

More than 225 on duty to welcome new Governor

On page 2: McDonnell recognizes Va. Guard

Va. DMA supports Governor McAuliffe inauguration

The inauguration of Terry McAuliffe as the 72nd Governor of Virginia, held Jan. 11, 2014, in Richmond, Va., included the support of more than 225 Virginia National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force. The Department of Military Affairs personnel provided ceremonial music during the rain-soaked event, fired a 19-gun salute with artillery howitzers and acted as the command and control for the inaugural parade, as well as the lead marching element.

“Each and every participant worked diligently to ensure the mission was executed flawlessly,” said Col. Marti J. Bissell, who commanded Joint Task Force 91, comprised of the various DMA inaugural support elements.

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, echoed Bissell’s sentiment, saying, “I thought from planning to execution, the Virginia National Guard’s support to the Governor’s inauguration was superb.”

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/01/13/4814/>



Virginia Guard Soldiers and Airmen provide the lead element for the parade following the Inauguration of Virginia’s 72nd Governor Jan. 11, 2014.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

29th ID Soldiers assist with W. Va. Guard response to water contamination

Two Soldiers from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division’s Domestic All-Hazards Response Team Coordination Cell deployed to Charleston, W.Va. Jan. 11, 2014, to assist the W. Va. National Guard response to a water contamination crisis that left thousands without water to drink, cook or even wash clothes. “It was a great feeling to be able to deploy and help my neighbors out when they really needed us,” said Capt. Mitchell Bierl, a liaison officer from the 29th ID.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/01/14/4839/>

Governor McAuliffe commends Virginia National Guard

Governor Terry McAuliffe, Secretary of Public Safety Brian Moran, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security John Harvey and members of the Virginia General Assembly commended the Virginia National Guard for the organization’s service to commonwealth and country at a legislative reception hosted Jan. 15, 2014, by the Virginia Guard Officer’s Association and Virginia Guard Enlisted Association in Richmond, Va. Earlier in the day, Virginia Guard Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force displayed some of the Guard’s capabilities for domestic operations outside the General Assembly.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/01/16/4846/>

Va. Guard Youth Program, Military One Source host informative trainings

For the past year, the Virginia National Guard Youth Program and Military One Source have hosted a series of trainings with libraries across the state to provide information to librarians.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/01/07/4803/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Jan. 31: Volunteer Awards nomination period ends

The 2014 National Guard Family Program Volunteer Awards nomination period is now open, and this is the perfect time to recognize all the outstanding work your volunteers have done for you all year. Their dedication and commitment to helping service members and their Families is truly priceless.

Nominations will be submitted no later than January 31, 2014.

For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/Zs9A> or contact Julia Alaric at 804-380-6343 or by email at julia.alaric.ctr@mail.mil.

McDonnell recognizes Va. Guard in final address

Governor Bob McDonnell recognized the Virginia National Guard in his final State of the Commonwealth Address to a joint session of the Virginia General Assembly Jan. 8, 2014, in Richmond, Va. During the address, he introduced two spouses whose husbands are deployed with the Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company.

“Tonight, we are joined by Tabitha Rhodes, wife of Company Commander Rodney Rhodes, and Sarah Talbert, wife of Master Sergeant Albert Talbert, who is on his third deployment,” McDonnell said. “Tabitha and Sarah, the people of Virginia thank you for your sacrifice, commend the leadership of your husbands and all who serve with them, and pray for their safe return.”

Approximately 150 Soldiers from the 1710th Transportation Company began serving on federal active duty on April 1, 2013, to conduct transportation support operations in Afghanistan.

Just a few weeks earlier, McDonnell declared December 2013 as Virginia National Guard with a proclamation that recognized many of the organization's accomplishments during the year, including four units earning national-level recognition.

The Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company won the Department of the Army Philip A. Connelly Award For Excellence in Army Food Service, the Virginia Beach-based 229th Military Police Company received the Pershing Trophy from National Guard Association of the United States as the Guard unit with the top marksmanship scores in the country, the Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion earned the Reckord Trophy for the highest state of readiness in the country from the National Guard Association of the United States and the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment received the Kerwin Award as the most combat-ready Army National Guard battalion in the country from AUSA.

In addition to the 1710th serving overseas, the Sandston-based Detachment 26, Operational Support Airlift Command deployed to Afghanistan in November 2013 to provide fixed wing aviation support. The 192nd Fighter Wing supported two overseas F-22 Raptor fighter aircraft deployments providing air dominance capabilities to combatant commands in key areas of the world and mobilized 38 Airmen in support of global intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations. Additional Soldiers and Airmen conducted individual mobilizations in other locations all over the world.

The Virginia Guard's support for domestic operations was also recognized in the proclamation. The Virginia Guard started the year with more than 600 Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force supporting the 57th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21, 2013.

More than 160 Guard personnel mobilized on state active duty March 6, 2013, in direct support to the Virginia State Police and other state and local emergency response agencies conducting operations after heavy snow blanketed the Commonwealth.

Finally, the proclamation recognized the Virginia National Guard Funeral Honors Program for performing its 12,000th



Governor Bob McDonnell recognized Sarah Talbert and Tabitha Rhodes at his final State of the Commonwealth Address to a Joint Session of the General Assembly Jan. 8.

military honors Oct. 30, 2013, as well as the State Partnership Program celebrating 10 years of working with the armed forces of the Republic of Tajikistan to the benefit of both forces on July 31, 2013.

After the proclamation was published, the Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team earned a rating of “T” for trained on 12 collective tasks following a Training Proficiency Evaluation earning the overall assessment rating of “Fully Mission Capable.” The evaluation validates the unit as capable of effectively conducting its mission of providing support to first responders in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/01/09/4828/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: DMA personnel display capabilities to General Assembly

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157639803814186/>

Photos: AG presents new Va. Gov. with shell casing

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157639725922696/>

Photos: VDF assists with parade marshalling at inauguration

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157639732423424/>

Photos: Va. Guard leads parade at inauguration

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157639725855846/>

Photos: Va. Guard fires 19-gun salute at inauguration

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157639730713565/>

Photos: 29th ID Band supports gubernatorial inauguration

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157639730669625/>

Virginia National Guard Family Assistance Centers

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/fac/>

Virginia National Guard on Twitter

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

Virginia National Guard on Facebook

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