units recognized

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, recognized the Headquarters Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group, as the top company-level unit in the Virginia Army National Guard during the Virginia National Guard Officer's Association Conference held April 20, 2013, in Richmond. He also presented the Virginia Excellence in Training Award, National Guard Bureau Superior Unit Award and Pershing Trophy to recognize other top-performing company level units.

Long also announced that two Virginia Guard battalions have been recognized as the best in the nation by the National Guard Association and the Association of the United States Army. The Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment has been named the Walter T. Kerwin Readiness Award winner, and the Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion has been named the Milton A. Reckord Award winner.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/25/3447/>



Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr. presents the Eisenhower Trophy to Capt. Hiram A. Centeno Justiniano, commander of Headquarters Company, 529th CSSB, April 20, 2013.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Phillips named 29th ID DCG, Ortner new Va. Army Guard commander

Brig. Gen. William R. Phillips, II, has been selected to succeed Brig. Gen. William J. O'Neil as deputy commanding general of the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division, and Col. Blake C. Ortner has been named to succeed Phillips as the Virginia National Guard land component commander.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/24/3454/>

### Virginia Guard recruiters recognized for excellence in recruiting

Six Virginia National Guard recruiters received recognition for excellence in recruiting April 18, 2013, at the Mullins Armory when they were presented with the Chief's 54 award and the Expert Seven award.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/20/3414/>

### Virginia aviators train to prepare for the wildfire season

Members of the Sandston-based Detachment 2, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment conducted wildfire suppression training and certification in preparation for the upcoming wildfire season during their drill weekend April 12-14, 2013, at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/19/3432/>

### WOCs begin Phase II at Virginia's RTI

The warrant officer candidates enrolled in Class 13-001 of the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute's Warrant Officer Candidate School, started Phase II of the program April 19, 2013, at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/25/3418/>

## Mark Your Calendars!

### April 27: Stafford Civil War Park Grand Opening

Stafford County will hold a grand opening of the Stafford Civil War Park from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will include a ribbon cutting at noon, talks by historians and tours. The park is located at 400 Mount Hope Church Road, in Stafford. Due to limited space, only those with physical impairments may park at the site. A free shuttle bus will run between the Virginia Railway Express Brooke Station and the park.

Soldiers and Airmen of the Virginia Guard made significant contributions to the park through the Innovative Readiness Training Program.

For more information visit [www.TourStaffordVA.com](http://www.TourStaffordVA.com).

# 192nd Fighter Wing fights at Red Flag

The 192nd Fighter Wing pilots and maintainers recently put their skill and capabilities to the test. Forty-two members of the 192nd traveled with the 27th Fighter Squadron to Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nev., to participate in a three-week, large-force exercise known as Red Flag.

“Red Flag is a unique training opportunity that is intended to prepare our pilots to survive the first few days of combat in a major theater war,” said Lt. Col. Thomas P. McAtee, pilot participant and 192nd Maintenance Squadron commander. “Red Flag brings together a myriad of assets from the blue air side (or coalition forces) and the red air side (also known as “aggressors”) to create giant, real-life, war games that involve many different aircraft types performing many different missions, all of which are choreographed to achieve specific effects that emulate large-scale combat.”

Red Flag missions were conducted during daylight hours and at night, and contained up to 100 aircraft, fighting to win control of the air space and accomplish their missions. The U.S. Navy, Marines and Britain’s Royal Air Force also participated. Each mission was fought against approximately 40 to 50 enemy aircraft. These “Aggressors” are Nellis AFB permanent staff pilots who fly in camouflage-painted F-16s and F-15Cs to look like a threat-type aircraft. The mission of the Virginia Air National Guard team was to protect the blue forces from these aggressors and establish “air dominance” with their F-22 Raptors.

“We were responsible for protecting all of the airplanes out there so they were able to do their mission,” explained McAtee. “Whether the airplanes were finding high-value targets, bombing pre-planned targets, finding mobile SCUD launchers, or conducting intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, we were responsible to make sure the aggressors didn’t shoot any of them.” McAtee said the F-22s successfully established dominance over the aggressors enabled the blue air to conduct their missions.

This is McAtee’s fifth Red Flag exercise and although they don’t use real bombs, he says a lot has evolved. Today’s modern aircraft and technology make aerial combat training extremely realistic with the use of training emitters and sensors.

“With the advent of data links and advance sensors on our airplanes, we have the ability to keep global situational awareness of what is going on around us and it’s a huge advantage,” McAtee said, “because the enemy aircraft don’t have nearly this much awareness.”

McAtee flew nighttime missions and put in some long days while he was there. The missions were complicated and usually involved an entire day of planning preceding each sortie. “Everyone gave it their all to launch and fly these missions. From the flight line and back shop maintainers, to the ammo, weapons and support personnel- it was a total team effort.”

Aircraft maintainers in the low observables paint section made sure the aircraft were ready to fly.

“We tailored our swing shift around the flying schedule, so when the aircraft landed during my shift, it was my job along



**U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor aircraft with the 192nd Fighter Wing participate in Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., March 5, 2013.**

with two other active duty air force airmen to go out and perform OMLS (outer mold line) inspections of all the jets,” said Master Sgt. David Buckley, 192nd FW maintenance squadron. “You’re looking for any outward damage to the outside of the aircraft and to the coatings.”

Master Sgt. David Dehart was the maintenance squadron non-commissioned officer in charge. This was his fourth time at Red Flag.

“As the maintenance squadron NCOIC, I coordinated with fabrication, accessories, fuels, NDI (non-destructive inspection), low observables, egress and other shops, to keep the jets flying.”

The Virginia Air National Guard has flown the F-22 aircraft in Red Flag exercises since 2007.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/16/3387/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

**Photos: Special response force prepares for evaluation**

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.10151356977090841.1073741862.52585440840>

**Photos: Classroom dedicated to Col. Paul M. Kelly**

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.10151356879060841.1073741861.52585440840>

**Photos: Volunteers honored at Recognition Workshop**

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.10151355104815841.1073741860.52585440840&>

**Photos: Volunteers clean up, help protect Camp Pendleton for Earth Day**

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.10151357120085841.1073741863.52585440840>

**Photos: 189th Engineers field new bridge system**

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.10151348593785841.1073741851.52585440840>

**Va. Guard Family Programs launches Facebook Page**

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

**Virginia National Guard on Twitter**

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

**Virginia National Guard on Facebook**

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