

House Caucus Cyber Day highlights Guard capabilities

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Fairfax-based Data Processing Unit joined representatives from 14 states in displaying cyber capabilities at the U.S. House of Representatives National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus State Cyber Day Oct. 22, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

“The Cyber Caucus event gave the Virginia Guard the opportunity to share with Congress the great work our Soldiers are doing and to highlight the unique capability and skillset that Guard Soldiers bring to the fight,” said Lt. Col. Lesley Kipling, DPU commander. “Our Soldiers have a wide breadth of information technology experience in the public and private sector, IT degrees, professional certifications and current real world experience which they draw upon to respond to cyber threats.”

Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., and Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., co-chairs of the caucus, created this opportunity for officials to see the cybersecurity capabilities in the Guard and Reserve.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/10/25/8200/>



Rep. Rob Wittman from Virginia's 1st congressional district talks with Virginia National Guard leaders about cyber capabilities Oct. 22, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

TRADOC leaders visit Recruit Sustainment Program at Camp Pendleton

Senior leaders from the Center for Initial Military Training at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command toured the Virginia Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program Site #9 Oct. 17, 2015, in Virginia Beach, Va., to learn how the Guard prepares new recruits to be physically and mentally ready to attend basic training.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/10/29/8179/>

Va. Guard aviation crews aid in drug eradication

In just a few months, Soldiers and aviation crews working through the Virginia National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force flew more than 230 hours in support of local, state and federal agencies and the Drug Enforcement Agency's Domestic Cannabis Eradication Suppression Program, or DCE/SP.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/11/04/8196/>

Ring named new Va. Army Guard chief of staff

Col. James W. Ring will succeed Col. Jeffrey N. Hice as the Virginia Army National Guard chief of staff, according to an announcement made Nov. 3, 2015, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Ring most recently served as the commander of Operational Support Airlift Agency.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/11/03/8203/>

Professional development forum to discuss data measurement

The Virginia National Guard will host a virtual professional development forum discussing effective data measurement at 6 p.m. Nov. 12, 2015. The forum will use the GuardU Professional Development course site and audio bridge teleconference.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/11/04/8198/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. 7: U.S. Postal Service suggests deadline for mailing packages overseas

The U.S. Postal Service's first suggested deadline for mailing packages by way of Standard Post is Nov. 7, 2015.

The deadlines are the same for all methods of mailing, for all overseas APO, FPO and DPO ZIP codes, with notable exceptions for some mail going to and from the AE ZIP 093, which covers overseas contingency areas.

More information is available at <https://www.usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-dpo.htm>.

Guard's 1916-1917 border service showcased in new exhibit

A new historical exhibit showcasing the Virginia National Guard's role in defending the U. S. border from hostile Mexican revolutionaries from 1916 to 1917 was unveiled after a meeting of the Virginia World War I Centennial Committee Nov. 2, 2015, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Va. The Guard's service during the Mexican Expedition marked the first time they had been federalized under a national standard and helped prepare the troops for duty in World War I.

On hand for the unveiling were Virginia Delegate Betsy Carr, chairwoman of the Virginia World War I Centennial Committee, Department of Veterans Services Commissioner John Newby, Virginia War Memorial Executive Director John Hatfield, Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and members of the Virginia World War I Centennial Committee.

"This was the first time the president had federalized the National Guard, and troops were able to mobilize, come together in one place and train to a national standard," Williams said.

The Militia Act of 1903, also known as the Dick Act, set out the circumstances under which the National Guard could be federalized, and it also marked the beginning of National Guard units being organized in similar structures as the regular Army, Williams explained. The National Defense Act of 1916 further updated the Militia Act of 1903, and it authorized the president to mobilize the National Guard in case of war or other national emergency for an unlimited duration.

Experience and proficiency varied greatly between Guard units when they arrived for border duty, but it provided extensive hands-on, practical experience for the troops and excellent training and development for leaders and transformed the Guard into a more effective fighting force. That experience helped prepare them when they began shipping out in 1917 for combat duty in Europe, Williams said.

The main graphic in the exhibit explains that "on the night of March 8 1916, Pancho Villa, commanding several hundred Mexican revolutionaries, crossed the United States border and attacked the town of Columbus, New Mexico. Seven days later, General John Pershing led the first column of U.S. troops after Villa. Regular Army units moved to the border to take up defensive positions and later moved down into Mexico to protect Pershing's supply lines."

President Woodrow Wilson made the decision to call up the National Guard to help secure the border and prevent further raids, and almost every state provided Guard troops.

The graphic further explains that U.S. law prohibited Guard units from crossing into Mexico, so "the Guard units had to maintain a defensive position and assume the role of border guards. Virginia contributed infantry and artillery regiments, a cavalry squadron and several companies of engineers and signal troops. All total, there were nearly four thousand Virginians deployed to camps in southern Texas near the Mexican border for almost a year. Though the guard's time on the border was relatively uneventful, the action prepared the U.S. military



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including Virginia National Guard for its upcoming roll in World War I, less than a year later."

The new exhibit is part of a growing partnership between the Virginia Guard and the Virginia War Memorial, Hatfield said.

"This exhibit is important because it shows Virginia's part in leading up to our entry into World War I in 1917," he said. "It is also important because it is a collaboration between the Virginia National Guard, the 116th Regimental Museum in Verona and the Virginia War Memorial to create an exhibit that teaches freedom isn't free."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/11/02/8205/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: Guard's 1916-1917 border service showcased in Va. War Memorial exhibit

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157660862563385>

Virginia War Memorial

<http://www.vawarmemorial.org/>

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

Virginia World War I Centennial Committee

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

116th Infantry Regiment Foundation

<https://www.facebook.com/116thInfantryRegimentFoundationInc/>

Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

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

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