

DMA to display capabilities to General Assembly

Members of the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard and Virginia Defense Force will be on hand Jan. 21, 2015, with equipment displays in the Darden Garden outside the Virginia General Assembly Building in Richmond from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to demonstrate some of the capabilities the Virginia Guard and VDF can provide while on state active duty.

Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, will host a reception for members of the General Assembly from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the 4th Floor West Conference Room in the General Assembly Building. Senior Virginia Guard leaders will be in attendance to answer questions and provide insights into the missions and capabilities of the Guard.

Units scheduled to attend the display include the 34th Civil Support Team, the Virginia Guard's Counterdrug Program, the 192nd Intelligence Squadron, the 200th Weather Flight, the VDF and the Virginia Guard's CBRNE Response Force Package.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/01/06/6552/>



Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers explain domestic operations capabilities outside the Virginia General Assembly Building Jan. 15, 2014, in Richmond, Va.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Va. Guard D-Day veteran honored as a Knight in French Legion of Honor

In front of family, friends, fellow veterans and current Virginia National Guard Soldiers, a World War II veteran from the Virginia National Guard's 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, was recognized as a Knight in the French Legion of Honor Jan. 11, 2015, in Norfolk, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/01/13/6643/>

Camp Pendleton hosts busy training weekend

More than 600 Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, members of the Virginia Defense Force and U. S. Army Reserve Soldiers conducted hands on and virtual training and administrative activities Jan. 10 -11, 2015, at the Virginia National Guard's Camp Pendleton Collective Training Center.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/01/13/6657/>

Wright to command Va. Air National Guard following Johnson retirement

Brig. Gen. Wayne A. Wright will take command of the Virginia Air National Guard effective Jan. 1, 2015, following the retirement of Brig. Gen. R. Zane Johnson, according to an announcement made by Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/12/31/6541/>

192nd Intel Squadron recognizes new commander

Lt. Col. David R. Lands assumed command of the 192nd Intelligence Squadron from Lt. Col. Bryan E. Salmon Jan. 10, 2015, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Va. "Lt. Col. Lands' knowledge, professionalism, and work ethic are beyond reproach," said Salmon.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/01/13/6640/>

Mark Your Calendars!

Feb. 7: Military Maker Festival

The Military Maker Festival is a free event on Feb. 7, 2015, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., open to National Guard Children and other ID cardholders, ages 5-15. The festival will have more than 15 different hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and math activities to explore and take finished products home. Children and youth will be offered opportunities to make lava lamps, balloon powered cars, jewelry that lights up, electronic greeting cards, and take computers apart. No registration necessary. Contact nancys57@vt.edu or jduerksen22@gmail.com for more information.

The event will take place at Frank Lotts Conference Center located at 8000 Jefferson Davis Highway in Richmond, Va., Building 31, G Bay.

Virginia Guard, VDF demonstrated readiness in 2014

The Virginia Department of Military Affairs had another busy year in 2014 and continued to balance the demands of both its federal and state missions. All over the world and here in the United States, the Virginia Army National Guard, Air National Guard and Virginia Defense Force demonstrated that its forces were prepared and ready to rapidly respond when needed.

"I could not be more proud of the fantastic service of our men and women of the Virginia National Guard and Virginia Defense Force," said Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "The challenge we face now is to maintain our high level of readiness in the face of fiscal constraints. I am confident we will maintain our readiness if we focus on back-to-basics training and continue to build partnerships with key local, state and federal agencies to make sure we maximize the resources we all have available. Leaders must identify asks that are key to accomplishing our state and federal missions and use the time and money we have to maximize their training in those areas."

While the pace of federal mobilizations has slowed in 2014, Virginia Guard units continued to play important roles in combat operations. Soldiers from the Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company, the 1945th Contingency Contracting Team and Detachment 26, Operational Support Airlift Command returned from successful federal active duty mobilizations, and the Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion deployed to Kuwait. Soldiers from the 529th are providing mission command for critical sustainment operations supporting combat units throughout the Central Command region. When the F-22 Raptor flew its first combat missions against ISIL targets, Virginia National Guard Airmen from the 192nd Fighter Wing were there side-by-side with active duty Airmen.

In other parts of the world, Soldiers from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division paid tribute to D-Day veterans in June at the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy. From April to June, approximately 110 Soldiers from the Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment supported Operation Beyond the Horizon and flew nearly 300 hours over Guatemalan skies.

Here in Virginia, the DMA personnel conducted a number of domestic operations where they responded to severe weather and supported high profile events. In January, more than 225 Soldiers, Airmen and members of the VDF supported the inauguration of Governor Terry McAuliffe. In February, Soldiers provided a variety of assistance after heavy snow created hazardous road conditions across the state. In May, more than 120 members of the all-volunteer VDF augmented local law enforcement to help make sure the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival went smoothly.

Virginia Guard personnel also conducted domestic training and response operations outside the state as close as West Virginia and as far as California. The Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team, along with personnel from other states, used the skills and training they have for sampling and identifying unknown chemical or biological agents to help West Virginia officials evaluate the quality of water after a chemical spill left more



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assist a stranded motorist near Fredericksburg, Va., during snow response operations in February 2014.

than 300,000 residents without drinking water. Soldiers from the Rocky Mount-based 229th Chemical Company traveled to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., in September for a training rotation that sharpened the unit's warfighting abilities.

Virginia Guard and VDF personnel continued to build partnerships with key agencies throughout the year including working alongside the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in response to a National Guard F-15C jet crash in Augusta County and multiple units training with local first responders. These important partnerships help the Virginia Guard and VDF maximize resources and improve effectiveness when conducting domestic operations.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/01/15/6663/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: 237th Engineer Company trains with explosives

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157650247346235/>

Photos: Va. Guard briefs Emergency Planning Committee

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157650160001262>

Photos: Former 2-183rd CAV CSM recognized for service

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.828490817191969.1073741834.113258708715187>

Photos: Va. Guard SEA tours 192nd FW, 203rd RHS

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?set=a.849775725078645.1073741895.111055992283959>

Gov., First Lady host reception for families of deployed

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2014/12/23/6549/>



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