

Petersburg mission first for Operation Renew

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Air Guard engineers demolish derelict structures

Approximately 12 Airmen from the Virginia National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron supported the City of Petersburg by tearing down derelict structures associated with the drug trade from Aug. 19 to 30. The Air Guard civil engineering unit provided heavy equipment and expertise to demolish 12 structures during the mission, and Airmen hauled away almost 815 tons of debris in 320 loads.

"This is a wonderful partnership that gives us as a city the chance to work with the National Guard in getting rid of some age-old problems," said Petersburg Police Chief John Dixon. He said that residents in the area were very happy about the project and had given the police positive feedback.

The Petersburg mission is the first for Operation Renew under the supervision of the Virginia Guard Counterdrug Task Force. The program provides engineer assets to assist communities in reclaiming control of known drug trafficking areas.



Airmen from the Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron use heavy equipment to demolish derelict structures associated with the drug trade Aug. 22 in Petersburg.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/09/05/2029/>

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia Guard aviators depart to support Southwest border mission

Virginia Guard Soldiers from the Sandston-based Detachment 1, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment departed for Texas aboard a UH-72 Lakota helicopter Aug. 27 to provide aerial reconnaissance support to the Texas National Guard mission to counter illegal immigration on the Southwest border.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/31/2033/>

Counterdrug Task Force supports camp for at-risk kids

Members of the Virginia Guard Counterdrug Task Force helped at-risk kids learn about respect and gain self confidence while also learning about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse during the Attorney General's Virginia Rules Camp, Aug. 23 at Camp Little Hawk in Oilville.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/29/2015/>

OCS Class 54 conducts service project in Blackstone

Virginia Officer Candidate School Class 54 conducted a community service project at the Blackstone Volunteer Fire Department Aug. 25 2012 as part of the Phase Two requirements of their course curriculum.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/29/2011/>

Virginia shooters represent at regional marksmanship competition

Twelve of the Virginia Guard's top shooters competed Aug. 16-19 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. in a regional competition, and Virginia Guard Soldiers beat out shooters from West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/25/1997/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept. 8: Hispanic Heritage Program

The Virginia National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Detachment will host a Hispanic Heritage Program at 1 p.m. at Building 1700 at Fort Pickett. The event is open to all Soldiers, Airmen and DMA employees and will feature folkloric dance performances and Mexican food samples.

Upcoming Hiring Events

Sept. 7 - U.S. Chamber Hiring Our Heroes event in Springfield. Register at hoh.greatjob.net

Sept. 21 - Corporate Gray Career Fair in Spring from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register at www.corporategray.com

Engineer service projects improve communities

Virginia Army and Air Guard engineers put their skills, experience and equipment to work for community service projects in Richmond and Stafford County in late July and early August. Not only did the projects help the two communities, they also gave the Soldiers and Airmen valuable real-world training they can put to use for both their federal and state missions. Both projects were part of the Innovative Readiness Training program that allows Guard engineers to put their military skills to work on community service projects approved by National Guard Bureau. Work began last summer on the initial phases of both projects.

Approximately 40 Soldiers from the Virginia Guard's Cedar Bluff-based 1033rd Engineer Support Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command spent their two weeks of annual training from July 15-27 working on Phase II of the Cannon Creek Greenway bicycle and pedestrian trail in Richmond. The work brought the road to final grade in order to prepare the road for paving, and the work being performed is valued at \$350,000. Phase I of the project has been paved and is actively used by members of the community.

"The community is getting get cost savings on the project itself, and they are getting a good product," said Capt. Michael J. Schaeffer, commander of the 1033rd Engineer Company. "We are getting real world experience with our training." The training helps the unit prepare for both state and federal missions, he said.

"The Soldiers are getting a sense of accomplishment with what they are doing and seeing the fruits of their labor," he said.

Soldiers removed more than 516 tons of debris, moved more than 1,200 cubic feet of dirt and graded and compacted 1,350 square feet of trail, Schaeffer said.

The Petersburg-based Forward Support Company, 276th Engineer Battalion provided logistical support for the units on site and kept them fed and fueled and additional Soldiers and equipment from the Bowling Green-based 189th Engineer Company also took part in the mission.

The Stafford County project was a joint effort from Army and Air Guard engineer units. About 80 Soldiers from the Powhatan-based 180th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command cleared sizable undergrowth, hauled fill and prepared roadways for paving as a part of Phase II of the planned Stafford County Civil War Park project from July 15 to 27.

Soldiers used heavy construction equipment to move large quantities of dirt, gravel and other fill, install drainage culverts and perform general cut, fill and compaction tasks throughout the area. A small group of Soldier continued working into early August to finish preparations for road paving and hand the project over to the Air Guard.

The planned Stafford Civil War Park includes three large Union battery fortifications, winter quarters encampment remains, a corduroy road and a pre-Civil War sandstone bridge ruin on property recently preserved by Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg at the request of the Friends of the Stafford Civil War Sites. These sites were occupied in force by the Union Army's



Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's Cedar Bluff-based 1033rd Engineer Support Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command work to clear a path for the Cannon Creek pedestrian and bike trail July 17 in Richmond.

11th Corps, 1st and 3rd Divisions between Feb. 28 and June 12, 1863. About 3,500 Union soldiers died during the encampment.

Approximately 16 Air Guard engineers from the Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE Squadron followed the Army engineers at the Stafford County project and laid down almost 10,000 tons of asphalt to pave more than a mile of 18-foot wide roadway in the park. Between July 30 and Aug. 10, they paved the roadways prepared by the Army engineers after completing fine grading, staking and surveying and widening of the road.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/16/2020/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Raw Video: Engineers demolish derelict structures

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10151168795396131>

Gov. McDonnell sends thank you letter to Va. Guard

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2012/08/29/1976/>

Photos: Virginia Guard sponsors NASCAR driver visit

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631441589210/>

Photos: Students launch rockets at STARBASE Academy

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157631340108868/>

Heritage - Hispanic Americans in the United States Army

<http://www.army.mil/hispanicamericans/english/about/about.html>

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>