

More than 160 Soldiers set to mobilize

On page 2: Quads join the Virginia Guard

1710th TC to conduct departure ceremony

The Virginia National Guard's Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group will conduct a departure ceremony April 3, 2013, at 10 a.m. at the Greenville County Elementary School. Approximately 160 Soldiers from the 1710th will begin federal active duty April 1, 2013, and are scheduled to conduct mobilization training for about 45 to 60 days at Fort Hood, Texas, then deploy to Afghanistan. Once in country, they are expected to perform the mission of transportation support operations, and the mobilization is planned to last 12 months. The address for the Greenville County Elementary School is 1011 Sussex Drive in Emporia.

The 1710th Transportation Company is the first Virginia National Guard unit to serve on federal active duty since the return of Soldiers from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division in July 2012..



Soldiers from the Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company conduct battle drills Feb. 14, 2013, at Fort Pickett to prepare for their upcoming federal mobilization.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/03/28/3216/>

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Marines sharpen skills at Fort Pickett before Afghanistan deployment

More than 630 Marines from the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based Combat Logistics Battalion 6, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group descended on Fort Pickett, March 17, 2013, for a 10-day exercise.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/03/27/3222/>

Artillery Soldiers represent modern military at reenactment event

Soldiers from the Virginia Guard's Hampton-based Battery B, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team represented the modern military at the Military Through the Ages event March 16, 2013.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/03/19/3208/>

29th Division Band plays for Va. Executive Mansion birthday

The Virginia Guard's Clifton Forge-based 29th Division Band played the 200th Birthday Party for the Virginia Executive Mansion March 16, 2013, in Richmond. The band's rock ensemble "Raising Caine" also performed, and several family members of Soldiers in the band added their musical talents to the concert.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/03/19/3201/>

New Leisure Center open at Fort Pickett

Fort Pickett recently opened a new Leisure Center that provides personnel training on post with a friendly environment for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as free wireless internet, and a portion of the sales at the facility come back to the Fort Pickett Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/03/27/3237/>

Mark Your Calendars!

April 2: DMV 2 Go to support mobilizing Soldiers

DMV's mobile customer service center, called DMV 2 Go, will serve Soldiers and family members from the Virginia National Guard's Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company on April 2, 2013, as they prepare for deployment to Afghanistan. The mobile office will be located at the Emporia Armory located at 940 Courtland Road, Emporia, 23847 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. DMV 2 Go travels across Virginia providing services to military members, veterans and their families.

Quadruplets from Newport News join Va. Guard

A set of quadruplets from Newport News enlisted in the Virginia Army National Guard March 7, 2013 at the Military Entrance Processing Station at Fort Lee. Kahlil, Karlyle, Karon, and Kameron Jones are 17-year-old juniors at Warwick High School recruited in the Virginia Guard by Sgt. Brian Merritt.

All four brothers are scheduled to attend basic training this summer, Kahlil at Fort Jackson, S.C., and Karlyle, Karon and Kameron at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Then, after returning for their senior years of high school, they will complete advanced individual training next summer.

Karlyle, Karon and Kameron will serve with the 229th Military Police Company in Virginia Beach while Kahlil will be assigned to the Hampton-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment as a health care specialist.

"I have been talking to them about decisions about college and making changes in their life," said Darin Jones, their father. "I wanted them to have some involvement with the military without going full time active duty. Something to help keep them grounded and that would help them out with college expenses."

All four plan to attend college and pursue careers in medicine.

"In January I was contacted by Mr. Jones to ask about the requirements to serve in the National Guard," said Merritt, a Newport News-based recruiter. "The quads have had family serve in the Virginia National Guard and he was interested in getting further information on how his sons could enlist and receive the life lessons and discipline that comes with the training received in the Virginia Army National Guard."

Once their father mentioned the subject to them, they took to the internet and learned all they could about the military and the different branches of service. After they completed their research, they went back to their dad to tell him what they had learned.

"They had plenty of questions about the jobs, training, and benefits offered," Merritt said. "I was impressed at the thought they had placed into ensuring they were informed in their decision to serve. After answering all of their questions and concerns, the



Karlyle, Kahlil, Karon and Kameron Jones enlist in the Virginia Army Guard March 7, 2013. The 17-year-old quadruplets from Newport News will head to basic training this summer before returning for their senior year of high school.

Joneses were ready to go."

"They were gung ho for it," explained their mother, Angela Jones.

Among the main reasons the brothers said they joined were to be able to help during emergencies, to get into the fields they were already interested in and to get help with college.

Merritt helped them as they prepared for the ASVAB test and watched as they bantered back and forth over who would score the best on the test or be the best at their new job.

"Brotherly competition was clearly a motivating factor," Merritt said "Each one wanted to be the best. I believe the motivation they provide each other will be an asset to their commanders and to the Virginia National Guard as they progress through their careers. I am excited to witness the development of these young men into fine Soldiers and the future of the Virginia National Guard."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/03/08/3242/>

MORE ON THE WEB

DMV Mobile Office serves troops preparing for deployment

<http://www.dmvnow.com/general/#news/news.asp?id=7261>

Va. Guard Family Programs launches Facebook Page

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

Fort Pickett Facebook Page

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

Va. Guard Youth Programs on Facebook

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

Virginia National Guard on Twitter

<http://www.twitter.com/VaNationalGuard>

Virginia National Guard on Facebook

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

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

Virginia Guard Public Affairs Flickr Photostream

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



The Jones brothers pose with family and friends after their enlistment March 7, 2013, at Fort Lee, Va. Sgt. Brian Merritt (far right) was their recruiter.