

Soldiers advised and mentored Afghan security forces

On page 2: Va. Guard assists with storm recovery

29th ID Soldiers return to U.S. from Afghan duty

Approximately 65 Virginia and Maryland National Guard Soldiers from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division returned to the U.S. July 7 after serving in Afghanistan since November 2011. The Soldiers returned to their demobilization station at Camp Shelby, Miss., where they will transition from active duty back to National Guard status. Plans for their return to Virginia and Maryland have not been finalized.

The Soldiers were assigned to NATO's International Security Assistance Force Joint Command Afghan National Security Force Development Team where they served as advisors and mentors to senior Afghan leaders with the mission to provide Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police subject matter expertise to facilitate ANSF growth and development.

The team consists of approximately 30 Virginia National Guard Soldiers combined with approximately 35 Soldiers from the Maryland National Guard.



Brig. Gen. Charles W. Whittington, Jr. (left) and Sgt. Maj. Christopher Brock prepare the casing of the 29th Infantry Division colors June 29, 2012, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/08/1572/>

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

RED HORSE Squadron members return from deployment to California

Members of the Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron returned June 26 from a deployment during which they provided much-needed services for the Naval Special Warfare Group One.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/03/1594/>

Virginia Guard celebrates 4th annual Diversity Day

Senior leaders, Soldiers and employees from the Virginia National Guard celebrated their 4th annual Diversity Day June 27 at the Mullins Armory in Sandston.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/03/1605/>

29th ID Annual Training culminates with DSCA exercise

Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division finished annual training this year with a strong focus on Defense Support to Civil Authorities by staging a simulated exercise centered on security for the upcoming 57th Presidential Inauguration in January 2013.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/30/1580/>

Virginia Guard Soldiers compete for top honors in state rifle match

More than 30 shooters from Virginia National Guard units from around the commonwealth competed June 22-24 at Fort Pickett for a chance to become one of the Virginia Guard's top rifle shooters and earn a spot to represent Virginia in the regional competition.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/30/1609/>

Mark Your Calendars!

July 22: Freedom Salute

A Freedom Salute honoring the Afghan service of approximately 40 Soldiers assigned to the Provincial Reconstruction Team Security Force Platoon will be held at 10 a.m. at the Williamsburg Hotel and Conference Center.

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.

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.

Va. Guard assists with storm response

The Virginia Guard brought more than 200 personnel on state active duty from June 30 to July 4 to support recovery operations in the wake of severe thunderstorms that struck across Virginia and caused wide-spread power outages. Soldiers distributed water and ice in Bedford, conducted reconnaissance patrols in the Fredericksburg and Lexington areas and Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force provided mission command and sustainment support in Sandston and Fort Pickett.

"I was extremely pleased with the entire operation from how we alerted and staged our personnel to how we actually executed the missions," said Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia. "I think the Virginia Guard continues to be a rapidly responding and extremely capable force that can respond to the needs to the Governor and the citizens of Virginia."

Long said that each time the Virginia Guard calls out personnel, whether for a real-world mission or for training, it makes the Guard better prepared to conduct response operations in the future. He said he was also pleased with the coordination with other partner state agencies like the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and Virginia State Police.

Soldiers from the Pulaski-based Company D, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived in the late afternoon July 2 in Bedford to assist Bedford Fire & Rescue personnel with distributing water and ice. The Soldiers assisted with the operation through middle of the day on July 4, handing out water and ice to hundreds of cars at the distribution point. Having the Soldiers on hand enabled personnel from Bedford Fire & Rescue to keep the distribution point open longer hours and during emergency response calls.

"I am ecstatic to be out here," said Sgt. Matthew Spiker, the noncommissioned officer in charge for the Soldiers in Bedford. "We knew there were people out there who needed help, and today we were able to come out here and do some good work." Spiker is a native of Staunton where he works as a police officer.

Spiker explained that citizens coming through the distribution point had been without power and water since Friday evening and were extremely grateful for the supplies provided in Bedford.

Approximately 110 Soldiers from the Fredericksburg-based Headquarters Company, 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 116th IBCT and Company D, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT and the Winchester-based Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT conducted reconnaissance patrols in the area around the Fredericksburg readiness center to check route trafficability, assess damage and provide information about cooling shelters to citizens. About 30 Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment also conducted reconnaissance patrols in the Lexington area.

The Virginia Defense Force brought 24 personnel on state active duty and deployed Incident Management Assistant Teams to Fredericksburg, Lexington and Bedford and also had IMATs at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center in Midlothian and



Soldiers from the Pulaski-based Company D, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, distribute water and ice July 2 to citizens in Bedford at a distribution point operated by Bedford Fire & Rescue.

the Virginia Guard Joint Operations Center in Sandston to help mission commanders with reporting, information tracking and maintaining situational awareness.

"The units were well-prepared, understand our intent and had gone through all the proper procedures to make sure they could execute the missions effectively and safely," Long said. He visited personnel operating in Lexington, Fredericksburg and Bedford and assessed morale to be extremely high. "Our Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force were happy to be there and provide support as needed."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/11/1588/>

MORE ON THE WEB

29th ID Soldiers train on Command Post of the Future

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/06/28/1453/>

Photos: Employers visit Langley Air Force Base

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157630547438910/>

Official Air Force Diversity Site

<http://www.af.mil/diversity.asp>

U. S. Army Diversity Office

<http://www.armydiversity.army.mil/>

29th ID Security Partnering on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/29th-ID-Security-Partnering/286516898031601>

29th ID on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/29thID>

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