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**Va. Guard Soldiers, Airmen to be remembered**

On page 2: Busy year for 29th Division Band

## Dedication ceremony planned for Public Safety Memorial

Thirty-two Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen will be remembered on the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial scheduled to be dedicated Dec. 6, 2014, at 1 p.m. at the memorial site at Capitol Square in Richmond, Va.

“Protecting our commonwealth and nation is an inherently dangerous job and this memorial serves as a testament to that,” said Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “It is also a way for us as citizens to pay tribute to them and their families’ sacrifice while providing a permanent way to remember.”

According to the Virginia Public Safety Foundation website, the memorial will honor 870 Virginians who died in public safety service to their community. The memorial will acknowledge them with an engraving of their name, ensuring that their memory is never forgotten and providing a place where their families and colleagues can gather to remember them.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/12/03/6400/>



This artist drawing shows the design of the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial scheduled for dedication Dec. 6, 2014, in Richmond, Va.

### Virginia National Guard News Headlines

#### 29th ID partners with other states to help train next KFOR rotation

Virginia and Maryland National Guard Soldiers from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division traveled to Germany in September to assist in the training and validation of more than 1,000 U.S. and international troops preparing to assume their role as Multinational Battle Group-East in Kosovo.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/12/02/6410/>

#### 116th Regiment honors veterans during the annual Muster

Soldiers and veterans from across the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team united to attend the 47th Annual Muster hosted by the 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation, Inc. at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton Nov. 6, 2014.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/11/24/6441/>

#### 203rd RHS refine skills at FTX while training for wartime mission

Airmen from the Virginia Air National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron refined essential skills and expeditionary training during a field training exercise held Nov. 7-9, 2014, at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/11/23/6444/>

#### Cavalry Soldiers rely on warrior knowledge, camaraderie to earn spurs

More than 40 Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Portsmouth-based 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team successfully completed a Spur Ride Nov. 15, 2014, at Fort Pickett, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/11/30/6425/>

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Dec. 6: Memorial Ceremony

The Virginia National Guard will host a memorial ceremony to honor Sgt. Nicholas C. Mason and Sgt. David A. Ruhren at 9 a.m. on Dec. 6, 2014, at the Fredericksburg Readiness Center. Mason and Ruhren were killed in action during a suicide bomb attack on Dec. 21, 2004, on Forward Operating Base Marez, in Mosul, Iraq. The attack killed 22 people, including 14 U.S. troops, and injured 70 others.

Sgt. Mason and Sgt. Ruhren were both combat engineers and members of the 229th Engineer Battalion, which is now the 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, based in Fredericksburg. Read more: <http://go.usa.gov/68Zm>

## 29th Division Band has busy year at home, abroad

It's been a busy and historic year for the Virginia National Guard's Clifton Forge-based 29th Division Band, which has performed more than 60 musical missions for more than 120,000 people throughout Virginia and beyond in 2014.

"This past year has been 'high optempo' for the 29th Division Band," said 1st Sgt. David A. Helms. "From performing various change of command ceremonies, NASCAR races, gubernatorial inauguration to even supporting missions on two different continents at the exact same time."

In June, nine members of the band joined nearly 20 other members of the 29th Infantry Division in Normandy, France for the 70th anniversary of D-Day. In just eight days in France, the musician Soldiers traveled more than 1,000 miles and performed 22 musical missions.

While a portion of the band was overseas, the rest of the unit performed for the D-Day ceremony June 6, 2014, at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va. The missions in Bedford and Vierville, France happened at the exact same time, according to Sgt. 1st Class Richard Carr, readiness noncommissioned officer for the 29th Division Band.

"This showed that the 29th Division Band could be in two different places and still perform the musical support required of us," Carr said.

Earlier in the year, the band supported the 72nd Virginia gubernatorial inauguration in Richmond in January and performed at the STP 500 NASCAR race in Martinsville in March.

The band also performed for six different Virginia National Guard change of command ceremonies, two Commonwealth ChalleNGe graduations, and Memorial Day ceremonies in both Amelia, Va., and Dublin, Va.

In addition, the band supported the Virginia National Guard's Military Funeral Honors Program by performing live bugle on nearly 100 missions around the state.

In all, the band traveled more than 8,000 miles this year without any accidents or loss of equipment.

"The 29th Division Band continues to be a valuable asset to the commanding general and an extremely effective marketing tool for the Virginia Army National Guard," said Lt. Col. Scott Bartlett, commander of 29th ID Headquarters Battalion.

The band consists of 34 enlisted Soldiers and one chief warrant officer. Its mission is to support the Virginia National Guard with musical performances around the state. But the band members are still Soldiers in the Virginia Guard. Therefore they not only have to stay musically proficient, they need to be ready to fulfill their Soldier tasks. In addition to all their travels and musical performances this year, the band members also found time during drill weekends and annual training to qualify with their assigned weapon, maintain their physical fitness and complete various mandatory Army training requirements.

"Being a member of the 29th Division Band this past year was very challenging but also very rewarding," said Sgt. 1st Class Jim Bradshaw, a trombone player and assistant conductor. "It



**Soldiers from the Clifton Forge-based 29th Division Band pose for a group photo while in France for the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in June 2014.**

was a challenge trying to meet all the performance demands that were set before us while keeping up the high standards we expect every time the band performs for the public. However all the band members rose to the challenge, making our year successful and meaningful for Soldiers in the National Guard, family members and all Virginians."

As the newly appointed first sergeant of the band, Helms said it's an honor to serve with such a great group of Soldiers.

"They are always professional and exceeding the standard put before them in all aspects," he said. "We look forward to challenges of the upcoming year, and will continue to lead the way in music performance."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/12/02/6408/>

### MORE ON THE WEB

#### AG to appear on "This Week in Richmond"

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/12/01/6397/>

#### Photos: 529th leaders serve Thanksgiving meal in Kuwait

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.10152876154003560.1073742237.173715018559>

#### 29th Infantry Division on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/29thID>

#### 29th Division Band on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/29th.Division.Band>

#### 116th IBCT on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/116thIBCT>

#### 529th CSSB on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HHC529thCSSB>

#### Virginia National Guard on Twitter

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

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