

# Thunder Soldiers to mobilize for federal active duty

The Virginia National Guard's Norfolk-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will mobilize for federal active duty in late Fall 2021 according to an announcement made Aug. 30, 2021, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. Approximately 330 Soldiers will deploy to the Central Command area of operations in the Middle East to provide personnel and site protection using the Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar System, or C-RAM.

The C-RAM was developed to protect people and installations from attack by enemy rockets, artillery and mortar fire. C-RAM capable units intercept and destroy those threats mid-flight. The C-RAM is several sub-systems working together to identify, track, engage and destroy incoming rockets, artillery and mortar threats.

Williams said the Virginia National Guard is on pace to mobilize the most Soldiers and Airmen since 2007, and the 29th Infantry Division will mobilize the most Soldiers since World War II with troops deploying from units in Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xMgGS>



Soldiers assigned to the Norfolk-based 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct an indirect fire exercise Aug. 6, 2021, at Fort Pickett, Virginia, during annual training.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### VNG assisting with flood response in Buchanan County

Virginia National Guard Soldiers began assisting state and local emergency services organizations with flood response Aug. 31, 2021, in Buchanan County, and additional Soldiers staged in Winchester and Fredericksburg in case they were needed for high water transport or debris reduction.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xMg7V>

### Commonwealth ChalleNGe graduates 59 cadets from Class 55

The Virginia Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy graduated 59 cadets from Class 55 during a ceremony Aug. 21, 2021, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xMg72>

### 91st Cyber Brigade Soldiers earn Ranger tab

Two Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Bowling Green-based 91st Cyber Brigade recently proved cyber Soldiers' worth beyond the keyboard by completing the U.S. Army Ranger School.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xMg7b>

### "Three Things" Summer 2021 VNG Land Component Commander Update

Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher, the Virginia National Guard Land Component Commander, discusses suicide prevention, COVID-19 vaccinations and making the most of the last days of summer in latest quarterly update.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xMYjd>

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## 329th RSG begins federal duty, will deploy to Middle East

The Virginia National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group Headquarters marked the start of its federal active-duty mobilization with a departure ceremony Sept. 4, 2021, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Jonathan G. Ward, Assistant Secretary of Veterans & Defense Affairs, Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher, the Virginia National Guard Land Component Commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Smith, the Virginia Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major, were on hand as Col. Todd Pegg and Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Shelton, the 329th RSG command team, furled their organizational colors during the ceremony to signify the official start of the mobilization. They will unfurl the colors when they arrive in the Middle East and officially take responsibility for their mission.

"Some of us here today have done this before," said Pegg. "Some of us, this is our first. Some of us have been wearing this uniform for several decades. Some of us have been wearing it for a significantly short time period. Some of us are senior commissioned or noncommissioned leaders. And some of us here are much more junior.

"I mention those things really just to point out that none of those really matter. It's not what we are in terms of our age, rank or experience or anything else that defines us. We've been asked to do a job and we're going to do it. It's what we do both individually and together as a team when a tough ask comes down that defines us. We built a solid team made up of solid individuals. We're going to do two things- go get the job done and take care of our folks."

More than 80 Soldiers assigned to the 329th begin a 10-month deployment in the Central Command Area of Operations under the operational control of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve serving as the base operating support-integrator for multiple installations. While based in Virginia Beach, Soldiers assigned to the 329th Regional Support Group live throughout Virginia.

"You've trained hard, you've done a tremendous amount of work to get where you are today and you are ready," said Williams. "We are all incredibly proud of what you've done and what you've accomplished. I have absolute and utmost faith in you, your training and your abilities.

"To your families, the unsung heroes- the Soldiers of the 329th couldn't do it without you," Williams added. "The United States Army asks extraordinary amounts of sacrifice from you. Know that as this organization goes forward, and takes up its place on the global stage, that we're here to help you."

According to their official website, the Department of Defense formally established CJTF-OIR Oct. 17, 2014, in order to formalize ongoing military actions against the rising threat posed by ISIS in Iraq and Syria. In conjunction with partner forces CJTF-OIR defeats ISIS in designated areas of Iraq and Syria



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and sets conditions for follow-on operations to increase regional stability.

Soldiers conducted mobilization training at various locations in Virginia over the last few months, and they will now report to Fort Hood, Texas, for the final mobilization training and will deploy from there.

This is the first deployment of the 329th Regional Support Group Headquarters, but the unit carries the lineage of the 54th Field Artillery Brigade. Soldiers assigned to the 54th served on federal active duty as a liaison team for military activities in Afghanistan from February 2004 to August 2005.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xMgGe>

### MORE ON THE WEB

**Soldiers attend Comprehensive Health and Wellness Course**

<https://go.usa.gov/xMg7N>

**Yang takes command of the 192nd MDG as Price retires**

<https://go.usa.gov/xMg7R>

**Photos: 34th CERFP conducts mass casualty exercise**

<https://ngpa.us/15558>

**Photos: VNG Soldiers assisting with flood response**

<https://ngpa.us/15579>

**Video: 329th RSG Departure Ceremony**

<https://ngpa.us/15706>



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