

Real estate for Roanoke-area Readiness Center acquired

The Virginia National Guard has secured the site of the former Botetourt Correctional Center to establish a readiness center in the Roanoke area.

The Virginia National Guard accepted the property and recorded the deed June 15, 2015, according to Lt. Col. Charlton T. Dunn, Virginia National Guard construction and facilities management officer.

"We are very excited to take this next step in bringing a Virginia National Guard readiness center back to the Roanoke area," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "We could not have made this happen without the assistance of the City of Roanoke, the Virginia Department of Corrections, the Virginia Division of Real Estate Services and other local and state officials, and we look forward to growing our partnership with the Roanoke community in the future. This continues to be a great team effort."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/19/7653/>



Shawn Mason, of the Virginia Department of Corrections, hands over the keys to the former Botetourt Correctional Center to Lt. Col. Charlton Dunn June 16, 2015, in Troutville, Va.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

116th IBCT Soldiers selected for first-ever MIBT with First Army

In June, approximately 1,600 Soldiers of the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, along with more than 1,000 pieces of equipment, traveled to Fort Drum, N.Y., to participate in the first Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training exercise run by First Army Division East.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/30/7704/>

276th Engineer Battalion gets back to basics during AT

Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's 276th Engineer Battalion descended on Fort Pickett June 6-20, 2015, for annual training. The training focused on the unit's Mission Essential Task List, or METL, a list of tasks required by the Soldiers at the individual, squad and company-level specific to their unit or job.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/26/7692/>

1030th Transportation Battalion heads to Fort Polk for annual training

The Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group, traveled to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., to conduct annual training May 10-30, 2015. During its annual training the 1030th assumed command and control of five units from the active and reserve components.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/29/7699/>

Va. Guard engineers continue Henry County economic development project

Virginia National Guard Soldiers wrapped up phase two of an Innovative Readiness Training construction project June 18, 2015, in Martinsville, Va. Approximately 120 Soldiers of the 180th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, continued the construction operation for two weeks.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/24/7676/>

Mark Your Calendars!

July 12

529th CSSB Freedom Salute

The Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion will conduct a Freedom Salute to honor their federal active duty service in Kuwait and Iraq at 10 a.m. July 12, 2015, at the Holiday Inn at 5656 Greenwich Road in Virginia Beach, Va.

The last group of Soldiers from the 529th reunited with family, friends and fellow Soldiers in Virginia April 29, 2015, after serving on federal active duty since July 2014. During the deployment they planned and coordinated combat sustainment support for U.S. and coalition forces in Kuwait and the surrounding region to include Afghanistan and Iraq.

34th CST certified as fully mission capable

For the Soldiers and Airmen of the Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team hard work and preparation proved instrumental in their validation of 12 collective tasks following a Training Performance Evaluation, earning the overall assessment rating of "Fully Mission Capable," June 24, 2015, following the exercise at the City Stadium in Richmond, Va.

The evaluation, proctored by U.S. Army North's Civil Support Readiness Group – East, validated the unit's core training programs and certified that the unit is fully capable of providing support to first responders in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

"The TPE is supposed to evaluate all of our Soldiers and Airmen on their abilities to complete our 12 collective tasks," said Maj. Michael Booker, commander of the 34th CST. "It also shows our higher headquarters that we're a trained, ready and relevant capability for our commonwealth and nation."

TPEs occur approximately every 18 months for each of the nation's 57 CSTs and evaluates teams on 12 collective tasks consisting of 595 individual tasks, including deploying the team, establishing operations, communications and medical support, conducting survey activities and analytical functions as well as redeployment and recovery operations.

"This exercise was very important to Virginia," said Lt. Col. Todd E. Peebles, Virginia National Guard deputy director of exercises and implementation. "It validates the CST as fully capable and lets the National Guard Bureau know that we've been good stewards of resources and we're ready when called upon."

A normal team consists of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel, organized into six sections: command, operations, communications, logistics, medical/analytical and survey. The team is equipped with a variety of the latest military and commercial CBRN equipment and maintains on-call team members prepared to deploy an advance team within 90 minutes of notification, with the rest of the team following within three hours. CST members can scientifically identify nearly all chemical, biological and radiological substances, assess current and projected consequences of those hazardous substances, advise the incident commander on response measures and assist with requests for additional support.

"Having an evaluation conducted from an outside source provides an amazing amount of credibility to the organization," said Derrick M. Johnson, exercise director with Civil Support Readiness Group – East. "We see a lot of teams and our evaluation provides a standardized evaluation process that is tailored to the geographical areas that each team supports."

This evaluation scenario focused on the team's reaction to simulated chemical, biological and radiological hazards at a notional urban crime scene outside the City Stadium in Richmond, Va. The scenario began with a simulated terrorist attack against a local sporting event where a dispersion device sprayed a homemade, liquid chemical agent over the crowd, a biological toxin was used to poison food from concessions and a radiological



Soldiers and Airmen from the Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team conduct a Training Proficiency Evaluation June 23, 2015, at the City Stadium in Richmond, Va.

device was detonated in the parking lot, according to Booker.

"Our team was well trained going into this evaluation and I'm glad to see that we were able to react so well under the pressure," Booker said. "Having all three hazards at one scene is rare and the complexity of the situation truly pushed the team's abilities."

Maintaining proficiency is an ongoing task for the CST. Each member completes between 500 and 900 hours of specialized training during their first year assigned to the team, with additional advanced training coming late with multiple agencies including the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the National Fire Academy, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/24/7671/>

MORE ON THE WEB

116th IBCT undertakes largest movement since WWII

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/30/7705/>

Virginia Guard maintainers reinforce skills at Camp Dodge

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/24/7679/>

Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise challenges the 116th IBCT

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/06/30/7711/>

Photos: Governor signs bill adding Va. Guard to Vet ID Card

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157654982065796>

Photos: Va. Guard Soldiers shoot for marksmanship honors

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