

Va. National Guard flood response a joint effort

The Virginia National Guard staged more than 550 personnel for possible flood response at key locations across the commonwealth starting Oct. 2, 2015, and the operation had increased participation from Virginia Air National Guard and Virginia Defense Force units in addition to Virginia Army National Guard units. The state was spared the impact of Hurricane Joaquin, and Guard Soldiers only conducted a handful of missions assisting emergency officials with reconnaissance and high water transport. The Guard also provided the Virginia Department of Emergency Management with future operations planners from the Army Guard and VDF and imagery analysis from Army Guard aviators and the Air Guard.

“We made a conscious effort to bring in a greater mix of Airmen and VDF members, in addition to our Soldiers, to help provide the right mix of capabilities requested by VDEM,” explained Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “I am extremely proud of how well all of our forces responded.”

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/10/07/8105/>



Soldiers assigned to the Portsmouth-based 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 116th IBCT conduct reconnaissance patrols Oct. 4, 2015, in Gloucester, Va.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Smith named new CSM for 29th Infantry Division

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Smith, Jr. will succeed Command Sgt. Maj. Cheyenne Johnson as the command sergeant major of the 29th Infantry Division, according to an announcement made Sept. 30, 2015, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/09/30/8096/>

VDF exercise tests interoperable communications capabilities

Members of the Virginia Defense Force conducted collective team evaluations of their assigned National Guard Civil Support missions and supported a Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia communication exercise Sept. 25-27, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/09/29/8087/>

Workshop helps logisticians share best practices

More than 100 logisticians from across the state attended the Logistics Training Workshop from Sept. 15-18, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va. The purpose of the workshop was to bring the Guard’s logistics community up to date on the latest issues impacting the sustainment community.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/09/24/8108/>

116th IBCT welcomes a diverse group of new leaders

Ten of the freshly-minted second lieutenants from Virginia National Guard Officer Candidate School Class 57 will report to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to begin their officer careers after their commissioning ceremony held Aug. 22, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/09/24/8081/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Oct. 15: Great SouthEast ShakeOut

Millions of people worldwide will practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:15 a.m. on Oct. 15 during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills.

There is still time to sign up for the Great SouthEast ShakeOut earthquake drill scheduled for Oct. 15. Anyone interested can still participate, even if Oct. 15 is not a good date. Drills can be held anytime until Dec. 31, so please consider signing up to be counted.

More information is available at <http://www.ready.gov/virginia> or <http://shakeout.org/southeast/>.

Guard leaders build partnerships with base visit

Senior Virginia National Guard leaders visited United States Coast Guard Base Portsmouth Sept. 29, 2015, as part of an ongoing effort to build strategic partnerships in the Hampton Roads region. Capt. Brenda Kerr, Commanding Officer of Base Portsmouth and Capt Rick Wester, Deputy Sector Commander Hampton Roads, hosted Brig. Gen. Steven T. Scott, Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Army Strategic Initiatives, Lt. Col. Preston Scott, commander of Fort Pickett Virginia Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center, and Lt. Col. Elena Scarbrough, commander of Camp Pendleton Collective Training Center, for a base tour that included a firing range and several Coast Guard vessels.

"We really value the relationships with other services and state agency partners," Brig. Gen. Scott said. "This visit helps us better understand the resources and capabilities of Coast Guard and this base so we would be more effective in working together if there was an emergency situation. It is important that we know each other and have that mutual respect."

Kerr recently visited Camp Pendleton and extended the invitation for Virginia Guard leadership to the base.

"We both are support bases, and sometimes if we can't support an activity we know what alternatives are out there and what their capabilities are," Kerr said. "We know Camp Pendleton now, and they know us."

For example, Kerr said that Base Portsmouth can only support landing for a few helicopters, so if someone approached them about a large scale helicopter exercise they could direct them to Camp Pendleton.

Kerr said that these kinds of interactions help build a regional capability in the Hampton Roads area.

"We are all interagency partners at the state level for emergency operations and we need to understand how to work together," she said. "A lot of times the operators work and train together, but this is the support community. Our operators can't conduct an activity if they don't have the support community behind them."

Base Portsmouth has a staff of about 500 that provide a variety of support functions such as maintenance, personnel actions, administration, medical and family support. The base directly supports 1,700 Coast Guardsman and also provides support for more than 17,000 across Coast Guard District 5.

Scott said the tour also reinforced his respect for the Coast Guard.

"I have always been impressed by the Coast Guard," Scott said. "They do their mission every day, and they are in harm's way every day. Most of the services train for wars they hope never come, but they are out there putting themselves at risk to help keep us safe."

Camp Pendleton is a state-owned 328-acre installation that provides training facilities for National Guard units, as well as all other Department of Defense active and reserve units and public safety organizations. The post features administrative buildings, conference facilities, barracks, classrooms, dining facilities, a



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live-fire qualification range and nine different virtual trainers as well as a chapel, fitness center, distance learning center, wooded training areas, helipad, land navigation course and military access beach and amphibious landing site.

Camp Pendleton recently hosted a variety of activities including Geospatial Information System training for the Virginia National Guard, the 2015 Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads Competition and a Unit Movement Officer Course for multiple National Guard states and the Coast Guard.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/09/30/8091/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Ceremony pays tribute to Battle of Point Pleasant

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/10/05/8084/>

Photos: 183rd RTI hosts open house

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157659140719296>

Photos: Course helps prepare company leadership

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157659211417981>

Photos: New commander takes charge of 1-183rd RTI

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157656882067623>

Photos: Samulski takes command of Red Dragon battalion

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157657241304283>

Photos: Pulaski Soldiers qualify on crew served weapons

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157657133380693>



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