

# 29th ID troops take top honors at Best Warrior

Soldiers assigned to the Fort Belvoir-based Headquarters Battalion, 29th Infantry Division took home top honors at the Virginia National Guard Best Warrior Competition Feb. 24, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Spc. Esther Alger of Front Royal was named Soldier of the Year and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Bosserman of Harrisonburg earned the title of NCO of the Year after three mentally and physically grueling days of competition against Soldiers from six different VNG major subordinate commands.

“As far as I’m concerned, all of you are winners,” said Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora, the Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General – Army. “Just showing up, taking the initiative and having the courage to compete makes you a winner. I can’t tell you how proud we are of you to stand up and want to be the best of the best to represent us in the coming weeks and months.”

Alger and Bosserman will now go on to compete in the regional Best Warrior competition in May against National Guard Soldiers from five other states.

Spc. Austin Turner was the runner up for Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Devin Piotrowski was the runner up for NCO of the Year.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/26/12686/>



Spc. Esther Alger and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Bosserman are announced as winners of the 2019 Virginia National Guard Best Warrior Competition Feb. 24, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### VNG family, youth volunteer receive national recognition for volunteer service

A Virginia National Guard family was recognized as the 2018 Army National Guard Family of the Year and a Virginia volunteer was recognized with the Extra Mile Award in an announcement published Feb. 13, 2019, by the Director of J1 Manpower and Personnel at National Guard Bureau.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/02/22/12731/>

### Fort Pickett Gym reopens after \$1 million renovation

After months of renovations, the Fort Pickett Gym is open again. The gym reopened its doors to eligible service members, families and service and state employees Feb. 22, 2019.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/03/01/12703/>

### WOCs scrub, scratch during their community project

Warrant Officer Candidates assigned to Class 19-001 of the Virginia National Guard’s Warrant Officer Candidate School assisted in sprucing up Smitty’s Cat Rescue, Feb. 23, 2019, to complete their community project requirement.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/03/06/12717/>

### Fort Pickett Fire and Rescue hosts firefighter instructor course

Firefighters from multiple departments in central Virginia are learning how to teach the region’s future recruits how to become firefighters during the Fire Instructor I class at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/03/06/12727/>

## Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

### Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

### Va. Air National Guard

<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

### Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

## CERFP conducts exercise with info management system

Virginia and Washington, D.C., National Guard Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Richmond-based 34th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package, also known as CERFP, conducted a confirmation exercise with the National Guard CBRN Response Enterprise Information Management System Feb. 28, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. The system provides a suite of software applications and end-user devices similar to smart phones and tablets which allow personnel to easily share information and help maintain a common operating picture during response operations.

“The system in its current form is a solid foundation with tremendous potential, and based on what we have learned from this practical application we will be able to improve its capabilities and make it more effective as we use the system in the future,” said Capt. Andrew J. Czaplicki, deputy commander of the CERFP.

The 34th CERFP was selected as the pilot for the new system based on the unit's strong reputation and past duty performance in state and regional exercises, Czaplicki said.

The exercise also provided a collective training opportunity for the CERFP responding to role players with simulated injuries and was the first-ever employment of a dry radiological decontamination process.

“Since the CERFP elements have to balance the demands of their federal mission with their CERFP mission requirements, anytime we are able to get them all together for training is a great opportunity to make sure we are ready to respond if we are needed,” Czaplicki said.

The NG CIMS is primarily a system of record to provide National Guard Civil Support Teams, CERFPs and Homeland Response Forces with a standardized tactical-level common operating picture and situational understanding tool for managing mission operations and information. In addition to being able to share information between the different elements of the CERFP, the systems also allows for information sharing between NG CRE forces and externally with other Department of Defense and civilian response partners.

After completing classroom and hands on practical exercises with a selected group of Soldiers and Airmen, the full-scale exercise was an opportunity for integration of each of the end-user devices with simulated casualties and rescue missions.

“This will fundamentally change how we currently operate,” Czaplicki explained. “This coverts all of our tactical processes from being tracked on dry erase boards to a completely digital system. It will be a challenging, but much needed change to propel the CRE [CBRN Response Enterprise] into a more connected future with our civilian counterparts.”

The NG CIMS provides the 34th CERFP with the ability to integrate position location information of personnel and CBRN sensor systems operating in the areas surrounding a disaster zone to provide real-time detection of potential CBRN threats to Soldiers and Airmen performing rescues.



**Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the 34th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package conduct a confirmation exercise with the National CBRN Response Enterprise Information Management System Feb. 28, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.**

The NG CIMS predecessor, the CST Information Management System, has been used multiple times to assist with National Guard Civil Support operations during domestic emergencies. The system was used during the marathon bombing response in Boston, Massachusetts, mud slide in Oso, Washington, the recent Papal visit to the National Capital Region and the recent hurricanes affecting the southeastern United States.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/03/02/12739/>

### MORE ON THE WEB

**Photos: Commonwealth ChalleNGe Class 50 graduates**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157705747872311>

**Photos: Normandy Soldiers conduct tactical training**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157676971731817>

**Photos: 11C students live fire mortars at Fort Pickett**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157676877269777>

**Photos: 429th Soldiers train on new ACFT**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157705723006301>

**Photos: 237th Engineer Co. conducts squad live fire**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157705677298371>



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