

# Va. Guard remembers Airmen, Soldiers of 203rd RHS crash

The Virginia Air National Guard’s 203rd RED HORSE Squadron conducted a ceremony March 3, 2015, at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach to remember the 21 Airmen and Soldiers killed in the worst peacetime aviation disaster in the history of the National Guard. The 203rd lost 18 Airmen March 3, 2001, when the C-23 Sherpa they were flying in crashed in a cotton field near Unadilla, Ga. In addition to the Air Guard engineers, three aviators from the Florida Army National Guard’s Detachment 1, 171st Aviation Battalion, were killed in the crash.

Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, Brig. Gen. Wayne A. Wright, the chief of staff of the Virginia Air National Guard, and Col. Robert J. Grey, commander of the 192nd Fighter Wing, joined with family members, friends and current Airmen and Soldiers of the Virginia National Guard to pay tribute to and remember the Airmen and Soldiers who died 14 years earlier.



The 203rd RED HORSE Squadron holds a memorial service March 3, 2015, at Camp Pendleton to honor 18 unit members and three Florida Army Guard aviators killed 14 years ago.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/03/03/7020/>

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Va. Guard wraps up fourth round of snow response operations

The Virginia National Guard wrapped up a fourth round of response operations caused by heavy snow and flooding March 7, 2015. Over an almost three-week period, more than 330 Soldiers staged at locations across the commonwealth to assist local law enforcement and emergency response organizations.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/03/07/7047/>

### Completing SSD courses a top priority for Va. Guard Soldiers

Virginia Army National Guard leaders are reminding enlisted Soldiers that completing U.S. Army Structured Self Development courses is a top priority for the organization, as well as the individual Soldier. SSD is online training that enhances skills, knowledge, behaviors and experience.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/03/10/7073/>

### 116th IBCT engineers build connections with 82nd Airborne engineers

Engineer equipment operators from the Fredericksburg-based 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 116th Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Headquarters Company, 37th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division combined training March 7, 2015, at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/03/11/7084/>

### JAG Soldiers hold annual conference

The annual Virginia National Guard Judge Advocate General’s Corps conference was held on March 7-8, 2015, at the Lodge on Fort A.P. Hill. Attendees included JAG officers and paralegals from units across the commonwealth, and retirees who volunteered to give classes and cook meals for the current JAG corps Soldiers.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/03/10/7062/>

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Women’s History Month

March is Women’s History Month, an annual declared month highlighting the contributions of women to events in U.S. history and to contemporary society.

Learn more online about Women’s History Month and the role women have played in both U.S. history and in the military:

Virginia National Guard’s Equal Opportunity Program:

<http://go.usa.gov/UQ43>

Women in the U.S. Army:

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

Women’s History Month:

<http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

# SC, Va. National Guard troops support Vigilant Guard

South Carolina National Guard Airmen and Virginia National Guard Soldiers are partnering to provide communications support to military, federal, state and local emergency management services as part of Vigilant Guard March 4-12, 2015, in Georgetown, South Carolina. Vigilant Guard is a series of federally funded disaster-response drills conducted by National Guard units working with federal, state and local emergency management agencies and first responders. This year's scenario is a Category 4 storm – Hurricane Zephyr – that strikes the South Carolina coast.

One of the lessons learned during 2005's Hurricane Katrina was the need for National Guard units, civilian emergency management agencies and first responders to be able to communicate effectively with each other. The team from the 169th Communications Flight from McEntire Joint National Guard Base and the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division are solving that dilemma by deploying the JISCC – the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability.

The JISCC is made up of communications equipment that provides Internet access and telephone support in the field for the approximately 2,000 Soldiers and Airmen participating in the exercise including National Guard units from Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. The equipment includes: servers, laptops, radios, satellite dishes and telephones. In the event of a site or state-level emergency, the JISCC would not only allow responders to coordinate with each other locally, but with command and control elements statewide.

"We are the phone company. We are your internet service provider. Wherever you need us, we're there," said Capt. Michael Wingrave, a Charleston-resident from the South Carolina Air National Guard, 169th Communications Flight, McEntire Joint National Guard Base. "As long as we have diesel and food, we can provide comms."

In old movies, a stereotypical manager might be surrounded by ringing telephones, picking up and answering each in turn or holding multiple receivers to his head while splitting conversations between each. The JISCC does away with that scenario.

This eliminates the need for multiple phones, said Tech Sgt. Kevin Vaughn, a Lexington-native from the 169th. Everybody can talk to everybody.

With the ability to link radios with phones, a Federal Emergency Management Agency director could be in contact with a Black Hawk helicopter observing fires from the air. FEMA could then coordinate the response to the fires while the helicopter pilot provides real time situation reports, according to Wingrave. Fire and emergency responder radios often operate on a different frequency from military radios. The JISCC system coordinates communications between all groups.

"You can literally phone a friend," said Spc. Todd Herington, of the 29th ID, referencing the game show "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" in describing the lifeline capabilities of the JISCC. Herington used his own cell phone to solve one technical problem during the exercise: discovering an online app to test the signal



**Soldiers of the Virginia National Guard's 29th Infantry Division, operate a Joint Incident Site Communications Capability during a Vigilant Guard exercise March 8, 2015, in Georgetown, S.C.**

used for video teleconferencing systems.

"There's an app for everything," said Herington, a Leesburg-native, on only his second trip to the field. They were able to find an app online to test their outside VTC connectivity. There is even a transformer app for finding satellites in the sky, he added.

There was no Army field manual outlining app-based solutions. Participants in the exercise have relied on their own ingenuity and civilian world experience – as well as military training – to solve problems. One of the benefits of the Vigilant Guard exercises is the opportunity for military and civilians to share and apply knowledge in problem solving and developing working relationships.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/03/08/7056/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Workplace Violence Awareness taught at Fort Pickett

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/03/10/7068/>

### 192nd FW Fitness Assessment Cell tests strength, endurance

<http://www.192fw.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123440853/>

### Photos: Va. Guard hosts joint movement officer course

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157648831073954/>

### Photos: Soldier-submitted photos from state active duty

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153116841003560.1073742289.173715018559>

### Find 116th IBCT photos from March drill on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/116thIBCT>



[www.facebook.com/VaNationalGuard](http://www.facebook.com/VaNationalGuard)



[@VaNationalGuard](https://twitter.com/VaNationalGuard)



[www.linkedin.com/company/vanationalguard](http://www.linkedin.com/company/vanationalguard)