

Winchester-based infantry battalion to deploy overseas

The Virginia National Guard’s Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team has received a mobilization order to enter active federal service for duty in Southwest Asia in support of ongoing overseas contingency operations, according to an announcement made July 8, 2015, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Approximately 450 Soldiers will begin serving on federal active duty Sept. 8, 2015, and the mobilization is expected to be for about 12 months.

“The Virginia National Guard continues to play an important role in providing forces to fight our nation’s wars and defend the ideals of freedom all around the world,” Williams said.

Soldiers will conduct training at Fort Pickett for about three weeks to accomplish a number of administrative and field training tasks to prepare for the mobilization including weapons qualification, equipment issue and medical evaluation.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/08/7735/>



A Soldier from the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team gathers his gear in preparation of his pre-mobilization annual training July 9, 2015, in Winchester, Va.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Soldiers excel at state, regional, national-level marksmanship matches

Virginia National Guard Soldiers from units across the state competed for top honors in a state-level rifle match, held May 15-17, 2015, and a state-level pistol match, held June 26-27, 2015, at Fort Pickett, Va. Additionally, Virginia marksmen traveled to Arkansas to compete at the national level.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/13/7755/>

29th ID Soldiers support Operation Inherent Resolve

Ten Virginia National Guard Soldiers from the Fort Belvoir-based 29th Infantry Division are currently mobilized in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and U.S. Central Command efforts as members of Combined Joint Interagency Task Force, Syria.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/13/7761/>

Governor recognizes 529th CSSB at Freedom Salute

Governor Terry McAuliffe presented the Governor’s National Service Medal to Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard’s Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group July 12, 2015, in Virginia Beach, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/14/7765/>

Military youth attend Virginia Guard Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp

More than 30 Virginia National Guard youth from around the state joined 12 other children of active duty Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force personnel June 20- 26, 2015, for the Virginia National Guard Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp at Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing in New Castle, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/07/7728/>

Mark Your Calendars!

July 24

29th Infantry Division
Change of Command

In a change of command ceremony, Maj. Gen. Charles W. Whittington Jr. will relinquish command of the 29th Infantry Division to Brig. Gen. Blake C. Ortner July 24, 2015, at 10 a.m at the Fort Pickett Stadium at Fort Pickett, Va.

The uniform for the ceremony is ACU or business casual attire and a reception will follow at the Camp Pickett Officer’s Club.

Contact Capt. LaKesha Pride, at (703) 805-7111, or 1st Lt. John Moore, at (703) 805-2385, for more information or to R.S.V.P.

116th Infantry D-Day veteran laid to rest in Charlottesville

D-Day veteran and American war hero Carl D. Proffitt Jr., died June 30, 2015, at the age of 96. At his funeral, held a week later at Cherry Avenue Christian Church in Charlottesville, Va., Virginia National Guard Soldiers, family, friends and community members turned out to bid farewell to a man, nicknamed "Chubby," who left an indelible mark on the community and the nation.

Chubby, a Charlottesville native, enlisted in the Virginia National Guard in 1939. In 1941, Chubby and Company K of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division were federalized.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Chubby, a technical sergeant at the time, led his platoon from their Higgins boat onto the French soil of Omaha Beach and then through 300 yards of machine gunfire, mortars and mayhem. Chubby went back and forth across the beach, using hand and arm signals to communicate with his men in the deafening roar of war.

"One of the most important things about being a leader is setting the example and inspiring individuals," Brig. Gen. Blake C. Ortner, Deputy Commander of the 29th Infantry Division said. "I think Chubby probably did that more than any individual I've ever known. He was the definition of selfless service."

After D-Day, the fight continued. Chubby helped direct a disabled tank in destroying an enemy machine gun nest. He earned a Silver Star after he made repeated trips across a minefield under enemy fire to provide first aid and evacuate the wounded during an attempt to reach fellow Americans surrounded by enemy forces.

When Chubby went back to Virginia, he'd earned three Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, the Distinguished Service Cross and a battlefield commission to second lieutenant.

"Chubby was a real-life hero," said Master Sgt. Scott Gibson, one of many Virginia National Guard Soldiers who came to know Chubby over the years. "He lived and breathed the Army Values."

After the war, Chubby came back to Charlottesville and became a much-admired figure in the area. In 2012 he was awarded the French Legion of Honor, France's highest military award. At a ceremony recognizing Chubby's receipt of the French Legion of Honor, the mayor declared Feb. 20 "Chubby Proffitt Day."

"He formed a bond with the community," explained Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Yancey, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Command Sergeant Major. Yancey explained that the Monticello Guard, formally known as Company A, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT, became a sort of adopted family for Chubby. For many of the Soldiers who passed through the Monticello Guard or served at the Charlottesville Readiness Center, knowing Chubby has been a career highlight.

"It has been a tradition in Alpha Company for the [noncommissioned officers] in the company to educate their junior Soldiers on the history of the unit," said Staff Sgt. Michael Hart, who formerly served at Company A. "Operation Overlord and the battle that ensued on Omaha Beach is one of the proudest chapters of the unit's history and Chubby made it living history for those who grew up in the company getting to know him."

Over the years, the Virginia Guard Soldiers of Charlottesville started helping out around his house, mowing the grass, raking



Past and present members of the Virginia Army National Guard join family, friends and Charlottesville community members July 7, 2015, in paying final respects to local war hero and D-Day veteran Carl D. Proffitt Jr. in Charlottesville, Va.

leaves and trimming shrubs, which allowed them even more time to spend with a man they counted as personal hero.

At Chubby's funeral, Virginia National Guard Soldiers sat in the first few rows, across the aisle from Chubby's family. They'd been directed to sit there, at a place of honor that underscored the importance Chubby and his family placed on his relationship with these Soldiers.

"He truly was a man to look up to and to strive to become like," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard M. Goodman Jr., assigned to the 429th Brigade Support Battalion. "He really earned his place among the heroes of our nation."

Following military honors and Masonic Rites, Chubby Proffitt was laid to rest on a little hill in Charlottesville, Va.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/12/7739/>

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Retired Guard Soldier first to apply for Va. Vet ID under new law

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2015/07/05/7768/>

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