

Former VNG Soldier inducted into ROTC Hall of Fame

Virginia National Guard Soldiers helped honor 1st Lt. Todd W. Weaver, during a military appreciation football game Nov. 13, 2021, at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Weaver began his military career as a combat engineer in the VNG and was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010. The event included Weaver's induction into the ROTC Hall of Fame, a flyover by two VNG UH-60 helicopters and cannon fire from VNG artillerymen.

Weaver joined the VNG in 2002. He supported relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Isabel in 2003 and deployed to Iraq in 2004 with Charlie Company, 276th Engineer Battalion as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After his deployment, Weaver enrolled in the College of William & Mary, joined the ROTC program there and continued his service in the VNG through the Simultaneous Member Program. At the end of his college career, Weaver earned the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned into the infantry. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was killed in action Sept. 9, 2010, while leading his platoon on a night ambush.

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



First Lt. Todd W. Weaver is inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame during a military appreciation football game Nov. 13, 2021. Weaver started his military career in the Virginia National Guard before transitioning to active duty and was killed in action in Afghanistan Sept. 9, 2010.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

329th Regional Support Group HQs moves from Iraq to Kuwait

Col. Todd Pegg, commander of the 329th Regional Support Group, transitioned base command authority Nov. 23, 2021, at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Pegg will now command the 329th RSG from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, where he will oversee their missions in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xV3Q>

VNG, DMA representatives participate in incident management training

Representatives from the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia Department of Military Affairs participated in an All Hazards Incident Management Training class Nov. 8 - 12, 2021, in Sandston, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xV3y>

VNG Soldier finds success through resilience

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Gwilt's connection to his Navajo heritage comes largely from the relationship he built with his grandfather while growing up in Gallup, New Mexico.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xV3d>

Rank, responsibility passes from mentor to mentee

Seventeen years after 1st Sgt. Donnie Brizendine enlisted a young Michael Clay into the Virginia Army National Guard, he removed the first sergeant rank from his chest and attached it to Clay's uniform.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xV3z>

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TF Red Dragon begins federal active duty mission

State and federal elected officials and senior military leaders joined families, friends and fellow Soldiers to mark the official start of federal active duty for more than 1,000 Virginia and Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers Nov. 27, 2021, at departure ceremonies in Bedford, Virginia, and Lexington, Kentucky. Virginia units from Bedford, Charlottesville, Lexington, Pulaski and Suffolk and a Kentucky unit from Somerset, Kentucky, are mobilizing as Task Force Red Dragon under the command of the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, to provide a security force in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. It is the largest VNG single-unit mobilization since World War II.

"I am so proud to have served as your commander in chief," said Governor Ralph Northam at the departure ceremony held at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford. "On behalf of a grateful Commonwealth of Virginia, I say thank you."

Northam encouraged the Soldiers to give a round of applause for all the family and loved ones surrounding their formation to say thanks for their continued support and acknowledged them as one of the most important parts of the operation.

"I have a simple ask of all of you," Northam said. "That is to serve this commonwealth and serve this country proudly. I know you will. I ask you all to take care of each other. I have been in your shoes, and it is so important it is to take care of your fellow Soldiers. Serve us proudly, but come home safely. That's what we want for all of you."

Lt. Col. James P. Tierney, commander of Task Force Red Dragon, and Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Wolfe, the task force command sergeant major, cased the battalion organizational colors during the ceremony. The colors will be transported overseas and uncased when the task force begins their mission in Africa.

The National D-Day Memorial was chosen as the site of the departure ceremony because of the 116th Infantry Regiment's connection to the memorial honoring those who fought and died in one of the most significant battles in United State's history. When the 116th was activated as part of the 29th Infantry Division on Feb. 3, 1941, many Virginia communities provided Soldiers to serve in the division, and Bedford provided Soldiers to serve in Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. During the assault on Omaha Beach, 19 of the "Bedford Boys" of Company A died. Bedford's population in 1944 was about 3,200, and proportionally the Bedford community suffered the nation's most severe D-Day loss. Recognizing that Bedford represented both large and small communities whose citizen-Soldiers served on D-Day, Congress warranted the establishment of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford.

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, reminded the Soldiers of TF Red Dragon they are part of one of the most famous and well-known units in the U.S. Army.

"It's important to recognize that you are a great and storied unit in our Army," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "You're well trained and well led, and we



Lt. Col. Jim Tierney and Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Wolfe, the Task Force Red Dragon command team, case the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team organizational colors during a departure ceremony Nov. 27, 2021, at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia.

have every confidence that you will be very successful in your deployment to the African continent."

He shared perspectives about the history of the 29th Infantry Division based on a recent visit to Normandy, France. During the trip he shared time with the mayors of Saint Jean de Savigny and St Mere-Eglise, two locations where 29th Soldiers are remembered to this day for helping liberate the towns from Nazi tyranny.

"The actions of your forebears in June of 1944 are as important today as they were 77 years ago," he said. "When the mayors think of the 29th Infantry Division they think of liberation."

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xeV3D>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: VDF manages traffic for TF Red Dragon ceremony

<https://ngpa.us/16997>

Photos: 11C students conduct mortar live fire

<https://ngpa.us/16935>

Photos: MATES delivers Duck for display at VNG HQs

<https://ngpa.us/16934>

Photos: HART hones hoist handiness in Chesterfield

<https://ngpa.us/16933>

Photos: Task Force Red Dragon Photo Collection

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