

Governor, First Lady host receptions for Va. Guard families

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe hosted receptions for families of deployed Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Dec. 5 and 6, 2015, at Virginia's Executive Mansion in Richmond, Virginia. Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Adam Thiel, Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and members of the Virginia National Guard Family Programs Office joined the McAuliffes in thanking the families for their sacrifice and support for the missions their loved ones are performing while they are mobilized on federal active duty.

"Thank you all for your service," Governor Terry McAuliffe said. "It is a team effort, it is a family effort, and we are the greatest country in the world because we have the greatest military in the world. On behalf of all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, thank you for your service to this great country."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/10/8388/>



Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe host a reception for families of deployed Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Dec. 6, 2015.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Artillery Soldiers provide opposing force at JRTC

More than 95 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Hampton-based Battery B, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted annual training Oct. 28-Nov. 16, 2015, at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/02/8386/>

Sandston-based aviation units to mobilize in 2016 for duty in Kuwait

Two Virginia National Guard Sandston-based aviation units have received mobilization orders for duty in Kuwait and are scheduled to begin serving on federal active duty in early June 2016, according to an announcement made Dec. 4, 2015, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/04/8371/>

Former AG receives Distinguished Service Medal

Gen. Frank J. Grass, the 27th Chief of National Guard Bureau, presented retired Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., with the Distinguished Service Medal Dec. 1, 2015, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to recognize his service as the Adjutant General of Virginia from July 14, 2010, to May 31, 2014.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/03/8391/>

Va. Guard transporters haul millions in equipment for 29th ID

Virginia National Guard Soldiers from the Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion hauled and offloaded approximately \$20 million worth of equipment for the 29th Infantry Division as part of their annual training period, held Nov. 30-Dec. 14, 2015.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/15/8379/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Jan. 15, 2016: Commonwealth's Guardian newsletter resumes publication

This is the last issue of the 2015 Commonwealth's Guardian newsletter. Publication will resume Jan. 15, 2016.

Jan. 21, 2016: Va. National Guard Day at the General Assembly

Members of the Virginia Guard and Virginia Defense Force will display equipment outside the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to demonstrate some of the Virginia Guard's capabilities.

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, will host a reception for members of the General Assembly from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the 4th Floor West Conference Room of the General Assembly Building.

Va. Air Guard to stand up cyber operations squadron

The Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing will stand up a new cyber operations squadron at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia, according to multiple announcements made Dec. 9, 2015, by Gen. Frank J. Grass, the Chief of National Guard Bureau, the Governor of Virginia and the Virginia Congressional Delegation. Virginia was one of four states selected to stand up cyber operations squadrons.

"Virginia's selection as one of four states to stand up a new Air Force cyber unit is the result of a great team effort between state government, our congressional delegation, National Guard Bureau, the Virginia National Guard, and Joint Base Langley-Eustis," said Governor Terry McAuliffe. "Virginia emerged as a front-runner due to its existing facilities, strong defense industrial base with a cyber focus, and academic institutions to sustain recruiting and retention. It is also a testament to the outstanding reputation of the Virginia National Guard for excellent performance and dedication to mission accomplishment."

Approximately 70 airmen will be assigned to the cyber operations squadron, and they will be a combination of full-time Virginia Guard Airmen and traditional drill status Guard Airmen who normally train one weekend a month and 15 days a year.

As a National Guard unit, the squadron will have both federal and state missions. The cyber operations squadron's primary federal mission will be cyberspace mission defense protecting Air Force and U.S. critical infrastructure against cyber attacks. As part of the state mission, the unit will be available to assist state and local government agencies with vulnerability assessments to help improve network security.

The cyber capability will add to the Virginia Air National Guard's current primary missions of air superiority, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, civil engineering, medical support, global logistics, security forces and weather forecasting.

"We really appreciate the hard work that went into bringing the cyber operations squadron to Virginia," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "Our selection comes from tremendous teamwork at the state level led by Governor McAuliffe as well as great support from our Congressional Delegation. I am confident that our Airmen will be just as successful with this mission as they are with F-22 Raptor flight operations and ISR support conducted at Langley Air Force Base."

No exact timeline has been established for standing up the new unit, Williams said. He hopes for more specifics about the timeline and other details early next year.

Virginia's bipartisan delegation issued a joint news release after advocating to locate the cyber capability at Joint Base Langley Eustis since December 2014.

"We were very pleased to hear that the Air National Guard chose Joint Base Langley-Eustis for an Air Force Cyber Operations Squadron," the Virginia delegation said in their release. "Cybersecurity is one of the greatest challenges we face as a nation, and this mission will play a critical role in responding to threats and protecting the integrity of our networks and cyber

Key Facts About New Cyber Operations Squadron

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systems. This decision is a testament to Virginia's strong record in cyber capabilities, including top defense and technology companies, research institutions, and a highly skilled workforce. We are proud to host this critical mission."

According to their news release, the Virginia delegation sent two bipartisan letters to the Air National Guard advocating for Virginia as a location for the cyber squadron in the months leading up to the decision. Virginia is home to 9 higher-education institutions recognized by NSA and DoD as centers of academic excellence.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/09/8376/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Va. Guard Youth Program seeks volunteers

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/15/8382/>

Photos: Va. Guard senior leaders recognize outstanding troops at 229th MP holiday meal

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157660099263744>

Photos: 529th Soldiers, family members celebrate holiday season with Va. Guard senior leaders

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157660072352543>

DoD Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/12/17/8400/>

192nd Fighter Wing on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/192DFW/>



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