

529th CSSB completes Kuwait deployment, returns to U.S.

Approximately 70 Soldiers assigned to the Virginia National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group returned to the United States April 20, 2015, after serving on federal active duty in Kuwait since July 2014. During the deployment they planned and coordinated combat sustainment support for U.S. and coalition forces in Kuwait and the surrounding region to include Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Soldiers arrived at Fort Hood for demobilization where they will spend seven to 10 days for reintegration training, medical evaluation and administrative tasks to transition from federal active duty to traditional National Guard status. The time schedule for the return of Soldiers to Virginia has not been finalized. Most of the Soldiers in the unit are from the Hampton Roads area, 10 are from the Richmond area, 10 are from Southwest Virginia, and about 5 are from Northern Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/04/20/7305/>



Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion return to the United States April 20, 2015, after completing their federal active duty mission in Kuwait.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Va. Guard howitzers fly over Fort Pickett

Virginia National Guard field artillerymen of the Hampton-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team hooked their M119 howitzers to Virginia National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters as part of a gun raid training exercise held April 11, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/04/22/7324/>

Virginia cyber warriors join multi-state exercise at Camp Atterbury

Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Fairfax-based Data Processing Unit joined more than 350 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians from 42 states for the 2015 Cyber Shield Exercise March 9-20, 2015, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The exercise focused on training and developing National Guard cyber capabilities.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/04/08/7302/>

116th IBCT plants trees in honor Civil War Soldiers

Infantrymen and senior leaders from the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participated in a dedication ceremony for the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's Living Legacy Tree Planting Project April 12, 2015, at the Inn at Meander Plantation in Locust Dale, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/04/22/7322/>

Va. Guard officer candidates hold on to history

The officer candidates of the Virginia Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School of the Fort Pickett-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute, walked into Col. Thomas L. Morgan's military history class April 19, 2015 expecting a lecture, but quickly found out they were in for a unique experience.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/04/22/7332/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Earth Day Event at Fort Pickett

Fort Pickett will host an unveiling ceremony of a National Public Lands Day sign to commemorate Earth Day 10 a.m., April 29, 2015, at the Fort Pickett Reservoir. Community leaders, garrison and community members are invited to participate in the unveiling ceremony.

Following the unveiling, members of Fort Pickett's Environmental Department and the Directorate of Public Works will install steps along the trail leading to the reservoir and will lead a community service project aimed at collecting garbage and recyclables from areas around the bank and trail. The service project will begin following the ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Va. Guard Soldier welcomes home grandfather's remains

The remains of Cpl. Lindsey Lockett, who died as a POW during the Korean War, returned home to Richmond, Va., April 9, 2015, after 64 years. Lockett was welcomed home planeside by his widow, son and grandson, Sgt. Leonardo Lockett, who serves in the Virginia Guard's 180th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion.

Lockett was a 24-year-old medic with the 503rd Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division when he was taken prisoner Dec. 1, 1950. He and his fellow Soldiers were near Somin-dong, North Korea when their unit was overwhelmed by Chinese forces. At home, his wife Anna, 17, had just given birth to a son, Sgt. Lockett's father, Lindsey Lockett, Jr.

"For my dad, he never met his father," Sgt. Lockett said. "He was born 10 days before he was captured."

The Locketts knew when Cpl. Lockett was taken prisoner, and, based on prisoner reports from the men he was in captivity with, they were able to approximate when he died.

"The Soldiers who put his body in the ground, they said it was spring," Sgt. Lockett explained. He said they didn't have a calendar, didn't have a sure way to tell the date, but it was the spring of 1951, either May or April.

The date of his captivity and the approximate date of his death were all the Lockett family had for years. They had reports from those he was captured with, reports that helped them piece together the remaining months of his life, but the whereabouts of his remains were one of the biggest mysteries to the family.

"We thought he was still in Korea," explained Sgt. Lockett. "The reports came back to us that they were trying to still get permission from Korea to go and search some more areas where the camps were to find his remains. For years, me and my dad thought he was still over there and then this past year, they called us and said they'd found him."

As it turns out, Cpl. Lockett's remains had been returned to the United States in 1954, as part of a remains exchange program between the United Nations and Communist forces, in what came to be called "Operation Glory," according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA. Lockett, and the remains of hundreds of other Korean War veterans, was sent to Japan for analysis. From there, unidentified remains went to Hawaii, where they were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, commonly called the Punchbowl. There, Lockett, along with his fellow fallen comrades, was labeled as "unknown."

Because the remains had been exposed to formaldehyde, which degrades DNA to the point where it can't be matched, other techniques had to be used in bringing Cpl. Lockett home.

X-raying the chest cavities of Soldiers was a common practice when Lockett was sent to Korea as a means to screen incoming servicemembers for tuberculosis and other respiratory infections. Using that x-ray and newly developed technology, Cpl. Lockett's remains were positively identified by scientists using "circumstantial evidence and chest radiography that matched his records," according to DPAA.



The remains of Cpl. Lindsey Lockett, who died in a POW camp in North Korea 64 years ago, return home to Richmond, Va., April 9, 2015, to his widow, son and grandson.

For Sgt. Lockett and his father, who served in the Marine Corps, the return of Cpl. Lockett after so many years embodied the U.S. military's standard of never leaving a fallen comrade.

"The military never gave up on him," Sgt. Lockett said. "After 65 years, they didn't give up on my grandfather."

Sgt. Lockett watched from the tarmac, with his father and grandmother, as a funeral honors team from Fort Lee, Va., transferred Cpl. Lockett's flag-draped casket from the belly of the plane to the hearse that would take him to his final resting place.

Two days later, on April 11, 2015, Cpl. Lockett reached his final resting place at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Richmond after a 65-year journey.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/04/15/7287/>

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<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/04/14/7279/>

Ranger-qualified Soldiers excel in Leesburg infantry company

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Photos: 2-224th Aviation welcomes new commander

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Photos: AG, SEL visit 237th Engineer Company

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Photos: Va. Guard OCS commissions three new officers

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