

Maj. Gen. Batts retires after 34-year career

On page 2: Soldiers complete UK cyber exercise

New commander takes charge of 29th ID

Maj. Gen. Frank E. Batts, outgoing commander of the 29th Infantry Division, passed the colors symbolizing the transfer of command authority to Lt. Gen. J. Michael Bednarek, Commanding General of the First United States Army, who then passed the guidon and colors to Maj. Gen. Charles W. Whittington Jr., incoming commander of the 29th Infantry Division during a change of command ceremony Oct. 7, 2012 at Fort Belvoir.

In a speech to the division, including members of the 29th Infantry Division Association, Bednarek praised the 29th.

“We have superior senior leadership in the present this afternoon, and I want to recognize the warriors in this theater,” said Bednarek to a full house. “Since 9/11 the 29th has evolved to a battle-tested and strong unit, and I know you will not only meet, but exceed the challenge. You have a storied history that is hard to live up to, but if anyone can do it, it is you. You have the right leadership to take the organization to the next level.”

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/12/2331/>



Maj. Gen. Charles W. Whittington Jr. passes the 29th Infantry Division colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Cheyenne Johnson, during the change of command ceremony held Oct. 7.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia Guard assists DEA in drug destruction

Soldiers from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment supporting the Virginia Guard Counterdrug Program helped Richmond Drug Enforcement Administration agents load approximately 14,000 pounds of unwanted and expired prescription drugs Oct. 12 before hauling the drugs north for destruction.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/16/2311/>

Virginia Guard's newest NCO honored in NCO Induction Ceremony

Noncommissioned officers of the Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team gathered along with senior state-level NCOs to welcome Sgt. Austin L. Beaty into the NCO Corps in an NCO Induction Ceremony held Oct. 10 at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/16/2304/>

Soldiers better prepared for unit movement challenges after UMO course

More than 30 Soldiers from across the Virginia Guard are better prepared for moving equipment for deployment or training after completing the Unit Movement Officer Deployment Planners Course held Sept. 24 – 28 at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/09/30/2248/>

Va. Guard supports dedication ceremony for Loudoun County memorial

Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Leesburg-based Company C, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provided a color guard and fired a 21-gun salute Oct. 13 in support of a dedication ceremony for a memorial to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars in Leesburg.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/13/2285/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Oct. 23: CFC Kickoff Event

The Virginia National Guard will host a kickoff event for the Combined Federal Campaign at 11:30 a.m. in Building 1880 at Fort Pickett. The campaign aims to lend support to charitable organizations working for the betterment of our citizens, communities and society at large runs from Oct. 23 to Dec. 15.

For more information, contact your unit CFC representative.

Nov. 1: Tuition Assistance

Deadline

The State Tuition website is currently open for registration for Spring Semester. Application deadline is Nov. 1, 2012.

For more information, please visit <http://go.usa.gov/YjtH/>.

DPU Soldiers complete UK cyber exercise

Five Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Fairfax-based Data Processing Unit completed a two-week joint cyber defense exercise with officers from the Royal Signals branch of the United Kingdom's Territorial Army Sept. 28. This exercise provided the DPU Soldiers with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with U.K. network operations and serve in a real-world cyber defense mission for the British Army Land Forces Headquarters. The exercise was run by British officers assigned to the Land Information Assurance Group, a component of the U.K.'s Royal Signals branch that focuses primarily on cyber network defense.

"This exercise was a tremendous opportunity for our DPU Soldiers to both gain experience with the unique LIAG operational processes first-hand and conduct a real-world cyber mission that further served the development of its network defense capabilities," said Lt. Col Randall Cudworth, commander of the DPU. "It also gave us a much better idea of the Territorial Army's strategic focus in the cyber arena going forward, and a chance to draw on the DPU's considerable expertise to offer recommendations regarding the implementation of that strategy."

For the first two days of the exercise, the DPU Soldiers participated in the LIAG selection board, which was convened at its unit headquarters in Corsham, Wiltshire. During this board, candidates applying for entry into the LIAG are assessed through interviews, leadership-reaction scenarios, and physical fitness events. The DPU Soldiers were able to familiarize themselves with the LIAG's selection board process and discuss its strategic focus on acquiring certain cyber skill sets with the unit's current members.

The team was subsequently provided with a series of briefings at the Joint Cyber Unit, which is also located at Corsham. The JCU was established to defend the U.K.'s Ministry of Defense networks against cyber attack around the clock. While there, the Americans were provided with details on the British cyber defense strategy and the systems behind its execution. LIAG personnel also briefed the Americans on the cyber defense operations that were carried out during the 2012 Olympic Games.

Later that first week, the team conducted a series of intensive cyber defense exercises on the "cyber range" inside the Air Warfare Centre at Royal Air Force Station Waddington. Like the U.S. Army cyber ranges, this range was designed to provide a platform for simulating computer network systems that can be customized to provide a variety of training scenarios. The LIAG personnel and DPU Soldiers worked together to respond to attacks against simulated networks by using the most advanced network defense tools and practices.

The DPU Soldiers used this training as a vehicle to share expertise with their British counterparts and acquire additional, U.K. cyber defense methodologies. During their time at RAF Waddington, the Americans also received strategic-level briefings at the Joint Forces Headquarters in connection with its current and future cyber defense planning.

After the cyber range training concluded, the five DPU



Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Fairfax-based Data Processing Unit conduct a network vulnerability assessment with members of the United Kingdom's Territorial Army at Andover, Hampshire, UK at Land Forces Headquarters.

Soldiers and seven officers from the LIAG jointly conducted a week-long, real-world cyber defense mission at the British Army HQ-Land complex in Andover, Hampshire. During this mission, the teams produced vulnerability assessments of the "Restricted" and "Secret" components of the MOD computer network. The DPU team assisted the LIAG officers in running the latest tools for detecting network penetration, provided recommendations for fixing these vulnerabilities, and contributed to a final report that detailed the results of the assessments.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/09/30/2252/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Contracting teams train on newest DLA tools at Fort Pickett

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/17/2327/>

Marine engineers train with Fort Pickett DPW

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/09/30/2257/>

Virginia Guard communication professionals work with Tajikistan Peacekeeping Operations Battalion

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/09/30/2274/>

Photos: DJJ offers employment assistance to Soldiers

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631800622354/>

Photos: SEAC visits Commonwealth Challenge

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631792407907/>

Photos: Mechanics, operators gain familiarity with ASV

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631776728310/>

Photos: Senior leaders visit operations at DSCR

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631775515653/>

Virginia National Guard on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs Flickr Photostream

<http://flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao>