

Soldiers train at Fort Pickett and Fort A. P. Hill

On page 2: Teen Wilderness Camp

Va. Soldiers sharpen warrior skills during AT

More than 1,800 Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group conducted annual training at Fort Pickett and Fort A. P. Hill from June 9-23 with a focus on individual Soldier skills as well as collective training to better prepare their units for both their state and federal missions. Each brigade has unique challenges because of their different mission sets, so leaders have to adapt their training plans in order to make sure units are prepared for their assigned missions.

The Army's Force Generation model, or ARFORGEN, establishes how Guard units plan their training with the first year after a mobilization being known as the "reset" year. In following years, the training echelon advances to team, squad, platoon and higher in order to prepare the unit for its "ready" year when it can be mobilized for federal active duty.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/27/1498/>



Soldiers from the Hampton-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct live fire training June 14 at Fort A. P. Hill

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Gate City-based transporters gain real-world experience during AT

Soldiers from the Gate City-based 1032nd Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group conducted real-world line haul missions during the battalion's annual training period from June 9 to 23.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/27/1494/>

"Warrior Stakes" tests 116th BSTB Soldier skills

Soldiers from the Fredericksburg-based 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team braved the heat June 20 at Fort A. P. Hill to test their Army Warrior skills in the 2nd Annual "Warrior Stakes" competition.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/27/1489/>

Virginia MPs train at Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Center

Past grazing horses and down a few winding country roads, lies the Virginia Beach Law Enforcement Training Center, where Virginia Guard Soldiers from the Virginia-Beach based 229th Military Police Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group trained June 20-22.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/24/1509/>

429th BSB runs supply convoys to feed, fuel, arm 116th IBCT

With the main body of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducting annual training at Fort A. P. Hill from June 9 – 23, Soldiers from the Danville-based 429th Brigade Support Battalion ran regular resupply convoys from Fort Pickett to keep units fueled, fed and armed.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/27/1482/>

Mark Your Calendars!

July 23: STARBASE Academy Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon cutting for the Winchester STARBASE Academy will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Cherry Beasley Readiness Center in Winchester. STARBASE is a premier educational program sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs where students participate in challenging activities in science, technology, engineering and math.

The Winchester STARBASE Academy's first five-day program will be with students from Frederick Douglass Elementary School of the Winchester Public Schools from July 23-27.

For more information, contact Susan Corrigan at 540-688-4964.

Wilderness Camp welcomes military kids

Nearly 50 children attended the 5th annual Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp held at Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing in New Castle June 24-28. The children were all dependents of Virginia National Guard and active duty military families and were exposed to a multitude of outdoor events including rock-wall climbing, zip lining, kayaking, hiking, first aid and many other activities that exude confidence and build teamwork.

"The (Virginia National Guard) Youth Program partnered with Operation Military Kids to bring 50 teens up here ranging in ages from 13 to 17," said Drew Davis, director of youth programs for the Virginia National Guard. "The program is really about giving the kids an opportunity to come out here and have some fun by offering them an environment where they can step away from the worries of life and just enjoy themselves for the week."

The program is referred to as a "purple" camp, offering active-duty kids from all branches and Virginia National Guard children the opportunity to interact and develop relationships in a safe, fun and structured learning environment, he said. "There is no doubt that many of the campers, especially those from the city or beach, are getting exposure to this type of environment for the first time," said Davis. "A testament to the success of the camp is our high retention rating even though many of (the participants) travel six or more hours to be here."

Kiev Morgan, 15, of Prince George, Va., is a two-time veteran of the event and is already making plans to attend next year.

"This camp is a lot of fun," he said. "It really is a neat experience and is nice to come out here and get to do all the fun (activities), especially the rock-wall climbing and kayaking."

For Morgan and many of the other campers it is not just about the activities, but making friends through a common understanding of military life. "At this camp, having military



Nearly 50 children of Virginia National Guard and active duty military parents participated in the Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp held at Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing in New Castle June 24-28.

parents is something that we all go through, it is something that we all talk about," said Morgan. "It gives us something in common and we can build on it from there."

For the organizers and volunteers it is about having fun while giving back to the children of men and women in uniform.

"Our main focus is to make sure our military youth are well taken care of no matter what is going on, on or off the battlefield," said Davis.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/26/1462/>



Operation Military Kids and the Virginia National Guard Youth Program partnered to offer the teens the opportunity to "step away from the worries of life" to enjoy a multitude of outdoor events including rock-wall climbing, zip lining, kayaking, hiking, first aid and many other activities that exude confidence and build teamwork.

MORE ON THE WEB

116th IBCT welcomes new commander

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/17/1422/>

1-111th Soldiers conduct live fire during AT

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/26/1520/>

3-116th Soldiers get back to basics during annual training

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/26/1515/>

Commonwealth Challenge graduates 113 cadets

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/23/1472/>

Whittington named new commander of the 29th ID

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/22/1442/>

29th ID Soldiers face off in marksmanship competition

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/20/1430/>

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