

VNG welcomes new command senior enlisted leader

Command Chief Master Sgt. James J. Profita took responsibility as the Virginia National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader from Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Ferris April 7, 2019, in a ceremony at the Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia. Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, hosted the ceremony.

Williams thanked Ferris for his four years of outstanding service as the CSEL, and he recognized the significance of Profita being the first Airman to serve as the VNG's senior noncommissioned officer.

"I think it signifies the importance of our Air component and the fact that we serve as a joint force," Williams said. "The power and strength of the National Guard and the nation all revolve around how we all work together to build the best combat capabilities for the Army and Air Guard."

Williams also recognized the VNG alumni in attendance at the ceremony and said, "If it weren't for our alumni who did the hard work and whose shoulders we stand on, we wouldn't be where we are today."

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/10/12977/>



Command Chief Master Sgt. James J. Profita took responsibility as the Virginia National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader April 7, 2019, in a ceremony at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

VNG leaders tackle ACFT challenge

More than 20 leaders from the Virginia Army National Guard accepted the challenge offered by Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Smith, the Virginia Army National Guard's state command sergeant major, to take the new Army Combat Fitness Test April 6, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/17/12968/>

2-224th Aviation crews conduct aerial gunnery in N.C.

More than 50 Soldiers assigned to the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division traveled to Atlantic, North Carolina, to conduct aerial door gunnery April 4-7, 2019.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/15/12959/>

Medics train on new lifelike simulated patient at Fort Pickett

Medics from across the Virginia Army National Guard trained on a state-of-the-art, lifelike mannequin designed to realistically simulate various combat wounds during a class April 6-7, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/15/12952/>

General Assembly Joint Resolution commends VDF on its 35th anniversary

With historical roots dating back to World War I, the modern Virginia Defense Force was formally reestablished April 18, 1981, and Virginia General Assembly Joint Resolution 864 commends the VDF on its 35th anniversary.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/17/12984/>

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NGB leader visits training on new personnel and pay system

Brig. Gen. Yesenia R. Roque, National Guard Assistant Director for Army National Guard Personnel and Talent Management, visited Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team April 6, 2019, to see first hand how they are training on the Army's new personnel and pay system.

The Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army, or IPPS-A, went live in Virginia April 5, and Virginia is the second state conducting initial fielding. IPPS-A is an online human resources system that will provide integrated personnel, pay and talent management capabilities in a single system to all Army components for the first time ever.

"It is especially important to me as a fellow Guardsman because the Army National Guard is spearheading the deliberate rollout of IPPS-A for the Total Army," Roque said. "This is a great opportunity for us because we aren't receiving it after initial fielding, but are an integral part of the rollout itself."

She asked the Soldiers of the 116th to carry that message forward and share the importance and how it will impact the way the Guard takes care of Soldiers. She also encouraged the Soldiers to be patient with the new system and highlighted that the familiarization and ease of functionality would improve.

"IPPS-A is going to make things easier," she said. "Easier to process, easier to respond to and easier to track."

She explained that IPPS-A provides a transparent platform, so human resources professionals and Soldiers will know the status of their actions because there is a digital print to follow.

"The Virginia National Guard is proud to serve as the tip of the spear for the Army's implementation of transparency in pay and personnel records," said Lt. Col. Rusty McGuire, deputy commander of the 116th. "Soldiers are now able to view their records in real time and take ownership in ensuring accuracy and completeness of their records."

McGuire said he appreciated Roque taking the time to visit and see first hand how the Soldiers are using the new system. He indicated she took notes on feedback from the brigade personnel office and Soldiers that she can take back to the programmers to help improve the system.

"Brig. Gen. Roque and her team are more than knowledgeable about the system, willing to divulge the big picture of IPPS-A and also able to explain the intricacies of its basic capabilities," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra F. Williams, a human resources technician with the 116th and acting brigade personnel officer. "They are earnest in finding solutions to the challenges we face as the second state to go live. I feel more confident our human resources professionals will thrive and provide exceptional Soldier care."

"IPPS-A is not only replacing SIDPERS, but it's bringing additional functionality to the Total Force," explained Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lionel Blair, the IPPS-A integration officer in the Virginia Army National Guard state personnel office.

IPPS-A integrates more than 30 current systems and provides



Brig. Gen. Yesenia R. Roque shares her thoughts on the importance of the new Integrated Personnel and Pay System - Army with Soldiers assigned to the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team April 6, 2019, in Staunton, Virginia.

integrated human resource capabilities that enable Army personnel data updates to automatically trigger Soldier pay transactions. This capability ensures Soldiers receive timely and accurate pay once a personnel change is made, such as a promotion or change in dependents.

"Soldiers now have a 'Virtual PAC Slip' to submit documents, request personnel actions or simply submit an inquiry to their readiness NCO and S-1," Blair said.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/08/12943/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Roche takes command of 29th ID HQs Battalion

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/07/12937/>

Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate Course scheduled

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/04/12931/>

Fort Pickett drop zone location for SHARP training

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/04/17/12988/>

Adjutant General sponsoring recruiting poster contest

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/03/28/12881/>

Photos: OCS graduates, commissions 3 new officers

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157706568828721>

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