

1032nd Transportation Company earns top honors

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Top Virginia Army National Guard units recognized

The top units in the Virginia Army National Guard for 2011 were recognized April 21 in Williamsburg. The Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group was awarded the Eisenhower Trophy and Superior Unit Award and recognized as the most outstanding company-level unit in the Virginia Army National Guard during the 2011 training year.

The award is presented to the unit that ranks the highest in areas of assigned personnel strength, percentage of personnel qualified in their duty position, attendance at monthly drill weekends and annual training, individual weapons qualification scores and physical fitness test scores.

The Manassas-based 266th Military Police Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group was recognized with the state-level Pershing Award for the highest marksmanship scores in the Virginia Army National Guard.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/04/24/1033/>



Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, presents the Eisenhower Trophy to Capt. Brian J. Sansom, commander of the Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company, April 21 in Williamsburg.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Daughter of Virginia Soldier recognized as one of the top "Military Kids"

Baleigh Wheeler was recognized April 19 in Washington, D.C., as one of five young people selected as "Our Military Kids of the Year" by the national nonprofit organization Our Military Kids. Baleigh, age 15, is the oldest daughter of Maj. Dave Wheeler of the 116th Brigade Combat Team Headquarters in Staunton.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/04/23/1067/>

Virginia Guard Military Funeral Honors Program honors veterans

Soldiers from the Virginia Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program were on hand to pay proper respects to the remains of seven military veterans April 30, 2012 in Suffolk.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/05/01/1079/>

Virginia Army National Guard welcomes three new lieutenants

Three officer candidates were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Virginia Army National Guard April 28 during a ceremony at the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute's auditorium.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/04/30/1049/>

Fort Pickett celebrates Earth Day

The Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center held its annual Earth Day event April 27 to provide valuable information on the many ways agencies on and around Fort Pickett work to promote environmental stewardship at the training facility and to the community.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/04/30/1056/>

Mark Your Calendars!

May 5: 329th RSG Change of Command

Col. Michelle M. Rose will assume command of the Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group from Col. Timothy P. Williams in a change of command ceremony at 1 p.m. on the parade field at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach.

May 6: 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Change of Command

Maj. Joseph DiNonno will officially take command of the Portsmouth-based 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry, 116th Brigade Combat Team from Lt. Col. William Korsen in a change of command ceremony scheduled for 3 p.m. at the parade field at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach.

VDF training focuses on professionalism and readiness

Approximately 150 members of the Virginia Defense Force Headquarters gathered at Fort Pickett April 27-29 for their annual spring field training exercise that focused on professional development, diversity and safety.

“The primary focus for the weekend is based on the Adjutant General’s vision of the VDF continuing to develop into a quality and professional force,” said Maj. Gen. (Va.) John Taylor, commander of the VDF.

Taylor said that training was planned at all levels from new members of the all-volunteer VDF receiving basic leadership training to the first-ever First Sergeant Course focused on professional development for senior noncommissioned officers. Senior VDF officers were also taking part in staff planning and operations training, and a safety officer training course was also conducted.

“We have incorporated diversity training in every course that we teach,” Taylor said.

Everyone attending the training was there in a volunteer status, Taylor explained. The only time VDF members are paid is when the Governor of Virginia calls them up on state active duty as part of a Virginia National Guard response force. Taylor explained that the VDF is very similar to the volunteer firefighters and rescue squads that operate in communities across Virginia to provide assistance to citizens during their time of need.

When the Virginia National Guard brought more than 350 personnel on state active duty to assist in the commonwealth’s response to Hurricane Irene in late August 2011, the Virginia Defense Force was right there working side by side with the Virginia Army and Air National Guard. VDF personnel worked in the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Guard Joint Operations Center, and Incident Management Assistance Teams deployed forward with units prepositioned for support operations as well as provided communications capability support.

Taylor explained that the VDF focuses its training on being able to provide pre-scripted response capabilities packages like Incident Management Assistance Teams that help provide command, control and communications support for the Guard during disasters or security packages provided by the VDF’s military police battalion.

“Every member of the VDF should be training on a response package and will be able to meet specific standards to provide a needed capability,” Taylor said.

In addition to the headquarters personnel training, all four of the VDF’s Mobile Command Post trailers were consolidated at Fort Pickett to conduct maintenance and operations checks. Members of the VDF’s MP battalion also were at Pickett to conduct crowd control training for the Defense Support to Civil Authorities mission.

Members of the VDF Auxiliary were also a part of the weekend’s scheduled training. During their muster, auxiliary members provided information about their civilian skills and



Members of the Virginia Defense Force conduct function checks on communications equipment in a Mobile Command Post trailer April 28 at Fort Pickett.

experience that could be called upon if needed during a state response mission.

The VDF is an all-volunteer force authorized by the Code of Virginia and organized under the Virginia Department of Military Affairs reporting to the Adjutant General of Virginia. The VDF is organized into a headquarters with four brigades and units at 32 locations across the commonwealth.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/04/30/1042/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Video: Fort Pickett celebrates Earth Day

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10100589254571166>

Army Earth Day

<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/newsroom/earthday00.html>

Our Military Kids

<http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/>

Virginia Defense Force

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

DoD Military Funeral Honors Home Page

<http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/>

Virginia National Guard on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs Flickr Photostream

<http://flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao>

Virginia Guard Public Affairs YouTube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/vanguardpao>