

Va. Guard aviators deliver supplies to iced-in Tangier Island

Two Virginia National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters headed east Feb. 19, 2015, flying over the ice-packed Chesapeake Bay to deliver food, medicine and mail to Tangier Island, a 1.2 square mile island that had been iced in for nearly a week, making routine seaport deliveries impossible. The state active duty mission was authorized under the emergency declaration issued by Governor Terry McAullife on Feb. 16, when Winter Storm Octavia covered the commonwealth in snow and knocked temperatures into the single digits.

“Accomack County contacted us to see if there was any way critical supplies could be delivered to Tangier Island since icy conditions were preventing boats from making their usual deliveries,” said State Coordinator Jeff Stern. “We coordinated with Maryland public safety officials and the Coast Guard, and tasked National Guard aviators to carry out the mission at the direction of the governor.”

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/20/6941/>



A Virginia National Guard aviation crew from 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment delivers food, mail and medicine Feb. 19, 2015, to iced-in Tangier Island, Va.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

CERFP trains in preparation of external evaluation

Soldiers and Airmen from the Virginia National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, braved below-freezing temperatures Feb. 20-21, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va., to conduct a training exercise designed to prepare the unit for an external evaluation.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/25/6978/>

Soldier, family resources consolidates online

Soldiers needing resources to help tackle the stresses of military life, daily priorities of family, work and home can now find all on a new webpage with a downloadable brochure as part of the Virginia Army National Guard’s Resilience, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Program, also known as R3SP.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/20/6938/>

Virginia Guard G-4 hosts workshop for food service personnel

Food service leaders from across the Virginia Army National Guard completed the Directorate of Logistics’ food service workshop Feb. 27, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va. The 40-hour course focused on changes to regulatory requirements and operational best practices to food service professionals.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/24/6965/>

34th CST Soldiers take part in nuclear power plant exercise

Soldiers from the Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team took part in a full-scale exercise conducted by Dominion Virginia Power and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management at the Surry Power Station Feb. 10, 2015, to test preparedness and response procedures involving plant security.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/14/6999/>

Mark Your Calendars!

203rd RED HORSE Memorial

The Virginia Air National Guard’s Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron will hold a memorial service March 3, 2015, at 10 a.m. at Camp Pendleton to honor 18 unit members and three Florida Army Guard aviators who perished when the C-23 Sherpa they were flying in crashed in a cotton field near Unadilla, Ga., 12 years ago.

The 18 engineers and three Florida aviators from Detachment 1, 171st Aviation Battalion, were killed March 3, 2001, as the 203rd members were returning home after completing a two-week military construction project at Hurlburt Field, Fla. The C-23 crash was the worst peacetime aviation disaster in the history of the National Guard, and the worst loss of life in the Virginia National Guard since World War II.

Va. Guard assistance continues after more snow hits

Virginia National Guard assistance to local emergency response organizations continued Feb. 26 with the addition of 60 more personnel joining the 30 already on duty since Feb. 22, 2015. Soldiers in Southwest Virginia have been assisting local law enforcement and emergency medical services with delivery of food, water, medicine and other supplies as well as assisting with medical and safety evacuations, with several making the difference between life and death for the patients.

"This is the kind of coordination we try to achieve with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the Virginia State Police, the Virginia National Guard, local emergency managers and local first responders all coming together to make sure we meet the needs of our citizens," said Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran. "This is the way it is supposed to work, and it is working very well."

Moran visited Wise County with Governor Terry McAuliffe Feb. 25, 2015, to assess damage and thank the many organizations working together to assist citizens.

"Our team is doing a magnificent job," McAuliffe said.

The Virginia National Guard staged another 50 Soldiers from the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Feb. 25, to be on standby at readiness centers in Staunton, Sandston, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Danville. After sending out the alert in the afternoon, all the Soldiers were staged and ready by 8 p.m.

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assisted the Wise County Sheriff's Office with multiple medical and safety evacuations since coming on state active duty Feb. 22, 2015, with three of those evacuations saving the patients' lives. Soldiers from the 1033rd Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion continue to assist with delivering food, water and medicine to locations throughout the county.

"The Guard has really enhanced our abilities to get to people and places we couldn't reach with the roads being in the shape they are in," said Maj. Grant Kilgore, chief deputy for the Wise County Sheriff's Office. "These are great guys, and everyone has worked really well together."

The Guard brought 12 Soldiers from the Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion on duty to provide support to Lee County, and they began conducting missions by Wednesday morning. An additional 12 Soldiers from the 1033rd with engineer equipment joined the Soldiers already on duty in Wise County on Wednesday to help clear ice and snow berms created by plowing the primary roads. Soldiers will continue to assist with the delivery of food, water and other supplies as needed.

The Virginia National Guard Soldiers who were on standby in Highland County were released Tuesday afternoon.

According to 1033rd Engineer Company 1st Sgt. Billy Bartlett, Soldiers assisted sheriff's deputies and local emergency medical services with two patients in immediate need of dialysis and another whose oxygen supply was running low. The Guard's ability to transport through heavy snow helped save the patients'



Wise County deputies and Virginia National Guard Soldiers assist a veteran in need of medical treatment Feb. 23, 2015, in Norton, Va.

lives, he said. On two occasions, Soldiers created field-expedient stretchers from blankets and tarps to transport patients to a medical evacuation point.

Governor Terry McAuliffe declared a state of emergency Feb. 16 and authorized up to 300 Virginia National Guard personnel could be brought on state active duty for possible response operations, and more than 125 personnel were staged and ready at locations across the commonwealth by that evening. The Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force were ready to support the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Department of Transportation and other state and local emergency response organizations.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/26/7002/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Va. Guard engineer unit welcomes new commander

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/02/25/6989/>

Photos: Governor, SPSHS tour Wise County

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157650584758457/>

Photos: Rep. Forbes visits Va. Guard aviators

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157650986783831/>

Photos: Va. Guard assists with medical evacuation

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157650610798930/>

New: 183rd RTI Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/183RTI>



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