

Soldiers and Airmen receive high marks after evaluation

On page 2: Stafford Civil War Park opens

Response force recommended for validation

A Virginia National Guard special response force capable of providing support to first responders and civil authorities was recommended for validation following an external evaluation April 27, 2013, at the Virginia Beach Fire & EMS Training Center.

The Virginia National Guard's Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear High Yield Explosive Response Force Package, known as the CERFP (pronounced "surf-p"), was rated as "fully trained" on 15 of the 16 major tasks they had to accomplish.

The CERFP can conduct tasks associated with incident management, urban search and rescue, mass causality decontamination, technical decontamination, medical triage and treatment and fatality search and recovery. The force is made up of Soldiers and Airmen from Virginia Guard units based in Petersburg, West Point, Rocky Mount, Danville, Virginia Beach and Langley Air Force Base, as well as personnel from the Washington D. C. Air National Guard.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/05/3588/>



Members of the Virginia National Guard's CERFP conduct an external evaluation at the Virginia Beach Fire and EMS Training Center April 27, 2013, in Virginia Beach.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Construction begins on new Fort Pickett urban training site

Construction began April 15, 2013, on the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility at Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center. This \$8.8 million construction project will create a five acre urban training environment with 17 buildings, roads, alleys, parking areas, parks, athletic fields and related infrastructure.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/02/3530/>

National War College dedicates classroom to Virginia Guardsman

The National War College dedicated one of its classrooms April 25, 2013, to Col. Paul M. Kelly, a 2004 graduate and member of the Virginia National Guard, who was killed in a helicopter crash in Baghdad on Jan. 20, 2007.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/29/3493/>

Va. Guard honors volunteers at 2013 Volunteer Recognition Workshop

Virginia Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker and Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, the Adjutant General of Virginia, were among those who recognized and honored Virginia Guard volunteers at the 2013 State Volunteer Recognition Workshop & Youth Symposium April 20, 2013, in Richmond.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/23/3518/>

Virginia Guard leaders sign Fredericksburg region Community Covenant

Senior Virginia Guard leaders joined military leaders from Fort A.P. Hill, Marine Corps Base Quantico and Naval Support Facility Dahlgren in signing the Fredericksburg Region Armed Forces Community Covenant May 4, 2013.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/06/3552/>

Mark Your Calendars!

May 23: Registration deadline for Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp

The Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp is for Va. Guard teens ages 13-17 years old and held in New Castle at the Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing from June 21-27, 2013. The cost is \$50.00.

Outdoor elements include kayaking, mountain biking, spelunking, high and low ropes, a 900 ft' zip line, and much more!

For all camp inquiries, please contact Drew Davis, Lead Child & Youth Coordinator, at drew.s.davis@us.army.mil or Allison Mecadon, Child & Youth Coordinator at allison.e.mecadon@us.army.mil.

Stafford Civil War Park opens to public

The Stafford Civil War Park opened to the public Saturday, April 27, 2013, with an official ceremony that included speeches by state and local officials, historical lectures, living history displays, and more than 1,300 locals and Civil War enthusiasts there to enjoy the new 41-acre park. Soldiers and Airmen of the Virginia National Guard were recognized for their significant contributions to the construction of the park.

Built on the site of Union Army of the Potomac encampments, fortifications and roads from the winter of 1862-63, the site had long been forgotten to all but local relic hunters until retired Air Force Col. Glenn A. Trimmer and the Friends of Stafford County Civil War Sites got involved.

"He did it. He went out and he raised millions of dollars in contributions," said Stafford County Supervisor Paul V. Milde III. "The Virginia National Guard did most of the work, but Glenn brought that together. They built the roads, they paved the streets, they cut down all the trees—almost all the work you see here was done by the National Guard."

Virginia Speaker of the House William J. Howell also had high praise for Trimmer and the Virginia National Guard.

"One of the key things Glenn that was able to orchestrate was the effort to get the National Guard involved," said Howell. "They were here on three separate times during the hottest part of last summer... They had more than 500 dump-truck loads of debris that they took away. There was over 720 hours of operating this big, heavy equipment that they brought in, and more than 6,000 tons of donated stones that they put down. It was just an incredible feat."

Trimmer, humble and at times emotional during his own remarks, thanked officers and NCOs of the Virginia Army Guard's Petersburg-based 276th Engineer Battalion and Forward Support Company, the Powhatan-based 180th Horizontal Construction Company, the Bowling Green-based 189th Multirole Bridge Company and the Virginia Air Guard's Virginia Beach-based



Glenn A. Trimmer, Executive Director of the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites, is joined by local elected officials in cutting the ribbon for the new Stafford Civil War Park, April 27, 2013.

203rd RED HORSE Squadron by name for their hard work and "first class leadership" during the park's construction.

"My name's come up here too often, and these people need to be recognized," said Trimmer. "The Guard provided the leadership, equipment, fuel, stamina, perseverance, and hard work to do this heavy construction."

The park includes five tour stops featuring the remains of a winter camp, corduroyed roads, a pre-Civil War bridge, an early Stafford quarry, and three large earthen artillery battery sites, with interpretive signs explaining each and a picnic area with several tables. It is open to the public every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. now through Oct. 31, and from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 1 through mid-March.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/04/30/3579/>



Members of the Virginia National Guard tour the Stafford Civil War Park after the official ribbon cutting.

MORE ON THE WEB

Virginia Guard officer candidates clean up for local charity

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/09/3598/>

Va. Guard helps DEA haul & destroy tons of drugs

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/06/3568/>

Airmen, Soldiers graduate inaugural training program

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/06/3545/>

Sen. Kaine visits families of 1710th Trans. Co. Soldiers

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/03/3556/>

Fort Pickett forestry program benefits local schools

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/02/3537/>

Senior leaders visit 1710th Trans. Co. at Fort Hood

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/02/3583/>

Soldiers at Va. Guard schoolhouse earn MP patch, MOS

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2013/05/01/3506/>

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>