

192nd Wing Airmen deploy with 1st Fighter Wing to Qatar

United States Air Force F-22 Raptors and Airmen from the 1st Fighter Wing and the Virginia National Guard's 192nd Wing recently deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, from Joint Base Langley-Eustis. The F-22's deployed to Qatar for the first time in order to defend American forces and interests in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

"Our Airmen were fully involved in the entire process to generate, get out the door as well as embedded throughout the deployed forces," said Col. Frank J. Lobash, commander of the 192nd. "We continue to enjoy a fantastic partnership with the 1st Fighter Wing and the 633rd Air Base Wing, and I am incredibly proud of the professionalism and dedication of each and every one of our Airmen."

VNG Airmen train and fight side-by-side with active duty Air Force as part of the total force integration between the 1st Fighter Wing and the 192nd Wing resulting in efficiencies at Langley and the Virginia Air National Guard contributing to the Combat Air Forces' warfighting capabilities. VNG Airmen have been in the fight since 2015 when the F-22s were first flown in combat.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/07/11/13738/>



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor arrives at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, June 27, 2019, where they are deployed for the first time in order to defend American forces and interests.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

183rd RTI celebrates accreditation success

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Fort Pickett-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute gathered to celebrate their success in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command accreditation process June 22, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/06/28/13649/>

VNG hosts combined arms marksmanship match

For the first time, the Virginia National Guard's annual Adjutant General's Marksmanship Match was a combined arms event, held June 21-23, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/07/10/13741/>

Command post exercise prepares 29ID staff for Warfighter

More than 600 National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 29th Infantry Division came together to participate in a command post exercise June 18-30, 2019, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/07/03/13707/>

AG stresses importance of hurricane preparedness

The Virginia National Guard has established a web page with information about how to prepare for a hurricane or other hazardous weather with information from the Va. Department of Emergency Management, FEMA and others.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/07/09/13726/>

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/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard Alumni Network

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/vngan/>

Fort Pickett celebrates improvements on 77th birthday

Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett leaders celebrated the installation's 77th birthday July 3, 2019, with a cake cutting at their headquarters. The post has transformed from its origins in the 1940s and training personnel for service in World War II to now being one of the premier military and public safety training facilities on the East Coast.

Fort Pickett was originally called Camp Pickett when construction began in early 1942 and formally dedicated July 3, 1942. The camp was originally built on 46,000 acres covering parts of four counties. The installation grew rapidly with the United States' entry into World War II, and boasted about 1,000 barracks buildings, 70 officers' quarters and other buildings by the end of 1942.

The 79th Infantry Division became the first combat division to train at Fort Pickett, taking advantage of the Army's newest firing ranges, which allowed for simultaneous short and long-range rifle fire, and also incorporated moving targets. It later housed the 78th Infantry Division as it trained for combat in the European Theater, and also became a primary training center for the medical field as the Medical Replacement Training Center.

Today, Fort Pickett sits on about 41,000 acres and is operated by the Virginia National Guard, which took control of the post in 1997. It features a combination of open-terrain and wooded maneuver areas, more than 20 ranges capable of training on nearly every Army weapons system, a rail spur and a C-17 capable airfield. It also boasts a forward operating base, multiple training villages and a Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, Fort Pickett's urban operations training facility.

Fort Pickett has grown and changed a lot over nearly eight decades, but some vestiges of the early camp still play prominent roles. The officer's club, and the post gym still see regular use, with the gym recently getting a \$1 million overhaul and renovation. Those improvements are just an example of how the installation is still adapting, growing and evolving as a modern Army training center.

"We definitely have a lot going on at Pickett," said Col. Paul Gravely, Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett garrison commander.

Gravely reflected on the post's historic beginnings.

"Of course there's historical importance, of the build up to World War II through the build up for the Korean War, all the way up through current day conflicts," said Gravely. "It's really important that we look back and see what the post has been capable of."

The post's birthday also offers occasion to celebrate what Fort Pickett has become, and to celebrate current and planned projects to keep it an elite Army training center.

"We're designated a Regional Collective Training Center, which means we are here to support training for the units, both the National Guard and active component, within the region, but more importantly across the eastern seaboard," explained Gravely.

The commander said there are several improvement projects



A festive cake helps celebrate the Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett's 77th birthday July 3, 2019, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

currently ongoing at Fort Pickett, including the expansion of the Unmanned Aerial System airstrip in the southern training area and the construction of a new Training Support Center, which will include a covered issue area large enough to accept any size truck in the Army's arsenal. The post is also in the process of upgrading its land mobile radio system, with three new towers already built and major upgrades to the radio systems expected soon.

Fort Pickett is also the site for an ongoing major State Department construction project, the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center, a state-of-the-art facility aimed at training State Department and other law enforcement personnel.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/07/03/13711/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Pre-Warrant Officer Course scheduled for Aug. 9-11

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/07/09/13704/>

185th Cyber Operations Squadron recognizes new commander

<https://go.usa.gov/xyNQ9>

Photos: Fort Pickett welcomes Howell as new CSM

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157709356001622>

Photos: CERFP Soldiers train on radiation monitor system

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157709389850657>

Photos: AG thanks VaARNG recruiters during AT visit

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157709300413917>

 @VaNationalGuard

 @VaNationalGuard

 @VaNationalGuard

