

Nearly 670 personnel brought on duty

On page 2: Soldiers rescue stranded citizens

Va. Guard wraps up Hurricane Sandy support

The Virginia National Guard returned to normal operations Nov. 1, 2012, and all personnel on state active duty supporting Hurricane Sandy recovery operations were released from duty and returned to their home stations. Guard personnel began assisting Virginia State Police and local emergency response organizations late in the day Oct. 29 at numerous locations across Virginia, and at the height of operations had approximately 670 personnel working across the state. During that time they transported 42 civilians to safety, conducted almost 60 reconnaissance patrols to assess damage and report on route trafficability and performed 10 debris reduction missions.

“Law enforcement personnel and the Virginia National Guard were the unsung heroes of the Hurricane Sandy response,” said Governor Bob McDonnell after meeting with Soldiers working on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and thanking them for the service working with emergency response organizations in the area.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/11/01/2431/>



Virginia Guard Soldiers use a boat to help transport citizens to safety through high water Oct. 30 near Mears, Va. Virginia Guard personnel rescued 42 citizens over a four-day period.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

House Bill No. 1217 honors SW Va. fallen heroes

Virginia Senator Phillip Puckett, Delegate Will Morefield, Honorable Michael Hymes and the American Veterans Honor Guard Association unveiled highway road signs honoring Sgt. Brandon Asbury and Sgt. David Lambert during a ceremony held Oct. 19, 2012, in Cedar Bluff, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/23/2370/>

Virginia Guard MPs train on new Armored Security Vehicles

The Virginia Beach-based 229th Military Police Company conducted new equipment training with their newly-acquired M1117 Armored Security Vehicles Oct. 9-19, 2012, at Fort Pickett, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/21/2386/>

Virginia Guard equipment gets tagged for easier tracking

Across the commonwealth, Virginia Guard Soldiers are adding small, square unique identification tags, or UIDs, to sensitive and high-dollar equipment items to streamline the inventory process.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/23/2392/>

Ceremony marks grant award to fund burial containers for veterans

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services held a check presentation and groundbreaking ceremony at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia Oct. 22, 2012, to mark a \$1.6 million grant award to be used to retrofit the cemetery with double depth, pre-installed outer burial containers.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/22/2364/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. 7: Employment Training

The Virginia Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Virginia Employment Commission are partnering to provide employment assistance training to veterans and service members from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Westin Virginia Beach Town Center at 4535 Commerce Street in Virginia Beach.

This full day workshop is at NO COST to service members and veterans and dependents, but space is limited. Register at this email: registerforvirginiaesgrevents@gmail.com.

Please email that you are registering for the workshop in Virginia Beach, and include your name, email address, best contact phone number, and former or current military affiliation (rank, unit, and branch).

Soldiers rescue citizens stranded by high water

Virginia National Guard Soldiers trudged through high water and cut trees to clear a path for two rescue missions that transported seven adults and one child to safety Oct. 30 at two locations on Cattail Road near Mears, Va. The rescue mission took place one day after another high water transport required carrying a citizen who was unable to walk more than 200 yards through chest-high water.

"I was very pleased to see our Soldiers cautiously working their way through high water and being mindful of downed power lines, but also aggressively and safely clearing a path to rescue these citizens in need," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Green, senior enlisted leader of the Virginia National Guard. "The training these Soldiers have received over the years paid off today." Green had been visiting the Soldiers and joined them on the mission.

Virginia State Police had asked the Soldiers to conduct health and welfare checks at two locations they had not been able to reach. At the first location, the Soldiers had to cut through trees to enable their medium tactical truck access to the house where a family of five, including a young child, needed assistance to leave their house that was surrounded by high water.

At the second location, Soldiers had to trudge through two miles of high water, cutting trees as they went, but unable to get their truck to the house where a husband and wife needed evacuation. Using the family's boat, the Soldiers guided them about half a mile through the high water to the truck for evacuation.

Both groups were evacuated to family members whose homes were not threatened by high water.

A team consisting of Capt. Clint Harris, commander of the Martinsville-based 1173rd Transportation Company; Staff Sgt. Thomas Edwards and Pfc. Johnathan Mullen of the 1173rd; and Sgt. Daniel Robinson, Spc. Allen McFarland, Spc. Nicolas Graziano and Spc. James Napier of the Bowling Green-based 189th Engineer Company conducted the rescue mission Oct. 30. The 1173rd has a detachment based in Onancock.

On Oct. 28, a team of six Soldiers in two Humvees rescued five citizens stranded by high water. The team consisted of Sgt. Donald Dale, Sgt. Andrew McElwain, Sgt. Daniel Corbin and Spc. Steven Madrid from the 189th Engineer Company and Spc. Lamarquis Douglas and Pfc. Andrea Wilson from the 1173rd Transportation Company. McElwain drove their Humvee as close as possible to the house where the citizens were in need of rescue, and Dale led them out of the house to the Humvee. One of the family members was unable to walk, so Dale carried her on his back for more than 200 yards through chest-deep water to the Humvee. Once on board the vehicles, the Soldiers evacuated the family to Virginia State Police.

The Soldiers had been on duty since Sunday and conducted numerous high water rescue missions to transport 34 citizens to shelters and transported six firefighters.

"I'm exceptionally proud of the Soldiers from the 1173rd Transportation Company, 189th Engineer Company and the Virginia Defense Force who served under my command during



Soldiers from the Onancock-based Detachment 1, 1173rd Transportation Company use chain saws to clear a path Oct. 30 in order to transport citizens to safety after being trapped by high water near Mears, Va.

Hurricane Sandy," Harris said. "Their efforts in protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Eastern Shore area have been above and beyond the call of duty."

Harris commended them for always being on standby for short notice missions, maintaining preparedness and training on tasks to be ready for response. The Soldiers safely executed more than 30 different missions in support of civilian authorities on the Eastern Shore which included high water rescue, ensuring mobility through debris removal and reconnaissance patrols.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/10/30/2417/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: New warrant officers and lieutenants recognized

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631913124086/>

Photos: Va. Guard aviators fly aerial tour of Eastern Shore

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631903842116/>

Photos: Va. Guard Soldiers patrol near Fredericksburg

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631889059800/>

Photos: SPS visits Virginia Guard JOC

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631879649128/>

Photos: Governor visits Va. Guard and VDF personnel

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631879536686/>

Photos: Congressman Cantor visits Va. Guard JOC

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631872011688/>

Photos: Soldiers perform support operations near Norfolk

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631884204721/>

Photos: Engineers conduct chain saw refresher training

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631868290588/>

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