

# VNG Soldiers complete flood response in Buchanan County

Virginia National Guard Soldiers completed their mission Sept. 8, 2021, assisting local and state emergency services organizations with flooding response in Buchanan County, Virginia. Approximately 10 VNG Soldiers assigned to the Cedar Bluff-based 1033rd Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group supported the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and dozens of federal, state and local support organizations assist their fellow Virginians.

“The Virginia National Guard has been an invaluable resource to the community, and we appreciate all assistance provided,” said Mr. Tim Estes, VDEM Region IV Regional Coordinator. “Since arrival, they assisted with staging emergency vehicles, traffic control, donation management, daily delivery of food, water and cleaning supplies to residents that are in the directly affected area.”

According to Maj. Eric M. Johnson, operations officer for the 276th Engineer Battalion, the Soldiers completed 11 logistics resupply missions to nearly 240 residences. They distributed nearly 2,500 cases of water and sports drinks and 1,620 heater meals and 1,550 hot meals.

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



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Cedar Bluff-based 1033rd Engineer Company deliver water to residents impacted by flooding Sept. 3, 2021, in Buchanan County, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Airmen remember 20th Anniversary of 9/11 with 20K

In the pre-dawn hours of Sept. 11, 2021, approximately 40 Airmen assigned to the 192nd Wing gathered to remember the events of September 11th, 2001, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, to walk or run a combined distance of 20 kilometers in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the attack.

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

### Afghan-American 29th ID Soldier supports Afghanistan evacuation efforts

Spc. Toraj Rozbeh, currently deployed with the 29th Infantry Division, is sharing and maximizing his ethnicity as an Afghan American to assist with building bridges and easing the processes throughout Operation Allies Refuge.

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

### Airman jumps into action, resuscitates drowning child

Situations can change in an instant. But for Master Sgt. Keona Newsom, a commander's support staff noncommissioned officer in charge with the 192nd Operations Group, it was never more true than on July 27, 2021.

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

### VNG officer assumes post in Colombia

A Virginia National Guard officer has taken up a unique post in South America after graduating from the Spanish-immersive Command and General Staff College course at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

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

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# WTC elevator pulley dedicated at VNG 9/11 ceremony

Virginia National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and guests gathered to remember the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and dedicate a World Trade Center elevator pulley for historical display Sept. 11, 2021, at the VNG Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia. The recently-obtained pulley, which will remain on permanent display outside of the headquarters building, was unveiled during the ceremony, a somber reminder of the tragedy which unfolded 20 years earlier.

“When we first took delivery of the pulley system here, the Soldiers that were there had a range of emotions as they struggled to get this massive artifact into place,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, during the ceremony. “What it really reminded me was that this tangible item represents a watershed event for all of us in uniform, our families and our civilian employees. This is a tangible item we can look to or put our hands on and say this is what it’s all about. We will never forget. We can’t forget.”

“Once upon a time, 20 years ago, it stood a thousand feet in the air. It made that long fall down and finally has come to its final resting place here,” said Al Barnes, the VNG command historian, who led the effort to preserve and display the pulley. “This artifact is dedicated to you guys. This artifact is for all the Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Global War on Terror victims, veterans and their families.”

Before the pulley’s unveiling, those gathered heard from the event’s guest speaker, retired Col. Todd Combee, former VNG state chaplain, who shared his first-hand experience providing religious support in the aftermath of the attack on the Pentagon.

“As millions watched the events unfolding in New York and Washington, the times became etched in my mind. At 9:45, American Flight 77 circled over D.C. and slammed into the side of the Pentagon,” recalled Combee. “All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, along with 64 others aboard the aircraft. This is only part of the story, but this is the part that’s my story. I was called on Thursday of that week by the state chaplain at the time. He was going down the list of all the chaplains in the state. He was volunteering to go, and he was looking for three other volunteers to go with him. He called three chaplains. Each one said ‘yes.’”

Combee was eventually assigned to provide assistance to those injured in the Pentagon attack.

“There were 125 lives were lost on the ground, 64 in the plane,” Combee said about the attack on the Pentagon. “Most walked away. Eleven people were severely injured. One succumbed to their injuries and became part of the number that had died. Ten others experienced severe burns and injuries, and they were put into the Washington Medical Center. I was assigned to go and spend time and pray with and listen to and assist the families and the victims from that day, some civilian, some military.”

The chaplain told those gathered at the ceremony the most important thing to do is remember.

“People often ask me if it changed my view of serving in the



**Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, retired Col. Todd Combee and retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Al Barnes unveil a World Trade Center elevator pulley during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony Sept. 11, 2021, in Richmond, Virginia.**

military. I often say it was a defining moment for my 34 years of service. It happened so quickly, but the effects of it linger on even today,” said Combee. “Continue to pray for those families affected, continue to pray for our fellow service members, continue to pray for our nation and let us never forget.”

During the ceremony, Barnes thanked those who helped make the transportation and placement of the pulley possible, including members of the Fredericksburg-based 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, as well as personnel with the VNG Combined Support Maintenance Shop.

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

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**Richmond native named honor graduate, EO Leader**

<https://go.usa.gov/xMXT2>

**29th ID mother, son deployed together**

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

**Photos: 116th Soldiers train on Soldier Borne Sensor UAS**

<https://ngpa.us/16002>

**Photos: DMA conducts supervisor training at SMR**

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