

Va. National Guard celebrates 408th birthday

Senior leaders from the Virginia National Guard, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and state government gathered to celebrate the 408th birthday of the Virginia National Guard and the founding of the Jamestown colony with a cake cutting May 14, 2015, at Jamestown Settlement in Williamsburg, Va. The Virginia Guard traces the heritage and traditions of citizen-soldier service to the founding of the colony in 1607, and there has been a continuous military presence in Virginia ever since.

“I can’t think of a more appropriate place to recognize centuries of military service in Virginia than at Jamestown Settlement,” said Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “Just as Capt. John Smith organized a militia to defend the colony more than 400 years ago, today’s Virginia National Guard continues that heritage by being prepared to answer the call of the Governor to defend our homeland as well as providing a combat reserve for conflicts all over the world.”

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/14/7434/>



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Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Flora takes command of 91st Troop Command

Col. Lapthe Flora took command of the Bowling Green-based 91st Troop Command from Col. Marti J. Bissell May 17, 2015, in a traditional change of command ceremony in Sandston, Va. Brig. Gen. Walter L. Mercer, the Virginia National Guard’s Assistant Adjutant General – Army, presided over the ceremony.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/18/7470/>

DMA state employees recognized at Camp Pendleton, Fort Pickett

Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, joined other senior leaders in recognizing and thanking Virginia Department of Military Affairs state employees during luncheons and awards ceremonies May 6, 2015, at Camp Pendleton and May 8, 2015, at Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/13/7427/>

Va. Guard aviators add training value, build partnership with Special Forces

Virginia Army National Guard aviators held a stable hover for Special Forces Soldiers May 9, 2015, as they fast roped into Fort Pickett’s urban operations training site from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a night training raid. The exercise was part of a weeklong annual training period for the operators.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/20/7483/>

Virginia Air Guard doctors support Ebola medical monitoring program

Doctors are often known to give of their time and their energy selflessly, but four Air National Guard doctors went above and beyond as both civilian doctors and National Guard members as they volunteered on their days off, often over nights, weekends and even over the holidays at the Langley Transit Center.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/17/7445/>

Mark Your Calendars!

June 6: 71st anniversary of D-Day commemoration

The 71st anniversary of D-Day will be observed in a special ceremony at 11 a.m. at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va.

Music will be provided by the 29th Division Band and will feature Col. Arnald D. Gabriel as guest conductor. Gabriel was a combat machine gunner with the 29th Infantry Division in Europe during World War II and received two Bronze Star Medals, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and the French Croix de Guerre.

For more information about the ceremony and other events in the area, visit the National D-Day Memorial web site at <http://www.dday.org>.

Va. Guard CERFP validated after external evaluation

A special Virginia National Guard response force that would assist first responders and civil authorities after a chemical, biological or nuclear incident was recommended for validation after being assessed as fully trained on 19 of 23 total major tasks, needing practice on four tasks and having no untrained tasks by an external evaluation held May 15, 2015, at the Virginia Beach Fire and EMS Training Center in Virginia Beach, Va.

The evaluation team from the West Virginia-based Joint Interagency Training and Education Center recommended validation, and the process will continue through National Guard Bureau to U. S. Army North. The final results for full validation are expected in about 45 days.

Four days before the evaluation, Soldiers and Airmen of the Virginia National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High-Yield Explosive Response Force Package participated in training exercises to prepare for the event. Known as the CERFP (pronounced "surf-p"), the unit is able to deliver teams that specialize in search and extraction operations, mass casualty and technical decontaminations, fatality search and recovery, incident management and medical triage and treatment.

As one of 27 CERFP teams across the nation, the unit was authorized in June 2006. It is comprised of Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Petersburg-based 276th Engineer Battalion, the Rocky Mount-based 229th Chemical Company, the West Point-based 237th Engineer Company, and Airmen from the 192nd Medical Group and the 192nd Fighter Wing, based out of Langley Air Force Base, and Airmen from the D.C. National Guard's 113th Service Squadron.

"The 276th Engineer Battalion has been earmarked as the CERFP force provider for the search and extraction, decontamination and the command and control teams," said Army Maj. Colin Noyes, commander of 276th Engineer Battalion. With the command and control element assigned to the battalion, Noyes is also tasked as the CERFP commander.

The CERFP receives an external evaluation every three years. This year, the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center and NGB deployed observers and subject matter experts to conduct the assessment. With a score based on the performance of 23 CERFP-specific tasks, the graders created a simulated disaster scenario for the unit and watched how the Soldiers and Airmen performed tasks.

"I am delighted with the successful validation recommendation for our CERFP," said Col. Lapthe Flora, commander of 91st Troop Command. "They worked very hard for months to prepare for this evaluation, so they earned it, and I am very proud of the dedication they demonstrated by serving as members of this high tempo and unique team."

The CERFP was last evaluated in May 2013, and received a "fully trained" rating on 15 out of 16 graded tasks. This year, the CERFP was evaluated with two new elements that were not assessed during the 2013 validation event, which added seven additional graded events.



Soldiers and Airmen assigned to a special Va. Guard response participate in training scenarios May 13, 2015, at the Virginia Beach Fire and EMS Training Center in Virginia Beach, Va.

The CERFP is a very unique capability in that not only is it comprised of both Air Force and Army units, but these Soldiers and Airmen are also based in different locations throughout Virginia and in Washington, D.C. Coordinating an exercise for the CERFP involves working with several different chains of command, equipment and even cultures during the training and preparation phases, said Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Plude, the CERFP command sergeant major. Both branches had to learn and understand the capabilities and methods of the different equipment and personnel to figure out how to seamlessly incorporate each other into the mission, while maintaining the requirements of their respective state missions.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/18/7451/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Va. National Guard joining Memorial Day observations

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/18/7459/>

Va. Army, Air Guard families help clean state park

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/08/7442/>

Adjutant General's 2015 Memorial Day Message

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/21/7493/>

192nd IS Airmen win ISR award program in five categories

<http://www.192fw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123448333>

New incentives encourage Va. Army Guard retention

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/05/13/7423/>



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