

About VNG 1,000 troops remain on duty at U.S. Capitol

Approximately 1,000 Virginia National Guard personnel are among more than 7,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from dozens of states remaining in Washington, D.C. following the 59th Presidential Inauguration to provide support to local and federal authorities, according to an announcement made Jan. 23, 2021, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

“Virginia National Guard personnel are remaining on duty following the presidential inauguration at the request of local and federal authorities, and they will remain on duty until those agencies no longer require our direct support,” Williams said. “We expect our troops to conduct security-related missions to include crowd control, traffic control and assisting with entry and exit points. We are incredibly proud of the professionalism and dedicated service they have demonstrated throughout this mission, and they will continue to play an important role in helping keep their fellow citizens safe.”

The VNG had approximately 2,400 personnel on the ground in Jan. 20 assisting civilian law enforcement in protecting property and keeping people safe at the inauguration.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xA6PB>



A Virginia National Guard Soldier assigned to Alpha Company, 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stands guard at the Capitol during the 59th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

29th Infantry Division supports 59th Presidential Inauguration

The Virginia National Guard’s 29th Infantry Division assisted federal agencies in securing the nation’s capital during the 59th Presidential Inauguration and were among more than 26,000 National Guard members from 50 states and three territories who were activated to support the inauguration.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xA6P8>

329th RSG, MTC in-process VNG Soldiers for D.C. mission

Soldiers assigned to the 329th Regional Support Group and Fort Pickett helped establish a reception, staging, onward movement and integration processing station at MTC for thousands of Soldiers heading to the nation’s capital.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xA6PX>

VNG logistics team provides vital supplies to D.C. mission

The Virginia National Guard’s mission in Washington, D.C., leading up to the 59th Presidential Inauguration required an unprecedented effort from the Virginia National Guard logistics community.

Read more: <http://go.usa.gov/xA6PN>

New year welcomes new command team for 192nd Wing

The 192nd Wing welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony Jan. 10, 2021, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Brig. Gen. Toni M. Lord, Air Component Commander, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xA6PZ>

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116th IBCT leads multi-state task force at PI59

The Virginia National Guard's 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took a lead role in the security of the 59th Presidential Inauguration, commanding a task force of more than 7,400 Soldiers and Airmen from 12 different states.

The coalition, named Team Capitol, was responsible for maintaining the physical security of the Capitol grounds. On inauguration day, the 116th headquarters served as the operations center to coordinate thousands of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supporting civilian law enforcement to help keep people safe and protect property.

"This was a historic day for all of us," said Col. Chris Samulski, commander of the 116th IBCT. "This mission has demonstrated the capabilities of the National Guard and how we are an adaptable organization that can take control of any situation and respond appropriately. The officer and NCO leaders for the other states serving with the 116th are some of the most professional I have ever worked with, and we couldn't ask for better partners on this mission."

Along the wide avenues surrounding the Capitol on inauguration day, Soldiers and Airmen from those states stood at their posts as motorcades and dignitaries arrived. Many of the Guardsmen had traveled hundreds of miles to Washington on short notice, answering the call to help protect the nation's capitol.

"A lot of our Soldiers have never been to DC before, so this is a great opportunity," said Capt. Jason Pomeroy, commander of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Brigade out of Fayetteville, Arkansas, one of the units reporting to Team Capitol. "We're glad to help provide security, but it's also incredible to be here working next to some of the most historic monuments and buildings in the country. It's been a huge honor to get to lead my Soldiers on a mission like this."

For weeks, the Soldiers and Airmen rotated through shifts guarding the Capitol grounds and congressional buildings. The shifts, often undertaken at night in cold conditions while carrying pounds of equipment, could be demanding. Staff Sgt. Allen Bugg, assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 116th IBCT, said that his Soldiers, especially junior leaders, had "stepped up big time" for the tough mission.

"There is a real sense of purpose," Bugg said. "The Soldiers are driven, they know how important this is. This situation could turn serious at any point. Our guys are squared away and professional at all times, and we're ready for anything."

During the inauguration ceremony, the Guardsmen continued to patrol the perimeter of the Capitol. When the national anthem rang out, troops from dozens of states halted and rendered salutes all along the line.

"This is something that will be in the history books," said Spc. Annalisa Keown assigned to the 2138th Forward Support Company out of Louisville, Kentucky, another unit reporting to Team Capitol. "I know that I'm going to be able to look back on this and say that I was able to contribute to something that helped out the greater good."



A Virginia National Guard Soldier assigned to Bravo Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stands guard Jan. 16, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

The 116th IBCT led Team Capitol for nearly three weeks, overseeing the operations and logistics of a force that peaked at 9,750 Guardsmen before beginning to draw down on January 23. Although the Virginia unit had not expected to command a coalition of a dozen other states, the brigade's leadership was glad to have taken on the responsibility.

"I'm incredibly proud of what our Soldiers and Airmen have done," Samulski said. "We moved very rapidly to support our civilian law enforcement partners, and the security of the inauguration was a success. We also owe a special thanks to our families, communities and employers back home for their tremendous support."

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xA6PK>

MORE ON THE WEB

VNG COVID-19 Vaccination Resource Page

<https://va.ng.mil/COVID-19/Vaccine/>

Photos: VNG stands guard in nation's capital

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157717859251837>

Photos: 229th BEB conducts ceremony at U.S. Capitol

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Photos: VNG Soldiers extend enlistments at U.S. Capitol

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Photos: VNG supporting mission in Washington, D.C.

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