

Mounted unit adds realism to training scenario

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Infantry and Richmond PD conduct joint training

Soldiers from the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted less-than-lethal training with members of the Richmond City Police July 28 at Fort Pickett to increase their proficiency supporting civil authorities in a time of crisis. The battalion is designated as the Virginia Guard's Incident Response Force Package and will be among the first units called to state active duty.

"The concept of the operation was that there was a riot incited due to an explosion and (the Virginia Guard and Richmond Police) were called in to restore order and ensure the safety of the people throughout the town," said Sgt. 1st Class Gustavo Sequeira, a platoon sergeant with Company B, 1st Batt., 116th Inf. Reg., 116th IBCT.

Sequeira said that the difficulty of the exercise was increased by having trained infantry Soldiers acting as the rioters and the realism was augmented by the presence of the Richmond Police.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/30/1801/>



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team pair with Richmond City Police to conduct less-than-lethal training July 28 at Fort Pickett.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

192nd Intelligence Squadron, Civil Air Patrol exercise GIIEP capabilities

The 192nd Intelligence Squadron worked with the Civil Air Patrol at Newport News Williamsburg International Airport July 23 utilizing Geospatial Information Interoperability Exploitation Portable technology.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/27/1791/>

183rd Regiment RTI welcomes West Virginia's CST during JRSOI training

Soldiers from the Blackstone-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute deployed one of their three remote reception teams in support of Joint Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration training July 24.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/27/1698/>

CERFP successfully conducts continuous disaster response exercise

The Virginia National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package conducted their longest continuous training exercise to date July 25 at the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/28/1786/>

Week-long exercise tests Virginia Guard's ability to respond

More than 300 members of the Virginia Department of Military Affairs from throughout the state tested the organization's ability to respond to several simultaneous events during Commonwealth Guardian, a week-long command post exercise July 23-27.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/28/1843/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Aug. 29: Employment Assistance Training

The Virginia ESGR and Virginia Employment Commission are partnering together to provide this unique employment assistance training opportunity to veterans and service members on August 29 from 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center at One Partnership Circle in Abingdon. This full day workshop is at NO COST to service members and veterans, but space is limited. A job fair with local employers is scheduled for the following day.

Register by emailing your name, email address, best contact phone number, and former or current military affiliation to include rank, unit and branch to this address:

registerforvirginiaesgrevents@gmail.com

Va. Guard engineers bridge the gap

Virginia National Guard Soldiers from the Bowling Green-based 189th Multirole Bridge Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command bridged White's Lake outside Fort A.P. Hill July 24 as part of the culminating exercise of their two-week annual training. The Soldiers constructed an approximately 120-meter long bridge, called an Improved Ribbon Bridge, consisting of 13 interior bays and two ramp bays during their three-day field training exercise.

"What we can do, we can put these bridge bays down and connect them together and put any vehicle in the Army's system across it," said Capt. Matt Nowak, commander of the 189th MRBC. "We can put it down and have it out in 30 minutes to an hour and have tanks across it, have Bradleys across it – whatever you need."

As part of the exercise, the Soldiers of the 189th MRBC worked with the Pennsylvania Guard's Company D, 112th Infantry (Anti-tank) and Company B, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry, 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division to construct a bridge that enabled the Strykers to conduct an assault across the bridge.

Senior military leaders and senior state government officials, including Virginia Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker, Martin Kent and Matt Conrad, Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor McDonnell, respectively, Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Green, Senior Enlisted Leader for the Virginia National Guard, were all on hand to watch the bridging exercise.

"Initially we constructed a raft and loaded a Humvee onto it and linked up with a Stryker group and from there they loaded some zodiacs and assaulted the far side of the shore," said 1st Lt. Jonathon Russo, platoon leader in the 189th MRBC.

"Each bridge bay can be put down and put together in one minute, give or take," explained Nowak. "It helps a commander cross the stream. They don't have to look for an alternate route or a bridge that may or may not be there."

Putting together the bridge bays is an easy task. "It's a simple concept. You just drop it in the water and they open up and you put them together, snap them in and it's just that easy," Nowak said.

"I think the 189th is doing a great job on training all their troops, getting everybody on every piece of equipment and getting them trained on it," said Sgt. Robert Kinson, a bridge crew member from Woodbridge, Va.

When not on the water, Soldiers of the 189th engaged in a variety of other training activities, spending time working on weapons familiarization on the M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, and the M16. The unit was also able to double their number of licensed drivers and trained on warrior tasks and skills.

"Everything we expected to do, we hit," said Nowak. "They've done awesome. They've been highly motivated and we did it all safely. There's been a good teamwork effort here this AT."

Nowak also stressed the importance of his entire unit, not just



Soldiers from the Pennsylvania Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team conduct a tactical water crossing July 24 over a 120-meter long bridge constructed by the Bowling Green-based 189th Multirole Bridge Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command at White's Lake on Fort A. P. Hill.

the bridge crew members. "Other than our 12Cs, which are our bridge crew members, we have maintenance out here on site, we had welders that were welding some of our bridge bays to fix them. The Multirole Bridge Company isn't just about 12Cs, it's about maintenance and supply and support."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/27/1849/>

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Va. Guard mom, Marine son reunite at Kandahar Airfield

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/07/30/1779/>

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